

SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 43, Spring 1997

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Miss B Rose, Wayside, The Common, Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury, SY4 3LY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

Stirrings in Craven Arms

STOKESAY (SO 4363 8175) The guidebook to Stokesay Castle shows a picture of a medieval dovecot. The dovecot stood somewhere to the northeast of Stokesay church and some stonework is found when digging in the Garden of Remembrance. The Inquisition Post Mortem of Sir William de Ludlow recorded a dovecot in 1316 and Thomas Wright when he wrote his book about Ludlow and this area in 1824 said that the dovecot was taken down 'some years since'. It was a fine cylindrical building with a conical roof and similar to the one at Court Farm, Richard's Castle which is still extant. It is thought that the annular mound just over the present churchyard wall represents the foundations.

STOKESAY/WHETTLETON (SO 4387 8220) A green lane from Whettleton farm towards Stokesay Castle gives a clue to the whereabouts of the Domesday mill. Medieval paving and glass can be found on the bank of the river; some modifications to the river bed may have been carried out but the site needs thorough surveying. A small piece Niedermendig basaltic lava was found nearby, typical of some early medieval millstones.

NEWTON, Upper Mill (SO 4383 8240) Upstream of the Domesday site, where the mill leat started, old OS maps (1903, 1: 10000) record 'Weir, remains of' but the remains seem to be far more exciting than that statement implies. Paul Stamper (Shropshire Archaeology Service) and Kate Clark (English Heritage) spent their Bank Holiday Monday wading in cold water to record the measurements. English Heritage have agreed to fund a dendrochronological study of the timbers here and of the next item: samples were taken in September 1996 but the results are not known yet.

NEWINGTON FARM (SO 4332 8366) Further up the river Onny than the modern town of Craven Arms, by Newington Farm, three massive timbers have been found in the river bed. This is where the old coach road crossed on its way from Ludlow to Bishop's Castle. The green lane to the east of this bridge site has a medieval road surface under the silt and mud, and beneath that there may be evidence of where a Roman road ran (*see* A W J Houghton, *Trans.Shrop.Arch.Soc.* 56 (1960) pp.233-243). A bridge at 'Hancforde' is recorded in the Haughmond Abbey Cartulary for 1260-90 (items 821 and 823). Three trenches were dug in the lane in September 1996 and whilst there was plenty of evidence of several generations of engineered roads using graded limestone chips the underlying soil and any Roman road was not reached. The only datable find was a Charles II half-penny, dated 1675.

A WATER MILL In the Shropshire Records and Research archives there is an 1889 photograph, which came from the album of someone who used to live at Ticklerton, of a mill 'near Craven Arms'. Not much notice was taken of it until the very same mill turned up as a painting at the sale of Stokesay Court in 1994 but without its location or artist. A local informant then produced a picture showing Stokesay Castle in the background and the riddle was solved.

MILESTONES Renovating old milestones is much in fashion! One in Long Lane, the Bishop's Castle road (SO 4255 8375), has been rescued from the attentions of the flail cutter and a damaged one at Onibury near to the level crossing (SO 4523 7888) has been found after mowing. A third stone was found being used as a paving

stone in a garden at Newton and has been restored to its original site at the junction of Whettleton Lane and the A49, where the toll gate used to stand (SO 4395 8150).

STOKESAY CASTLE PARK (SO 43 81) A comparison of the description of Stokesay Castle land by the Commonwealth Commissioners in 1652, when Lord Craven forfeited his possessions because of his support for the Royalists, with the description of the regained estate done in 1772 by Matthias Baker, and the Tithe map of 1840 has enabled the extent of Stokesay Park to be defined. No longer is the green circle on Saxton's map of Shropshire (1577) a mere symbol: the park was about 110 ha, to the north west of the castle, and a perambulation of its perimeter can be made on public footpaths affording fine views of the Onny valley which is overlooked by Norton Camp and the Weo or View Edge, an ancient religious site. (You can walk: Castle pond - Paddock - Park Lane - Clapping Wicket - Stoke Wood - Castle pond).

ALDON (SO 43 79) On Church Way between Stokesay Church and Castle, and the earlier settlement at Aldon is a mound which may be an ancient lookout point or minor hill fort (SO 4353 8055). At Aldon are the tangible remains of the manorial dovecot, now adequately fenced in to preserve it (SO 4346 7948). In 1086 Aldon was almost as valuable as Stokesay but the site of its church has not been located yet - it had gone before the Reformation.

WISTANSTOW (S043708430) Across the River Onny from where The Grove, a large country house, once stood is a 20m square enclosure with a bank and deep ditch. It is south of where Berrymlil used to be. Could it be the 'burh' that gave its name to the nearby wood, mill and houses?

TURNPIKES AND TOLLHOUSES John Clarke is conducting a countywide survey of turnpike roads with their attendant tollhouses and milestones. He would be pleased to hear from others interested, to be given information and to see, or even copy, old photographs (Telephone 01588 676129).

The Say Family Robert de Sai, alias Picot, was Baron of Clun and his descendants gave their name to Stokesay which took over from Aldon as the main focus of settlement. Was Picot also the notorious Sheriff of Cambridge who was described by Ely Abbey as 'a hungry lion, a roving wolf, a crafty fox, a filthy pig, a shameless dog'? What a man to put in border country as a landlord and peacekeeper! History is being unravelled down by the Onny. There is more to Craven Arms than just a town of the railway age.

Graham Berlyn, John Clarke and Harry Everitt

SHREWSBURY URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE

The Archaeology Service of Shropshire County Council is currently compiling an Urban Archaeological Database for Shrewsbury, on behalf of Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council, with funding from English Heritage.

Amongst the thirty or so historic towns and cities preparing UADs, only in Shrewsbury has a substantial fieldwork element been part of the funded programme. This was undertaken between July and November 1996 and involved visits to cellars, buildings, and back yards in over two hundred properties in Shrewsbury town centre and Frankwell. Results have been in line with those of the 1995 pilot study in the High Street - Fish Street area (see Newsletter no 39, Spring 1995): about thirty previously unknown or hitherto poorly-located structures or fragments of structures (mainly cellars or retaining walls) of probable medieval date have been found, mapped, and briefly recorded, together with a further eighteen or so cellars of probable 16th - 17th-century date.

Cellarage thought to be of medieval date is principally identifiable from the use, underground, of high quality Grinshill sandstone ashlar work. Widespread re-use of medieval building materials in later centuries can be demonstrated: about eleven cellars wholly constructed of salvaged materials have been identified; additionally, fourteen buildings have been found to have medieval-type crested ridge-tiles on their roofs, but three of these buildings are certainly of 18th-century date. Particular attention has been paid to the location and fabric of retaining walls, in part to understand and help predict the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, in part to resolve 19th-century arguments concerning the town's medieval defences. The database will be completed in mid-1997.

Nigel Baker

SHREWSBURY BLACKFRIARS, ST MARY'S WATER LANE

In January 1996 a small-scale evaluation was undertaken on behalf of the site owners, Shropshire Homes Ltd. Three out of four trenches replicated the results of an evaluation undertaken on the site by BUFAU in 1989, which showed that very few stratified deposits had survived the demolition and levelling of the friary in the 16th and 17th centuries and subsequent extensive disturbance. However, the fourth 1996 trench revealed a small area of intact medieval mortar floor surface bounded on one side by a robbed masonry wall (probably for a timber-framed superstructure), sealed by friary demolition deposits. Two further evaluation trenches by BUFAU in

December 1996 demonstrated that this survival was exceptional, and confined to a single very small area.

Nigel Baker

News from the Wroxeter Hinterland Survey

The Wroxeter Survey

The geophysical survey programme continued in 1996 with the Ancient Monuments Laboratory concentrating on the large field in the north-west of the town and Geophysical Surveys of Bradford finishing the survey on the 'football field' behind Wroxeter Stores. The AM Lab survey found evidence for considerable industrial activity in their area including a 40m long dump of industrial waste or kiln debris in the town ditch. GSB also found some evidence for industrial activity. Within the village, the University of Liverpool looked at the fields adjacent to the southeast ramparts. The geophysical survey will be completed and written up during the course of 1997 due to the generosity of The Roman Research Trust's Special Award. Earthwork survey of the town circuit was carried out by RCHM(E) and will be completed within 1997. Evidence for trackways on the western, river-cliff, side of the town were mapped accurately for the first time giving hints of possible ancient routes down to the flood plain. David Pannett and Roger White also surveyed the river at Wroxeter in high summer looking for evidence of cutwaters, weirs and building stone marking possible riverine structures. The town and other areas of the hinterland were also surveyed using remote sensing instruments by the NERC survey aircraft which also took a series of high quality colour prints of the town.

Fieldwalking

Over 300 hectares were covered in the final fieldwalking seasons of the project. Activity was concentrated in the north-west transect arm including substantial areas at Wroxeter (SJ5609, 5709) Berwick Wharf (SJ541 1), Huffley Bank (SJ4916), Walford (SJ4220 & 4320), and Baschurch (SJ4322) and smaller areas at Allfield (SJ5007), Atcham (SJ5309), Conover (SJ4805), Fitz (SJ4417), and Wykey (SJ3824).

Finds throughout these areas were sparse although fresh sherds of a Roman grey ware jar at Walford indicated a probable site here, further strengthening the suggestion that the modern road line is following the route of a Roman precursor. This possibility was strengthened by the work at Huffley Bank which produced a reasonable background scatter of Roman pottery but no concentrations. A similar pattern was observed at Berwick Wharf but here a sherd of Iron Age pottery and some Roman sherds adjacent to an enclosure suggest a date for this settlement. There was no pottery at Baschurch but a scatter of flint work suggests that the area was utilised in prehistoric times. Around Wroxeter, Roman pottery was found in considerable quantities within 500m of the town defences but rapidly tailed off beyond that point. Finds also included the base of a grey ware cremation urn adjacent to the Horseshoe lane and beads of Iron Age and Roman date. At Uckington, Roman and medieval pottery were found in some quantity suggesting that the site is a long-lived one. The investigations of possible villa sites at Allfield Farm and Grove Farm, Conover both proved negative, the only discovery being a burnt mound at Grove Farm. A proposed intensive survey of the immediate hinterland at Wroxeter in autumn had to be called off due to legal difficulties and so the last areas surveyed included the remainder of a field on the north-west side of Wroxeter (SJ558094) and the site at Upton Cressett (SJ6492, 6493). The Wroxeter survey located the ploughed out remains of an industrial site (probably an iron-working hearth) of late 1st - 2nd century date and, nearby, the probable remains of a building defined by a dense spread of tile and pottery measuring approximately 30m by 20m. Again, a second century date may be indicated. Both sites lay within 100m of the town's defences. At Upton Cressett, a dense concentration of Roman pottery and a few sherds of Iron Age pottery confirmed a major site here spreading over about 4ha. The area is apparently defined by a bank extending around the lower slope of the site perhaps suggesting that it is an enclosure although this has yet to be confirmed either by aerial photography or excavation and the intriguing possibility that this is an unenclosed site must not be ruled out. The quantity and quality of the pottery was unusual for Shropshire and there was in addition a background scatter throughout the 67 hectares surveyed indicating a classic manuring spread. Flint work of Mesolithic - Bronze Age date was also recovered.

Awards

The success of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project has been recognised nationally through three awards made in 1996. These include the *British Telecom University Development Award* which funds work to develop computer-based teaching materials utilising the research of the VMP which will be available for students and the public alike. The *Roman Research Trust Special Award* has already been mentioned in the context of the geophysical survey work at Wroxeter and will enable this vital work to be completed. Finally, *The Queen's Anniversary Award for Higher and Further Education* is recognition of the very considerable educational and community work of the project.

Roger White

PARISH REGISTERS

Since the revival of parish register publication the Society has published three small registers whose production costs were correspondingly small. These cheaply published registers have been distributed to members gratis. The production of a much larger register has begun with Bishop's Castle part 1, and production costs make it impossible to distribute this free. The Society's Council has accordingly decided that one copy will be available to each member at half the cost charged to non-members, which was fixed at production cost plus a small profit to the Society. The free distribution of the small early registers was decided upon partly to familiarise all members with this side of the Society's work on its resumption. The policy now adopted will be that for future registers. For further details, please contact George Baugh, c/o Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ

EVENTS

Conferences and Day-schools

November 29th "**Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire**" Saturday 29th November, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Details and tickets from the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, Information and Community Services, Winston Churchill Building, Radbrook Centre, Radbrook Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9BJ Tel. (01743) 254018

TRAINING EXCAVATIONS

Richard's Castle (Hereford and Worcs). The Oxford University Dept. for Continuing Education is running a training school on the site of the castle and failed borough from 23rd to 31st August 1997. Cost £200 for 9 days. For further details, contact: Liz Miller, OUDCE, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.

Fishbourne Roman Palace (Sussex). The Sussex Archaeological Society is running training excavations at the Fishbourne Roman Palace between 14th July and 16th August 1997. Cost £180. For details, contact: 1997 Training Excavations, Fishbourne Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Chichester, Sussex, PO19 3QR

San Vincenzo (Molise, Italy). The University of East Anglia is running 3 16-day training programmes linked with excavations on a late Roman agricultural settlement and an early medieval abbey complex between 1st June and 1st August 1997. Cost £520 - £540 per session. For further details, contact: Oliver Gilkes, The San Vincenzo Training Programme, University of East Anglia, World Art and Museology, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7TJ.

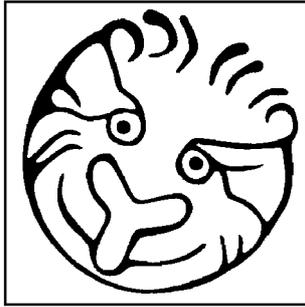
OTHER NEWS

Revision of the *Oxford English Dictionary*: you may be able to help.

Work is now in progress on a complete revision of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and one of the most important aspects of this is the improvement of the range of the quotation evidence which illustrates the history and development of words. Often the existing quotation evidence can be antedated or postdated, or new evidence of the changing use of a word can be found.

The editors are concerned that a great deal of the research which has been and is being done on manuscript sources such as wills, inventories, accounts, letters, and diaries, and which is subsequently published, is not being brought to their attention. The period of greatest interest to us is that from about 1500 to 1900. but earlier and later evidence will also be welcome. A team of researchers has started work recently on extracting material from some sources of this kind, with very encouraging results.

If you are aware of any sources which you think might provide useful material, please contact the Call for Research Materials, Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, either by letter or by fax on 01865 267810, or by e-mail to oed3@oup.co.uk.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FROM JANUARY 1st 1998

At the AGM in September 1996 it was agreed that Subscription Rates should be increased to:
£14 for individual members
£15 for family * and institutional members.

(* Family membership is for two or more people living at the same address.) This is the first increase for 9 years and reflects increased printing and postage costs.

The new rates start on January 1st 1998. Please amend bankers orders! If any member would like to start paying by Banker's Order, please ask the Membership Secretary for the appropriate form.

40-50 members now covenant their subscriptions enabling the Society to increase the value of their annual payment by reclaiming the tax paid. If you would be prepared to start a covenant, please contact the Covenanting Secretary, Barry Sherratt, at Robin Hill, Old Churchstoke, Montgomery, Powys SY15 6DH.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

WAT'S DYKE, MAES-Y-CLAWDD, OSWESTRY

H Hannaford

In March 1996 sample excavations were carried out in advance of development on a section of the earthwork known as "Wat's Dyke" at Maes-y-Clawdd, Mile Oak, Oswestry.

Wat's Dyke is a linear earthwork which stretches intermittently for approximately 60km from the River Morda at Maesbury, near Oswestry, to the Dee Estuary at Holywell. The earthwork consists of a bank with a ditch on its west side, making full use where possible of the natural drainage and topography to present a barrier to the west. The function and even the dating of the Dyke is uncertain; it is usually held to be a boundary dyke, marking the frontier between the kingdom of Mercia and the Welsh lands to the west, and is thought to date to the 8th century AD, perhaps predating Offa's Dyke to its west.

The course of the Dyke was traced and described in the early 1930s (Fox, 1955); profiles recorded across the line of the Dyke in 1933 as part of this exercise show that the bank survived in the sampled areas to heights of between 0.6m near its junction with the River Morda and 1.4m near the Ruabon - Overton road in Ruabon (Denbighshire). At a height of 1m, the section of the bank at Maes-y-Clawdd compared well with the average of these samples (Fox, 1955, Fig. 116).

Wat's Dyke has been the subject of a number of archaeological interventions. Much of this work, however, remains unpublished. The largest-scale excavations on the Dyke in recent years took place in 1984-5 at Pentre Wern near Oswestry, in advance of the construction of the Oswestry Bypass. These showed that the ditch component of the Dyke at this point was 8m wide and up to 4m deep, with the bank surviving to a height of up to 0.35m and a width of about 7m (Cane, 1996).

The 1997 Maes-y-Clawdd excavations showed the ditch component of the Dyke to have been some 7.4m wide by about 2.3m deep. It appeared to have been allowed to gradually silt up, and the ditch fills were seen to be intact on excavation and uncompromised by later intrusions. No finds were recovered from the lowest fills of the ditch, and the earliest finds were recovered from the middle silts; these finds comprised a number of sherds of 13th-century pottery.

The upcast from the ditch had been used to create a bank immediately to the east of the ditch. The bank had been built onto the surface of a buried soil, at one point sealing a small hearth or fire site which lay directly on what would have been the old ground surface. This feature was sampled for radiocarbon dating, the results being expected in August of this year. The feature probably represented the site of a small cooking fire or bonfire and its location immediately beneath the bank suggest that it may have pre-dated the bank by only a very short space of time.

The bank itself was 10.2m wide, and although it survived to a height of c.0.8m, it was presumably originally considerably higher. The core of the bank seems to have been created from turf and topsoil removed from the line of the ditch, with the underlying natural clay and gravels placed on top and behind, to heighten and widen the structure. There was no evidence for any revetment of the bank, or berm between the bank and the ditch, nor was there any sign of a kerb along the eastern edge of the bank, as has been noted on other sections of the Dyke. The deposits which made up the bank produced a small quantity of residual Romano-British pottery.

Cane, J, 1996: "Excavations on Wat's Dyke at Pentre Wern, Shropshire in 1984/5", *TSAHS* LXXI, 1996, pp10-21

Fox, Sir Cyril, 1955: "Wat's Dyke: from the Dee to the Middle Severn (1934)" in *Offa's Dyke*, London

Hannaford, H R, 1992: *An Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation at Wat's Dyke, Pen-y-Cae Close, Gobowen, Shropshire*, Shropshire County Council, Archaeology Service Report No. 11

Hannaford, H R, 1997: *An Interim Report on Archaeological Excavations on Wat's Dyke at Maes-y-Clawdd, Oswestry*, Shropshire County Council, Archaeology Service Report No. 111

Stanford, S C, 1980, *The Archaeology of The Welsh Marches*, London

THE SHROPSHIRE MINES TRUST

The Shropshire Mines Trust is a charitable trust set up in March 1996. Its aims are to preserve and interpret all aspects of Shropshire's mining industry.

Mining of coal, clay, metal ores and other rocks and minerals has taken place throughout the county. Mining has played a key role in shaping the landscape and economy of Shropshire. However, as with all archaeological features, the physical evidence for mining is under constant threat, either from various land reclamation schemes or simple neglect. The Mines Trust aims to ensure that mining archaeology is recorded and preserved where possible. Recently it has acquired the site of the Tankerville Lead Mine, near Shelve, where the pumping engine house, ore bins and other buildings are to be consolidated, followed by excavation to recover the original plan of the site. Whilst this is the chief project with which it is involved, it is also monitoring developments at other sites throughout the county.

Membership of the Mines Trust is open to all, cost £4 pa (individual). For further details of the Trust and its work, contact Adrian Pearce, 72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire, TF5 0LZ. See also details on the Internet at wkweb4.cablnet.co.uk/adrian.pearce/INDEX.HTM

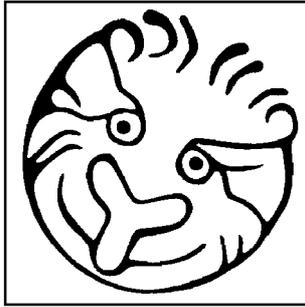
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BOOKS

Mary Richards "*That Fine Hall*" *Shrewsbury Music Hall in Victorian Times*. 42pp, 27 illustrations; price £4.95. A useful and entertaining account of Shrewsbury's Music Hall between the years 1837 and 1901. The writer draws largely on material from the Shropshire Records and Research Centre, giving an account of the origins of the Music Hall as an institution and the activities and personalities seen there in the Victorian era.



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No. 45, Spring 1998

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

Wroxeter Hinterland Project

There was little active fieldwork in this, the final year of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project. Work was limited to continuing the field survey of the site at Upton Cressett, near Bridgnorth, where a strong concentration of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery was detected, and to completing the survey of National Trust land north of Wroxeter. The latter survey produced a ploughed-out Romanized building marked by considerable quantities of tile and, nearby, a ploughed-out hearth associated with early Roman pottery and glass. This latter feature may have been an industrial site.

Two excavations took place. The first was the undergraduate and continuing studies training excavation run at Whitley Grange Roman villa. The poor weather meant that work was hindered but significant advances were made. The aim of this final season was to uncover the second half of the villa which it was realised lay to the south (uphill) of the area excavated last year.

As expected, the main or 'curtain' wall in blue sandstone that we had traced from the south-west corner of the bath house continued up the hill for an equal distance so that the mosaic room was centrally located behind it. We also found a second narrow rectangular room mirroring the similar room found last year. The total length of the curtain wall was thus 38m (roughly 130 Roman feet). It then turned eastwards, parallel to the bath house, extending for another 19m to a point level with the original end of the baths. There is some evidence for a covered walkway (portico) along the west and south sides of the courtyard. The curtain wall continued to the east before turning in a right-angle, whence it was traced on a north-south alignment for a further 28m where it linked up with features uncovered in the 1995 season, thus closing the courtyard.

In the west trench, there was evidence for a corridor leading from the south-west corner of the mosaic room and continuing out of excavated area, perhaps leading to the kitchens and/or servants quarters, or, alternatively, to a separate compound, as is seen so often in other villas.

Whitley villa 1995-7. Post-Roman occupation shaded.

Overlying the remains of the villa was evidence for post- or sub-Roman use. At the south-west corner of the villa, a rubble platform 7m by 3m with post-settings around its edge and a floor of beaten earth with plaster overlay the south-west corner of the compound. Fragments of box-tile in the platform suggest some of the material could have been derived from the baths, which scientific dating has shown was disused and robbed in the period between AD 420-520. We also found evidence for people living, or perhaps dumping their rubbish, in the south-east corner of the compound. Here, a hearth was overlain by a thick dump of tile containing lots of pottery, including riveted sherds of black-burnished ware showing that whoever was living here could not replace broken pottery with new vessels and had instead to rely on makeshift repairs, and animal bone.

The hearth we found last year in Room 5 was also re-examined and cleaned. In doing so, sherds of Shelly-tempered ware of late fourth or early fifth century date were located. These too may be associated with the sub-Roman use of the site.

As a result of the three-year excavation at Whitley Grange, a number of conclusions about the site may be drawn. The first is that it is largely a late complex. The mosaic and the west and south walls all date to the mid to late fourth century but we don't know how long the building remained in use. The baths were earlier, having three phases: an initial build, a refurbishment, and then disuse with robbing. It may be that the baths were built at the end of the third century, a date suggested by the pottery and earliest coins. If so, we have no evidence of residential buildings of an appropriate date to match the baths.

Second, we only have three 'residential' rooms, and the service corridor, all of which are dwarfed by the large bath house. Clearly, this is not a farm and we are perhaps more justified in thinking of Whitley villa as a 'weekend cottage'. It is, after all, only half a days journey from Wroxeter and is visible, but not accessible, from the main road which lies north of the Rea Brook. Such villas were very popular among the late Roman aristocracy, as shown by the poems of Ausonius (writing about the Mosel region in Germany) and the letters of Sidonius Apollinaris (in Aquitania). Both celebrate the pleasures of *otium*, the life of leisure (as opposed to *negotium*, the duties of town life), which involve the use of lavishly decorated bath houses, feasting, and hunting in the countryside.

Third, the post-Roman occupation on the site is an important confirmation that the settlement found in Wroxeter's town centre was not isolated to an urban situation and was mirrored in the countryside. Sites of the immediate post-Roman period are very difficult to identify in western Britain due to a paucity of securely dated artefacts and the identification of sub-Roman continuity on a late Roman villa site may provide a context for further research into this difficult period.

The second excavation was a small-scale investigation of the possibly early Roman military enclosure at Duncote Farm (SA45). This work was carried out at the request of the National Trust archaeologist for the Mercian region who was concerned to monitor the deterioration of this and other sites in the light of continued deep ploughing in Wroxeter's hinterland. The site had previously been investigated in 1975 when a double-ditch was found, inside of which were a number of possible structural features. The four trenches excavated in 1997 located the ditches on the west and east sides showing that the enclosure still survived. Nonetheless, some truncation was apparent since the topsoil had doubled in depth in the intervening 20 years and no internal features were found.

Within Wroxeter itself, geophysical work was concentrated on finishing the magnetometry map of the city, work which was funded by a special one-off grant from the Association for Roman Archaeology. The results of the survey have far exceeded expectations and considerable work remains to be done to interpret the resulting plots, although a provisional plot has been finalised. This has located significant elements within the city, such as a possible *mansio* (inn), temples, a cattle market, zones of pits and industrial features, and pre-Roman features including a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery similar to a well-known complex at Cross Houses, 3 miles to the south-west, and two possible Iron Age farmsteads.

Wroxeter Hinterlands Survey

Following the conclusion of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project, English Heritage agreed to fund a further three months fieldwork with three specific objectives: completion of the fieldwalking programme, evaluation of a possible villa site, and environmental sampling. The evaluation was carried out at Berwick Alkmund Park, north of Shrewsbury. The evaluation, which was preceded by extensive and intensive fieldwalking and a geophysical survey using gradiometry and resistivity, located a regular single-ditched enclosure in the north-east corner of which was a simple bath-house. Only the very lowest level of foundations of this building survived but the complete plan of one room, 3m by 2.5m in size, was recovered. More rooms were glimpsed to the north and these presumably represent a bath-house. The associated residential rooms were not located, the only other structural feature being a possible industrial hearth 30m west of the bath house. Three sections were cut across the enclosure ditch on the north, south and east sides. The southern section proved to have a very large assemblage of pottery and tile, the former of second to third century date and the latter including *tegulae mammatae* (ribbed tiles). These finds are of unusually early date for a villa site in Shropshire and show particularly precocious development at this site. Also in the same trench was a crudely sculpted stone carving, a simple figurine which was deposited face-down in the ditch fill when the buildings were demolished.

Roger White

Wat's Dyke

In the last issue of the newsletter I reported on the recent excavations by the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council on a section of Wat's Dyke at Maes-y-Clawdd on the Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry. The excavations not only showed that both the bank and ditch components of the dyke at Maes-y-Clawdd were exceptionally well-preserved, but also found that the bank sealed an old land surface on which was the site of a small hearth. A sample of charcoal from the hearth was sent to Queen's University, Belfast, for radiocarbon dating. The results of the tests were received back in October last year, and gave a calibrated date for the hearth of AD 446 (ie between AD 411 and AD 561)

This radio-carbon date suggests a 5th-century date for the construction of Wat's Dyke, which perhaps now should be regarded as being contemporary with other great 5th century linear earthworks, such as the Wiltshire Wansdyke, rather than as a near-precursor to Offa's Dyke, and should be considered as an achievement of the post-Roman kingdom of the northern Cornovii rather than a work of 8th century Mercia.

Hugh Hannaford

MUSEUM NEWS

Members will be pleased to hear that re-display of the archaeological collections at Rowley's House are now well underway. Stage one has seen significant change to the Wroxeter gallery, bringing several items into public gaze for the first time in decades. Work has also begun on a total revamp of the geology and pre-history galleries which will allow us to show, for the first time ever, the entire pre-history collections. The work is being supported by grant-aid from the Areas Museums Council The next financial year will see work on the Mediaeval and Tudor collections.

EVENTS

Conferences and Day-schools

"Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 28th November, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Details and tickets from the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, Information and Community Services, Winston Churchill Building, Radbrook Centre, Radbrook Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9BJ Tel. (01743) 254018

"Pots, People and Processes" Friday 24th - Sunday 26th April 1998, at Stoke-on-Trent. A Joint Conference of the Northern Ceramic Society and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. For details, Times and Prices please contact David Barker, City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3DE Tel. +44 (01782) 232500

Meetings

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

Summer Visits. Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone (01948) 840 760 for directions.

21st May St Margaret's Church, Moreton Say, Martin Smith £1.00
18th June Old Oswestry Hill Fort, Terry Betts £1.00
16th July Bury Walls Hill Fort, Dr Roger White £1.00

Social Evening

Thurs 11th June Pear Tree Farm, Norbury, Mary and George Perry 7.30pm

Coffee Morning

Fri 3rd July Whitchurch Civic Centre 9.30 am - 12.00 noon Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Plants, Draw

Rowley's House Museum

Friends of Shrewsbury Museums:

23rd April Dr Nigel Baker - Underground Shrewsbury

21st May Mike Stokes - Early Anglo-Saxon West Midlands

both at 7.30pm in Rowley's House -visitors and new members welcome.

Shrewsbury & Shropshire Archaeological Reference Group:

Following a successful preliminary meeting at Rowley's House on 12th February, this Group will meet 2 - 3 times per year. It is intended to provide a professional forum for those who undertake any aspect of archaeology in this county, eg those units whose base lies further afield as well as 'in-house' workers. Future meetings will examine the effects of local government reorganisation and similar problem areas, and provide opportunities for general information exchange. Enquiries to Mike Stokes at Rowley's House Museum (01743 - 361196).

Temporary Exhibitions:

14th March - 19th April: "The Chosen Letter" - examining letterforms and calligraphy from Past to present.

7th July - 31st August: "The Science of Museums" - the influence of science and technology on archaeology, conservation, documentation and visitor services.

30th May - 6th June: Archaeology Week West Midlands - a variety of lectures, displays and events to communicate archaeology to the community.

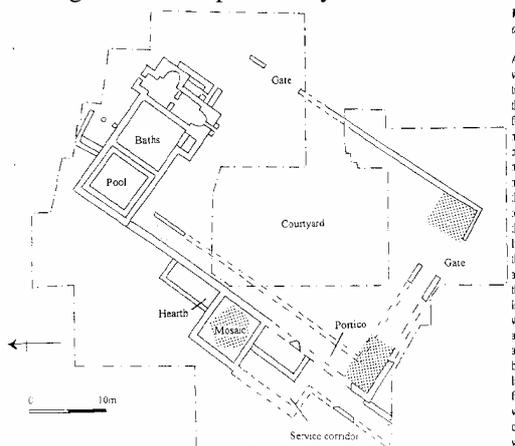
25th & 26th July: National Archaeology Day - open house for enquiries, identifications, advice on conservation from objects to buildings (25th July only).

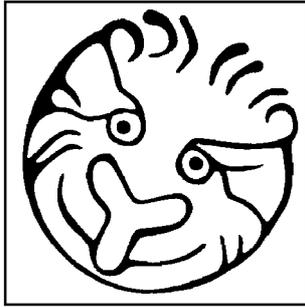
Members may also be interested to note that Phillips International Valuers hold monthly valuation advisory days on a variety of artistic, ceramic and other themes. These are on Thursdays from 12.00 - 4.00pm at Shrewsbury Castle. Details of dates from Rowley's House

Study Tours:

Mike Stokes will be leading two archaeological study tours on behalf of Filoxenia Tours, Sourdock Hill, Barkisland, Halifax HX4 OAG.

From 10th - 24th September: "Macedonia - in the footsteps of Alexander" will examine all the major sites (and some obscure ones!) and the superb museums of this wonderful area; and from 5th - 12th October: "Mycenae & the Argolid" - from pre-history to the breathtaking ruined city of Mystras.





SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 46, Autumn 1998

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Miss B Rose, Wayside, The Common, Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury,
SY4 3LY

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WANTED! : Volunteers to deliver copies of the Transactions in the Shrewsbury area - North, South, and Centre of the town. Please contact Brenda Rose, tel.: 01939 - 290778.

ARCHAEOLOGY

News from the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council. A rescue excavation was carried out on a burnt mound which lay on the route of a Severn-Trent Water pipeline at **Rodway** on the Weald Moors. The excavations were part of a salvage recording exercise undertaken on the pipeline route on behalf of Severn Trent Water, who have also generously funded the radiocarbon dating of a sample from the burnt mound. **Bridgnorth's** medieval town ditch was seen to lie immediately beneath Moat Street during a watching brief on a housing development on the north side of the street. Investigations during building work at 2-3 Milk Street, **Shrewsbury**, revealed the remains of an early post-medieval sandstone cellar and a sequence of stratified deposits dating from the 13th century to the present time beneath the yards to the rear of the property. And the remains of a medieval sandstone building were recorded during a watching brief on work in the churchyard of St Michael's Church, **High Ercall**. The building may possibly have been the medieval dower house at the bottom of the gardens of High Ercall Hall, which William of Ercall V turned into a home for the chaplains of a chantry he founded in 1334.

Hugh Hannaford

EVENTS

Conferences and Day-schools

Friends of Shropshire Records and Research Annual Lecture (subject to be confirmed) 7.00pm
Shropshire Records and Research Centre, Shrewsbury. Phone 01743 255350 for details. Advance booking essential.

"Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 28th November, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. For details see enclosed leaflet. Advance booking essential - tickets (£8.00) from the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, Community and Economic Services, Winston Churchill Building, Radbrook Centre, Radbrook Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9BJ Tel.: 01743-254018

Courses

"Roman Britain in the Roman Empire" with Geoffrey Toms. Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October 1998, 10.30am - 5.15pm daily, at The Gateway Education and Arts Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB. Course fee £24.00. For further information, please telephone 01743-355159 / 361120 during office hours. Course no. W042.

"Aphrodite's Island - 7,000 years of the life in Cyprus" with Geoffrey Toms. Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th January 1999, 10.30am - 5.15pm daily, at The Gateway Education and Arts Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB. Course fee £24.00. For further information, please telephone 01743-355159 / 361120 during office hours. Course no. W043.

"Sicily and Malta - their archaeology and history" with Geoffrey Toms. Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th April 1999, 10.30am - 5.15pm daily, at The Gateway Education and Arts Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB. Course fee £24.00. For further information, please telephone 01743-355159 / 361120 during office hours. Course no. W044.

Meetings

Oswestry & Border History and Archaeology Group

Hon. Sec. Mr Gordon Hillier, The Smithy, Maesbrook, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8QW. Tel. 01691 682484

Venue: Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry, at 7.45pm, *except March 12th at 7.30pm*. Visitors are always welcome

1998

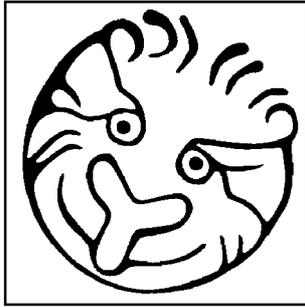
- 11th Sept. Recent Archaeological Work in the Midlands. Mr Andrew Josephs, Principal Archaeological Consultant, Entec (UK) Ltd, Shrewsbury
- 9th Oct. Historic Landscape Characterisation in the Tanat Valley. Mr W J Britnell, Director, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
- 13th Nov. The North West Wetlands Survey (Shropshire/Staffordshire). Mr Mark Leah, Cotswold Archaeological Trust
- 11th Dec. Some Aspects of Mining in East Denbighshire. Mr D Pratt

1999

- 8th Jan. Farming and Farm Buildings of Montgomeryshire. Dr Melvin Humphreys
- 12th Feb. Snailbeach Lead Mines and their Buildings. Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council
- 12th March Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address. Dr Paul Stamper, English Heritage
- 9th April Britons, Angles, and Saxons - "Who was Who in the West Midlands". Mr Mike Stokes, Keeper of Archaeology, Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury

Field Meetings

20th Sept. "Archaeology of Bishop's Castle Motte & Bailey Castle" led by Emma-Kate Burns, Curator of Archaeology, Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council. Meet 3.30pm, Sunday 20th September 1998, at the Market Square, Bishop's Castle. Price £1.00. (A Shropshire Hills Countryside Unit event.)



SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 47, Spring 1999

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Miss B Rose, Wayside, The Common, Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury, SY4 3LY

NEWS

The Council for British Archaeology - West Midlands

At the last AGM held in Hereford, three changes in the executive committee took place. The new Chairman is Mike Hodder, Birmingham Planning Archaeologist; Vice-Chairman is John Hunt of the WEA and the new Secretary is Mike Stokes of Shrewsbury Museums. Although we can be contacted via our respective workplaces, we all serve in a personal capacity not as representatives of any particular authority and are pleased to offer help or support to those with concerns for the archaeology/ heritage of the area.

Membership of CBA West Midlands costs only £6.00 per year and entitles members to receive a biennial Newsletter; a copy of '**West Midlands Archaeology**', the annual volume recording archaeological work in the area; an afternoon guided visit to a site or town with free entry etc following the summer AGM; and significant reductions (worth more than the annual subscription!) to two or more major archaeological dayschools held each year in conjunction with the University of Birmingham.

Applications for membership to John Haslam, 32, Turner Road, Chapelfields, Coventry CV5 8FI, enclosing cheque/P.O. made payable to 'CBA West Midlands.'

This year's CBA West Midlands AGM will be held on June 19th in Lichfield Cathedral and will be followed by a guided tour of the historic core of the city by Bob Meeson.

Selattyn Hill, Oswestry

Selattyn Hill is situated about 5km northwest of Oswestry in northwest Shropshire. The hill is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone and millstone grit, rising to 372m above sea level and giving extensive views across northeast Wales and Cheshire (and beyond), and east to southeast Shropshire. On the summit of the hill there is a Bronze Age ring cairn (SMR no. SA347), which was partially excavated in the 19th century when a folly or belvedere in the form of a square tower was erected.

The cairn on Selattyn Hill appears to be a typical example of an early Bronze Age ring-cairn, comprising a low, stone bank c. 22 metres in diameter, enclosing a flat open area. A gap in the bank on the southwest side of the cairn may be an original entranceway into the cairn or may be partly or entirely the result of later degradation.

In 1847, a belvedere tower was erected on Selattyn Hill by a Mr Crewe of Pentrepat to commemorate Prince Gwên, one of the sons of Llywarch Hen, a sixth century British prince, who, according to legend, was killed in a battle between the British and Saxons near to the Morlas Brook, which runs c. 0.5km to the north of the hill. The tower was erected within the ring cairn, just to the south of its centre, and it was (presumably) during the construction of the tower that an urn containing human remains was found (OS 1:2500 1st edition).

There is one near-contemporary written account of the find. Two miles west of Selattyn, at Yr Orsedd Wen in Denbighshire on the west side of Offa's Dyke, another barrow was excavated in 1850 by W Wynne Ffoulkes, and found to contain the skeleton of a man 6'2" tall, whose body had been covered in charcoal and then encased in clay. The remains of a bronze dagger were found with the inhumation, and two small fragments of iron were found within the cairn above the burial. The excavator identified the barrow with the burial place of Gwên. In his

account of the excavations, Wynne Ffoulkes contrasts the inhumation burial at Yr Orsedd Wen with that at Selattyn: " a *carn*, composed entirely of stone, situated on an eminence of Selattyn mountain, about half-a-mile or rather more to the southeast...In the *carn* twelve urns, each containing burnt bones, were discovered..." (Wynne Ffoulkes, 1851, 12). This is almost certainly the cairn on top of Selattyn Hill (despite the fact that it is northeast not southeast of the Orseddwen barrow). It is possible that a more detailed excavation of the Selattyn Hill cairn was undertaken, although if so, no records or account of the excavations appear to survive.

In 1853 the bronze dagger and two fragments (?of iron or pottery) from the tumulus at Orsedd were in the possession of W. Ormsby Gore Esq., M.P., and were temporarily exhibited at Hengwrt Library (Arch. Camb., 1854, 251-2), and for a while an urn from Orsedd (probably one of the urns from the Selattyn Hill cairn, as none were apparently found at Orsedd) was on display in the Museum at Ruthin (Arch. Camb., 1854, 238), although today the whereabouts of the finds from either of the excavations is unknown.

During the early part of the present century, the tower fell into disrepair, and the roof collapsed. Despite the ruinous state of the tower, it was used in World War II as a look-out post by members of the Local Defence Force Volunteers. In the early 1970s, the landscape of Selattyn Hill changed dramatically when the entire hilltop was ploughed and planted with conifers, and the ruins of the tower and the cairn were gradually lost from view amongst the maturing trees.

In 1997 the cairn and tower were rediscovered by members of a local group, the Selattyn Village Project Group, and in June 1998, this group, together with the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, carried out a survey and evaluation of the site as precursor to a possible programme of repairs to the tower. Trees, saplings and scrub were cut down and removed from around the perimeter of the ring cairn, and scrub was then removed from the cairn bank and from within the cairn itself, and a tape-survey was made of the monument.

Three small evaluation trenches were also excavated across the cairn bank and within the interior of the cairn. These revealed that the cairn consisted of a spread of rounded boulders resting on the surface of a light grey sandy subsoil, surrounded by a low bank, also of large rounded boulders. The boulders were almost certainly loose, weathered material gathered from the surrounding hilltop and the size of some of them suggests that they had probably not been gathered from any great distance. A few fragments of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery and burnt bone were recovered from amongst the boulders near the centre of the cairn, and whilst these provided confirmation of the prehistoric origins of the monument, they probably represented debris from the 1847 excavations on the cairn. A sequence of deposits associated with the life and decay of the tower was also identified.

The Selattyn Village Project Group has also been re-instating and marking the footpaths to the top of the hill, and the cairn and tower are now accessible once more.

References: Arch. Camb. vol. V, new series, 1854, 238 & 251-2; Grinsell, L V, 1984: *Barrows in England and Wales*, Ayelsbury; Hannaford, H R, 1998: *An Archaeological Evaluation of a Bronze Age Ring Cairn on Selattyn Hill, Shropshire*, Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service Report no. 146; Ordnance Survey 1882: 1:2500 1st Edition, Shropshire Sheet Nos. XI.8 and XII.5; Wynne Ffoulkes, W, 1851: "*Tumulus, Gorsedd Wen*", Arch. Camb. vol II, new series, 1851, 9-19

H Hannaford

Shrewsbury Museums Service

Changing Displays

Work on changing the archaeology displays in Rowley's House is now virtually complete, meaning that more items from the collections are now displayed than ever before.

Friends of the Museum Lecture Programme

Members are welcome to join the Friends or to attend lectures as guests (small donation appreciated). Remaining lectures this season are: Wroxeter Project - latest developments by Roger White on April 22nd; and The Regimental Museum by Peter Duckers on June 3rd. All are held at Rowley's House Museum at 7.30pm.

Events in the Museums

March 16th - May 1st : "A celebration of Tibet" an exhibition of images and objects from a nation under threat.

EVENTS

Conferences, Dayschools, and Lectures

The Herefordshire School of Sculpture Saturday 22nd May 1999. A dayschool on this important regional school of sculpture will be held at the University of Birmingham, Arts Building. Speakers will be Dr Ron Baxter and Hazel Gardiner from the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland; Professor George Zarnecki, probably the greatest living expert in the field; Professor Malcolm Thurby of York University, Toronto, whose book on the school will be launched in April and Dr John Hunt of the Institute for advanced research at the University of Birmingham. This is a unique opportunity to hear the results of the latest research into the field. Details from the School of Continuing Studies, University of Birmingham (leaflets at the Museum and at the Gateway).

"Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 27th November 1999, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form will be included with the Autumn Newsletter.

The Graham Webster Lecture Saturday 23rd October, at the University of Birmingham, Arts Building. This year's lecture will focus on "Rescue", it being 25 years since the publication of the volume edited by Philip Rahtz.

Meetings

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

Chairman Mrs Mary Perry (01948) 663742 **Programme Secretary** Mrs Joan Barton (01948) 840760

Summer Visits 1999 Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone (01948) 840760 for directions or lifts

20th May. The Battle of Blore Heath (nr Market Drayton); Mr Graham Clarke. Cost - £1.00

17th June Atcham Church; Mr R Jones. Berrington Church; Mr D F Williams. Cost £1.00

24th June MIDSUMMER SOCIAL EVENING - with Steam Trains - Spring Hill, Heath Lane, Marbury; by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs C Taylor-Nobbs

2nd July (Friday) COFFEE MORNING, Whitchurch Civic Centre, 9.30am - 12.00 noon

15th July (Friday) Wroxeter Gallery, Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury; Mr Michael Stokes. Cost £2.00

Archaeology Walks: Summer 1999

On Thursday evenings during June and July, the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, will be running a series of guided walks to a variety of archaeological sites and historic monuments in the county. Each walk will start at 7.30 pm and last for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. No advance booking necessary; pay on the day. The price will be £2.50 per person, per walk.

3rd June CLUN CASTLE - meet at car park by Clun Bridge

10th June MITCHELL'S FOLD STONE CIRCLE - meet at car park, Stapeley Hill (OS ref SO 302 980)

17th June SNAILBEACH LEAD MINE - meet at car park, Snailbeach Village Hall

24th June WHITE LADIES PRIORY - meet at car park near monument (OS ref SJ 826 076)

1st July LILLESHELL ABBEY - meet at the Abbey

8th July MEDIEVAL CRAVEN ARMS - meet at car park Craven Arms Library

15th July MUCH WENLOCK PRIORY - meet at the Priory (English Heritage members free of charge)

22nd July OFFA'S DYKE - meet at road/track junction on Llanfair Hill (OS ref SO 250 797)

Study Tours

Mike Stokes will be leading a number of archaeological study tours this year:

1. April 27th - May 4th **Mycenacan and Classical Greece**

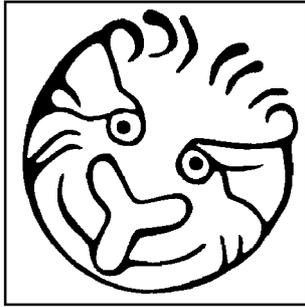
2. June 14th - June 24th **Macedonia**

3. September 10th - 24th **Macedonia**

4. October 4th - 11th **Mycenaeen and Classical Greece**

All dates inclusive

These study tours are led by Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist for Shrewsbury Museums' Service. Details can be obtained from Mike Stokes or from Filoxenia, Sourdock Hill, Barkisland, Halifax HX4 OAG. Tel.: 01422 371796.



SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 48, Autumn 1999

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Hon. Membership Secretary: Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

NEWS

Brenda Rose has stepped down as the Society's Membership Secretary after serving in this role for the last seven years. Brenda's sterling work for the Society over this time is much appreciated, and I'm sure we'd all like to offer her many thanks. And may I, on behalf of newsletter readers, take this opportunity also to extend a warm welcome to Mr Tim Trown, who has taken over as our new Hon. Membership Secretary. (ed)

The Treasure Act 1996

In September 1997 the new Treasure Act was introduced to England and Wales. The Act replaced the old common law of treasure trove which had many failings as a tool to record and preserve archaeological finds. Firstly, the new Act gives a clear definition of treasure and removes the need to prove that an object was intentionally buried. This new definition of treasure covers any object which is 300 years or more old and contains at least 10% precious metal, all groups of 10 or more coins which were buried together and which are more than 300 years old and any object found in association with an item of treasure.

The new Act has also made it a legal requirement to report finds which are thought to be treasure within 14 days to the District Coroner. Failure to report a find can now lead to imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000. A network of Advisers has also been established to provide archaeological advice to each Coroner. The local arrangements for Shropshire are described below.

Every year hundreds of thousands of archaeological objects are discovered, mostly by people using metal detectors but also by people out walking, digging in their gardens or simply going about their work. Only a small proportion of these finds are ever seen by a museum or field archaeologists. This means that a great deal of potentially important information about the past is being lost. Therefore, The Department of Culture, Media and Sport also took the introduction of the new Treasure Act as an opportunity to address the recording of archaeological finds which are not covered by the revised treasure definition. A number of pilot voluntary reporting schemes were introduced across the county. The liaison officers employed by the scheme have worked hard to improve relations between archaeologists and museum curators and metal detectorists. They have also publicised the need to record archaeological finds and offered the public a Finds Identification and Advice Service. Although Shropshire has not been part of this pilot scheme 1,429 finds were recorded in northern Worcestershire, northern Warwickshire and southern Staffordshire between October 1997 and September 1998. It is hoped that lottery funding will allow this scheme to be introduced nation-wide in the near future. In the meantime, both the County and Borough Museum Service's continue to offer a Finds Recording and Identification Service.

Telford & Wrekin Coroner's District: M.T. Gwynne, Police Station, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire (01952-256464); Adviser on Treasure: Ironbridge Gorge Museum (01952 432237)

Mid and North Shropshire Coroner's District: R.D. Crawford-Clarke, West Merica Constabulary Police HQ, Clive Road, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury (01743-264711); Adviser on Treasure: Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Museum Service (01743-361196)

South Shropshire Coroner's District: A.F.T. Sibcy, 18 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire (01584-873918);
Adviser on Treasure: Shropshire County Museum Service (01743-254009)

Emma-Kate Burns, Curator of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council

Shrewsbury Museums Service Programme to December 1999

Exhibitions:

'**Gone to Earth**' continues until September 5th at Rowley's House Museum.

The **Shropshire Mammoth** September 11th - November 6th at Rowley's House Museum. (courtesy of the Shropshire County Museums Service)

Pictures from the Collections and Craftwork : November 20th - December 18th at Rowley's House Museum

Clive House Museum

Members will be aware that there has been some doubt over the future of Clive House Museum. Recreation and Leisure Committee (Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council) are recommending to Full Council that the Museum be closed to the public from October 1999, but that it will be retained pro. tem. for storage and other functions, and as an 'asset' for the future. Any decision regarding its disposal will take place in the light of the full review of the Museum Service's operations which is currently underway. Elements of displays, currently at Clive House, will be moved to appropriate galleries in Rowley's House in due course.

Three Seventeenth Century Portraits

Thanks to grant aid from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the generosity of the Friends of Shrewsbury Museums, through public appeal, we have been able to acquire portraits of Thomas Jones, first Mayor of Shrewsbury, named as such in the charter of Charles I, 1638, and his wife. These were painted in 1615, perhaps on their betrothal. We have also been able to purchase a slightly later portrait of Thomas Parr, Shropshire's oldest man. These are currently being conserved and will be displayed at Rowley's House later in the year, We are grateful to all those who contributed to this.

Giant Irish Deer on the move!

Some members will be aware of the fine set of antlers of this beast that hung in Vaughan's Mansion (now part of the Shrewsbury Music Hall). Donated to the Museum in the late 1880's, these have now been moved to the new Geology gallery of Rowley's House Museum where they will be mounted after cleaning and conservation work by Michael Eastham who has worked in the past on the great Forum Inscription from Wroxeter and on the carved panels of Shrewsbury Abbey Pulpit after it was vandalised in late 1995. Over 20,000 years old, these creatures were extinct long before the Shropshire mammoths met their end at Condover!

Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

EVENTS

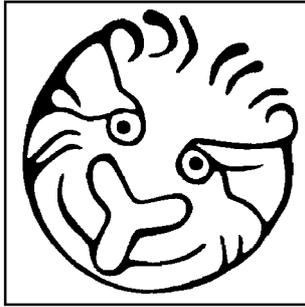
Conferences, Dayschools, and Lectures

The Graham Webster Lecture: Dr David Thackray on **Archaeology and the National Trust**. Saturday 16th October 1999, at the Arts Building Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham. Free public meeting.

The Charles Darwin Millenium Lecture: October 17th at 2.30p.m. in the Music Hall by Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at London University asking the question: "Is Evolution Over?"

"The Archaeology of Letocetum (Wall)", November 6th, CBA Dayschool, Arts Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham. Bookings to School of Continuing Studies, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT

"Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 27th November 1999, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form will be included with the Autumn Newsletter.



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 49, Spring 2000

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Hon. Membership Secretary: Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

* * *

In the last issue of the Newsletter, Emma-Kate Burns, Curator of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, gave us an introduction to the new Treasure Act. In this issue, Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, tells us about some of the results of the new act.

The Internet: *The Society's Council is currently looking into putting together a Web site for the Society, and would be very grateful to hear from any member with Internet access who might be willing to host a site on behalf of the Society.*

* * *

TREASURE ITEMS

A number of exciting items have recently come before the Shrewsbury Coroner and Shrewsbury Museums Service. Full reports on these will appear in the Transactions in due course but members might be interested to hear that a silver ring found near Albright Hussey and inscribed WELIAM:BA - probably William Bannister, owner of the Hussey in the late 13th/early 14th centuries - has been declared Treasure and valued by the Valuation Committee at £800. A fine gold and ruby ring of the mid 14th century from The Isle at Bicton is yet to be considered by the Coroner but is likely (if found to be Treasure) to be valued at over £2000, and two fine, silver 9th-century Trewhiddle-style strap ends from Frodesley are likely to require a similar price. Two other items shortly to be examined at a Treasure hearing are small silver ingots of 10th-century type (such as those found in the Cuerdale hoard in Cumbria), found near Clive; these are the first such items to be recognised in the county.

As an important codicil to these exciting items, which we hope will soon reside in the Museum or in the County Museum in the case of the ingots, is that it is very clear that the valuations being placed on items of Treasure under the 1996 Act are increasing at an alarming rate. Whilst it is of course inherently fair that finders should receive the market price for their artefacts and for having reported them in accordance with the Act, there are worrying implications for museums who have to fund their purchase. British Museum staff have indicated that they are now having to deal with over three times as many treasure enquiries as before the Act, a fact that will inevitably filter down to provincial museums in due course. We are also seeing an enormous increase in the general reporting of finds through the Portable Antiquities Reporting schemes.

In contrast to the boom in discovery is the stagnation in provision of funding through not only the local authority purse, for obvious reasons, but particularly through the national grant-giving bodies such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, who at the time of writing (March

2000) have no idea yet what if any funds they will have to support us from April, only a few days away! We should take every opportunity to lobby the appropriate government departments to make sure that this does not become a self-defeating situation, whereby museums are no longer able to acquire items due to lack of funds, thus putting the objects straight back onto the open market - the very thing the Treasure Act was designed to avoid!

Mike Stokes

* * *

OBITUARIES

John Shipley Clarke, 1933-2000

John studied at Oxford University, gaining a good degree. Later he taught Chemistry at Alleyns School, Dulwich, where he also led a Scout Group. John retired to south Shropshire where he was a founder member of the Craven Arms Historical Society. In 1981 he joined this Society, and in 1997 an article of his on the subject of "*The Manor of Stokesay and its Park*" was published in our *Transactions*. He was to become our treasurer, but unhappily suffered a heart attack and was told to cut down on his commitments, and so concentrated on local history studies. He underwent a triple heart bypass operation which improved his health for a while. In January 1997 he was awarded an MA in English Local History by Leicester University.

For several years John was a churchwarden, and later the treasurer, of St John the Baptist Church, Stokesay. He was co-author of a guide to that church, and he also wrote a guide to nearby Halford Church.

Because of deteriorating health he gave up practical local history and archaeology, but continued to write. Latterly he was revising a 1993 history of Craven Arms. This is now being completed by another member of Craven Arms Historical Society.

John was a respected and good friend to all who knew him. He will certainly be missed.

Graham Berlyn

Roger Bassett

We regret to announce the death of Roger Bassett, a long-time member and loyal supporter of the Society who died on 6th December 1999 at the Mid Wales Hospice, aged 79 years. Roger had a distinguished career, but was always a very modest man and beyond recording his military rank as captain in the South Staffs Regiment and his achievement in co-founding the Somaliland Scouts he did not wish for further tributes. He leaves a widow, Nyria, three sons, Stephen, Jeremy, and James, and two grandchildren.

Madge Moran

* * *

EVENTS: Conferences, Dayschools and Lectures, Meetings and Events Shrewsbury Museums Service Events in 2000

Currently on display in the Exhibitions gallery at Rowley's House Museum is 'Unseen Stories', a stimulating and provocative response to the Ditherington flax mill by international artist Terry Smith. This ends on April 14th.

From 20th June to July 30th, the same gallery will house an exhibition of early 'Icons of the Orthodox Church', all from private collections, many of them from Germany, curated by specialist Nicholas Thon. This is part of the Orthodox Christian Millennium festival, which also includes exhibitions of modern icons at the Bear Steps Gallery and the Gateway Centre (further information on 01939-291078).

National Archaeology Days on July 22nd and 23rd will celebrate "the Maths of Money" as part of the current National Maths year activities and will draw on the museum's collections of coins and tokens from Ancient Greece to the present.

Last, but not least, an early warning and appeal. From September 16th to December 16th will be a show entitled 'I know what I like!', a major display of collections both serious and light-hearted belonging to local people. Any member who has a collection of items of any type, which they would like to share with the rest of us for a while, should phone Mary White on 01743-361196 for details.

Friends of Shrewsbury Museums have two lectures left of their season, on April 11th, Furniture restoration will be the subject, whilst after the AGM on May 23rd, the subject will be Treasure and Portable Antiquities, with lecture and discussion by Mike Stokes and Angie Bolton, West Midlands Portable Antiquities Officer.

Study Tours: Mike Stokes is leading a number of study tours to various parts of Greece during summer and autumn 2000 - these need only a small number of people to make them viable which means that we can use minibuses to get around - and hence get to sites which are otherwise impossible to reach - details from Filoxenia (the tour operators) on 01422-371796.
Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

Events (*For details, contact Emma-Kate Burns, Curator of Archaeology, on 01743-254009*)

- 31st May Archaeology Activity Session: Roman Villas. Hands-on activities and exhibition looking at life on a Roman villa. Acton Scott Working Farm Museum (Archaeology Service/ County Museum Service joint activity)
- 22nd July & 23rd July National Archaeology Days: Rebuilding the Past. Storytelling with medieval artefacts and medieval art workshop. Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms / Stokesay Castle.
- 3rd August Archaeology Activity Session: PARATE.OPPERITE.COCITE. Hands-on activities looking at Roman cooking. Acton Scott Working Farm Museum. (Archaeology Service/ County Museum Service joint activity)

Archaeology Walks: Summer 2000

On Thursday evenings during June and July, the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, will be running a series of guided walks to a variety of archaeological sites and historic monuments in the county. Each walk will start at 7.30 pm and last for approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. No advance booking necessary; pay on the day. The price will be £2.50 per person, per walk.

- 1st June ELLESMERE (meet at Meres Visitor Centre, Ellesmere, OS map ref SJ 405 347)
- 8th June LLANYMYNECH HILL (meet at car park immediately before entrance to Golf Course, OS map ref SJ 267 220)
- 15th June HANWOOD (meet at St Thomas' Church, Hanwood, OS map ref SJ 443 096)
- 22nd June MORE (meet at St Peter's Church, More, OS map ref SO 343 915)
- 29th June NORDY BANK (meet at car park alongside minor road to Cockshutford, OS map ref SO 572 850)
- 6th July EDGMOND and LONGFORD (meet at St Peter's Church, Edgmond, OS map ref SJ 720 193)
- 13th July QUATFORD (meet at St Mary's Church, Quatford, OS map ref SO 739 907)

20th July TITTERSTONE CLEE (meet at car-parking area in former quarry, OS map ref SO 593 776)

Dayschool

"Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 25th November 2000, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form will be included with the Autumn Newsletter.

Council for British Archaeology - West Midlands

Saturday April 8th at 2.00pm. The (re-arranged from 1999) Graham Webster Lecture - given by Dr David Thackray, Director of Archaeology for the National Trust, on the implications of archaeology in the Trust's care of its monuments, followed by Phil Bethell who will deliver a case study of his work for the Trust at Chedworth Roman Villa. Admission is free to all. Venue: Arts Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham.

Saturday June 17th 2.00pm. The Annual General Meeting of the group takes place in Rowley's House Museum, followed by a short talk and visit to discuss recent work in the town. Admission free. This is the first local event in Archaeology Week West Midlands - details from Peter Leather at 0121-4145597 in early June.

Saturday July 1st. The Crusaders and their world. A dayschool in the University of Birmingham. Four leading specialists will discuss the ideals and motivations of the crusaders; recent published research at Belmont Castle; Jerusalem at the time of the Crusades; and art and sculpture in the Holy Land. (One of the speakers is actually flying in from Jerusalem especially! Details from Continuing Studies on 0121-4145606

Dates for your diary: Saturday October 14th: The Graham Webster Lecture & Saturday November 4th: a dayschool on the archaeology of the landscape. Details available in September from Mike Stokes.

Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

Chairman Mrs Mary Perry (01948) 663742 **Programme Secretary** Mrs Joan Barton (01948) 840760

Meetings

20th April "The History of Horn", Paula Hardwick, collector of horn antiques. Joint meeting with Audlem Historical Society and the Malpas Field Club. At the Civic Centre, Whitchurch, 7.30pm

Summer Visits 2000 Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone (01948) 840760 for directions or lifts

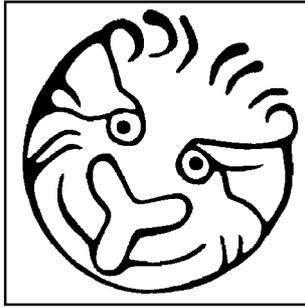
18th May. Old St. Chad's, Rev. Paul Winchester, Vicar of Tushingham. Cost - £1.00

15th June Highfields House, Buerton, Audlem, MR & Mrs J Baker. Cost £4.00 (towards restoration)

23rd June (Friday) COFFEE MORNING, Whitchurch Civic Centre, 9.30am - 12.00 noon. Bric-a-brac, cakes, draw, plants.

20th July (Friday) St Giles Church, Wrexham. A Church Guide. Cost £1.00

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual authors; unless otherwise stated, the Council of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society is not responsible for any statement made, nor opinion expressed, in this Newsletter



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 50, Autumn 2000

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Hon. Membership Secretary: Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

* * *

Museum-on-the-Move

Museum-on-the-Move is an exciting new project aimed at bringing imaginative and stimulating displays to isolated rural areas. The project is run by Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire museum services, and is just one of four projects from over fifty applicants to be chosen for funding by the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust.

The basic aims of Museum-on-the-Move are to provide a community-based museum service, to encourage life-long learning, to improve access to museums and to promote lasting relationships between local communities and their museums.

A timetable has been drawn up allowing each county use of the vehicle for six-week blocks throughout the year. All staff are trained to drive the vehicle and to interpret the exhibition on board. We can visit schools and training centres, day centres and sheltered housing schemes, village centres, hospitals, youth centres, shopping centres and special events.

For further details please contact the Museum-on-the-Move Project Officer at the County Museum Service, Acton Scott Working Farm Museum, tel : 01694-781306

Emma-Kate Burns

* * *

Eric Donald Gates

We regret to announce the death of Eric gates at his home in Whitchurch on April 16th 2000, aged 51. Eric was a long-time and loyal member of the Society and enjoyed coming to the meetings though severely disabled by his illness contracted some years ago. A scaffolder by training, in his later years he became a qualified cheesemaker and also with his wife Pat and son Andrew took great interest in local history and architecture.

Madge Moran

* * *

EVENTS: Conferences, Dayschools and Lectures, Meetings and Events Shrewsbury Museums Service Events in 2000

From September 16th to December 16th will be a show entitled 'I know what I like!', a major display of collections both serious and light-hearted belonging to local people. Any member who has a collection of items of any type, which they would like to share with the rest of us for a while, should phone Mary White on 01743-361196 for details.

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minibuses to get around - and hence get to sites which are otherwise impossible to reach - details from Filoxenia (the tour operators) on 01422-371796.

Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 25th November 2000, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form included with this Newsletter.

Shropshire County Museum Service: Acton Scott Historic Working Farm Exhibitions

Shropshire Landscapes Exhibition by David Threlkeld. Tuesday 4 July - Sunday 3 September

The Working Countryside Tuesday 5 September - Sunday 1 October

Munch! The Story of Food Through The Ages Tuesday 3 October - Sunday 29 October

Council for British Archaeology - West Midlands

Dates for your diary: Saturday October 14th: The Graham Webster Lecture & Saturday November 4th: a dayschool on the archaeology of the landscape. Details available in September from Mike Stokes.

Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

Oswestry and Border History & Archaeology Group Programme 2000 - 2001

Chairman: Mrs Leanne Seward; **Hon. Secretary:** Mr G R K Hillier (01691) 682484; **Venue:** Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry - Friday evenings at 7.45pm *except for AGM in March 2001 at 7.30pm*

- Sept. 3 'History Marches On' (Local History Day) at the Peter Humphreys Centre, Oswestry School (Sunday)
- Sept. 8 Offa's Dyke (Recent work funded by CADW and English Heritage). Mr Ian Bapty, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust
- Oct. 13 Mummies, Dry Bones and Bog Bodies. Mr Robert Connolly, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Human Anatomy, Liverpool University
- Nov. 10 Early Travel by Stage and Mail in North Wales. Mr E. Rothwell-Hughes
- Dec. 8 The Breidden Hillfort. Mr Christopher Musson
- Jan. 12 Thomas Telford's Shropshire Legacy. Mrs Dorothy Nicolle
- Feb. 9 John Davies of Middleton - Oswestry's First Historian. Mr John Pryce-Jones
- March 9 AGM and Presidential Address. Dr Paul Stamper, English Heritage. (7.30pm)
- April 6 Abbeys, Churches and Chapels. Religious Life in Shropshire. Dr Tom Hill

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

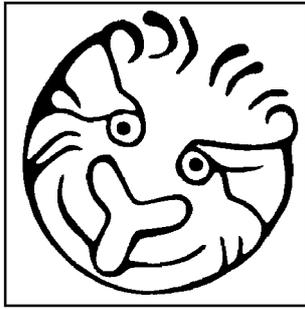
Chairman Mr Don Fitzjohn (01948) 665517 **Programme Secretary** Mrs Joan Barton (01948) 840760

Meetings 2000 - 2001 (Lectures are held in the Civic Centre, Whitchurch, 7.30pm)

- 21 Sept Serendipity in Family History. *Mary Tither*, Family Historian
- 19 Oct Mapping Bury Walls. *Roger White*, Archaeologist
- 16 Nov Thomas Cook and the Story of tourism. *Colin Thaw*, Tourist Manager
- 21 Dec History of Cheshire Cheesemaking. *David & Jill Hutchison-Smith*, Cheesemakers
- 18 Jan 10,000 Years of Human History Condensed into 500 Boxes. *Emma-Kate Burns*, Archaeologist
- 15 Feb Annual General Meeting followed by The History of Books, *Mary Perry*, Bookseller
- 15 March One Woman's War - Enigma and All That. *Kay Staddon*, Former W.A.T.S.
- 19 April Bess of Hardwick _ A Cameo in Costume. *Lizzie Jones*. Joint meeting with Audlem Historical Society and the Malpas Field Club

Summer Visits 2001 Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone (01948) 840760 for directions or lifts

- 17 May. Shropshire Records and Research Centre Introductory Tour. *Tony Carr*. Cost £2.00
- 8 June (Friday) COFFEE MORNING, Whitchurch Civic Centre, 9.30am - 12.00 noon. Bric-a-brac, cakes, draw, plants.
- 21 June St Mary's Church, Ellesmere. *Estelle Parker*. Cost £1.00
- 19 July St Bartholomew's Church, Tong. *Anne Taylor*. Cost £3.00 (inc. coffee)



SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 51, Spring 2001

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

Subscriptions: Just a reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2001 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Survey work at Shrewsbury Castle In Spring last year, a geophysical survey of the bailey and motte top of the castle was conducted on behalf of the Borough Council by a team from Stratascan, organised by Peter Barker. The survey was carried out by the techniques of Resistivity and Ground Probing Radar during mid-late May in dry, sunny conditions following some weeks of wet weather. The full report including the detailed radar plots and time-slice sections is now deposited in the Museum and with the Borough's Buildings at Risk Officer (Joanne Barnes). The survey revealed some very important features in both areas and the information about depths of deposits recovered will assist in managing the way in which the site is used to protect them.

Within the bailey, a large rectilinear feature apparently with subdivisions or annexes was revealed lying beneath the lawned area, parallel to the Great Hall. This has been occasionally visible in part during drought conditions but can now be shown to lie over 50cms deep and is much better defined than previously. Precise identification of the building would only be possible after excavation (it may be of any date from Victorian to Norman - or even Saxon?) but one option might be the missing chapel of St Michael. Radar survey of the banked lawns and flower beds revealed the underlying ground surface and suggests that the banks are the remains of earthen ramparts from the early phases of the castle and that the walls were built into the outer face (in the 12th/early 13th century?).

Perhaps more striking is the presence of a complex of massive features on the motte top some 30-50cms below the cobbled surface. These are almost certainly the trenches supporting the vertical timbers of the Great Tower which fell in the 1270's although the plan recovered is only partial since a large part of the motte collapsed causing the tower to fall at that time. Extrapolation of the dimensions suggests that the tower might have measured more than 40 feet along each side. Something like twice the size of the tower excavated by Philip Barker on the motte top at Hen Domen. Again, only excavation could confirm this interpretation.

Philip Barker commented on the results and also noted the apparent presence of a major pit in the same spatial relationship to the motte at Shrewsbury as the latrine pit at Hen Domen, which produced such a wealth of organic material when excavated. There are hints of many other minor features within the bailey but these cannot be defined at present.

Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council

TRAINS AND BOATS AND PLANES. This was the title of a day school organised by the CBA (West Midlands) and the School of Continuing Studies (University of Birmingham) at the University on 4 November. Five presentations covered examples of the discovery and recording of the visible remains of transportation, trade and defence in the West Midlands.

In *Ancient Roads and the Droitwich Salt Industry* Dr Della Hooke explained how the process of producing crystalline salt by evaporation from the natural brine springs required enormous quantities of wood and how a network of 'salt-ways' radiated from the Droitwich area, along which carts, wagons and packhorses carried loads of timber and salt. Dr Malcolm Wanklyn spoke on *Port Books and River Trade in the West Midlands*. He described how our knowledge of navigation and trade on the River Severn from the mid-16th to the mid-18th centuries has been greatly extended a major research project on the Gloucester port books undertaken at the

University of Wolverhampton over the last 16 years. By the 17th century the Severn was the second busiest river in Europe, navigable as far as Pool Quay near Welshpool, carrying vessels such as trows, barges and wherries; it was not until the late 18th century that problems resulting from the draining of flood meadows and from fish weirs began seriously to impede year-round navigation. Dr Wanklyn gave examples of Shrewsbury-registered boats in the 17th and early-18th centuries carrying manufactured goods such as earthenware, cloth ('Manchester goods' and Welsh cotton) and paper downstream, and luxury goods (such as wine and tobacco) and raw materials such as pot clay (for making crucibles) and tobacco-pipe clay upstream. Martin Cook's *Recent Work on the Tame Valley Canal, Birmingham* explained how the Tame Valley Canal (opened in 1844) was an attempt to relieve congestion on the network of the Birmingham Canal Navigations by enabling boats to avoid the centre of the city. Dr Paul Collins's survey - *From Rastrick to Railtrack* - gave an account of West Midlands railways through surviving buildings and structures. And in *The Royal Air Force in Worcestershire*, Mick Wilks described how volunteers working on the English Heritage 'Defence of the Realm Project' have to date recorded over 1,200 sites in Worcestershire, ranging from the RFC's base at Broom designed to deter zeppelin raids during World War I to the adaptations of airfields (such as Pershore) for the use of V-bombers during the Cold War period.

This stimulating day school provided some very useful pointers for further work on the archaeology of road, water, rail and air transport in Shropshire.

Neil Clarke

EVENTS

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 24th November 2001, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form included with Autumn Newsletter.

Exhibitions in Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery (Rowley's House)

May 23 - July 8: "River Life 1". An exhibition drawn from the Museum's extensive picture collections reflecting life on and around the River Severn.

July 21 - Sept. 16: "The Flower show". Displays from the ceramics collections especially, Coalport, alongside contemporary work by Neil Brownsword.

Sept. 29 - Nov. 17: "River Life 2". Further pictures and up to date material from partners such as the Environment Agency.

May 6 & 7: "The Defence of Shrewsbury". At Shrewsbury Castle. Living history from the Militia and their camp followers from the 1651 campaign of Charles II.

CBA West Midlands

June 9: "Painting in Medieval England: Romanesque to Gothic". Dayschool at the University of Birmingham. Details from School of Continuing Studies. Booking essential.

July 7: AGM, with lectures and tour. Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent. 11.00am -4.00pm. Open to the public.

October 3: The Webster Lecture. On the theme of the Territory of the Cornovii from the Air, by Michael Watson. At the Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury, 2.00pm.

November 3: "The Territory of the Cornovii". Dayschool at the Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury. Details from the University Office, Gateway Centre. Booking essential.

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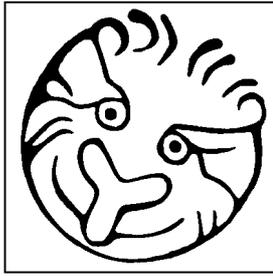
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SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

No. 52, Autumn 2001

Newsletter Editor

Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ

Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

Margaret Lister and Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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Philip Barker, 1920 - 2001

Philip Barker died in January aged 80. He joined the Society in the early 1950's when he was Art Master at the Boys Priory School and quickly became involved in and directed the excavation of medieval sites in the county as well as at Hen Domen, Montgomery which was to become his life's work. Some recognition of his growing stature came in 1963 when he was elected FSA. By then he had transferred to adult education and in the mid 60's joined the extra mural department in Birmingham where he ultimately received the title of Reader. There he became an archaeologist of national stature through his excavations at Hen Domen and latterly on the Baths Basilica at Wroxeter where is long running excavation and groundbreaking techniques revealed town life stretching into the Dark Ages. His influence was inspirational for younger generations not only as a practitioner but also through his book "Techniques of Archaeological Excavation" now translated into several languages and in a 3rd edition. He will be remembered too for his leadership in setting up RESCUE which badgered Government to provide adequate funds for archaeology, and also for his part in founding the Institute of Field Archaeologists to represent the new profession as it emerged outside university departments. The final volume of his report on Hen Domen was published last December and a new edition of his Short History of Worcester Cathedral is in the press. His memorial service was in the Cathedral which he had served as cathedral archaeologist in retirement. He had been a Vice President of the Society for many years and latterly an honorary member. Many of you will remember him lecturing on Wroxeter and Hen Domen and from site visits in the more distant past.

James Lawson

The Ludlow Library and Museum Resource Centre

In February 2001 the Archaeology Service began an excavation on the site of the new Library and Museum Resource Centre in Ludlow. The Corve Street area is one of Ludlow's medieval suburbs; it was established outside the town's defences perhaps as

early as the late 11th or early 12th century. The new Museum Resource Centre is being built in the tails of former medieval burgrave plots which ran from the east side of Corve Street across to Portcullis Lane. The excavations uncovered a sequence of features and deposits which dated from the 12th to the 19th centuries. One of the earliest features found consisted of the foundation remains of a medieval building, associated with debris (clay mould fragments and slag) from bronze-casting and pottery of 12th - 14th-century date.

H Hannaford

EVENTS

Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Saturday September 8th. At The Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 11.00 am. At 2.15pm the AGM lecture will be given by David Morgan-Evans FSA.

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Winter Programme 2001/2002

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

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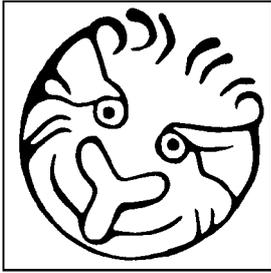
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(Copy deadline for the Spring 2002 Newsletter is Friday 22nd March 2002. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to Hugh.Hannaford@Shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freemove.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 53, Spring 2002

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Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

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News from Shrewsbury Museums

Plans to Commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Shrewsbury.

The planning committee has met regularly for the last four years (!) and the programme of events is forming nicely. The Festival, involving the whole town, will run effectively from late May to September 2003, obviously focussing on July 21st, the actual anniversary (interestingly properly called a six-centenary). There will be a wide variety of activities including art exhibitions examining the theme of conflict and peace through the Museum and Art Gallery, the Young Curators Group at the Bear Steps and the Visual Arts Festival around the town; musical performances through a Community Opera involving over 250 children, a newly composed cantata/oratorio involving the Shrewsbury and Priory Schools, a newly produced performance of Edith Pargetter's 'A Bloody Field by Shrewsbury'; Shakespeare's Henry IV part I (probably at Haughmond Abbey); evensong at Battlefield Church and a performance of a fifteenth century mass in the presence of (we hope) as many direct descendants of the protagonists in the battle as possible – its amazing how many of them are still among the nobility, either secular or ecclesiastical!

A celebrity lecture programme will run at the Gateway Centre and academic conferences will be organised by the Battlefields Study Group and the Fifteenth Century Society (from which the papers will be published as were those of the 1903 conference by this Society). Alongside this will be the inevitable family orientated days featuring re-enactment groups, although we have decided against a full-scale re-run of the Battle as we thought the Royal Shrewsbury Accident and Emergency Dept. might be overwhelmed! Instead there will be a National War-Games Weekend at the Music Hall where we can attempt to re-write history!

These are the bare bones of the event and we are encouraging local groups to take advantage of the

opportunity to join in and arrange their own related events, whether it be the school fete or the Flower Show, there is room for everyone. Any ideas from members should be sent to me at the Museum so that we can incorporate them into the Publicity leaflets etc in good time.

A New Civil War Coin Hoard from Shropshire

Just before Christmas, the Museum Service accepted a donation of 142 silver coins dating from the reign of Philip & Mary (1554-8) to the reign of Charles I (the latest being a Shrewsbury mint shilling of autumn 1642). The contemporary value was £5-18s-0d, a typical hoard of the period. The coins had, apparently, been found in the 1930's by the grandfather of the donor and given to the donor to use as 'play-money' when she visited as a young girl! The hoard is now being studied by Edward Besly at the National Museum of Wales and a full report will appear in numismatic journals and the Transactions in due course. Once returned to Shrewsbury, the hoard will form the basis of a new display in the Museum focussing on the 17th century.

www.darwincountry.org

Most members will be aware of this rapidly developing web-site being developed by Shrewsbury Museums but if you've missed it you'll find over 3,500 (yes really) pages relating to the collections of Shrewsbury, Coalport and Wedgwood Museums which will continue to expand through a new project this year to include material from the prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval collections here in Shrewsbury. This will be linked to the Museums' Collections' Database, managed by Peter Boyd, to provide access to our collections to researchers world-wide.

Peter is also beginning to plan appropriate celebrations for the bi-centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 2009. Suggestions to him at the Museum please

Mike Stokes

EVENTS

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer 2002

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

Archaeology Walks Summer 2002: A leaflet detailing the Archaeology Service's programme of summer walks is included with this newsletter.

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 23rd November 2002, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form will be included with the Autumn Newsletter.

CBA West Midlands

In conjunction with Birmingham University, CBA WM is organising its usual programme of events for this year. On Saturday, June 8th, there will be a Dayschool in tribute to Philip Barker "Archaeology in Britain revisited" a review of the past 50 years featuring Simon Esmonde Cleary, Robert Higham, Trevor Rowley, Chris Musson and others; the AGM

will be held in Worcester on July 6th including a chance to get into the Cathedral roof!; this year's Graham Webster Lecture will be given by Professor Mick Aston using the Time Team experience to reflect Graham's contribution to publicising and promoting interest in archaeology and on November 2nd, a dayschool focussing on the industrial archaeology of the Black Country is currently being set up. Details of all these and booking arrangements via Dianne Barr at the University of Birmingham, School of Continuing Studies, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. Members might like to note that by joining CBA West Midlands (only £6 per annum) they get a discount on each of these events which, if they attend them all totals about £15!(and on top of that they get free Newsletters and a copy of *West Midlands Archaeology*). Contact John Haslam, Membership Secretary at 32, Turner Rd., Chapelfields, Coventry to sign up.

The programme for the next three years is currently being planned and suggestions for subject areas for dayschools are always welcomed – no prizes for guessing what the summer 2003 dayschool will focus on!

Mike Stokes

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

Summer Visits 2002

Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone 01948 840760 for directions or lifts

16th May **Cholmondley Castle** Ian Dunn. By kind permission of Lady Cholmondley
Cost - £6.00. 25 places only - book ahead

Friday **COFFEE MORNING**

7th June Whitchurch Civic Centre. 9.30am - 12 noon. Bric-a-brac, cakes, draw,
plants

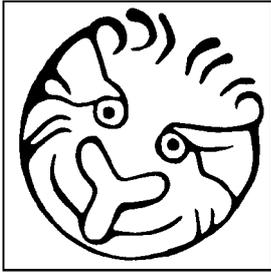
20th June **St Mary's Church, Whitewell** Rev'd Paul Winchester. Cost - £2.00

18th July **St Edith's Church, Shocklach** Rev'd Dr Judy Hunt. Cost - £2.00

Members are reminded that they attend all WHAG functions at their own risk

David Horovitz - a member of this Society - has for sale a harlequin (unmatched) set of 55 ex-library volumes of the Shropshire Transactions from vol 1, generally in good condition, but one or two covers detached, and is wondering whether any member might be interested. Email: Dhorovitz@CARILLIONPLC.COM

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2002 Newsletter is Friday 2nd August 2002. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to Hugh.Hannaford@Shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freeseve.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 54, Autumn 2002

Newsletter Editor

Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ

Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

Margaret Lister and Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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Membership News

Bob Cromarty, who has been Editor of the Society's Transactions since 1992, is passing this office on to the Rev. William Price, who was elected as the next Editor at the Society's Council meeting of 9th February 2002. Other new faces on the Council are Mary McKenzie, Head of Records and Research, Shropshire County Council, who was co-opted at the same meeting, and David Poyner, who was co-opted at the meeting of 13th October 2001.

Marches Archaeology

Based in Clun, Marches Archaeology provides archaeological services throughout the Marches area, including all of Shropshire. Several exciting discoveries have been made in the last couple of years in various parts of the county from the prehistoric period onwards.

At Baschurch a geophysical survey and a subsequent evaluation excavation were carried out in an area where prehistoric barrows survive. What was thought to be an associated cemetery proved to be extensive pit digging. There were at least two successive field systems, which add to our understanding of the evolution of the landscape at least as far back as the Iron Age. With the existence of the nearby barrows it is possible that this area was cleared of forest as early as the neolithic period to take advantage of the good soil for farming.

In Shrewsbury itself several investigations have been undertaken. One of these, in Mardol, revealed significant remains of a two storey jettied timber framed house of the fifteenth century. Elements of this are still visible in the new Yates Wine Lodge. Some small scale excavation beneath the floors provided evidence of various floor surfaces including flagstones, cobbles and even some surviving beaten earth flooring with the remains of straw which was strewn over the surface to prevent the area getting muddy.

At the rear of the Mardol site the thirteenth century town wall was found, built of large square blocks of 'ashlar' stonework, and with a well preserved part of the chamfered plinth. Other sections of the town wall have also been found in Smithfield Road, and at St Julians Friars while at Town Walls Garage the town wall itself was not found, but a ditch running parallel to it was investigated.

At a site adjacent to one of the town's medieval gates, in St Julians Friars remains of the Saxon period were found. These represent a very rare survival and little is known about the daily life of Saxon Shrewsbury. The excavation showed that the was prone to flooding in the late Saxon period and was used as an area for dumping household rubbish, presumably from settlement higher up the hill.

In Cleobury Mortimer, at Wall Town Farm, investigations were made into the Roman fort. As this site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument the disturbance was kept to a minimum but it was possible to confirm the position of the defensive ditch. The current farmyard lies on a thick layer of soil which represents deliberate levelling of the fort at some time after its abandonment leaving the Roman deposits sealed beneath.

In the south of the county, at Bromfield church, investigations were carried out to the ruined remains of a building called the Foxe House which was added on to the south side of the chancel soon after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The work confirmed that the house was disused after a fire in the middle of the seventeenth century. As a result, the Foxe family moved out and the church reverted to its proper use. Repairs to the chancel roof allowed a rare glimpse inside the roof space, revealing a very high quality roof, with one of the trusses ornately carved with the names of the carpenters and the date of the work.

Marches Archaeology work in Shropshire is of course continuing. One of the most promising current projects are investigations into the medieval

and later landscape at Frankwell in Shrewsbury, where features including a quayside and a possible fish trap are being examined as part of the flood alleviation works being carried out.

Richard Stone

News from Shrewsbury Museums

August 17th – September 29th

Zutphen on the IJssel – historic and contemporary art

This exhibition celebrates 25 years of twin town relationship between Shrewsbury and Zutphen in the Netherlands and is showing here while River Life shown in Shrewsbury last year is now on display in Zutphen.

Finds reported to the museum for identification have been few at this time of year but one in particular stands out. Finds of pagan Anglo-Saxon metalwork are notable for their absence in this part of the world but we can now add a sixth century, chip-carved, gilt-bronze disc, possibly a brooch or even from a shield boss found near Cockshutt. A full report will appear in West Midlands Archaeology and the Transactions later in the year.

1403-2003 Battle of Shrewsbury Commemorations

As reported last time things are moving apace and the full programme is nearly complete. The event listing will appear in the early autumn in the Shrewsbury 2003 brochure published by Shrewsbury Tourism Office.

Mike Stokes

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EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM will be held on Saturday 7th September, 11.00 am, at The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury, and will be followed by a lecture in the afternoon at 2.00pm. This year's speaker will be Dr Stanley Ireland, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick. Stan's title will be "The Life, Times and Coinage of Mithridates VI of Pontus" and believe it or not there are local connections in it!

Dr Stanley Ireland is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History of the

University of Warwick. His first degree was taken at the University of Hull (where he later returned as lecturer before moving to Warwick University) and he achieved his doctorate at Cambridge with research on Aeschylus, the basis of his standard text book on the man in the 'Greece and Rome: new surveys of the classics' series. His research interests extend from Homer through Greek and Roman Comedy to the archaeology and epigraphy of Roman Britain (another standard source book!) and currently, the coinage of the Pontic Kingdom now part of Turkey.

Stan has close connections with Shrewsbury through the research work he and his students undertake each year on the Wroxeter Collections with Mike Stokes in Rowley's House Museum. The publication of 'The Coinage of Wroxeter' with Theresa Wilson (who got a first for her research!) in 1995 will be followed in due course by 'The Brooches of Wroxeter' -another student success story.

Mike Stokes

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter 2002-3

Archaeology Service,

Shropshire County Council

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 23rd November 2002, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and a booking form are included with this Newsletter.

CBA West Midlands

The Graham Webster Lecture will be given by Mick Aston on 'The Making of Time Team' on Saturday, October 26th at 2.30p.m.

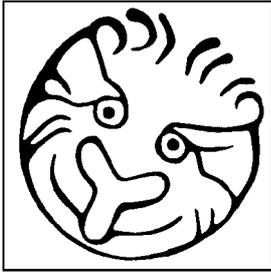
The Geology of the Industrial Revolution will be a focus of a dayschool on that period on Saturday, November 2nd.

News from the Past 2003 will take place on February 15th 2003

The Art of War in the later Middle Ages will take place on May 10th 2003

All the above will take place in the University of Birmingham Arts Lecture Theatre.

Copy deadline for the Spring 2003 Newsletter is Friday 21st March 2003. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to Hugh.Hannaford@Shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freereserve.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 55, Spring 2003

Newsletter Editor

Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ

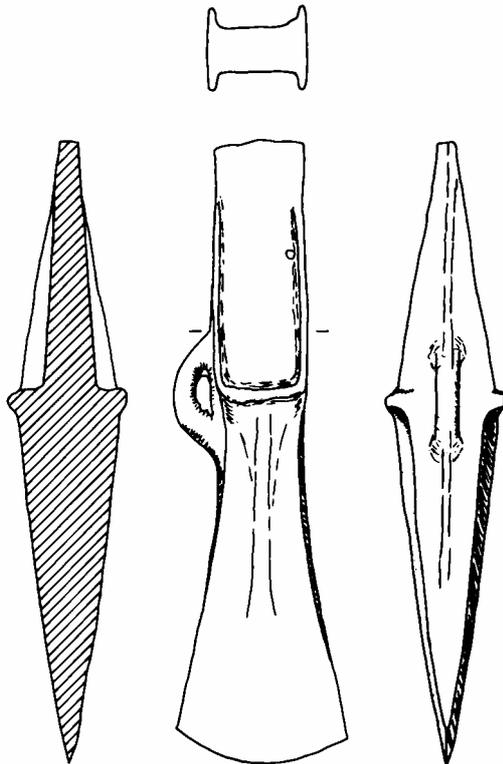
Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

Margaret Lister and Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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A Bronze Age Hoard from Rednal

While out searching near Rednal, Oswestry, Mr Henry Pugh, a local metal detectorist and taxi driver, discovered a hoard of three bronze axeheads. The axeheads are all single loop palstaves of Middle Bronze Age date. The landowner immediately reported the find to the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council.



One of the Rednal palstaves

Shropshire County Council's Curator of Archaeology, Emma-Kate Burns, said "Single Bronze Age axeheads are brought into the Museum Service every few years. Hoards like this are far rarer and this is the first to be reported in a long time. The

axeheads are also in extremely good condition considering their age."

The finder of the hoard and the landowner have both agreed to allow the County Museum Service to acquire the find. It is hoped that the hoard will go on display at Whitchurch Heritage Centre in the next few weeks.

The Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record

The Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record is now available online. The Natural and Historic Environment Team, Shropshire County Council, have recently deposited a copy of the Core SMR data with the Archaeology Data Service, who provide a service placing a range of "Archaeological Resources", such as the SMR, onto the Internet. This means that remote users can search a copy of our database, and thereby get some idea of our holdings on a location or period or type of site. A number of SMRs from around the country have taken advantage of this free service offered by the ADS to provide one form of access to their records. Although open to anyone who comes across it, the Arch Search service is mainly geared towards use by archaeological researchers, students and professionals. The Natural and Historic Environment Team is currently working with colleagues in Heritage Services to develop a range of means of accessing the SMR and related sources of information on Shropshire's History and Archaeology.

To use the Shropshire SMR online, go to the Archaeology Data Service Home Page at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk> Then choose **Arch Search Catalogue Holdings** To confine your search to the Shropshire SMR, choose "**Search**", then "**Search by Resource**" in the first instance.

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Annual General Meeting:

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 12th April 2003, 11.00 am, at The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury, and will be followed by a lecture in the afternoon at 2.00pm. This year's speaker will be Sir Neil Cossons OBE, Chairman of English Heritage, who will give his Presidential Inaugural Address to the Society.

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer 2003

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

Archaeology Walks Summer 2003: The Archaeology Service will be running a programme of summer walks each Thursday evening in June and July. For details contact Mike Watson 01743 254018.

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 22nd November 2003, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form will be included with the Autumn Newsletter.

CBA West Midlands

Summer DayschoolP: "Sound all the Lofty Instruments of War" war, warfare and society in the late middle ages. Speakers: Prof. Michael Jones (Nottingham University), Pamela Porter (British Library), Prof Cristopher Allmand (Liverpool University), Prof Anne Curry (Reading University), and Tony Pollard (Glasgow University). Booking forms available from Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury TIC or Irene McKenzie, Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Birmingham B29 2LL. (CBA members qualify for a £5 discount)

Whitchurch History and Archaeology Group

Summer Visits 2003

Meet at site at 7.30pm. Phone 01948 662824 for directions or lifts

15th May: St Mary's Church Shrewsbury David Shepherd (Custodian). Cost -£2.00

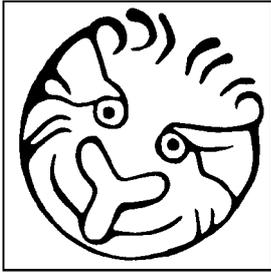
Friday 6th June: COFFEE MORNING Whitchurch Civic Centre. 9.30am - 12 noon. Bric-a-brac, cakes, draw, plants

19th June Chester Amphitheatre and St John's Church Keith Matthews (Chester Archaeologist). Cost -£3.00

17th July History in Audlem. A Guided Walk and Talk. Meet at Main Car Park, Nantwich Road Cost -£2.00

Members are reminded that they attend all WHAG functions at their own risk

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2003 Newsletter is Friday 1st August 2003. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to Hugh.Hannaford@Shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freerve.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 56, Autumn 2003

Newsletter Editor

Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ

Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

Margaret Lister and Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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SOCIETY NEWS

From the Editor of the Transactions

As I get down to preparing Volume 77 of the Transactions I am beginning to realise how much work is involved, and I want especially to thank Bob Cromarty for his huge contribution to the Society as Editor. Volume 76 appeared in June, and it definitely lived up to Bob's high standards since he became Editor in 1992. He is a hard act to follow.

While I have sufficient material for Volume 77, with many thanks to the contributors, I need also to look ahead to Volume 78, and I shall need more contributions for that. Long articles are always welcome, but so also are shorter pieces, sometimes perhaps just a page or less, which can stimulate further thought. For example, James Lawson's brief paragraph in Volume 77 on the dedication of Pulverbatch church set me off on an enjoyable evening's further reading.

At the most recent meeting of Council I initiated a discussion on the format of the Transactions. Few county volumes, it seems, are in A4 format; most are smaller, roughly 9.5 inches x 7 inches (I forget the technical term). Volumes in such format might fit more easily into a bookcase, and they would certainly be easier to read in bed! I would be interested in learning the views of members on this matter.

William Price

Myddle Rectory, Shrewsbury SY4 3RX
(dtw@price2043.freeseve.co.uk)

AGM The next Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, on 24th April 2004 at 11.00am

OTHER NEWS

Dendrochronology in Shropshire

A list in the form of a 'Star-chart' is included in Madge Moran's recently published book, 'Vernacular

Buildings of Shropshire' but the dendro dates for four buildings came after the book had gone to press:

1) The Old Mill, Habberley (1576) The mill building was last reconstructed in 1839-ana-went out of use c. 1909, but part of the complex is a cruck-built single-celled unit, presumably the miller's living quarters, which has produced the dendro date of 1576. This makes it the latest scientifically-dated house in Shropshire to use crucks in the full-cruck mode. The unit was hipped at either end, had an integral chimeystack and a set of hook-pegs which suggest that something was smoked over the fire - fish from the brook?, otter skins? or was tanning involved?

2) The Overmantel at Lower Spoad, Clun (1546) This is a carved panel depicting a hunting scene which has appeared in many publications. The doe has been pierced with an arrow shot from below and two types of hounds are shown. The date has implications for the study of Renaissance carvings, and comparison may be made with a carved cupboard at Cothele in Cornwall and with the screen in the church at Llanvair Waterdine. It is hoped to date the crucks in the house sometime.

3) Bryn Cambric, Chapel Lawn, Clun (1501) An upland ex- farmhouse, possibly with longhouse origins, and cruck-bllilt. It is overlooked by Caer Caradoc. Two pairs of crucks are from whole trees whilst one pair is from split oak. There is, a good inserted chequerboard ceiling. In the deeds 'trewithpint, 9d' and 'meal rent, 5/-' are to be paid every other year to the Earl of Powis. -Can anyone throw light on these terms?

4) 53 Broad Street Ludlow (1459-60) Behind the 17th century box-framed unit which faces the street is a two-bayed medieval hall which has a central truss of arched-braced collar-beam construction. Elements of the framing raise the question of whether this is a 'Wealden house' or is an example of the Ludlow 'lazy-jetty' technique. If a 'Wealden',

then it is the only known example in Shropshire.
Madge Moran July 2003

Recent Publications:

Vernacular Buildings of Shropshire by Madge Moran. A comprehensive work, 571 pp, over 1500 illustrations. Published by Logaston Press, £25. Available from bookshops or **post free** from Logaston Press, Little Logaston, Woonton, Almeley, Herefordshire HR3 6QH on receipt of the cover price.

Dearnford Hall, Whitchurch by Madge Moran and Joan Barton. The history and architecture of this important farmhouse, a seat of non-conformity and the home of the Yate family for many years. 48pp, well illustrated. The work of an extramural class. Published by Logaston Press. £5 Available from Barn Books, Pear Tree Farm, Norbury, Whitchurch. Tel: (01948) 663742

Madge Moran

Southeast Shropshire

New England, Highley

New England is the name given to a strategically placed piece of land between Highley, Kinlet and Billingsley, in the Wyre Forest Coalfield. It is where two brooks meet and has always been important in providing access from the Severn Valley to the heart of the Wyre Forest Coalfield at Billingsley. In about 1710 a packhorse bridge was built here, over the Borle Brook. In 1796/7, a tramway was built alongside the brooks to reach mines and a blast furnace at Billingsley; it crossed the Borle Brook at New England. A little later two rows of cottages were built for the men who worked at these enterprises. At the start of the 20th Century, a railway was built alongside the brooks to reach a newer mine at Billingsley and the Billingsley Colliery Company built a sewage works to serve the houses they were building for their miners in Highley.

A local group based in Highley, the Highley Initiative, recently obtained a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative to commission a study on how best to manage this site, currently owned by Bridgnorth District Council. The Shropshire Mines Trust assisted with historical research. The report has come up with recommendations as to how the historic features can be best conserved and interpreted. It is hoped that Bridgnorth District Council will now apply for funding to carry out this work.

The Initiative is also working with Kinlet Parish Council and the local landowner to draw up a management plan for the site of Kinlet Colliery. This contains a particularly impressive brick engine house of 1896. This will require EU funding; the Initiative is currently awaiting the next call for proposals.

Ironstone working at Billingsley and Stottesdon

The woods on the borders between Billingsley, Kinlet and Stottesdon mark the outcrop of coal and ironstone measures of the Wyre Forest Coalfield. These are covered with old workings; undateable by any simple means. However, there are two bloomeries adjacent to the works. A bloomery was the predecessor of a blast furnace, for turning ironstone into iron ore; in Shropshire they were obsolete by the end of the 16th Century. Recently pottery fragments have been recovered from the two bloomeries. These suggest that they date from the 12th to 14th Centuries; based on the lay-out of the sites, the later end of this range is perhaps the most likely. This in turn must mean that the ironstone mines were also working at this date.

European Geopark for the Abberley and Malvern Hills

A proposal is being put forward for the country around the Malvern and Abberley hills to be designated as a European Geopark, to mark the outstanding geological interest of the area. The long history of mining and quarrying contributes to this geological interest. The northern boundary of the proposed park includes Billingsley, Highley, Kinlet and Alveley collieries, as well as the whole of the Worcestershire half of the Wyre Forest Coalfield. If the application is successful, it should help mining conservation over the whole of this area.

David Poyner

EVENTS

Industrial Archaeology Conference

The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society is holding a one-day conference on Industrial Archaeology in Shropshire on Saturday June 26th, 2004, at the Shirehall Shrewsbury. It is being supported by Shropshire Records and Research and the Ironbridge Institute for Industrial Archaeology. The programme has not yet been finalised but it is hoped to include topics ranging from water mills to aerial ropeways and will cover periods from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Speakers are being encouraged to take a broad view of industrial archaeology and it is anticipated that a number of talks will discuss industrial landscapes in Shropshire. On the Sunday, the Ironbridge Institute will lead a field trip around some of the lesser known sites in the Gorge. Full details will follow in the next newsletter.

David Poyner

David@D-Poyner.freeserve.co.uk

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter 2003

**Archaeology Service,
Shropshire County Council**

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 22nd November 2003, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details, programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council Museum Service

The Art of War & the Arts of Peace

A major exhibition, taking an in-depth view not only of the Battle of Shrewsbury, but also approaches to peace and conflict in both the 15th and 21st centuries, will be mounted at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery from August 9th to October 11th. The exhibition focuses on two blocks of time – 1400-1415, and 1990-2005 – and opens, appropriately, on Nagasaki Day.

The main emphasis of the exhibition is on the continuing commemoration of the Battle of Shrewsbury, which was fought 600 years ago on land to the north of the county town in 1403. Its purpose is to put the battle itself into a wider context, and to relate it to contemporary conflicts and conflict resolution. The overall aim is to broaden historical understanding, and to pose urgent questions about ongoing issues of conflict and violence and how people try to resolve them.

A packed show, bringing together artefacts recovered from the battle site during recent excavations, as well as mediaeval stonework and weaponry, and high-quality replica items - all of which go on show alongside information technology, graphic images and text, modern banners, posters, and artwork, and thought-provoking activities for all the family.

An underlying theme is the role of the arts, culture and education in mediation and negotiation where there is a potential for conflict.

An education programme and a series of events will run alongside the exhibition. Events planned include: 'War Poetry Through the Ages' on September 6th, when The Wilfred Owen Association presents a conference of speakers and readings, at The Morris Hall, Bellstone, Shrewsbury; 'Winning The Peace' on September 20th, when Thomas Daffern, co-curator of *The Art of War & The Arts of Peace*, chairs a symposium of distinguished

speakers at the Gateway Centre, in an exploration of the future of local, international and cultural approaches to conflict resolution in the 21st century; and 'The Three Thrones' at The Music Hall on September 27th, when two storytellers present their new version of events around the Battle of Shrewsbury, weaving together historical and mythological narratives to explore what it means to be a King.

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery is open from 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday, and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday and Monday (until September 28th). Admission is free.

For further information, please contact **Mary White**, Shrewsbury Museums Service; Tel: 01743 361196
e-mail: mary.white@shrewsbury.gov.uk

CBA West Midlands

October 18th The Annual Graham Webster Lecture, given this year by Mr James Bond on the theme of "Rambles of a Green Medieval Archaeologist: Fieldwork, Landscape and Flora". 2.30p.m. Arts Lecture Theatre(t.b.c.) University of Birmingham. Admission Free, no booking required.

November 15th Experiment in Archaeology. A dayschool examining the contribution made to archaeological understanding through the past thirty years. The contributors will be Mike Stokes with an overview of the subject; Christine Shaw Director of the Butser Ancient Farm Project; David Sim or Reading University on recent research into Romano-British metallurgy and recreation of iron artefacts; other speakers still to be confirmed. 10.00 – 5.00p.m. University of Birmingham Arts Lecture Theatre (t.b.c.)

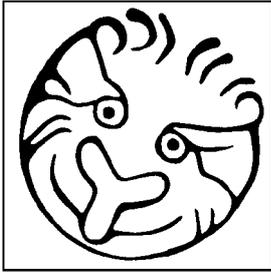
Mike Stokes

The Fifteenth Century Conference

September 4th – 6th at Keele University
Contact k.c.mckeown@keele.ac.uk for details or go to the main website at:
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/hi/news/events.htm> for the full programme and conference booking details. Leaflets with full details are available from Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery Reception.

Mike Stokes

(Copy deadline for the Spring 2004 Newsletter is Friday 5th March 2004. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freestore.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 57, Spring 2004

Newsletter Editor

Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ

Joint Hon. Membership Secretaries

Margaret Lister and Tim Trown, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM The next Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, on 24th April 2004 at 11.00am

Tim Trown is resigning from his office as the Society's joint Hon. Membership Secretary as from May 2004. I'm sure all the Society's members would like to thank him for the stirring work he has done on our behalf over the years. (Margaret Lister will be carrying on as Membership Secretary.)

OTHER NEWS

Recent discoveries in the Severn and Tern River archaeology has often featured in the Transactions and the Newsletter of this society. Close attention to the Severn and the Tern around Atcham during the very low water levels of 2002 and 2003 yielded a number of surprises.

On the west bank at Cronkhill, downstream from the anglers' car-park (SJ 5395 0842), a large oak tree c.1.5m diameter was seen, just underwater, protruding from a deposit of fine grey silt into the river; adjacent deposits were seen to contain a mass of waterlogged organic debris (twigs, roots etc). The site was identified as a former river channel, cut off by the present channel. Faunal and botanical samples were taken by Dr David N Smith of Birmingham University. A C14 date came out at 3190 +/- 70BP, calibrated to 2 sigma Cal BC 1620 to 1310, i.e. the middle Bronze Age. It is hoped to sample the tree for dendrochronology in the course of 2004.

At Atcham, immediately below and north of St Eata's Church, a substantial sandstone wall was found running along the base of the riverbank, its top just above low summer water level. A length of more than 14 metres could be seen, but it appeared to be more extensive underwater and at least 1.5m deep. It has a rubble core and a face composed of eroded but regular courses of sandstone blocks, battered

downwards and outwards into the water. Its interpretation is uncertain: it may have been a medieval revetment wall to prevent erosion below the church tower, or just possibly a Roman quay.

At the same location, another substantial sandstone wall was noticed projecting towards the river at inland ground level. The wall is composed of a buff mortar matrix with sandstone rubble, and appears to be exposed core-work of medieval character. It forms the (south) end wall of the Mytton & Mermaid's riverside garden, and acts as a retaining wall to the tiny parish car-park at the churchyard gate. Further masonry protrudes from the banks retaining the car-park to the west and south. The car-park, a wedge of high, retained ground projecting towards the Severn, appears to be a former bridge abutment; the medieval character of its north wall suggests this may be the remains of the bridge built by the Abbot of Lilleshall in c.1221.

At the suggestion of Jeremy Miln, archaeologist for the National Trust, the writer entered the River Tern by kayak from the Severn confluence. The remains of the pre-18th-century Tern Bridge were found c.100m north of the former A5, within Attingham Park (but not publicly accessible from it). The remains (SJ 5531 0945) consist of an angled mid-stream pier and eastern abutment, both built with re-used medieval masonry – traceried window heads of 14th-century type. The bridge is known to have been rebuilt by Sir Rowland Hill in the early 1550s, and James Lawson has suggested that the masonry was probably salvaged from Haughmond Abbey. Near the Severn confluence, the remains of the well-known flash-lock and weir are also still visible in either bank, and the low water level disclosed substantial remains across the river bed between them.

Nigel Baker

Mills and Hulmes in Shropshire

Grantham's Mill (SO 781849) is a medieval mill site in the manor of Astley in Alveley. It is the most likely site of the Domesday mill of Astley. It had vanished

by the mid 18th Century. In 1291, John de Astley granted to Hugh Solrugg, clerk and Aveline his wife for their lives at a rent of 14/- "that mill called Grantham Hulme and its proper water called Grantham brook with customary easements to the said *hulme* and stank there lying"¹. In this reference the meaning of *hulme* is not clear. Investigation of the site shows a headrace leading to the site of an overshot or breastshot wheel. Just downstream of this, the brook has been straightened; the old channel is clearly visible, creating an island.

The 1291 lease clearly refers to a *hulme* as an integral part of the mill. My understanding of *hulme* is that although originally of Norse origins, by this date had spread into common use over much of England and meant "island"². Could the *hulme* of the lease be the island that still survives? This would be a good site for an early medieval mill with a small undershot wheel; one channel to supply the wheel and the other for an overflow. As there is no documentary evidence for overshot wheels in England before an illustration in the Luttrell Psalter of 1338³, the overshot wheel noted at the mill site upstream from the island must be a later development if Grantham's is a Domesday Mill.

I would be interested to know if anyone else has experience of the use of the term *hulme* in this way before.

¹ Alan Nichols, *The History of Alveley*, 1994, pp68, 72; SA 1/63.

² *English Place Name Elements*, Vol 1. A.W. Smith, 1956, pp258, 268. I am grateful to Dr Gwyneth Nair, University of Paisley and Jennifer Scherr, Honorary Secretary of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland for information about the meaning of *hulme*

³ *The Mills of Medieval England*, R. Holt, Oxford, 1988, pp99-100.

David Poyner

The Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council, is currently carrying out a survey of the Stiperstones Hills to identify and assess the archaeological resource of this area. The known archaeology of the area is characterised by prehistoric monuments of the early Bronze Age (cairns) and the Iron Age (the Castle Ring hillfort on Oak Hill) on the ridge top, and by post-medieval mining remains and associated squatter settlements (mainly) on the lower slopes. Recent field inspections however, have shown that the small number of known archaeological sites and monuments on The Stiperstones hills greatly under-represents the actual number and complexity of sites within this landscape.

The study area has been chosen to investigate an upland area generally above the 350m contour line, and includes all of the English Nature designated Stiperstones National Nature Reserve and part of the

Brook Vessons Shropshire Wildlife Trust site. The study area also includes The Hollies SSSI to the northeast of the National Nature Reserve, and The Knolls, Nipstone Rock, The Rock, and Black Rhadley Hill to the southwest.

The Stiperstones Survey began with preliminary desk-based research using amongst other sources, the historic mapping and aerial photographic coverage of the area. The desk-based research is being followed by a field survey, which is currently under way. The field survey is being carried out by a team of two fieldworkers, Hugh Hannaford and Mike Fradley, using Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment for the accurate location of features.

In addition to mapping the extent of existing sites, the survey has recorded a significant number of new sites, including former "squatter" settlements, mining remains, a former field system on Resting Hill, and a ring cairn near Cranberry Rocks.

The survey is due to be completed in June 2004.

Hugh Hannaford

The Battle of Quatre Bras, 16th June 1815. We have had a request from an author researching the battle of Quatre Bras for information about sources of documentary material, paintings, photographs(?), or other artefacts relating to people who served in the Waterloo campaign. If you can help please contact **Mike Robinson**, tel: 01636 610918, email: robbo29@tinyworld.co.uk.

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and History Society

Industrial Archaeology Conference

The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society is holding a one-day conference on Industrial Archaeology in Shropshire on 9.45am – 4.20pm Saturday June 26th, 2004, at the Shirehall Shrewsbury. It is being supported by Shropshire Records and Research and the Ironbridge Institute for Industrial Archaeology. The programme includes: **Mike Shaw:** Barytes mining in Shropshire; **Peter King:** The charcoal iron industry in Shropshire; **Paul Belford:** The Archaeology of Coalbrookdale - New Research into the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Industrial Landscape; **James Lawson:** Lead mining before the Industrial Revolution; **David Higgins:** Shropshire clay pipes; **Tim Booth:** Water mills in Shropshire; **Roger White:** The industrial landscape of the Clee Hills

On the Sunday, there will be field trips to see some of the lesser known sites in the Gorge or to see the Industrial Archaeology of the Brown Clee.

Cost: £10/person. Make cheques payable to Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society and send to: David Poyner, 136, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY10 1LP, email: David@D-Poyner.freeserve.co.uk;

tel.: 01562 68638.

David Poyner

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer 2004

**Archaeology Service,
Shropshire County Council**

Guided walks summer 2004

- ◆ Thursday evenings in June and July, 7.30pm start, lasting approximately 1½ hours.
- ◆ No need to book - pay on the night.
- ◆ Fee £3.00 per walk.

10th June THE STIPERSTONES. 19th-century mining remains, a post-medieval squatter settlement, and an Iron Age hillfort. This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground. (Meet in the car park by Snailbeach Village Hall, OS map ref SJ 373 022)

24th June ONNY MEADOWS AND STOKESAY. A riverside walk to a medieval settlement; N.B. does not include admission to the castle. (Meet at the Secret Hills Discovery Centre car park, OS map ref SO 434 825)

8th July CORBET WOOD AND GRINSHILL. A medieval and post-medieval quarry and a Mesolithic and Neolithic hill-top site. (Meet at the Corbet Wood car park, OS map ref SJ 525 237)

22nd July PERKINS BEACH. An abandoned post-medieval mining settlement. This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground. (Meet at the Stiperstones Inn, OS map ref SJ 362 004)

- ◆ Some of the walks are in exposed areas and may include muddy paths. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.
- ◆ For further details contact the Archaeology Service

on 01743-254019

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 27th November 2004, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

**Friends of Shropshire Archives
Guided walks summer 2004 & AGM**

23 June Tour of Bishop's Castle. Discover more about the history of this fascinating town with one of the Bishop's Castle town guides. Meet at: 7.30pm Bishop's Castle church lych gate, OS map ref SO 232 884

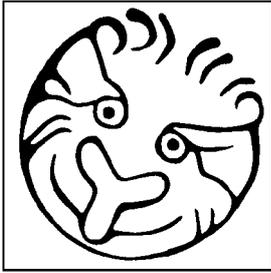
3 July Friends of Shropshire Archives AGM. 10.00am At the Long Warehouse, Coalbrookdale. Followed by a talk on oral history by Ken Jones and a tour of the archives by John Powell. 2.00pm After lunch there will be a **choice of walks in the Coalbrookdale area.** Meet at: the Long Warehouse, OS map ref: SJ 667 046

7 July Tour of Wem. A walk around the town of Wem with Dorothy Nicholle. Meet at: 7.30pm Wem supermarket carpark, OS map ref: SJ 514 289

14 July Tour of Coalport and Jackfield, looking at industry and transport. A This walk, led by Neil Clake, looks at the development of industry and transport in the area. Meet at: 7.30pm Coalport China Works car park

- ◆ No need to book - pay on the night.
- ◆ Fee £3.00 per walk.
- ◆ For further details contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2004 Newsletter is Friday 30th July 2004. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freeseerve.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Hon. Membership Secretary: Margaret Lister, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM The next Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, on 9th April 2005 at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm and the speaker will be Dr Martin Henig; he will be giving a paper on "Roman Sculpture from Shropshire and Cheshire".

Industrial Archaeology Conference Report

The recent conference on industrial archaeology in Shropshire was attended by nearly 70 people. Mike Shaw opened proceedings with an account of the Barytes industry in Shropshire, from its origins in the early 18th Century to the period in the 20th Century when it dominated the West Shropshire Orefield and was of national significance. In addition to the mines, there were processing mills and associated transport networks. Recent fieldwork led by Mike with the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club has concentrated on tracing the routes of aerial ropeways leading from the mines; these are poorly recorded on maps. Barytes mining has often been neglected in favour of lead so it was good to hear of Mike's work. However, lead was not ignored at the meeting. James Lawson, chairman of the Shropshire Archaeological Society gave an account of the industry before the 18th Century. He cast a critical eye over the claims for Roman working; whilst the presence of lead pigs leaves no doubt that this did take place, some of the other evidence does not stand up to close scrutiny. Thus the "Roman" shovels discovered in old workings can be dated stylistically to the medieval period. Following the medieval period, serious working seems to have started in the

17th Century and the orefield was perhaps at its most productive in the 18th Century, with huge royalties being paid out to mine owners. This period also saw the first use of steam engines and the beginnings of major capital projects such as the Boat Level, driven for drainage. The published histories of the orefield need revision to take account of recent findings and James's paper will be eagerly awaited.

Two papers dealt with the iron industry; both focusing on the era of charcoal furnaces. Peter King spoke about his recent historical research on the industry in north Shropshire. Some of the earliest blast furnaces outside of the Weald were in Shropshire, perhaps as early as 1540s at Caughley. In the 17th Century, although the industry was extensive, it differed in organisation from its neighbour in Staffordshire by the absence of large dominant businesses such as that of the Foley family. The nearest analogy would be the Boycott family, but their business was on a much smaller scale. Others included John Browne of Stanton upon Hine Heath, Edward Slaney of Drayton in Hales, and Captain Thomas Fox. During the 17th century, there was a transition in the industry from having one forge for each furnace to having about two. Shropshire possessed few furnaces, and imported pig iron in the 17th and early 18th Centuries; much came from Cheshire and Denbighshire, also the Dean Forest. The latter was probably used for steel production at Coalbrookdale. The iron furnace at Coalbrookdale was mainly concerned with foundry work; in the 1690s it was in the tenure of the Shadrach Fox, who may have used pitcoal as a fuel prior to Abraham Darby. Peter finished with a striking graph showing national bar iron production from 1500 to 1800. This showed two periods of very rapid growth; in the 16th Century when bloomeries were replaced

by blast furnaces and another in the late 18th Century with new developments in refining pig iron. Darby's achievements in 1709 had no impact on this important trade. Roger White focused on the archaeology of the charcoal blast furnace, by describing work at Charlecotte Furnace. This was excavated by Norman Mutton in the late 1960s but a full description of the site has never been published. Furthermore, the furnace itself has become unstable. The earthworks around the furnace have now been surveyed. Whilst a full interpretation will require further work, it has been possible to clarify how water arrived at the site. In the early 17th Century there were two corn mills at Charlecotte; it seems one became a paper mill whilst the other was converted to the blast furnace. These appear to have been served by independent leats, not by a common leat as previously assumed.

David Higgins reviewed the clay pipe industry in Shropshire. Smoking was introduced to this country during the sixteenth century and Shropshire became an early centre of clay pipe production. Ludlow is particularly rich in early examples, perhaps relating to its importance in the government of the region. No kilns from this first phase of the industry have been identified in Shropshire, but the earliest known British example, from Chester, shows what they would probably have been like. 17th Century kiln waste has been found in Benthall and Cleobury Mortimer and the remains of nineteenth century kilns are known from Broseley – including the last complete example anywhere in the country. This worked at King Street until the 1950s and can now be seen at the Broseley Pipe Museum. Although the broad evolution of production technology is known nationally much more excavated evidence is needed from the distinctive Shropshire industry that, over the years, supported around 300 master pipemakers. David also described the evolution of pipe shape, which grew in shape as tobacco became cheaper, some of it even being grown in Shropshire. The spur or heel at the bottom of the bowl is a particularly important diagnostic feature, which was usually stamped with the maker's mark. The flared heel that became fashionable in East Shropshire in the late 17th Century makes these pipes immediately recognisable while the close dating afforded by the stamped marks makes them one of the most useful dating tools for the archaeologist. Shropshire pipes were regularly

traded into the Midlands and down the Severn Valley as far as the South Wales coast. Some examples even found their way as far as London and the Caribbean, illustrating the importance of the Shropshire tobacco pipe industry.

Tim Booth spoke about the development of corn mills in Shropshire from the late 18th Century. This was a period of considerable technical advance, as grinding capacity increased. Many mills were reconstructed. Wooden wheels and sometimes gearing was replaced by iron; the number of stones driven from a wheel increased. It is possible to recognise the work of individual millwrights such as William Hazeldine who was active from the late 18th Century. His style is so distinctive that work can be tentatively ascribed to him even in the absence of supporting documentary evidence. The work of the Turton foundry is equally distinctive; here order-books, listing wheels supplied from the late 1830s, survive in the Worcestershire Record Office. Shropshire also has examples of water turbines as millers strove to make use of the latest technology. However, with the advent of roller milling and the arrival of cheap wheat imports, the water-powered corn mill was doomed and by the end of the 19th Century most were reduced to grinding foodstuffs. It is becoming increasingly hard to study the development of mills in the 19th Century as machinery is removed and mills converted to houses without adequate recording.

Roger White provided a second talk, this time concentrating on the Dhu-stone quarrying industry on the Titterstone Clee. This dominated the economy of the hill from the latter part of the 19th Century but little has been done to record it; most of the workings of the Clee Hill Granite Company and the Clee Hill Dhustone Company have been destroyed or infilled. However, the Titterstone Quarry of Field and Mackay and the Catherton Quarry of the Clee Hill Dhustone Company remain undisturbed. Here it is possible to trace the evolution of the surface plant as the quarries expanded as well as transport networks. Both sites show early use of concrete, particularly at the Titterstone Quarry where the managing partner, John Mackay, had as an undergraduate been awarded a prize for a paper on the use of concrete. Inevitably the sites are now decaying, particularly the

concrete structures at Titterstone, adding urgency to the task of recording.

The meeting concluded with a brief presentation by David Pannett who explained the role of geology to the development of industry in the county. The conference was followed by two field trips; one led by Paul Vigor around Ironbridge and the other on the Brown Clee.

I would like to thank all the speakers for their parts in a fascinating day, as well as Shropshire Archives and the Ironbridge Institute for their help with organisation.

David Poyner

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter 2004/5

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

◆ contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 27th November 2004, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

◆ contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350

FAMILY HISTORY FESTIVAL – two days of free events and activities. Sunday 7 November and

Monday 8 November 10.30am-4pm. Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury Library, Reference Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. Here's your chance to find out about tracing your family history. Whether you are a beginner or an expert there's something for you. For further details and full programme contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350.

INVESTIGATING CHURCHYARD RECORDS WORKSHOP

- Organised by the Caring for God's Acre project. Monday 27 September 2004, 2pm-4.30pm. Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. Free, places limited, booking essential, contact Andrea on 01568 611154

MORE FASCINATING SHROPSHIRE VILLAGES -

A local history course led by Trevor and Margaret Hill. Thursdays 2-4pm, 30 September to 4 November. Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. £45 for 6 sessions, booking essential, contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350

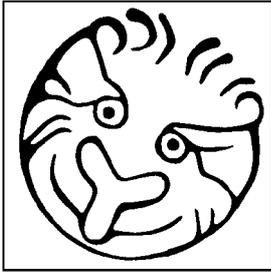
Friends of Shropshire Archives

VICTORIAN LUDLOW HISTORY DAY Saturday 16 October 2004, 10am – 4.30pm. Assembly Rooms, Mill Street, Ludlow. Talks by David Lloyd, Chris Train, Derek Williams, Jean Brown. Walks. Free to members of the Friends and to members of Ludlow Historical Research Group, non members £7.50. Contact Jean Brown on 01584 874692

FRIENDS' ANNUAL LECTURE

Margaret Gelling, The Place Names of Shropshire: A Progress Report. Thursday 11 November 7.30pm 7.30 pm. Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. Tickets £3.00. Further details and tickets from Pat Kiernan, 01952 252814

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SOCIETY NEWS

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Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2005 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Mike Stokes

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death on Tuesday 22nd February 2005 of Mike Stokes, Museums Archaeologist for Shrewsbury Museums Service. Mike was a long-serving member of this Society's council, and will be greatly missed as a colleague and friend. The funeral service was held at the Shrewsbury Crematorium on 2nd March 2005.

OTHER NEWS

Blast Furnaces in Cleobury Mortimer

Recent field and documentary work has led to a re-evaluation of iron making around Cleobury. In 1576 Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester leased two blast furnaces to John Weston in Cleobury Mortimer. The last reference to an iron founder in Cleobury parish registers occurs in 1633 and it has been assumed that this refers to one of the Dudley furnaces. The late Dr. K. Goodman postulated that a reference by John Leland,

c1540 to "Blo shoppes" on Mill Brook in Catherton, (part of Cleobury parish), was a reference to a blast furnace not a bloomery as had always been assumed. Goodman discovered a large quantity of charcoal blast furnace slag close to Heath Hills Farm in Catherton (SO 637787), in support of his claim. This has proved controversial.

New fieldwork has now identified the exact site of Catherton furnace. The furnace bridge, leat and foundations of a possible charcoal barn have been identified. Only 17th century ceramics are present on the surface of the site. Most importantly, a 1643 will of an iron founder of Heath Hills has recently been transcribed by Chris Potter. This strongly suggests that Catherton furnace can be dated to the second quarter of the 17th century. A second furnace on Mill Brook has also been recently identified, within the ancient bounds of Cleobury parish. A 1691 lease refers to a Sebastian Legas being employed at "Downe Furnace". Fieldwork has confirmed the existence of a furnace close to Down farm (SO 636748). This appears to date from the later part of the 17th century.

Thus it seems that there were three distinct phases of blast-furnace iron production in Cleobury; the Dudley furnaces in the late 16th century, Catherton Furnace in the mid 17th, and Down furnace in the late 17th. It is likely that these followed one another without any break, as Cleobury Forge (which would have consumed the pig iron from the furnaces) probably remained in use throughout. Remains of all of these furnaces still exist. There is also evidence for an earlier iron industry; bloomery slag has been noted in Mill Brook below Catherton Furnace and at one of Dudley's furnaces. The furnace remains are amongst the sites described in a recent article in the

Journal of the Midland Wind and Water Mill Group (D. Poyner, 2005: 'Mills on Hopton Brook', *Wind and Water Mills*, 24, in press).

David Poyner and Peter King

Alveley Colliery Bridge

An important piece of 20th Century archaeology is shortly to disappear with the replacement of the former colliery bridge between Highley and Alveley. This was built 1936-7 by Thomas Beighton & Co. to a design of British Reinforced Concrete Ltd. for the Highley Mining Company. It linked the company's new mine at Alveley with the Severn Valley Railway in Highley. The bridge was one of the first to be built on the cantilever principle which dispensed with centering and the associated expensive scaffolding. Instead the two ends of the bridge were progressively extended across the river by means of a mobile scaffolding. This allowed work to progress uninterrupted in spite of severe floods in December 1936. The construction of the bridge is described in detail in A.P. Mason, "Alveley Bridge", *Concrete and Constructional Engineering*, August 1937, 453-9. It also features in A. Blackwall's "Historic Bridges of Shropshire" (1985). Following closure of Alveley Colliery the bridge was taken over by Shropshire County Council and a public right-of-way was opened over it. Unfortunately it is now at the end of its economic life and needs to be replaced. Demolition will probably take place towards the end of the year, after its replacement has been built. It is hoped to preserve as much of the surrounding mining archaeology as possible. A photographic record of the bridge has been made by IA Recordings, currently viewable at <http://www.wolvcoll.co.uk/gallery/alveley/index.html>

David Poyner

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Signs of the times

I hope visitors to Shropshire Archives have noticed the new large sign on the building above Raven Meadows. This is the final element of a larger signage project organised jointly with the Reference Library and Shrewsbury Library to highlight the facilities available at Castle Gates. We hope this will make it easier for all our users to find us!

You may also have noticed our redesigned reception display. We are planning to offer an improved range of family and local history

publications for sale, as well as producing some products ourselves using the vast range of material held in the archives. Please look out for further details.

Discovering Shropshire's History Project

Jason Siddall, who currently works for the National Trust, has been appointed as Project and IT Leader for the Heritage Lottery funded Discovering Shropshire's History project. Jason will start work at Shropshire Archives in early April. The project will create a website linking the county's sites and monuments record to information from archive and museum catalogues, thereby creating an exciting and accessible resource for Shropshire's history.

Mytton Project

Funding has been received from MLA West Midlands and from the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society to support the filming and digitisation of the Shropshire papers of the 18th century antiquarian William Mytton.

In keeping with the spirit of the age Mytton planned to write a county history of Shropshire. Between 1732 and 1736 he journeyed around the county inspecting registers, inscriptions, and title deeds. By 1741 Mytton was circulating proposals for a general history and 'actual survey' of Shropshire. Sadly, five years later the deaf and rheumatic Mytton was dead having published nothing.

The results of this work are now found in 7 volumes within the Special Collections of Birmingham University Library. They form a unique and incredibly valuable collection of Shropshire material. This project will copy and digitise the volumes to both ensure their preservation and to improve access to them. The resulting film and electronic copies will be available in both the University Library and at Shropshire Archives. Work on this 12 month project will start shortly.

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2005

AGM 9th April 2005 at 11.00am at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm:: "Roman Sculpture from Shropshire and Cheshire" by Dr Martin Henig.

Meetings: Unfortunately the summer excursions have recently been running at a financial loss and so we must warn members that coach trips will in future have to be priced more realistically. We feel sure that our prices compare favourably with those of other societies. We aim only to cover costs and ask for the same level of support in the future as you have given us in the past.

The cost of the hire of the room and equipment at The Gateway for our winter lectures is also causing concern and we are thinking of moving the venue to the Shirehall where costs are less. A 'straw poll' taken at the February meeting showed that a majority of members were in agreement. There are, of course, pros and cons. Car parking at the Shirehall is no problem, but people without cars will need to take a bus or walk. We would lose the services of the café at the Gateway, but there are a few pubs and eating places near the Shirehall. We ask members to tell us what they think. Please 'phone or write to David Pannett (Merton, Shepherd's Lane, Bickton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BT 901743 850773) or Madge Moran, 42 Whitehart, Shrewsbury, SY3 7TB 901743 353356)

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

- ◆ contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Summer Walks: Join staff of the Shropshire Archaeology Service on a series of guided walks exploring some of Shropshire's historic monuments and archaeological sites.

- ◆ Thursday evenings in June and July, 7.30pm start, lasting approximately 1½ hours.
- ◆ No need to book - pay on the night. Fee £3.00 per walk.

9th June SELATTYN HILL. A Bronze Age ritual site, post-medieval settlement remains, and a 19th century belvedere and WWII Home Guard look-out post. (Meet at Cragnant Quarry picnic site, OS map ref: SJ 253 349)

23rd June THE STIPERSTONES. 19th-century mining remains & a post-medieval squatter settlement. This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground. (Meet in the car park by Snailbeach Village Hall, OS map ref SJ 373 022)

7th July STAPELEY COMMON. Explore a prehistoric ritual landscape of stone circles, barrows, and field systems. (Meet by the reservoir at The Marsh, OS map ref SO 301 977)

21st July ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY. A walk around one of Shrewsbury's medieval suburbs. (Meet in car park by the Abbey Pulpit, OS map ref SJ 498 124)

- ◆ Some of the walks are in exposed areas and may include muddy paths. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

For further details contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 - 255352

Dayschool: "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire" Saturday 19th November 2005, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

- ◆ contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350

Saturday 23 April 2005, Newport History Day A day of talks and walks run by the Friends of Shropshire Archives and the Newport History Society. At Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport, 10.00am – 4.30pm

Saturday 24 September Dawley History Day. Look out for further information.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

Saturday 23 April 2005 Newport History Day. A day of talks and walks run by the Friends of Shropshire Archives and the Newport History Society. At Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport, 10.00am – 4.30pm

Saturday 24 September Dawley History Day. Look out for further information

Thursday 17 November, Friends of Shropshire Archives Annual Lecture: 'The changing landscape of North Shropshire' by Peter Edwards, at Shropshire Archives, 7.30pm

Saturday 9 July Friends of Shropshire Archives Annual General Meeting. 10.00am to 4.00pm at **SLEAP AERODROME.** A day of talks, exhibitions and activities with a wartime theme. Speakers include Bernard Lowry, expert on Shropshire's home

defences and Derek Pratt, local historian talking about the importance of Shropshire's many wartime airfields. Admittance free. **Booking essential.**

Friends of Shropshire Archives Summer Walks:

The cost of the walks is £3 per walk, payable on the day.

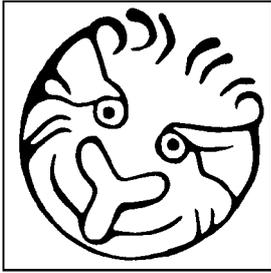
Wed. 15 June 7.00pm NESCLIFFE CAMP. A Friends of Shropshire Archives walk. Nescliffe Camp was a huge ammo dump during the war – reputedly the largest in Europe. Discover the site and its wartime secrets in the company of local historian, Jessie Hanson. Some walking, but there will be a minibus tour of the camp too. (Meet at the camp entrance which will be signposted)

Sun. 3 July 2.30pm RAF COSFORD A Friends of Shropshire Archives walk/tour. RAF Cosford has one of the largest aviation collections in the UK and played a crucial role training Allied pilots. The museum archivist will give a talk over tea. **Booking essential.**

Wed. 13 July 1.30pm RAF SHAWBURY A Friends of Shropshire Archives walk. A guided tour of the base, will uncover the history of RAF Shawbury and in particular its vital role during the 2WW and the base's contribution to the war effort. Afternoon tea provided. (Meet at car park opposite entrance)

Sun. 31 July 2.30pm DITTON PRIORS/BROWN CLEE HILL A Friends of Shropshire Archives walk. Appropriately made from the slate of an RAF billiard table, the Aircrew Memorial on Brown Clee Hill commemorates 23 Allied and German aircrew who died on the surrounding hills. Local historian, Di Bryant will lead a walk along forest tracks to the top of Brown Clee Hill. Weather permitting the walk will also take in Abdon Burf, the highest point in Shropshire, returning via the old incline railway. (Meet at the picnic site on Hillside. OS map ref: SO 607 872)

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2005 Newsletter is Friday 29th July 2005. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk or hugh@hannaford-42nst.freeseerve.co.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 60, Autumn 2005

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Margaret Lister, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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SOCIETY NEWS

John Pagett

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death on Sunday 10th July 2005 of John Pagett, a long standing member of the Council of this Society. The funeral service was held at the Telford Crematorium on 26th July 2005.

Meetings:.

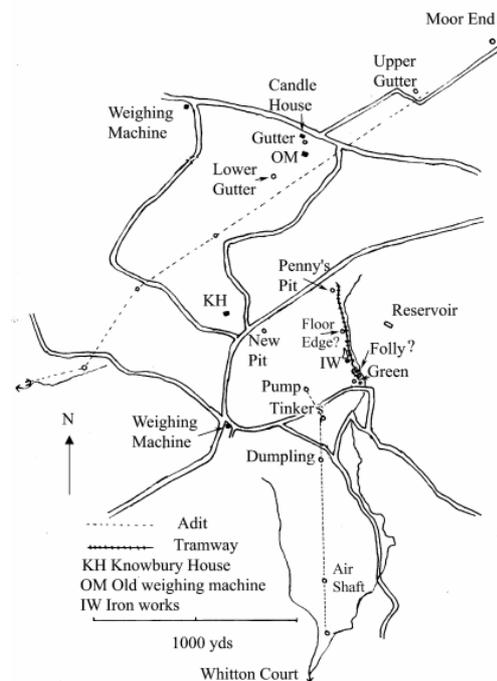
After consultations with the membership and discussions at the Society's council, it has been decided to try a new venue for some of the winter lectures. Please note that the lectures in January, February and March will be held at the Shirehall. There is car parking at the Shirehall and there are regular buses from the town centre. There are also pubs serving food and other eating places near the Shirehall.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Knowbury Coalfield

The coal measures on the Cleve Hill are found in two distinct basins. The main area is on the summit of the hill, but a detached portion is centred on the village of Knowbury, about a mile further the west. Compared to the summit workings, the Knowbury basin is poorly documented. However, workings here are of considerable antiquity; there is documentary evidence for medieval working (unlike the rest of the hill) and an iron furnace was in operation until the middle of the 19th Century. In 1995, Nigel Chapman published an account of the Knowbury Coalfield in 1851 based on a report deposited in the Shropshire Archives (Clee Hills Colliery near Ludlow, Nigel Chapman, J. Shrops. Cav. Min. Club, 3, 1995, 61-6; Shropshire Archives, D3651/B/36/2/2/1/1 (formerly 1011/Box 419), Report by Mr Dobson, 1850). The report gives a detailed description of the basin just before the majority of the mines and the ironworks were closed. The

original report included a map, however the archives have a solicitor's copy and the map is missing. Further work in the archives have identified further papers relating to the coalfield from this period; this has been coupled with a programme of fieldwork. As a consequence, it has proved possible to suggest sites for the majority of the mines in the report (Figure 1). The coalfield consisted of two distinct units; the Gutter Coalworks and the Knowbury Coalworks. Each was based on a drainage adit (the Gutter Level and the Whitton Court Level), with production shafts scattered for ½ a mile along the adits. It is hoped that further fieldwork will identify more features relating to the adits. A fuller account of this work is in press (The Mines of Knowbury, 1840-60, David Poyner, J. Shrops. Cav. Min. Club, 10, 2005).



David Poyner

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Lilleshall Collection

The Lilleshall estate was part of the Duke of Sutherland's English estates and the records form one of Shropshire's most outstanding medieval archive collections. The records held by Shropshire Archives include material from the 12th to the 20th centuries. The collection has been in the custody of the service since the 1950s and is currently owned by the Countess of Sutherland. The collection includes important material relating to Lilleshall Abbey, Wombridge Priory and Shrewsbury Abbey. The estate maps within the collection are also very significant, including some outstanding very early maps dating from the late 16th to the early 17th centuries, when the art of creating estate maps was in its infancy. The collection is an essential source for the local history of Shropshire, and a very valuable resource for the study of medieval life including the religious houses. I am delighted to tell you that we have been successful in our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure the future of the Lilleshall collection. The grant of £349,500 will purchase the collection for the county, as well as transforming access to it through a programme of conservation, cataloguing and digitisation. We plan to start work later in the year.

Mary McKenzie

OTHER NEWS

New Local Book

"The Upper Onny Valley in the Hills of South West Shropshire" by the Upper Onny Valley 'Down to Earth' Project Group. "...full of the history, geology, wildlife and literature of life along the East and West Onny....the book comes from the communities that live in the valley – and its written from the heart" *Paul Evans, The Guardian, 20th July 2005*. Price £5.50 from The Bog Centre and the Stiperstones Shop, Stiperstones; Old Time and Yarborough House, Bishop's Castle; Harvest Wholefoods, Lydham; Wentnor Post Office; and the Thresholds Centre, Picklescott

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's **Programme for Winter/Spring 2005/6**

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

♦ contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Archaeology Day 2005 Saturday 19th November 2005, 10.15am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Speakers include: **Alex Jones** *Birmingham Archaeology*: "Excavations at the New Meadow stadium site, Shrewsbury", **Peter Reavill** *Shropshire Museums Service*: "An Update from the Portable Antiquities Scheme", **Jason Siddall** *Shropshire Archives*: "Discovering

Shropshire's History Project", and **Dr Chris Phillpotts** "Haughmond Abbey: history and archaeology". Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

♦ contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350

3 September 2005 to 20 February 2006

Shropshire's War Exhibition An exhibition telling the stories of the people and communities of Shropshire as they lived through the extra-ordinary experience of war. Opening venue Shropshire Archives. Normal opening hours apply. An online version will also be available.

10 January to 20 February 2006

Their Past Your Future A major Imperial War Museum exhibition supported by the Big Lottery Fund. The exhibition explores how the war changed the people and the landscape of the UK forever. It will be hosted at St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury and accompanied by a wide range of activities and events.

Saturday 24 September

Dawley History Day A fascinating day of talks and walks run by the Friends and Dawley History Society. Dawley House, Burton Street, Dawley 10.00am – 4.30pm

13 October to 17 November (Thursdays)

'The religious landscape of Shropshire' A six week course with Trevor and Margaret Hill. Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Sunday 6th and Monday 7th November

Local History Festival Shropshire Archives A feast of local history, family history, stalls/displays, talks, demonstrations, activities for all the family. They'll be a Second World War theme and the National Inventory of War Memorials online database available "hot off the press".

Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm

Friends Annual Lecture: 'The changing landscape of North Shropshire' by Professor Peter Edwards, Roehampton University Marks the 50th anniversary of W.G. Hoskins', *Making of the English Landscape* Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury

(Copy deadline for the Spring 2006 Newsletter is Friday 5th March 2006. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER



Shropshire
Archaeological
and Historical
Society

No. 70, Autumn
2010

Website: <http://www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk>

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ

Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

GREENWOOD'S MAP OF THE COUNTY OF SALOP 1827

Reprinted by the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Christopher Greenwood's map of Shropshire was the most accurate 1" to the mile map of the county to be published before the first Ordnance Survey maps. It was part of an ambitious series intended to cover the entire country — an expensive project designed to appeal to country gentlemen. It records in great detail the state of the county at the height of the coaching and canal era. Numerous watermills, windmills, estates both large and small, turnpike roads and milestones, antiquities and industrial sites and other features are shown.

Only a few copies of the original map now survive and they rarely appear for sale. It was first published in six sheets at 3 guineas to subscribers. Now it has been reprinted in two formats. Firstly as full size facsimile paper copies of the original sheets in a laminated A4 folder which also contains a two page introduction to the map describing its production and objectives. Secondly as a CD containing two version of the map — each of the six sheets as published and a composite version allowing the viewer to scroll across the county as a

whole. As this digital version is easily enlarged on screen the very fine detail of the original copper engraved sheets can be more easily appreciated.

Anyone interested in the historical landscape of the county or its towns, villages and farms or with ancestors from the county will enjoy exploring this rare detailed record of Shropshire from the reign of George IV.

The paper edition and the CD version cost £15 each. To order copies please see the order form enclosed with this newsletter, or write to: SAHS (Greenwood), 64 Oakley Street, Shrewsbury, SY3 7JZ, giving your name and address and a cheque made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" for £16.50 (printed version) or £16.00 CD version (includes p&p)

Tony Carr

EARLY IRONWORKING ON THE CLEE HILL

Writing in the 1540s, the antiquarian John Leland described the presence of "blo shops" for making iron, in the vicinity of Catherton Common. Recent work on account rolls has shown the purchase of iron from Doddington (adjacent to Catherton) at the end of the reign of Edward II, and in the early 15th Century

there is reference to earlier mining of ironstone. Thus there is no doubt that there was iron production on the Clee Hill at various times in the Middle Ages. However, physical evidence for this has remained elusive. In the 1970s, Dr Ken Goodman reported finding bloomery slag (from an early iron furnace) by augering on the summit of the hill; however, subsequent efforts to locate this site proved unsuccessful. A survey of Mill Brook in Hopton Wafers, the likely location of Leland's blo shops, produced just a single piece of bloomery slag; it is likely that the works that Leland witnessed have been buried under a 17th Century blast furnace. However, during recent work near Catherton, a trench has revealed large quantities of bloomery slag and the possible remains of a furnace. No pottery was recovered, but the site is not inconsistent with what would be expected from a 13th/14th Century bloomery. It was possible to collect material from the trench; this will be examined by Dr Tim Young who has previously conducted excavations at medieval bloomeries in Stottesdon.

David Poyner

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

Hockleton Motte In spring 2010 a new farm track was laid around the edge of the motte and bailey castle at Hockleton Farm, Chirbury. Repairs were also carried out to erosion to the castle earthworks. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, undertook archaeological investigations prior to these works. The investigations comprised a geophysical survey of the site – carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd - and the excavation of a number of trial trenches on the line of the new track. The geophysical survey identified a number of below-ground

features both within the and beyond the visible castle earthworks. The trial trenching further investigated some of these features one of which, in a trench to the northeast of the bailey, produced medieval pottery of 12th – 14th century date from a charcoal-rich deposit radiocarbon dated to between 1290AD and 1420 AD.

Brompton Roman forts complex In March 2010 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on widening and resurfacing work on the A489 road between Pentrehyling and Bluebell Crossroads, Brompton, in southwest Shropshire. This section of the road runs through an area occupied by the Pentrehyling Roman fort, vicus, and a number of Roman marching camps. These sites had been investigated archaeologically in the 1980s and 1990s, when finds of probable Late Neolithic date were also made. The 2010 watching brief also located a number of features associated with the Roman fort, vicus, and marching camps. These included the probable southern and eastern fort ditches, a number of pits within the vicus area, and the possible western ditch of one of the marching camps.

Hugh Hannaford

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Shrewsbury Town FC project I am pleased to tell you that this project - Shrewsbury Tales and More - has been successful in securing funding and will start shortly. A project to collect and share memories, documents and artefacts relating to the history of Shrewsbury Town Football Club has been developed by the Federation of Stadium Communities, a trust which aims to improve the quality of life of

people who live in the neighbourhoods of stadiums. All the archives collected, including oral history material, will be placed with Shropshire Archives.

1864 Olympic Festival Another project we are contributing to is a recreation of the 1864 Olympic Festival which took place in Shrewsbury in 1864. This event was organised by William Penny Brookes following the success of his games in Wuch Wenlock.

The Olympic Games will be re-created in Shropshire with a three-day festival. But there will be no 100-metre sprint, triple-jump or marathon. Instead organisers of the Shrewsbury festival will seek to re-create the 1864 Games which took place in the Quarry and which helped bring Dr William Penny Brookes, to international attention. Dr Brookes is now recognised as a founding father of the modern Olympic Games. The event will feature events such as catching a pig, an "old woman's race" and putting a 28lb stone. It will run from June 17 to 19, 2011 and will be tied in with Shrewsbury Carnival, which will double-up as the opening ceremony and feature a procession of "athletes" in period costume.

County schoolchildren will take part in the first day's activities, with Shropshire Council putting together resource packs for schools so they can find out how to take part. This will contain archive documents relating to the event and life in Victorian times.

Dominic Wallis, business development manager at Shropshire Council, said: "About a year ago I was handed a copy of the 1864 games' programme. They had all of these amazing games which led to the modern version being created. William Penny Brookes brought the festival to

Shrewsbury because it was so popular and we want to recreate that ahead of 2012."

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society & Friends of Shropshire Archives

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter/Spring 2010/11

Saturday 9th October 2010 Music and History at Concord College, Acton Burnell.

A day of talks, guided tours, and demonstrations of Shropshire's musical heritage. "**Acton Burnell: an aristocratic landscape**" by Dr Paul Stamper, "**The Ludlow Waites: civic and domestic music 1500-1700**" a costumed performance and explanatory talk, "**The traditional music and folklore of Shropshire**" by John Kirkpatrick, "**The early morning Christmas carol tradition on the Welsh borders**" by Dr Craig Owen Jones. Plus lunchtime tours of Acton Burnell Castle, Church, and Hall, and performances of traditional music by Concord students. Followed by an evening concert performance by John Kirkpatrick of traditional English music with a Shropshire flavour.

This is a joint event with the Friends of Shropshire Archives. Further information and booking forms are available from Shropshire Archives tel: 01743 255350, email: archives@shropshire.gov.uk 01743 255350, or go to: www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council

contact the Archaeology Service on tel: 01743 255352 or email: archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk

Saturday 13th November 2010

Archaeology Day 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Speakers will include Hugh Hannaford, Richard K Morriss, Peter Reavill, Nigel Baker, and Andrew Wigley. Further details and a programme and booking form are enclosed with this Newsletter, or can be found at: www.shropshire.gov.uk/archaeology.nsf

Friends of St Alkmund's

Thursday 21st October 2010 Book launch: "**Regime and Religion: Shrewsbury 1400-1700**" by Barbara Coulton. 7.30pm St Alkmund's Church,

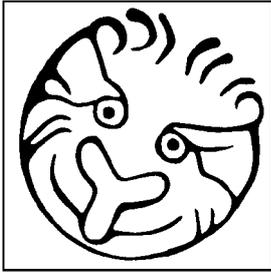
Shrewsbury. This book describes Shrewsbury's political and religious life from the deposition of Richard II in 1399 to the deposing of James II three centuries later. It relates the struggle between Catholics and Protestants played out among Shrewsbury's clerics. It tells the story of the Civil War, which divided congregations and ministers, with the emergence of surprisingly militant nonconformists. It gives the background of national events affecting Shrewsbury Corporation and charters and, above all, the townspeople. Signed copies will be available to purchase.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter and AGM papers etc. by email, please contact George Baugh (Secretary) at: s.baugh@virgin.net This would also help us to keep you informed by email of Society events and activities.

Website: The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's website can be found at <http://www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk> You can find details of all the Society's events and publications on our site, as well as links to a wealth of information about Shropshire's archaeology, history, and landscape.

Subscriptions: The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

(Copy deadline for the Spring 2011 Newsletter is Friday 4th March 2011. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 61, Spring 2006

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: Margaret Lister, 21 Old Coppice, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BP

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury, on Saturday 22nd April 2005 at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm and the speaker will be Glenn Foard.

Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2006 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

* * * * *

Warandashale

Recent research has located the site of 'Warandashale', a house held by a Richard de 'Puleston' which was granted a License to Crenellate in 1295. The Puleston family rose to some prominence in Shropshire and Wales during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The location of Warrenhall is a levelled moated site (SJ 6429 3747) in Moreton Say near Market Drayton on the west bank of the River Ducklow. The moat is depicted on early OS editions as enclosing an island of about 45m x 60m, but is now only visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. The site was pinpointed by seventeenth and early eighteenth century documents in the Powis Estate Records for the Styche Estate in the Shropshire Record Office which use the name Warrenshall alongside that of Rhiewes, which is a seventeenth century farmhouse to the west of the moated site and which probably replaced the earlier settlement

site. A document of 1343 describing a land grant to the north of Market Drayton also records the 'ditch of Puleston' as its boundary, while another grant suggests that an area of Drayton manor itself was known as Puleston (SRO 327/2/4/1/3/23; 327/2/4/1/4/30). Documents in the Public Records Office show that Warrenhall was forfeited by the Puleston family in the early fifteenth century following their support of the Glyndwr rebellion (PRO E199/38/47). There are no known standing remains of any structure at Warrenhall. Unlike many scheduled moated sites in the vicinity, the moat of Warrenhall has been filled in and the site badly damaged, although archaeological remains may survive below the surface.

Michael Fradley

Sheinton

In 2004-5, the Sheinton Heritage Group carried out a community archaeology project to investigate two sites at Sheinton, Shropshire. One site comprised a cropmark believed to represent part of a ditch from an Iron Age or Romano-British farmstead enclosure. The other site was in an adjacent field where a number of metal detector finds of Roman date had been found in recent years. A programme of fieldwalking, geophysical survey, and trial excavation was carried out by the Group with help from the Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council. The cropmark feature was confirmed as a ditch which had silted up in the early Roman period. In the other field the geophysical survey indicated the presence of a couple of features which pre-dated the historic field pattern. Excavation to investigate one of these features close to the edge of the modern village recovered a quantity of Romano-British pottery from a feature suggesting occupation in this period close to the modern settlement. Work on the site will continue in March 2006.

Hugh Hannaford

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Telford Cultural Hub

Liz Young has been recruited as Education Officer and Alison Mussell as Researcher to work on this project which will allow schools to experience a range of cultural services. As part of the Cultural Hub, Shropshire Archives is working with Telford & Wrekin Libraries, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, DanceXchange, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra as well as 16 primary and secondary schools in Telford. We are currently developing ways of working together and to help this process an actor will work as an artist in residence at Shropshire Archives during the summer term. They will investigate how archives can be brought to life through dramatic performance.

Discovering Shropshire's History Project

The Discovering Shropshire's History project will create a website bringing together a wide range of information on Shropshire and its history. The project is working with a range of partners including the Sites and Monuments Record, Shropshire County Museums, Shrewsbury & Atcham Museums Service and Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The project is making very good progress and we have now appointed IT contractors to work on the website which will be launched in the Autumn. As part of the development of the website, the project will also be arranging a number of workshops to look at possible designs and how the site will work later this year. If you are interested in taking part in these workshops please contact Jason Siddall, Project & IT Leader, on 01743 255367 or email jason.siddall@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

The Lilleshall Collection

Work on this project is developing very well and the first fully catalogued sections should be added to the on line catalogue by March. We have appointed the National Library of Wales to work on the microfilming of the collection and the first consignment should be sent there in the summer. We will be recruiting for the last post on the project, the Digitisation Assistant later in the Spring. A report by the Archive Cataloguer, Louise Ferriday, on the volunteers working on the project appears in this issue of the Salopian Recorder.

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2006

AGM Saturday 22nd April 2006 at 11.00am at the Gateway Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm by Glenn Foard.

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Summer Walks:

8th June Blakeway Hollow and Edge Wood, Much Wenlock. A look at some former limestone quarries on Wenlock Edge. (Meet at National Trust car park, OS map ref: SO 613 996)

22nd June Llanymynech limekilns. This former industrial landscape contains limestone quarries and 19th century limekilns, a canal and a dis-used railway. (Meet at the Llanymynech Heritage Area car park, OS map ref SJ 266 210)

6th July Ellesmere mereside and canal. This walk takes in a medieval motte and bailey castle, late 18th century canal and basin, and 19th-20th century pleasure gardens. (Meet by the ice cream kiosk on the Mereside, OS map ref SJ 405 347)

20th July Rectory Wood and Field, Church Stretton. Discover the remains of a former 18th and 19th century wilderness garden (Meet at the Countryside Heritage Site car park on Cunnery Road, OS map ref SO 449 935)

The walks start at 7.30pm and last approx. 1½ - 2 hours. No need to book - pay on the night. Fee £3.00 per walk. Some of the walks are in exposed areas and may include muddy paths. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing

Archaeology Day Saturday 11th November 2006, 10.30am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact Pat Kiernan: 01952 252814 or go to:

www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk
www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

Saturday 2006 May 2006 Your History Day

10.30am – 4.30pm, at the Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Exhibitions and displays by local history groups; hands on exhibits; talks by nationally acclaimed experts on the *Domesday Book* and the *Lilleshall Collection*; Ask the Experts – advice on how to look after your old books, prints, paintings and documents; get hands on with our new online archive, 'Discovering Shropshire's History'; Competitions and prizes

Summer Walks: The cost of the walks is £3 per walk, payable on the day.

Weds 14 June 7.00pm BRIDGES AROUND

SHREWSBURY. A stroll around the Severn investigating the history of Shrewsbury's many bridges. Meet at the Frankwell car park end of Frankwell footbridge, OS map ref: SJ 492 128

Weds 28 June 7.30pm NEWPORT CANAL WALK.

A walk visiting several fascinating sites on the Shrewsbury and Newport canal, car sharing will be required. Meet at Wappenshall Wharf, off the A442, OS map ref: SJ 664 146

Sat 8 July 2.30pm VISIT TO GOLDING HALL

A joint Friends of Shropshire Archives and Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society visit. Golding Hall is a fascinating 17th century house with a sunken

garden and many fine farm buildings. Meet at Golding, between Pitchford and Cound, OS map ref: SJ 544 035. **Booking essential** before July 1st. £5 to include a light tea. To book send your name and address plus payment to Mrs Madge Moran, 42 White Hart, Shrewsbury SY3 7TB. Cheques to be made payable to the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

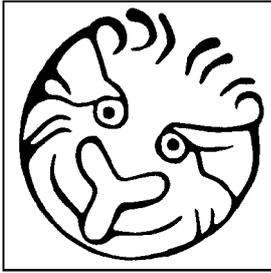
Weds 12 July 7.30pm A WALK AROUND

KETLEY. A walk around Ketley's past including relics of its industrial heritage. Meet at Ketley Recreational Ground, on the old A5, OS map ref: SJ 677 112

Weds 26 July 7.00pm FRIENDS OF SHROPSHIRE ARCHIVES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND

SHREWSBURY HOSTELERIES WALK. Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury. After the AGM, a walk visiting Shrewsbury's fascinating pubs and inns with local author David Trumper.

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2006 Newsletter is Friday 28th July 2006. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 62, Autumn 2006

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

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SOCIETY NEWS

Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2006 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

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More on Warrenshall/Warandashale

Michael Fradley's identification of the levelled moated site at SJ 64293747 in Moreton Say parish with Warrenshall, where Richard de Pulesdon was licensed to crenellate his house in 1295, can be confirmed from local records. In particular, the 1840 Moreton Say Tithe Apportionment Survey shows the site as "Warrens Moat and Plantation", a rectangular water-filled moat surrounding a tree-covered platform. The area of the whole site including the moat is given as 1.675 acres (0.68 ha) in the survey, with the platform shown as roughly 60m x 70m.

The name Warrenshall (the usual later form of the name) remained in local use until c.1700 for the area now known as Rhiews. The site is close to the River Duckow and the name apparently means the 'halh' (hale – 'a nook, a corner of land, a water meadow') by the Warren, the earlier name of this stretch of the Duckow.

Warrenshall was one of a group of farmsteads established in the northern part of Moreton Wood, in Stoke on Tern manor, probably in the later 12th century, the largest of which were at Warrenshall, Styche and Hulle (also moated, the site surviving at SJ 62723731). These were the "newsteads" – the name survives in Newstreet Lane which runs between them – as opposed to the older-established holdings to the southwest at Oldfields and Audley Brow (mediaeval Aldeley). With further enclosures

from manorial waste in the 1330s, these land-holdings were among the largest in the parish and had a later history as prosperous dairy farms.

According to Stoke manor rentals, Pulesdons survived at Warrenshall until later in the 15th century, despite the forfeiture mentioned by Michael Fradley; the last record is c.1470. The next surviving rental, of 1511, suggests that Warrenshall had by then lapsed into the hands of the Mainwarings of Ightfield, the tenants-in-chief of the holding, who sold "the manor, township or farm of Warrenshall", including two messuages, to Richard Clive of Styche in 1554. Clive's main tenant here, William Deacon, was described as of Rhiews in his will of 1557. There is a suggestion here that if we were to seek a date for the abandonment of the moated house by the river for one on the drier valley slope above (Rhiews seems to be from the Welsh "rhiw" - slope), the late 15th or early 16th century might be the best period to look.

Richard Jones

Earthworks at Ridgewardine, Norton-in-Hales CP

An extremely well preserved set of earthworks were recently rediscovered for the second time in a field west of Lower Farm, Ridgewardine in Norton-in-Hales CP at SJ 6779 3819. The earthworks had first been recorded in 1994 in a set of oblique photographs but following this had not been formerly recorded until they were retrieved from the aerial photograph catalogue at the NMRC in Swindon in 2005. The earthworks consisted of a large central platform with two smaller platforms to the south and east, set within a large field with upstanding ridge and furrow, with a large gully to the west containing an earthwork dam. Research suggested this was a large medieval farm, possibly developed by Shrewsbury Abbey following their eviction of existing tenants in Ridgewardine in the mid thirteenth century. It would appear that the site had gone out of use by the end of the sixteenth century when Ridgewardine Manor (formerly Ridgewardine Farm) was constructed on the far side of the road by the Church family.

The scale and quality of preservation at the site made it quite unique in north-east Shropshire. Sadly, by the time the site was rediscovered in 2005 the farm had come into the hands of a new owner. Despite efforts to encourage the preservation of this site it has been heavily damaged through ploughing and other land management schemes during the spring and summer of 2006. Although sub-surface deposits at the site may survive, the quality of earthwork preservation has been seriously damaged and it is a great loss to the archaeology of this part of Shropshire. An account of the site within the wider context of monastic enterprise in the region will appear in a forthcoming volume of *Landscape History*.

Michael Fradley

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Changing use at Shropshire Archives

In the last couple of years Shropshire Archives has seen a change in the way our services are used with more enquiries being received remotely and fewer visits in person. Those of you who use the internet may not be surprised at this given the vast increase in resources now available particularly for family history research. We now find that we receive as many web hits a month as visits a year amounting to about 15,000. Obviously we need to keep reviewing how we provide our services to ensure we are offering what our users need. We have recently purchased a license for the website *ancestry.com* allowing users at Shropshire Archives to access this site free rather than paying the annual subscription charge of approximately £60. This is already proving very popular and as a result, we have introduced a booking system for some of our public computers from September.

Discover Shropshire project

As part of a partnership with Shropshire County Library Service and Shropshire County Museum Service, we have received a grant from MLA West Midlands to support the Discover Shropshire project. The project will build on the successful model in Ludlow library and establish Local History Centres at Bridgnorth and Oswestry libraries. The centres will include a range of local resources such as census returns, parish registers, photographs as well as books and museum objects. A range of events and activities will encourage the local community to get involved with their heritage. We will also establish

regular local history advice services based on the Ludlow model.

Discovering Shropshire's History Project

The Discovering Shropshire's History project website is on target and will be launched in October. Look out for the new site at www.discovershropshire.org.uk. Work on the development has gone very well thanks to the support of Shrewsbury based Orangeleaf systems, our IT partner. A number of additional partners and projects have also joined the project including Bridgnorth Northgate museum, Clun museum and Shropshire Regimental Museum. For further details please contact Jason Siddall, Project & IT Leader, on 01743 255367 or email jason.siddall@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

The Lilleshall Collection

Work on the Lilleshall Collection continues on target and the microfilming of the collection at the National Library of Wales is also going well. We are working closely with Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service with their related Sutherland project and shall be developing an online resource together.

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for winter/spring 2006/7

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Archaeology Day Saturday 11th November 2006, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For information about Friends events, contact Pat Kiernan: 01952 252814 or go to:

www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk
www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

Views expressed in the Shropshire Archaeology & History Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Council of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society; the Council is not responsible for any statement made, or opinion expressed, in the Newsletter.

Copy deadline for the Spring 2007 Newsletter is Friday 9th March 2007. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 63, Spring 2007

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Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Saturday 14th April 2007 at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, and the speaker will be Dr Christopher Dyer, professor of local history at Leicester University who will speak on 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Shropshire'.

Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2007 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

* * * *

OTHER NEWS

Acton Scott Heritage Project

This is a two year, "Your Heritage" funded, community project run by the Archaeology Service of Shropshire County Council. Community volunteers will be given opportunities to take part in a range of archaeological and historical techniques including surveying, field walking, excavation, historical research and interpretation.

A detailed account of the parish of Acton Scott appears in the Victoria County History Vol X. However major questions about the settlement and land use of the parish over the last 3000 years remain unanswered.

An Iron Age farmstead enclosure ditch east of Acton Scott Historic Working farm was partially excavated in 1997 and 2004, and other enclosures are known from crop marks to exist west of the village but little else is known of pre-Roman settlement and cultivation.

In 1817 a Roman villa was discovered during road works. This was later excavated by Mrs Frances Stackhouse-Acton in 1844. An aisled barn type building was identified complete with mosaic floor and a fragment of wall painting depicting a peacock's head. The uncovered heated rooms are thought to have been a bath house. Bizarrely there was also an inclusion of Greek coins of 700BC to 300 BC whose provenance is a mystery! It is not known whether the excavated building represents the original farm house or a later conversion of an agricultural building for residential use, by a bailiff for example. The exact site and extent of the villa remains to be confirmed, and other contemporary farm buildings undoubtedly remain to be discovered.

The site of the Saxon settlement suggested by the place-name and documented in the Domesday Survey is unknown as is the exact whereabouts of any late Saxon/medieval nucleated settlement,

although it was probably in the vicinity of St. Margaret's Church. In the late 18th century the foundations of a tower in Tower Yard were quarried but recorded. It may have formed part of the medieval manor house that pre-dated the existing 16th Century hall or an earlier defensive site – perhaps within a ringwork and bailey. The configuration of the building, despite some parallels with Stokesay Castle, remains a mystery. Earthworks in the field, which could represent building platforms for the original nucleated village, offer scope for surveying or geophysical survey. The extent of the parish's ridge and furrow also needs to be mapped. Castle Hill may reveal vestiges of medieval defences overlooking the main Shrewsbury to Ludlow road but might instead be an Iron Age fort, relate to a much later feature or a now forgotten local myth. Whereas two thirds of the parish was, and still is, served by St Margaret's church even the whereabouts of the chapel of Alcaston manor, mentioned in 1259 and 1349 are unknown. One suggestion is a site adjacent to a now demolished timber (tithe?) barn but it may simply have been a room in Alcaston manor house and could as easily have been sited elsewhere in the southern third of the parish.

There is a chain of fishponds between the village and Hatton, known from the 18th Century. These may however have much earlier origins. It is tempting to see them as related to Acton Scott's mill documented in 1278 and there may even have been a relationship between them and the Roman villa site. Alcaston too had a water mill site but whether on the Marsh or Byrne Brook is again unknown.

Further areas for investigation could be to trace the manner by which the parish boundary was marked over time, and the vestiges of improvements made to the Acton Estate in the early 19th Century. A tree and hedgerow survey may prove worthwhile in this respect.

It can be seen that major issues remain to be addressed by the Heritage Project and it

is hoped that this will provide sufficient challenge for volunteers to continue the project in a self-funded manner beyond its "official" end in 2008.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project or would like to help as a volunteer, please contact Phil Scoggins tel: 01694 781306 (Tuesdays & Fridays), email: phil.scoggins@shropshire-cc.gov.uk, or contact the Archaeology Service (details below)

Phil Scoggins

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Records and Memories of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) Project

A partnership project between Shropshire Archives and the Shropshire Regimental Museum has received a grant of £49,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The one year project will capture and preserve the memories of veterans of the KSLI, work on cataloguing and digitisation the written and photographic archives of the regiment and its predecessors, and promote awareness of the contribution of the KSLI to local and national life by organising a series of events in Shropshire. The project team is currently being recruited and we hope the project will start later in the Spring.

Thomas Telford 250th anniversary

2007 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford. As you can see from the programme of events, the Friends have joined with Wrekin Local Studies Forum to celebrate this anniversary. As well as the events we will be working with Telford & Wrekin Council Arts and Heritage services as part of a Heritage Lottery funded project, to create a CD ROM of resources relating to the life and work of Thomas Telford. This will be launched in September, as will a related exhibition which will tour around the county.

Discover Shropshire project

The Discover Shropshire project has made good progress. The local history centre in Bridgnorth will be up and running during April. Please look out for news of this. The

cataloguing and digitisation work has resulted in over 4,000 images relating to Bridgnorth and Oswestry being catalogued. If you would like to find out more about the project, please contact Ray Hatley, on 01743 255016 or email ray.hatley@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Discovering Shropshire's History Project

The Discovering Shropshire's History website at www.discovershropshire.org.uk now includes information from collections held by Shropshire Archives and by Shropshire County Museum Service as well as information from the Sites and Monuments Record. We would like your views on how the information is presented. Is it easy to use? Can you find what you need to know? Please have a look at the site and pass on any comments to Jason Siddall tel 01743 255367 email Jason.siddall@shropshire-cc.gov.uk The project will be finishing by May 2007 so we need you views as soon as possible in order for us to make any changes.

The Lilleshall Collection Project

This project is nearing completion. The cataloguing and conservation work will be complete by the end of April and the catalogue of over 5,000 entries will then be available on line. The digitisation and filming work will continue until the Autumn. A touring exhibition highlighting the wealth of resources in the collection will tour a range of venues across the county later in the year.

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2007

AGM Saturday 14 April 2007 at 11.00am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm, Dr Christopher Dyer: 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Shropshire'.

Sat 23 June: Frontiers in Shropshire

Archaeology. A one day meeting organised by the Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society to be held on Saturday 23rd June 2007 at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury to review recent progress and future directions for archaeological and historical research in the county. Cost £12.50/person, (£10 to members of this society), tel: 01562 68638. Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Council for British Archaeology, West Midlands

Sat 19 May A Day School on Archaeology & Education, at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. For further details contact Shelagh Lewis, email: LHP@mparish.fsnet.co.uk

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Summer Walks:

Weds 6 June: 7.30pm **NESSCLIFFE HILL** An Iron Age hillfort, a highwayman's den, and historic quarries. Meet at Oak car park, Nesscliffe Hill Countryside Heritage Park, OS map ref: SJ 386 199

Weds 13 June 7.30pm **SNAILBEACH AND LORDSHILL** Looking at 19th-century mining remains and a post-medieval squatter settlement. NB. This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground. Meet at: the car park by Snailbeach village hall, OS map ref SJ 373 022

Sun 8 July 2.00pm **CORBET WOOD AND GRINSHILL** An Archaeology and Countryside Services walk. See a medieval and post-medieval quarry and a Mesolithic and Neolithic hill-top site. Meet at: the Corbet Wood car park, OS map ref SJ 525 237 (There is no charge for this walk).

Sat 14 July 2.00pm **LLANYMYNECH LIMEKILNS** A Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society walk led by the Archaeology Service. This former industrial landscape contains limestone quarries and 19th century limekilns, a canal and a dis-used railway. Meet at the Llanymynech Heritage Area car park, OS map ref: SJ 266 210

No need to book - pay on the day. Fee £3.00 per walk. Some of the walks are in exposed areas and may include muddy paths. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing

Archaeology Day Saturday 10th November 2007, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350 or go to www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

Saturday 8 September 2007 10.00am-4.45pm
Thomas Telford Day School Programme of talks about Thomas Telford and a tour of St Michael's Church, Madeley. Co-run by Wrekin Local Studies Forum and Shropshire Archives. Venue: Jubilee House, Madeley

Sat 13 & Sun 14 October 2007 10.30am-4.00pm
Family and Local History Weekend at Shropshire Archives Talks, stalls, displays, quizzes and activities

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact Pat Kiernan: 01952 252814 or go to:
www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Summer Walks: The cost of the walks is £3 per walk, payable on the day.

Weds 20 June 7.30pm **From Monks to Megawatts** A Friends of Shropshire Archives / Wrekin Local Studies Forum walk around Buildwas, led by local historian, Neil Clarke, and including the site of Telford's bridge. Meet on Buildwas Bridge. For parking facilities contact 01952 504135

Weds 27 June 7.00pm **Bridgnorth & St Mary Magdelene** A walk led by local historian, Alan Webb. See Telford's flair for design as exemplified in St Mary's church and experience an expert tour of

historic Bridgnorth. Meet at the Northgate Museum, Bridgnorth. Refreshments available.

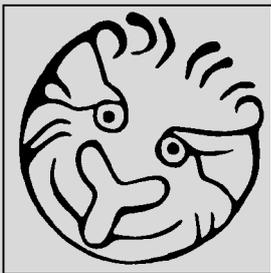
Weds 4 July 6.30pm* **Tyrley Locks & Market Drayton** A walk led by local & canal historian, Peter Brown. Here, Telford's 5 locks enabled the Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal to descend 33 feet. The lock keeper's cottage is classic Telford! Also a short exploration of the historic heart of Drayton. Meet at The Buttermarket, Market Drayton. *Please note that this walk is approximately 3 ¼ miles long.

Weds 11 July 2.00 pm 4.00 pm **Shrewsbury Castle** Numbers limited to 50. A walk and talk led by Peter Duckers, curator of the Regimental Museum. From derelict ruin to grand dwelling. Get a behind the scenes look into one of Telford's first Shropshire commissions. Meet at Shrewsbury Castle

Tues 17 July 7.30 pm **Longdon-on-Tern** A Friends of Shropshire Archives / Wrekin Local Studies Forum walk to include the site of the canal wharf, Telford's aqueduct and the church. Led by local historian, Neil Clarke. Meet at the Tayleur Arms public house.

Thursday 22 November 2007 7.30pm **Friends of Shropshire Archives Annual Lecture** 'Shropshire Country Houses' Speaker: Gareth Williams, Curator of Weston Park. Venue: Shropshire Archives. Tickets £3.00, booking required - contact Shropshire Archives for booking form

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SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 64, Autumn 2007

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Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

SOCIETY NEWS

The 2008 AGM will be held at 11.00am Saturday April 12th 2008 at the Shirehall Shrewsbury. The afternoon speaker is Dr. Christopher Dyer, professor of local history at Leicester University who will speak on 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Shropshire'. The talk starts at 2.15pm. (See the enclosed Winter Programme for details.)

OTHER NEWS

We hear that Rachel Lees of Hinstock has a miscellany of archive material relating to Hinstock consisting of papers, old photographs, details of houses, oral history etc. We are now looking for a volunteer(s) to sift through the collection, put it into order and, if it is thought worthwhile, prepare it for publication perhaps as a paper for the Transactions. Otherwise, if put into usable form, it could be deposited in Shropshire Archives and in the Museum at Market Drayton. Please contact Rachel Lees directly if you would like to undertake this project. She lives at Hinstock Court, Hinstock, N. Shropshire ('phone 01952 550248). It would be useful to contact Dr. Judith Hoyle at the Museum and Resource Centre, 53, Shropshire Street, Market Drayton TF9 3DA or 'phone 07763 492906 or 01630 657455. Judith can also be reached by email: jhoyle@tinyworld.co.uk.

Madge Moran

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Records and Memories of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) Project Work on this 12 month project is going well with over 20 interviews recorded with veterans. The cataloguing and repackaging of the archive collection is also making good progress. Project staff have also attended a number of events including the Shrewsbury Flower show. If you are interesting in getting involved with the project, please contact Project Officer Pam Freeman on 01743 255367 or email: pam.freeman@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

Discover Shropshire project A weekly volunteer advice service on local and family history has been established at the local history centre at Bridgnorth

Library on every Friday afternoon. Cataloguing and digitisation work at Oswestry library continues. During August two history weeks were held at Bridgnorth and Oswestry which were very successful in highlighting the wealth of information available. This includes the Ancestry website, a huge family history resource, which can now be accessed for free at all Shropshire libraries. We are still looking for volunteers to help support users of the centre at Oswestry. If you could spare an afternoon a month or more, and would like to find out more about the project, please contact Ray Hatley, on 01743 255016 or email: ray.hatley@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

Discovering Shropshire's History Project The website now includes data from the sites and monuments database, the museums service catalogue and the archives catalogue, in total over 200,000 records. If you have any comments on the website at www.discovershropshire.org.uk please email: discovershropshire@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

The Lilleshall Collection Project The cataloguing, conservation and digitisation elements of the project are now complete. Work on filming the collection will continue until the Autumn. An exhibition highlighting the wealth of resources in the collection is now on tour and during September and October will be in libraries in Telford and Wrekin.

Mary McKenzie

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Acton Scott Heritage Project The project is progressing very well. Work so far has included tree surveying, shovel pit testing (a form of archaeological investigation) and archive and historical research. For further details please contact Phil Scoggins tel 01694 781306 email: phil.scoggins@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Project The Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Project area lies on the northern edge of the Shropshire village of Llanymynech, close to the Welsh border. The project site provides a complete and unaltered historic industrial landscape, comprising the buildings and the transport infrastructure associated

with the quarrying, production and transportation of lime – including inclined planes, tramways, a canal and railway. The building remains are also of great note, especially the impressive Hoffmann Kiln and chimney, which is of national importance, as there are only three remaining in the British Isles that were used in the preparation of lime. Out of the three, it is the most complete remaining kiln and the only one with an intact chimney. In recognition of the national significance of this unique industrial landscape, the area has been scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

Shropshire County Council, the site owner, has implemented a project, the Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and led by the SCC Countryside Service. This is a 3 year project to repair and conserve the historic structures on the site, and to improve access and interpretation to the monument.

In September 2006, the Archaeology Service led a community archaeology project at the Hoffman Kiln, Llanymynech, Shropshire on behalf of the Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Project. The excavations provided members of the local community an opportunity to take part in a hands-on investigation of the archaeology of the kiln. The volunteers uncovered the remains of former yards and tramways beside the kiln, and parts of the structure of a steel roof that once covered the kiln. The Archaeology Service is also carrying out a watching brief on the repair and restoration works on behalf of the project. For further details on the project, contact Peter Dunhill tel: 01691 624448 email: peter.dunhill@shropshire-cc.gov.uk or look at the project's pages on the DSH web-site: www.discovershropshire.org.uk

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter/Spring 2007-8

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Archaeology Day Saturday 10th November 2007, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

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Shropshire Archives

contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350 or go to www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

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Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact Pat Kiernan: 01952 252814 or go to:
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The Old Oswestry Hill fort Project

Saturday 15th September 1.15pm – 4.30pm **The Archaeology and Landscape of the Hill forts of the Northern Marches** Venue: The Memorial Hall, Smithfield Street, Oswestry SY11 2EG This seminar is the first of a series of events connected with the Old Oswestry Hill fort Project. It will provide an opportunity to place one of the most impressive Iron Age Hill forts in the whole of Britain in its local context and will form the basis for an even more comprehensive conference in 2008. Contributors include Fiona Gale, County Archaeologist, Denbigh; Shelagh Lewis, Madeley Living History Project and CBA West Midlands; David Matthews, Planning Officer, Cheshire County Council; Margaret Worthington, Porthywaen Study Centre. Tickets £3 (£1 Students) obtainable from Maggie Rowlands, Oswestry Borough Council, 15 English Walls, Oswestry, SY112PA, tel:01691 670985, email: margaret.rowlands@oswestry-bc.gov.uk, or from Heritage Centre, Oswestry, and Tourist Information Centre, Mile End, Oswestry.

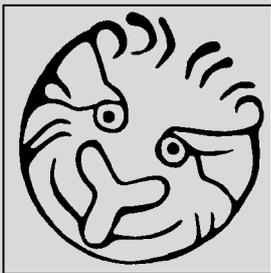
Courses

Free interactive step-by-step online tutorials: National Archives now offer a third online tutorial. The three courses are:

Medieval Latin 1086-1733 Beginners' level:
nationalarchives.gov.uk/Latin/Beginners

Medieval Latin 1086-1733 Advanced level:
nationalarchives.gov.uk/Latin/Advanced

Palaeography 1500-1800 Reading Old Handwriting:
nationalarchives.gov.uk/Palaeography



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 65, Spring 2008

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on **Saturday 12th April 2008** at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, and the speaker will be Dr Christopher Dyer, professor of local history at Leicester University who will speak on 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Shropshire'.

Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2008 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Two Lost Mediaeval Ecclesiastical Buildings in North-East Shropshire

1) A mediaeval chapel at Longford.

I do not know of any published reference to a chapel in the village of Longford, near Market Drayton. However, there are bequests to "the chappell of Saynt Michael of Longforthe" in two unpublished wills at Lichfield (Edmund Parlebyn (1539) and James Wodde (1540), both of Longford in Hodnet parish). Although there are two or three surviving Longford wills from each

following decade, no further reference to a chapel occurs in any will or other source.

From the 16th century, Longford formed a township within the chapelry of Moreton Say in Hodnet parish. Its status in the Middle Ages is less certain but, since both of the testators wished to be buried in the churchyard of St Margaret at Moreton Say and both wills were witnessed by Roger Mosse, the priest at Moreton Say, the chapel at Longford appears to have been a subsidiary chapel to Moreton Say at this date.

The dedication of the chapel to St Michael provides a clue to its site. St Michael was traditionally adopted as the patron of hill-top churches and Longford lies on a ridge overlooking Smythemoor to the north. The dedication suggests a site on the northern side of the village, right on the edge of the ridge looking towards Moreton Say and north of the road from Ternhill to Longslow running through Longford.

2) A mediaeval hospital between Bletchley and Ternhill

Here I know of only one reference. It is in a 17th century abstract of a charter of c.1225 in which Robert de Say, as lord of Stoke-on-Tern manor, granted common rights in Moreton Wood to Adam de Willaston (SA 2919/2/40). According to the 17th century translation, the rights extended "as far as le Horewythin side and spettlehous on Longeford and Smethemore towards Drayton". The abstract has some odd

features but I see no reason to question this clause.

Since Willaston lies to the northwest of Moreton Wood, the purpose of the boundary clause was to outline the southernmost extent of the common rights being granted over land in the lordship of the de Says within the later townships of Moreton Say and Bletchley. This narrows down the location of the hospital - the "spettlehous on Longeford". The boundary is described from west to east. "Le Horewythin side" can be located close to a field called Withinbridge in the 19th century, near manor and parish boundaries due west of Bletchley (SJ 618338). "Smethemore towards Drayton" is a reference to the northern end of Smythemoor, on the eastern edge of the manor (around SJ 643348). Following this interpretation, the middle - and southernmost - boundary point, the "spettlehous", would be to the southeast of Bletchley, near the present A41 and again close to manor and parish boundaries (around SJ 626333).

This section of the A41 follows the line of the Roman road from Penkridge to Whitchurch through Ternhill as far as Bletchley - a stretch of road called the Longford in the Middle Ages. At this point, it rises from its crossing of the low-lying area where Smythemoor meets the valley of the Bailey Brook to climb the slope towards Bletchley. This would have been an appropriate site for a hospital catering for poor travellers, particularly those from the south who would have struggled in the last two miles across first the River Tern and then Smythemoor. For the Longford, see Adrian & Edmund Waddelove's paper in TSAHS, 79 (2004); the proposed site of the hospital is just off the bottom of the aerial photograph in Plate IV (p.97), which happens to cover much of the area described in the charter.

Richard Jones

CANOE TRIP

Archaeology in the River Severn: SAHS canoe trip, August 16th 2008

Sufficient interest having been expressed since the announcement in the last newsletter, the canoe trip is **ON**, and a provisional date of **Saturday August 16th** has been arranged. The date is provisional in the sense that it is dependent upon low water levels, normally a safe bet for August but, after last year, who knows?

The intention is to depart from Castlefields, below Shrewsbury weir, in the morning, stop for lunch at Atcham (Mytton & Mermaid or picnic on the bank according to taste), and conclude at the Riverside Inn, Cound. Transport can be arranged to return participants to Castlefields at the end, and there will be shore support available at intervals should it be necessary.

The trip will be led by Nigel Baker and David Pannett, with Drummond Outdoors providing open Canadian-type canoes, appropriate kit and qualified instructors. As announced previously, no prior experience is necessary; all necessary gear will be provided, and no one has to paddle if they don't wish to (unless the leaders want to water-ski). Anyone who wants to bring their own boat is welcome to do so. Thanks to a small subsidy, it should be possible to keep the cost down to about £20 per person.

Places are still available for this rare chance to explore a unique archaeological and natural environment. Anyone interested should contact Nigel Baker on 01743 761443, or nigelb303@btinternet.com, or by post to 87 Brompton, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury SY5 6LE.

Nigel Baker

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

St Austin's Friars and Bridge Street, Shrewsbury

In 2007 work was carried out to erect a two-storey office extension following the demolition of a former school house building at Bridge Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and to relocate the school

house building on land at St Austin's Friars, Shrewsbury. The development site lay within the historic core of the medieval town and continued to be developed throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. A desk-based assessment by R K Morriss in 1996 and a field evaluation by the Archaeology Service, SCC, in 1997 had identified archaeological features within the development area. These included the line of the 13th century town wall and part of the town's Augustinian Friary.

A programme of archaeological work was included as part of the development and was carried out by the Archaeology Service, SCC, in April and May 2007. On the St Austin's Friars site this work revealed a sequence of medieval features and yards, a late medieval sandstone wall and the remains of a post-medieval house, the White House, demolished in 1978. On the Bridge Street site a number of medieval and post-medieval pits were revealed, the latter possibly associated with a tanning industry. The town wall was shown to have probably followed the line of the northern boundary of the site, where sandstone stonework is incorporated into the current buildings.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Records and Memories of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) Project

This project will be complete by the end of April so this is the last chance for any KSLI veterans to record their memories. For further details please contact Project Officer Pam Freeman on 01743 255367 or email pam.freeman@shropshire-cc.gov.uk.

The Lilleshall Collection Project

The project is now complete and resources from the collection can be found at www.discovershropshire.org.uk. The sister project in Staffordshire working on the Sutherland collection will be finished later in the year when the joint online resource will be launched. Volunteers at Shropshire are continuing to index names

from estate volumes which will add information to this resource.

Friends appeal - David Parkes sketchbook

I am delighted to tell you that the Friends of Shropshire Archives appeal to raise £1,125 to support the purchase of the early nineteenth century sketchbook by David Parkes has raised £1,173. The additional funding raised will be put towards the costs of copying and digitising the volume so the sketches can be widely accessible via our website. Thanks very much to all those who contributed to his successful appeal, especially to the Shropshire Family History Society for their very generous donation.

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2008

AGM Saturday 12 April 2008 at 11.00am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm, Dr Christopher Dyer: 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Shropshire'.

Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

Summer Walks:

Weds 4th June 7.30pm, Perkins Beach: a walk around an abandoned post-medieval mining settlement. (This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground.) Meet at: the Stiperstones Inn, OS map ref SJ 362 004

Weds 18th June 7.30pm, Stapeley Common: explore a prehistoric ritual landscape of stone circles, barrows, and field systems. Meet at: the reservoir at The Marsh, OS map ref SO 301 977

Weds 2nd July 7.30pm, Acton Scott: a palimpsest of rural settlement over 3,000

years. Meet at: the Acton Scott Historic Working Farm car park, OS map ref SO 457 898

Weds 9th July 7.30pm, Ellesmere: this walk takes in a medieval motte and bailey castle, late 18th century canal and basin, and 19th-20th century pleasure gardens. Meet at: the ice cream kiosk on the Mereside, OS map ref SJ 405 347

No need to book - pay on the day. Fee £3.00 per walk. Some of the walks are in exposed areas and may include muddy paths. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing

Archaeology Day Saturday 8th November 2008, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

contact Shropshire Archives on 01743 255350 or go to www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact 01743 255350 or go to: www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Summer Walks: The cost of the walks is £3 per walk, payable on the day.

11th June 7pm, Diddlebury and Corfton: a guided walk examining the way in which the buildings and landscape have shaped this community through history.

25th June, 7pm, Broseley: this year marks the 200th anniversary of the death of John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson, the man who pioneered the use of cast iron, changing

the face of Broseley, its landscape and local communities.

16th July: Craven Arms: from isolated rural beginnings, to railway hub, this walk tells the fascinating story of Craven Arms.

23rd July, Battlefield: in July 1403 the armies of Henry IV and Henry Hotspur Percy met just outside Shrewsbury to fight one of England's bloodiest battles.

30th July: Ditherington Flax Mill: as the ancestor of the modern skyscraper, the Flax Mill is now widely recognised as a building of outstanding international importance and a monument to the industrial revolution.

21st June 10.30am-4.30pm Discover Shropshire Day - Friends of Shropshire Archives Conference. Venue: Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Free.

12th October 10.00am-4.30pm. 18th Century Day School: the Shropshire Enlightenment Talks, walks and display of archive documents. Venue: Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury. £3.00 Friends members, £7.50 non-members

Other Events

Saturday 29 March Professor David Hey. Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield, will give a lecture on 'Gough and the History of Myddle' in Myddle Parish Church at 7.30 p.m. (Professor Hey edited the Penguin edition of Gough's History.) Tickets £5 from Bob Jeffrey (01939-290613) or at the door.

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2008 Newsletter is Friday 1st August 2008. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ

Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

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SOCIETY NEWS

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held in the Council Chamber at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on **Saturday 18th April 2009** at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm, and the speaker will be John Newman on inscriptions on houses in Shropshire and elsewhere.

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Acton Scott Heritage Project Work on this Heritage Lottery Funded project has continued throughout the year. A tree and hedgerow survey of Acton Scott parish is underway, as are a number of strands of archive and historical research; landscape surveys using conventional survey instruments and GPS equipment have been carried on the site of a medieval tower near the parish church and on some other nearby earthworks; a geophysical survey and a programme of shovel pit testing have been completed on the site of the Acton Scott Roman villa.) and trial excavations on the site are planned for September 2009. For further details please contact Phil Scoggins tel 01694 781306 email: phil.scoggins@shropshire.gov.uk

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Shropshire Council

As part of the move towards one unitary council for Shropshire which will come into operation in April 2009, Shropshire Archives is working on a series of audits of the current Shropshire Borough and District

Councils. These are looking at two areas of work, one is any archive material still retained by the authorities, and the other is the overall records and information management systems in operation. So far we have completed the work at Oswestry Borough Council, Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council and Bridgnorth District Council, and work at North Shropshire and South Shropshire District Councils will be finished by the end of the summer. To date, modest amounts of archive material have been identified and these will be transferred to us in due course.

The Records and Memories of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) Project

This project has now been completed. As well as recording over 50 interviews with veterans of the KSLI covering periods of service from India in the 1930s, World War II, and post war conflicts, over 1,600 catalogue entries were re-catalogued adding more detailed descriptions. 450 images of selected documents, photographs and ephemera were also digitised and added to the catalogue. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the project such a success including the project staff, volunteers and veterans.

As a follow on to this project Shropshire Regimental Museum and Shropshire Archives have secured funding from the Their Past Your Future 2 programme supported by the Big Lottery and Museums Libraries and Archives Council to support

the **Conflict in Shropshire** project. This project will work with a primary and a secondary school in Shrewsbury to create educational resources covering the themes of World War I, World War II and post war conflicts in Korea and Kenya, using the Shropshire Regimental Museum and Shropshire Archives collections. Alison Mussell has been appointed as Project Officer and the project will be complete by the end of 2008.

Young People's Consultation project

Young people have assessed the service offered by Shropshire Archives, the Museum on the Move, the Local History Centres at Oswestry and Bridgnorth, and the Discover Shropshire website. Overall the young people were very positive about the type of services offered, but identified that the biggest barrier for young people accessing the services is that they just don't know they exist. The challenge for us is to see how we can promote awareness of our services more effectively and to follow up suggestions for future projects made by the young people.

Mary McKenzie
County Archivist

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Winter 2008/9

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Archaeology Service, Shropshire County Council

contact the Archaeology Service on 01743 255352

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Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact 01743 255350 or go to:

www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Sunday 12th October 2008, 10.00am – 4.15pm

“The Shropshire Enlightenment”

Meet some of the key figures of the Shropshire enlightenment, an age of moral and social reform, reason and rationalism. Venue: Shropshire Archives. A day of talks, displays and visits - speakers include: Sylvia Watts, Neil Clarke, Ralph Collingwood, Douglas Grounds; guided visits with Bill Champion, George Alcock, Stan Sedman. Organised by the Friends of Shropshire Archives and Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society. £3 for members of the Friends and the Archaeological and Historical Society. £7.50 for non-members.

Sunday 15th February 2009 “Origins and Evolution: the Darwin family and Shropshire” 10.00am - 4.30pm. A Friends of Shropshire Archives and Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society day school at Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury. Talks, walks and displays about Charles Darwin and Shropshire, especially Shrewsbury. An opportunity to place Darwin in context, find out more about his family, his times and the places he grew up in. Speakers include Peter Boyd and Jessie Hanson. £3.00 for members of the Friends of Shropshire Archives and of Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society, £7.50 for non-members. For further details tel: 01743 255350 or email archives@shropshire.gov.uk.

(Copy deadline for the Spring 2009 Newsletter is Friday 6th March 2009. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to hugh.hannaford@shropshire.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 67, Spring 2009

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Gold *doblas* Last year the Society, in pursuance of its objective of helping to preserve the county's antiquities, contributed £500 towards the county museum service's purchase of five gold *doblas* of Pedro the Cruel (King of Castile and Leon 1350–69 and father-in-law of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster), which had been found at Wem in 2005 and which, as treasure trove, were valued at £6,000. This was a small pump-priming grant of the kind that is so important in illustrating local interest when larger grants are being sought elsewhere. We hope, in a later *Newsletter*, to be able to say where and when they will be on view.

Important archaeological acquisition for Shropshire Archives library. The library of one of our most distinguished members, Dr Stan Stanford, acquired by the Castle Bookshop, Llandyssil, was found to include a large body of offprints of archaeological work by Stan's contemporaries, thematically arranged. The offprints complement Lal Chitty's collection in Shropshire Archives, and the Society has contributed £250, half of the purchase price asked by the Bookshop. Shropshire Archives, where the Stanford offprints will be kept, have contributed the other half of the price.

Circulation of newsletter etc.. Following discussion in Council regarding our rising postal costs, I am writing to ask any member who in future would be willing to receive the A.G.M. papers and our twice-yearly *Newsletter* to contact me on (email) **s.baugh@virgin.net** (or write to me). If even a substantial minority of members are willing to receive A.G.M. papers and the *Newsletter* electronically, there will be a worthwhile saving of postal costs. Your email address would of course be kept absolutely confidential and never used for any purpose other than Society correspondence. (I hope, of course, that my own e-mail address, given above, will be treated similarly.) **George Baugh**

Wroxeter Conservation Management Plan Dr Roger White has been asked to write a Wroxeter Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for English Heritage, which is keen for its CMP to incorporate the views of anyone—or any organization—deemed to have an interest in Wroxeter, its development, and its future. Clearly this is something of great interest to the Society. Roger has organized 'stakeholder' meetings for various groups, and while some Society members may have been involved in some of these, Roger thinks that all members ought to know about the process and be encouraged to have an input into it as individuals. Roger would thus welcome views from members. They can write to, or e-mail, him with their ideas. To help to frame the debate he has suggested that responses focus on the following five questions:

- 1 What needs to be done to pass on the significance of the site to future generations?
- 2 Is any further work (**a**) necessary or (**b**) desirable to improve Wroxeter as a visitor experience?
- 3 What are the archaeological priorities on the site?
- 4 What ought to be done to advance those priorities?
- 5 What mechanism might be put in place for English Heritage to receive comments on the site's future running from landowners, visitors, academics, residents, businesses, etc.?

Roger would be grateful for responses by Easter (12 April). His contact details are:

Dr Roger White, F.S.A., M.I.f.A., Senior Lecturer, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, tel: 0121 414 5493, email: r.h.white@bham.ac.uk

Medieval Mining in the Wyre Forest

Evidence for the earliest phases of mining are usually very hard to obtain. For the Wyre Forest Coalfield, the only suggestion of medieval mining came from the purchase by Worcester Cathedral in the late 14th Century of "coals" from Abberley. Unfortunately at this date "coal" can mean charcoal rather than mineral coal, and so the significance of the record is unclear. However, around Chorley and Billingsley are the remains of two early iron-smelting sites. The slag from these demonstrated that they were bloomeries; small furnaces that were used before blast furnaces were introduced in the area in the 1570s. These almost certainly would have used locally mined iron ore and so if they could be dated, this would in turn date the ironstone mines that are adjacent. Accordingly, a local group, the Four Parishes Heritage Group, obtained a grant of £23,000 to investigate them.

The archaeological investigations of the two bloomeries was carried out by Dr Tim Young of GeoArch and Cardiff University; Tim is also currently chair of the Historical Metallurgy Society. The first of the sites he looked at was Ned's Garden (SO 706840). The pottery from this site clearly demonstrated that it had been at work in the 13th Century; it is possible that it might have started work in the late 12th Century and finished in the early 14th, but neither of these dates can be securely established.

The next evidence for mining comes from the documentary record. Much of the country between Cleobury, Neen Savage and Kinlet belonged to the powerful Mortimer family and was in Cleobury Park. The precise boundaries of the park are unclear, but the extent of its core area is clear enough. A few scattered accounts from the park keepers survive and one of these, from 1384/5 records the sale of 8 dozen and 4 loads of "iron mine" for 8/4. An account of 1373/4 does not mention any such sale, so it is possible that mining only started in the mid 1380s; nor are sales recorded in an account of 1389/90. The mines can be located with a high degree of precision as there is only one place in the park where ironstone can be found; on the banks of Baveney Brook in Malpass Wood. Here two seams of iron-rich sandstone outcrop in the brook within a few hundred yards of each other and both outcrops are pitted with shafts. The "load" would probably be equivalent to that which could be carried in a pannier by a packhorse and so the output looks likely to be that of perhaps a single miner and an assistant working for several months. Whilst it is

small scale, it is significant as it shows that mining had resumed in the Wyre Forest Coalfield.

There is no mention of any more iron production in Stottesdon until the middle of the 15th Century, by which time the manor had passed to John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. A set of summary accounts covering the manor from 1455/6 survive. These record income of £2 from the lease of ironstone mines, which must have been in Chorley; mining had restarted. This might have been quite a recent development for the same accounts also show how a carpenter was paid to construct a dam for a "bloomsmithy" and how the bailiff was sent first to the Forest of Dean and then to Sheffield to find a smith who could supervise the new works. This documentary record ties in well with the archaeological evidence from the second bloomery (Fiddle Bloomery, SO 705828). The earliest pottery found from this seems to be mid-late 15th Century. It may not be the works described in the accounts; there was often a distinction between a bloomery where the iron was first produced and the bloomsmithy where it was turned into workable bar iron for the blacksmith. However, it is clear that ironstone mining had resumed in Chorley by the middle of the 15th Century. It is not known how long it lasted. The area of mining in Chorley is very extensive, but as mining continued into the 19th Century, it is impossible to identify the medieval work. The royalty in 1455/6 of £2 pa would suggest a saleable output of something like £10-£20 worth of ironstone; considerably more than was being produced in Cleobury Park in the previous century.

As with Chorley, it is very difficult to know when ironstone mining ceased in Cleobury Parks. There are a number of late 15th Century accounts for the park which mention it, but always as a null return. However, the account for 1472/3 has one extra highly significant detail; it also gives a null return for rent from mines of ironstone and "coal" (*carbonis* in the original document) in the park of Cleobury as they had no lessors. There is the usual ambiguity as to whether *carbonis* means charcoal or as coal. From the structure of the entry, it seems most likely that it should be translated as coal. It is also unlikely that the manor would sell charcoal; the usual arrangement was to sell the wood rather than the finished product. Thus this entry appears to be the first evidence for coal production from the Shropshire part of the Wyre Forest. As with the ironstone mines, there is a strong candidate site for this mine; a collection of shallow workings at SO 700756, close to Cleobury. The coal here is part of the "sweet" coals, with a low sulphur content and may have been sold to the town of Cleobury.

Thus the history of mining in the Wyre Forest Coalfield has been pushed back to the 13th or late 12th Centuries. At this date it is likely that ironstone

was the principle mineral that was sought. However, as it is found adjacent to coal at Chorley, it seems highly likely that some of this would also have been brought to the surface and sold, either as a domestic fuel or for use by blacksmiths. It is likely that there was a real break in mining in the first part of the 14th Century, due to the disruption caused by failed harvests and the Black Death. However, ironstone mining resumed by the end of the century and the Chorley mines were again in production in the 15th Century. Some of these references are especially significant as it is possible to relate them to particular sets of workings still present on the ground.

David Poyner

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

The Stiperstones In March 2008 staff from Shropshire County Council's Archaeology Service and Sustainability Group carried out a Level 1 archaeological field survey of land at the Big Wood and The Rock on the southern end of The Stiperstones hills. The survey supplemented a survey carried out in 2003/4, covering areas that were previously excluded due to dense tree cover. Since 2004, the conifer plantations had been felled, allowing a survey to be made of the archaeological features known to exist in the plantations. A total of 32 new features, including boundary features and mining remains, were recorded. The survey was funded by English Heritage and Natural England, with match funding from Shropshire County Council.

Watermill at Sheinwood Farm, Sheinton At the junction of the Sheinwood Brook and the Whitwell Brook (NGR SJ 61405 02320) at Sheinwood Farm, Sheinton a weir is marked on the Ordnance Survey mapping. As a result of a site visit by the Sheinton Heritage Group and the Community Archaeologist, SCC it was possible to confirm that this weir on the Sheinton Brook represented the site of a stone and timber water mill, possibly of late medieval but certainly early post-medieval date.

The weir was built of stone and incorporated the remains of substantial vertical and horizontal timbers. Stone walls bonded in white gritty mortar lined both banks of the stream on either side of the weir. Further stone walls were visible in the stream bed on the east side of the weir. There was a large quantity of stone building rubble in the stream bed below the weir. Two Harnage stone roof slates, one with peg hole, a fragment of early post-medieval Midland Purple ware and a fragment of an 18th century slipware "butter jar" were recovered from the stream bed below the weir. A bypass channel, which now carries the end of the Whitwell Brook to the Sheinton Brook, runs east from above the mill site. The bypass channel ends with a fine and largely intact stone-built overflow weir some 30m to the east of the remains of the mill. From here a

leat, represented by a dry ditch, led to the north towards another mill site near to Sheinwood Farmhouse.

Hugh Hannaford

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Changes at Shropshire Archives A project to remodel the reception area of Shropshire Archives is currently being planned. The aim of the project is to make better use of the space within a very cramped area of the building, and to improve the welcome to the service for our users. We are awaiting final confirmation of when the building work will take place, but it is likely to be during the Spring this year.

As the building work will take place in the reception area, we will have to close the service for around 5 weeks. Other services, including our enquiry service, will continue during that time. I appreciate that this may make things difficult for our regular users, and thought I should let you know what was planned even though I am not able to give you a definite timescale. We will let you know as soon as we have a date for the work.

Shropshire Manorial Records Survey The Manorial Documents Register, maintained by the National Archives in London is the official register of manorial documents for England and Wales. The Register contains information about the nature and location of surviving manorial documents. Manorial records are an important but under-used class of local historical evidence. They record details of land transactions as well as minor misdemeanours and thereby shed light on past local communities, and give rare glimpses into the lives of ordinary men and women.

The National Archives is supporting local archive services to update and computerise information about their county's manorial records held on the Manorial Documents Register. Shropshire's surviving manorial records are extensive, as would be expected in such a large county, but the existing survey is very incomplete, as are our catalogues.

We will be starting this project in April 2009. Sara Downs, who is currently completing her MScEcon degree in Archive Administration at Aberystwyth University, has been given permission to work on this project as part of her dissertation. We plan for Sara to work part time on this project for 12 months. As well as updating the database, Sara will also evaluate access to manorial records at Shropshire Archives. The project will also promote their use by arranging a number of workshops on using manorial records for the public.

Volunteers will be involved with the project. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with Sara tel 01743 255350 or email sara.downs@shropshire.gov.uk

Mary McKenzie

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2009

AGM Saturday 18 April 2009 at 11.00am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm by John Newman who will speak on the Architecture of Shropshire.

CANOE EXPEDITION - POSTPONED FROM 2008

It is intended to have another go at running the canoe expedition from Shrewsbury to Cound, postponed twice because of heavy rain and high river levels last 'summer'. Everyone on last year's list will be contacted as soon as a date can be fixed with Drummond Outdoors. For further details contact Nigel Baker on 01743 761443 or at nigelb303@btinternet.com

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council

contact the Archaeology Service on tel: 01743 255352 or email: archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk

Summer Walks:

Weds 10th June 7.30pm Llanymynech

Limekilns This former industrial landscape contains limestone quarries and 19th century limekilns, a canal and a dis-used railway. The site has recently been sympathetically restored. Meet at the Llanymynech Heritage Area car park, OS map ref SJ 266 210

Weds 24th June 7.30pm Rectory Wood and Field, Church Stretton Discover the remains of a former 18th and 19th century wilderness garden. Meet at the Countryside Heritage Site car park on Cunnery Road, OS map ref SO 449 935

Weds 8th July 7.30pm Acton Scott A palimpsest of rural settlement over 3,000 years. Meet at: the Acton Scott Historic Working Farm car park, OS map ref SO 457 898

Weds 22nd July 7.30pm Selattyn Hill A Bronze Age ritual site, post-medieval settlement remains, and a 19th century belvedere and WWII Home Guard look-out post. Meet at Craignant Quarry picnic site, OS map ref: SJ 253 349

No need to book - pay on the day. Fee £3.00 per walk.

Archaeology Day Saturday 7th November 2009, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a

programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact 01743 255350 or go to: www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Weds 3rd June 7.00pm (AGM 6.30pm) The Shield of Wales: the life and career of Dafydd ap Llywelyn The son of Llywelyn the Great, Dafydd ap Llywelyn ruled Wales as prince from 1240 to 1246. This lecture, given by Dr Craig Owen Jones of Bangor University, will relate the fascinating story of his brief but eventful life.

Summer Walks:

Weds 17th June 7.00pm Wenlock Edge, A Landscape of Poetry and History 150 years after A E Housman's birth, this walk embraces the poet, Wenlock Edge, quarries, landscape and history. Led by David Lloyd, Christine Rayner & Mike Rayner. Meet at: Wenlock Edge Inn car park

Weds 1st July 7.00pm The Countryside of Fanny Mostyn-Owen and Charles Darwin Led by Jessie Hanson, this walk examines Darwin's friendship with the Mostyn-Owen family and how the landscape of their estate opened up a whole new world to the aspiring naturalist. Meet at: Queen's Head car park near West Felton

Weds 15th July 7.00pm Bishop's Castle - an old parliamentary borough Proud of its status as a town since it was 'planned' in the thirteenth century, it has been England's smallest borough and one of its 'rotten' ones! Meet at: Church of St John the Baptist (by the lych gate)

Weds 29th July 7.00pm Coalbrookdale: the hearth of the Industrial Revolution On the 300th anniversary of Abraham Darby's successful use of coke to smelt iron at Coalbrookdale, Neil Clarke leads a walk around this fascinating landscape of industry. Meet at: the Coke Hearth

The cost of the walks is £3 per walk, payable on the day.

Thurs 19th November 7.30pm Friends of Shropshire Archives Annual Lecture: The Myddeltons of Chirk Castle 1595 to 1911: tracing the generations Jill Burton, Education Officer, National Trust Chirk Castle and Erddig. Venue: Shropshire Archives

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2009 Newsletter is Friday 7th August 2009. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

No. 68, Autumn 2009

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, 42 North Street, Castlefields, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JJ
Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

SOCIETY NEWS

Please note: The Society's meeting on Saturday 17th October 2009 will be at The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury (not at The Shirehall). See the "Winter Programme" included with this newsletter for details.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on **Saturday 10th April 2010** at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, and the speaker will be Dr Toby Driver of the RCAHMW, who will be speaking on 'Aerial Reconnaissance and Archaeological Discovery along the Welsh Borders'

Circulation of newsletter etc.. Following discussion in Council regarding our rising postal costs, I am writing to ask any member who in future would be willing to receive the A.G.M. papers and our twice-yearly *Newsletter* to contact me on (email) s.baugh@virgin.net (or write to me). If even a substantial minority of members are willing to receive A.G.M. papers and the *Newsletter* electronically, there will be a worthwhile saving of postal costs. Your email address would of course be kept absolutely confidential and never used for any purpose other than Society correspondence. (I hope, of course, that my own e-mail address, given above, will be treated similarly.)

George Baugh

Snailbeach Lead Mine

The lead smelter at Snailbeach Mine near Minsterley was in use between 1863 and 1895. There is a very long underground flue to a chimney on the nearby Resting Hill. In recent years the site has fallen into bad repair but, being on private land, unlike the rest of the mine site, it has tended to be ignored.

A recent site survey by English Heritage and the Shropshire Mines Trust Ltd determined that some emergency treatment was vital if this structure was to be saved. Arrangements are now being made for

English Heritage to make a grant to SMTL, who will arrange for a local contractor to remove trees and other vegetation endangering masonry and also to install temporary supports for unstable masonry and arches. It is hoped that this emergency work will be completed by the end of June, after which an archaeological survey will be carried out.

The long term treatment of the site is more of a problem. It will cost a lot of money to properly stabilise the smelter building and a lottery grant will probably be required. It should be noted that the whole of the smelter site is on private land and there is no public access. Please do not visit at present as this may prejudice future access arrangements.

Adrian Pearce
Shropshire Mines Trust

Rectory Wood, Church Stretton

In March 2009 the Archaeology Service led a community archaeology investigation at the Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Site on behalf of the Rectory Wood Heritage Project. The investigations included the trial excavation of two buildings, an icehouse and a summerhouse, within a former 18th and 19th century landscaped garden with "Capability" Brown connections.

In 1749 Professor John Mainwaring, a theologian and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, became Rector of the parish of Church Stretton. Among the society visitors to Mainwaring's house (the Old Rectory) was his friend, Lancelot "Capability" Brown. A plan of 1767 shows that Mainwaring had been improving the grounds of the rectory since before this date and he continued to do so through the next decade. Capability Brown is believed to have advised on these improvements. A subsequent Rector, T.B. Coleman, rebuilt the Rectory in the early 19th century to improve its views, and his successor, R N Pemberton, undertook further improvements to the gardens, which probably included the felling and replanting of much of Mainwaring's woodland.

The site of the icehouse was thought to lie on the

side of the hill sloping down to the south side of the Yew-ringed Pool, though there were few visible remains. The excavations revealed the top of the walls of the chamber and entrance passage of the icehouse beneath deposits of leaf-mould, topsoil and hill-wash. The chamber was cut into the bedrock on the hillside and had an inner diameter of 3m. It was built with local Longmyndian sandstone lined with red brick. The chamber was entered by an entrance passage and the walls of the entrance passage turned outwards to form wing-walls on the side of the path to either side. The icehouse probably dated to the late 18th century.

Excavations of a low mound marking the site of a possible building at the northwest end of the wood revealed it to be the site of a summerhouse. Removal of topsoil revealed three walls of a D-shaped structure. The walls were built of local stone and fragments of re-used brick. The southeast half of the structure was open and six square-section stone pillar bases marked the 5-sided curve of the building. The upper part and roof of the summer house are likely to have been of timber. Inside the walls was a pebble and cobble floor surface. The edges of the floor were kerbed in buff brick and stones. Set into the floor at the northeast edge of the building was a mosaic picked out in white pebbles comprising the letter "M" in a rectangular border.

The cartographic evidence indicates that the summerhouse was built some time between 1767 and 1834, and the letter "M" set into the floor suggests that it was built by John Mainwaring as part of his development of the garden. The summerhouse was sited to give a view down the valley towards the yew-ringed pool and a gothic folly (later converted to a pump-house).

The Rectory Wood Heritage Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Shropshire Council. Rectory Wood and Field Countryside Heritage Site is owned by Shropshire Council and managed by the council's Outdoor Recreation Service.

Hugh Hannaford

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Winter Programme for 2009/10

Saturday September 12th ACTON SCOTT HERITAGE PROJECT This is a joint meeting with the Friends of Shropshire Archives. 10.00am – 4.00pm. A chance to see the work of the Acton Scott Heritage Project in the setting of the new development of the Historic Working Farm site. Meet at the Visitor Centre, Acton Scott Historic Working Farm, at 10.00am. Cost - £7.00 members, £12.00 non-members.

AGM Saturday 10 April 2010 at 11.00am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm by Dr Toby Driver who will speak on "Aerial Reconnaissance and Archaeological Discovery along the Welsh Borders".

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council

contact the Archaeology Service on tel: 01743 255352 or email: archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk

Archaeology Day Saturday 7th November 2009, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form are included with this Newsletter.

Shropshire Archives

contact Shropshire Archives on tel: 01743 255350 or email: archives@shropshire.gov.uk

Open Day Sunday 25th October 2009, 10.30am - 4.00pm, at Shropshire Archives. A programme of talks, displays, behind-the-scenes tours, quizzes and competitions, and opportunities to 'ask the experts'. Speakers to include: 10.45am - Kate Nicoll "Attingham Park: the past and future of a walled garden"; 11.45am - Dr Katherine Olson "Having God before theyre eies": living and dying in North West Shropshire; 2.00pm - Dr Craig Owen Jones: "Shropshire and Welsh political ideology in the Middle Ages"; and 3.00pm - James Lawson "Recollections of Lily F Chitty: an archaeological Miss Marple, unravelling the stories behind Shropshire's past".

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact 01743 255350 or go to: www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Thurs 19th November 7.30pm Friends of Shropshire Archives Annual Lecture: The Myddeltons of Chirk Castle 1595 to 1911: tracing the generations Jill Burton, Education Officer, National Trust Chirk Castle and Erddig. Venue: Shropshire Archives

Saturday 8 May 2010, Discover Shropshire Day, 10.30am-4.00pm, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. A day of talks, displays and activities to celebrate Shropshire's history and heritage. Admission free.

(Copy deadline for the Spring 2010 Newsletter is Friday 5th March 2010. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk)



SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Shropshire
Archaeological
and
Historical
Society

No. 69, Spring 2010

Website: <http://www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk>

Newsletter Editor: Hugh Hannaford, Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ

Membership Secretary: William Hodges, Westlegate, Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 9DX

SOCIETY NEWS

AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on **Saturday 10th April 2010** at 11.00am. The afternoon lecture is at 2.15pm in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, and the speaker will be Dr Toby Driver, Aerial Survey Project Manager with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, who will speak on 'Aerial Reconnaissance and Archaeological Discovery along the Welsh Borders'.

Subscriptions: A reminder that subscriptions to the Society for 2010 were due on 1st January. The current rates are £14 Ordinary Membership; £15 Family Membership (two or more people living at the same address); £14 UK Institutions; £18 Overseas Institutions. Cheques/POs should be made payable to "Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society" and sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society Website

The Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's website can be found at <http://www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk/>. The site is hosted within the Discovering Shropshire's History website - <http://www.shropshirehistory.org.uk/> (NB this is a new URL for the site).

You can find details of all the Society's events and publications on our site, as well as links to a wealth of information about Shropshire's archaeology, history, and landscape. If you have any suggestions for content on our pages,

please contact me, preferably by email at:

archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk

or by phone on: 01743 255352

Hugh Hannaford

Circulation of newsletter etc.. If you would like to receive the AGM papers and *Newsletter* electronically, please contact George Baugh (Secretary) by email at: **s.baugh@virgin.net**

Cleobury Park Furnace

The Four Parishes Heritage Group is currently studying medieval settlement and industry in Kinlet, Stottesdon and surrounding parishes. With assistance from the LHI, the group has employed Dr Tim Young of Geoarch (also chair of the Historical Metallurgy Society) to carry out topographical and geophysical surveys of two bloomeries in Stottesdon. The group is also engaged in documentary research. Much of this has focussed on the history of the Wyre Forest and has recently shown that ironstone was being mined in Cleobury Park in 1384; this can be equated with bell pits in Malpass Wood. As a development of the project, the group now intends to investigate the blast furnace at Cleobury Park.

Cleobury Park Furnace was identified by David Chapman as one of the two blast furnaces built by Robert Dudley near Cleobury c1570 (Chapman, 1996); the other being Furnace Mill (Baldwin, 1994; Schubert, 1957). By 1576 the furnaces were leased to John Weston. Following his death in 1584, the furnaces were worked by his widow Agnes and subsequently by John Broughton and Edward Blount (Baldwin 1994). The site was abandoned in the early 17th Century; by the 1640s iron smelting industry had moved to

Catherton (Clee Hill) and Furnace Mill was a corn mill (King and Poyner, 2004). Cleobury Park seems to have been abandoned.

The importance of Cleobury Park Furnace is two-fold. Firstly, it represents an early example of an English blast furnace. The blast furnace technology was first introduced in this country in the 1490s but industry remained in the Weald until after 1550. Cleobury Park was one of the first wave of furnaces to be built outside the south-east, and even in the Weald, relatively few furnaces of this date have been thoroughly investigated. Secondly, preliminary assessments suggest that the furnace site has suffered little disturbance since abandonment. The dam appears largely complete, apart from breaches at either end. The tail race can be traced all the way across the site to its presumed exit into Dowles Brook. Next to the dam, by the likely site of the wheel-pit is a hollow that is an excellent candidate for the furnace itself.

The site is further enhanced by the fact that sufficient documentation exists to allow reconstruction of its history. Among the sources currently being examined are several chancery cases and the 1576 lay subsidy roll for Cleobury Foreign (which includes the names of "Frenchmen", likely to be workers at the furnace). Additionally, data from a recent LIDAR survey of the Wyre Forest area will allow the furnace to be seen in its landscape context and should help identify the roads that served the furnace and two storage dams further upstream. It may also indicate previously unrecognised ironstone quarry pits. Taken with the current documentary work, the project will allow a new assessment of industry in the Wyre Forest in medieval and early modern times.

M Baldwin, Early Ironworking around Cleobury Mortimer, *Cleobury Chronicles*, 1994, 3, 34-49

D Chapman, Cleobury Park Furnace, *Cleobury Chronicles*, 1996, 4, 56-65

PW King and DR Poyner, Catherton Furnace, *West Midlands Archaeology*, 2004, 74, 43

HR Schubert, *History of the British Iron and Steel Industry from 450BC to 1775 AD*, Routledge and Kegan, 1957, 371

D Poyner

WREKIN LOCAL STUDIES FORUM

The 2008-09 issue of the Transactions of the Wrekin Local Studies Forum has just been published and contains the following articles:

Madeley Court, by Shelagh Lewis

Wellington before 1700, Sylvia Watts

Shropshire's Six Inclined Planes, Alfred Bowdler

An Unusual Discovery at St Michael's Church (Madeley), Shelagh Lewis

Wellington Union & its Workhouses, Lance Smith

From Trains to Buses - the Closure of the Coalport Branch, Neil Clarke

Book Review (*John Ruskin, Henry James and the Shropshire Lads*), David Shinton.

(Reference copies are available at Telford Central and Wellington libraries and at Shropshire Archives.)

Neil Clarke

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Acton Scott Roman Villa

In 1817 a Roman villa was discovered on the Acton Scott estate when the lane from Haddon to Acton Scott was re-aligned to the north. The villa was subsequently re-excavated in 1844 by Mrs Frances Stackhouse Acton. Her account of her discovery and excavations was subsequently published in **Archaeologia** vol. XXXI, 1846, pp339-4 (ref: LS16463) and this and her original manuscript records (ref. 6001/6007) are held at Shropshire Archives.

Over the past 2 years volunteers with the Acton Scott Heritage Project have been re-examining the site of the Roman Villa at Acton Scott.

A geophysical survey and shovel-pit testing was followed in September 2008 by the first season of trial excavations. A trench was laid out to examine the line of the southern arm of an enclosure ditch surrounding the site of the villa. The enclosure was known through aerial photography and its presence had been confirmed by the geophysical survey and previous trial trenching. The enclosure ditch proved to be over 4m wide, its lower fills consisting of banded gravels and silty loams, probably representing gradual silting of the ditch. In the upper fill of the ditch was a dump of Roman building rubble of stone fragments with some pieces of Roman roof tile.

A second trench across a rectangular structure within the enclosure identified by the

geophysical survey found a sequence of pebble and clay floors or surfaces, and a possible post-pad. These features were associated with a small quantity of Roman pottery. These features and deposits were covered with spreads of stone rubble and Roman ceramic and stone roof tiles and wall-flue tiles. The structure represented by these features is likely to have formed part of the Roman villa complex.

In September 2009 we returned for a second season of trial excavations. Three further trenches were excavated across the site of the building identified the previous year. These trenches located rough yard surfaces outside the building, and a number floor surfaces within the area of the building. These floors were mostly of clay and pebble, but the remains of a small area of *opus signinum* floor were also found. These floors were covered with many loose fragments of clay and stone roof tile, but in one trench a section of collapsed roof of stone roof slates lay beneath the topsoil.

Outside the enclosure, further trenches located a ditch of Iron Age and Romano-British date, and the intact surface of the road whose realignment in 1817 prompted the discovery of the villa. However we have not found any sign of Frances Stackhouse Acton's excavations!

The investigations have demonstrated that there are well-preserved archaeological features and deposits associated with both the cropmark enclosure and the Roman villa surviving on the site.

(The excavations were part of the Acton Scott Heritage Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Shropshire Council, the Shropshire Hills AONB, and the Friends of Shropshire Archives)

Hugh Hannaford

EVENTS

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

See enclosure for details of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society's Programme for Summer/Autumn 2009

AGM Saturday 10th April 2010 at 11.00am at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Afternoon lecture at 2.15pm by Dr Toby Driver who will speak on 'Aerial Reconnaissance and Archaeological Discovery along the Welsh Borders'.

Madeley Living History Project

Saturday 4th September 2010: John Randall 1810 – 1910: Shropshire's Grand Old Man A day school to celebrate the bicentenary of his birth and the centenary of his death. 10.00 am – 4.00pm at The John Randall School, Queen Street, Madeley. The day school will cover all aspects of John Randall's long and fruitful life from his birth and early years in Broseley, through his wide-ranging interests in geology and history and his skills as a china painter, to his death as a respected writer, publisher, local politician and Freeman of the Borough of Wenlock. Speakers will include George Baugh, Neil Clarke, Roger Edmundson, Hugh Torrens and Barrie Trinder. A small exhibition of Randall memorabilia will be on display. Lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments included in the ticket price of £5.00. Tickets and further information from: Shelagh Lewis, Madeley Living History Project, Jubilee House, 74 High Street, Madeley, TF7 5AH tel: 01952 567288 email: shelagh@madeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council

contact the Archaeology Service on tel: 01743 255352 or email: archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk

Summer Walks:

Weds 9th June ELLESMERE This walk takes in a medieval motte and bailey castle, late 18th century canal and basin, and 19th-20th century pleasure gardens. Meet at: the ice cream kiosk on the Mereside, OS map ref SJ 405 347. The walk starts at 7.30pm and lasts around 1½ - 2 hours. Cost £3, payable on the day

Weds 23rd June BURY DITCHES HILLFORT Iron Age hill-top settlement. Meet at: the Forestry Commission car park, OS map ref SO 334 840. The walk starts at 7.30pm and lasts around 1½ - 2 hours. Cost £3, payable on the day.

Weds 7th July SNAILBEACH AND LORDSHILL Looking at 19th-century mining remains and a post-medieval squatter settlement. Meet at: the car park by Snailbeach village hall, OS map ref SJ 373 022 NB. The walk starts at 7.30pm and lasts around 2 hours. This walk has steep climbs and some rough ground. Cost £3, payable on the day.

Weds 21st July NESSCLIFFE HILL An Iron Age hillfort, a highwayman's den, and historic quarries. Meet at: the Oak car park, Nesscliffe

Hill Countryside Heritage Park, OS map ref: SJ 386 199. The walk starts at 7.30pm and lasts around 1½ - 2 hours. This walk has steep climbs. Cost £3, payable on the day.

No need to book - pay on the day. Fee £3.00 per walk.

Archaeology Day Saturday 13th November 2010, 10.00am - 4.15pm, at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme and booking form will be included with the autumn Newsletter.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

For more information contact 01743 255350 or go to: www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk

Saturday May 8 DISCOVER SHROPSHIRE DAY
10.30am – 4.00pm at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury
As the largest inland county, situated on one of England's most turbulent borders, it is perhaps not surprising that Shropshire can claim the largest concentration of motte and bailey castles in the country. These structures succeeded the prehistoric earthworks, Roman defences and Anglo-Saxon hill forts which proliferated in the west of the county. Discover Shropshire Day is your chance to find out more about these former citadels; most now no more than romantic ruins but which continue, not only to reveal an often violent and tragic history, but also give a greater insight into the lives of the people and communities of Shropshire that grew up around them. Come and enjoy...

Talks by nationally acclaimed speakers:

'Hopton Castle - the Hidden History' by

Richard K. Morriss

'The Castles of Shropshire : an overview' by

Peter Duckers

Displays from local heritage groups

Ask the experts about the conservation of your own archives and collections

Competitions and prizes

Sandwiches and light refreshments available.

Free parking

For more information contact:
Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates,
Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ
Tel: 01743 255350

Summer Walks:

Wednesday June 16 WENLOCK EDGE
with Housman poetry and a sniff of the rocks. Chris and Mike Rayner will lead the walk originally to be shared with David Lloyd in 2009. Some steep steps. About 2 miles. Meet in car park Wenlock Edge Inn (4miles from Much Wenlock on Church Stretton Road B4371) for 7pm start. (NGR SO 570 963) Cost: £3

Wednesday June 30 BROSELEY with Neil Clarke. In John Randall's centenary (and bicentenary!) year, Neil will take us on a two hour town walk of about 2 miles to look (mainly) at places Randall would have been familiar with in the early 19th century. Meet at Broseley Library in Bridgnorth Road (NGR SJ 674 015) for 7pm start. Cost £3

Wednesday July 14 COALBROOKDALE
Marilyn Higson will take us on a strenuous walk from the Severn up Coalbrookdale looking at the watercourse, then through woods along part of the Sabbath Walks before descending the steep steps from the Rotunda to skirt Paradise and back to earth. Meet in Dale End Park car park at western edge of Ironbridge (B4380) for 7pm start. (NGR SJ 666 037) Cost £3.

Wednesday July 28 Attingham Park A private guided tour of the fast-developing restored Kitchen Garden at Attingham Park led by Kate Nicoll who gave the Friends a talk on the subject in 2009. This event is advance booking only and limited to 20 visitors. Cost £5. Tickets from Pat Kiernan, 11 Lime Tree Way, Wellington, Telford, TF1 3PJ – send cheque and SAE. Meet in the car park outside the usual entrance for **6pm** start. Easy walking. (NGR SJ 550 309)

(Copy deadline for the Autumn 2010 Newsletter is Friday 6th August 2010. Copy can be mailed to the Newsletter editor at the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ or emailed to archaeology@shropshire.gov.uk)