

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, near Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332

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1984 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that their subscriptions were due on January 1st.

Individual members £6.00

Family members £7.00

Overseas members £7.00

Associate members £1.00

Members who kindly pay their subscriptions by bankers order are asked to check that the correct amount has been paid. If not would you please forward the arrears to Mrs C.Carr, Hon. Membership Secretary, S.A.S., 18 Kemps Eye Av., Shrewsbury SY3 7QW

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1984

Saturday May 12th: Members are invited to attend the open lectures following the A.G.M. of the Council for British Archaeology Group 8; 2.30 p.m. at College Hill House. The speakers will be:

David Hill: Recent work and thoughts on Offa's and Watt's Dykes.

Philip Barker: Hen Domen.

Fee 50p

Saturday June 9th: 'History in the Landscape around Earls Hill'. A joint field meeting with Pontesbury Teachers' Centre led by David Pannett to explore the compilation of a landscape history trail in an area already well appreciated for natural history and conservation. Hill forts, mines, medieval fields, hedges and village plans will be included.

Meet at Teachers' Centre Pontesbury (behind Branch Library near to Mary Webb School) 2.30 p.m. Come prepared for rough walking (4 miles) after which tea will be available at the Centre.

Fee 50p

Annual General Meeting : Saturday June 23rd: 2.30 p.m. College Hill House, followed by a lecture entitled: 'Ludlow in 1634 Comus year' by Dr. David Lloyd.

Saturday July 7th: Pitchford Hall, a tour of interior and grounds led by Madge Moran. Meet entrance to Pitchford Hall, near church, at 2.30 p.m. Fee £3 (which will include tea). Prior booking is essential.

Saturday September 15th: Archaeology along the Upper Severn Valley (including Dolforwyn Castle, Maesmawr Hall and current excavations at Caersws). A field excursion in cars led by Chris Musson. Meet Shirehall, Shrewsbury 10.30 a.m. or Welshpool Carpark tourist office 11.00 a.m. Fee £2 (including tea, payable on the day).

The next indoor meeting will take place on Saturday October 13th at Bear Steps.

Further information can be obtained from:

Hon. Secretary: Yvette Staelens. Much Wenlock 727773

Meetings Secretary: David Pannett. Shrewsbury 850794

INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGY REPORTS

Hen Domen, Montgomery (Powys) (1983)

Excavations were conducted for four weeks throughout July by the Universities of Birmingham and Exeter. Work was carried out in three areas:-

1. The Bailey Interior

(a) More structural features of Building LIII were revealed. This building, measuring some 5.0m x 6.0m, was defined by irregular lines of small post-holes on the north and south. The structural evidence for the east and west walls was less complete, the post-holes extending only half the length of the building. An internal partition, excavated in 1982, may represent one side of a cross passage beyond which the building was of a different construction. Three clay filled pits inside the east wall were

excavated. They had no obvious function and may have resulted from the digging out of timbers, or were alternatively abortive post-pits for the east wall of the later building (XLVIII) on the same site. A sub-rectangular area (2.0m x 1.5m) within building LIII containing large stones was not understood. It may be a much deeper feature which subsequent excavation will reveal further.

(b) Building LIII had a possible entrance on its west side, which was situated immediately next to the posts of the suggested granary (XXXVIII) excavated in previous years. There is no doubt that the (?) granary was standing when LIII was in use, and it now seems likely that the twelve posts of the (?) granary carried a structure sufficiently high off the ground to allow access beneath it. This would help explain the massiveness of its foundations, which were set in post pits cut up to to a metre into the natural boulder clay. It would also explain why the posts of the (?) granary were apparently surrounded by washdown of silts from higher up the slope.

(c) Building LIII occupied a clay platform which conformed roughly, but not exactly, to the plan of the building. The post-holes of the east and west walls lay off the platform, those of the north wall were coincident with it, while those of the south wall lay within the edge of the platform. Excavation revealed that the platform had been built for an earlier structure (LIV). Little survived of this except a pebble surface, areas of burning and charcoal, and a light timber revetment (of which fragments of carbonised wood remained in situ) to the platform along its south edge. The need for this platform was dictated by the sharp downward slope of the site at this point, and at the north end of the platform much clay remains to be removed in future excavation.

(d) To the north-west of LIII + LIV and immediately behind the rampart a dark brown layer of soil and small stones was partially removed. The top of this layer, which has undergone some excavation in previous seasons, comprises occupation debris in addition to the remains of the pre-castle plough soil and other silts washed down from higher up the slope of the bailey. The lower parts of the layer comprise plough soil in situ which was not removed by the builders of the first castle. It extends northwards beneath the unexcavated rampart.

(e) Two post pits of the north wall of the (?) granary were revealed by the operation described in (d) and were excavated. These proved to be shallower than those excavated in previous years. Since they were down slope from the latter it would appear that the builders of the (?) granary deliberately sought to make the ground-fast bases of the structure as level as possible. The bottoms of the two post pits excavated in 1983 were level to within a margin of 0.10m.

## II. The Bailey Rampart

Two areas of the boulder clay rampart were repeatedly trowelled in the hope of revealing further structural features of the defences. An area in the northwest of the excavated area proved to be barren. The bulb of the rampart by the bailey entrance produced only two successive post settings. In view of the low productivity of this work, future examination of the defences must involve dismantling of the rampart on a larger scale. Immediately behind the rampart a deposit of large stones in a dark black soil layer was revealed. This layer, which contains considerable quantities of animal bones, was left for future excavation, and its relationship with the rampart material and the eroded buried soil which extends behind is as yet not understood.

## III. The Inner Bailey Ditch

Two sections were cut across the ditch

a) at the eastern extremity of the waterlogged area which was partially examined in 1982. This cutting provided a further profile of the defences, as well as a further sample of waterlogged finds (see below).

b) immediately outside the bulb of the rampart overlooking the bailey entrance. This cutting was intended to establish whether the existing causeway which crosses the ditch is of medieval or modern origin. It became clear that it consists of silt washed through the bailey entrance, and perhaps sculpted by a farmer to provide easier access. The latest surface within the underlying ditch was revealed, and one timber slot excavated at the foot of the rampart slope. This slot contained many iron nails, suggesting the re-use of a timber here which already contained them. It would appear that this ditch was crossed by a timber bridge, as was the motte ditch. In view of the small area of the excavation, which was restricted further by extensive tree roots, it was decided to leave the underlying deposits until the entrance area can be excavated in toto.

### The Finds

(a) The excavation confirmed the existing impression that the early levels of the bailey contain few artefacts. There is very little pottery, a few iron constructional and horseshoe nails, and some animal bones. A small iron knife came from the building platform of LIII, and an arrowhead from the buried soil revealed behind the rampart. This evidence suggests that the early occupants had only a few simple possessions which were essentially utilitarian.

(b) The waterlogged deposits in the bailey ditch produced complementary evidence to that from the bailey, though again the quantity of finds was small. These included a wooden shovel blade in fine condition, part of a pegged plank and part of a wooden bearing with wooden roller.

(c) A wooden tub recovered from the wet ditch in 1982 is now undergoing dendro-chronological dating at Sheffield University.

(d) Two preserved post bases from the (?) granary have been subject to carbon fourteen assay at Birmingham University, with the following results:

(i) 1054  $\pm$  70 AD

(ii) 971  $\pm$  70 AD

The stratigraphy of the site strongly suggests that the (?) granary was a primary building of the castle. The new evidence from the radiocarbon dates suggest either that the building is a pre-conquest survival, which seems extremely unlikely, or that the dates are from re-used timbers. It will be remembered that preserved timber of Bridge t from the motte ditch also appears to have been re-used (Barker and Higham 1982, 57).

### Publication Progress

The first volume of the final publication has been published since the 1982 season. Hen Domen, Montgomery: A Timber Castle on the English-Welsh Border, Vol. 1 by Philip Barker and Robert Higham was published in 1982 by The Royal Archaeological Institute (ISBN 0 903986 10 8).

### Acknowledgements

The writers would like to thank all who assisted, especially Sean Coddard, Jeremy Barker and Christopher Kelland. The University of Birmingham administered the two-week training school. The University of Exeter loaned much equipment, as well as making a substantial financial grant. The Tanner family of Montgomery provided varied and invaluable help. Finally we are grateful to the owner of the site, Mr John Wainwright for his continuing encouragement.

P.A. Barker, Dept. Extra-Mural Studies, University of Birmingham, and R.A. Higham, Dept. of History & Archaeology, University of Exeter.

3rd August 1983.

### THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

#### Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group (up to January 1984)

##### Archaeology

In October 1983 the Whitchurch group appointed Nick Wood as the Organising Secretary to the Archaeology section, with a view to organising some small excavations.

##### Photographs

The group now has a collection of 600 photographs, mostly negatives, and the collation and indexing of these has been completed.

##### Visits and Lectures

The group continues to have a varied programme of visits and lectures and has made some interesting finds, notably:

(1) The site of "The Old Eagles", Watergate, dated to at least 1400.

(2) The Old Garage, High Street dated to c1450, possibly called "The West Hall" in the late 16th century, near Yardington.

### FINDS

#### Shropshire County Museum Service - Recent Accessions

A quantity of stray finds and other archaeological material have been channelled to both Ludlow and Much Wenlock Museum in the past year. A short note on some of the most interesting discoveries follows -

Neolithic Stone Axe

A complete polished stone axe discovered at Cotton Farm, near Stoke-on-Trent was donated to Much Wenlock Museum, in November 1983, (accession number 55/82). This is a remarkably fine specimen belonging to a group of large implements known typologically as 'Cumbrian' axes. Macroscopic analysis by Professor Shotton (West Midlands representative of the CBA Implement Petrology), has confirmed that this is a Group VI specimen, originating from the Lake District. A full report on this and other Cumbrian axes from the Welsh Marches has been completed for publication (Darvill and Staelens, forthcoming).

Medieval Bronze Buckle from Much Wenlock

A metal detector enthusiast has presented a small buckle found at the Bull Ring, Much Wenlock, to the museum for identification (accession number 42/83). The buckle is bronze with an iron pin (now missing). It is a late medieval type used for general fastening purposes and occasionally for securing plate-armour, (for example, as depicted on the effigy of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick died 1439, in St. Mary's Church, Warwick). Similar buckles in the Museum of London collection, have been found with portions of ornamental leather straps attached (see London Museum Medieval Catalogue 4th impression 1975 p.197 and pl.LXXV). Buckles are notoriously difficult to date, however this example is typologically late 15th century or later. The buckle is now in the finder's possession.

Bronze Age Socketed Axe

A late Bronze Age socketed axe head found at Tetchill near Ellesmere may be a unique discovery in the county, (accession number 17/83). This artefact was recovered with a portion of haft still lodged within the socket. It is a remarkable survival due entirely to the waterlogged peaty context in which it was found. It is unfortunate that the wood was subsequently allowed to decay and hence could not be scientifically examined. However, this find does serve to indicate the sort of archaeological discoveries which may be found in the north Shropshire wetlands. Surely this area must be seen as a region of the county with enormous archaeological potential.

Iron Age Bead

A small glass bead found at Kynnersley Camp was passed to the County Museum Service for identification (accession number 26/83). The bead is of 'Oldbury' type. It is blue glass decorated with trailed and mavered opaque white spirals. It cannot be closely dated since such ornamental artefacts often continued in use for centuries; (for example, a re-used Iron Age bead now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, once formed part of an Anglo-Saxon necklace from Ducklington). With regard to dating, a similar 'Oldbury' type bead was excavated at the Breiddin hillfort, Powys, and assigned to the 1st century B.C. - 1st century A.D. The Kynnersley bead has been returned to the finder.

Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum.

PUBLICATIONS

Kirk, R. The Shropshire Way. Thornhill Press, 1983 £2.75

The Shropshire Way is a series of linked rambles around the county. Apart from its primary object of guiding walkers, the book is full of charming pen sketches of landscapes and buildings which will appeal equally to armchair hikers.

Edwards, J.F. Shropshire and the North Welsh Borders: walks for motorists, Warne, 1983 £2.50

The majority of the 30 walks in this book are in our county. They range in length between 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  and 9 miles, but most are around 5 miles long. Directions are clear, but the book lacks the illustrations and interesting notes of Kirk's book. It may, however, take you to places you would not otherwise find.

Morriss, R.K. Railways of Shropshire. Shropshire Libraries, 1983 £2.20

This is the first history of all the county's varied railways from pre-steam days to date. It is illustrated by 32 illustrations and 4 maps. The author has based his work on manuscript records and contemporary newspaper accounts as well as earlier studies of individual railways.

Klein, P. A guide to St Peter's church, Stanton Lacy. 1983 (0.90 post free from P.Klein, 32 Corve St., Ludlow, SY8 1DA).

One of Shropshire's most interesting parish churches is described in this new illustrated guide.

Ward, A.W. The bridges of Shrewsbury. Shropshire Libraries, 1983 (reprint of 1935 publication) £3.95.

A.W.Ward was the enlightened Borough Surveyor of Shrewsbury in the inter-war years during which time he was responsible for preserving many elements of traditional townscape when other towns and cities were being insensitively modernised. He was responsible for the rebuilding of the English Bridge, a most impressive undertaking which is recorded in this paperback reprint. Detailed histories of the old and new Welsh and English bridges are also contained in this definitive illustrated book which has long been out of print.

Philpott, B.M. A name, a man, a house. 1983 (£1.20 post free from Mrs B.M.Philpott, 3 Mornington Close, Shrewsbury).

This is a brief history of Oakley Manor, a handsome house in Belle Vue, Shrewsbury and the area immediately around it. Mrs Philpott has pieced together an interesting account of how part of suburban Shrewsbury was developed in the nineteenth century.

#### Newport, Shropshire, Past and Present

Mrs Ann Warner has collected hundreds of photographs, postcards and old prints of Newport and surrounding villages, contributed by families long established in the district, and from them has compiled a record of old Newport with modern photographs juxtaposed in many cases to illustrate changes. An introduction by Mr Elkes and explanatory captions add greatly to its interest.

Local tradespeople are shown and well-known local families but the interest is much wider than that as one can trace the development of transport and changing street scenes, developments in education and agriculture, recreation and fashion. National events are seen to touch the town - the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria and two ladies are shown en fete for the relief of Mafeking. Literary interest is aroused by a self portrait of Sarah Parker, the original of Miss Havisham whose pathetic story Charles Dickens heard of when he stayed in the town. Some early 19th century prints are reproduced and the earliest photographs are pre 1859.

The standard of printing and reproduction is high and the whole makes a very attractive book. It is printed by the Advertiser Printing Works, Newport. All proceeds from sales of the book are to go to Newport High School for Girls of which Mrs Warner is Deputy Headmistress. Copies at £3 are obtainable direct from the Headmistress, Newport High School, Wellington Road, Newport, Shropshire (postage and packing 40p extra). They are also on sale at many local outlets, including Shropshire Public Libraries.

#### Handbook of Shropshire Archaeology

The compilation of a Handbook of the county's archaeology is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the first issue will appear shortly. The Handbook is to be published by the County Museum Service and is edited by Yvette Staelens. The aim of this publication is to make available details of as many sources and resources for research into the archaeology of Shropshire as is possible. Further, it is intended that for the first time such information will be drawn together under one cover, thus aiding future development and research into Shropshire's past.

The Handbook will incorporate details of: local societies concerned with archaeology, museums with archaeological collections, adult education and basic information on research and fieldwork in the county. The first issue includes a Wroxeter bibliography compiled by Dr. Graham Webster. The initial handbook is an experiment. It is anticipated that future issues will improve upon the first and that it will be possible to incorporate details of work in progress in the county, completed research and perhaps suggestions for future projects which might be usefully undertaken.

Any enquiries regarding the Handbook should be addressed to: Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum, High Street Much Wenlock. TF13 6HR.

The Transactions

It is hoped that volume 64 of the Transactions will be published in spring 1985. The editor would welcome any articles which members of the Society wish to submit. In order to meet the publication deadline, articles should be sent to the editor by 30 June 1984 so that they may be considered by the editorial committee.

Richard Preston, 22 Stanhill Road, Radbrook Green, Shrewsbury SY3 6AL

COURSES AND CONFERENCESThe Institute of Industrial Archaeology.

In the Institute of Industrial Archaeology, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and the University of Birmingham co-operate in organising research and course programmes which will advance understanding of industrial history and archaeology, and provide the professional skills necessary for recording, conserving and managing industrial monuments and collections of artifacts. For details: Ring Ironbridge 2751.

Thursday 3 May: Period Paint - Special Finishes

A sequel to the two highly successful courses on the conservation of paintwork held during the last two years, considering varnishes, staining and lacquers. In conjunction with the Paint Research Association.

Building Conservation Trust: Hampton Court Palace. Director: Dr. Michael Stratton.

Saturday 5 May: Mills and Markets

The structural forms and architectural styles of two of the most characteristic building types of the industrial age. In association with the Shropshire Festival of Architecture 1984: Shrewsbury. Director: Dr. Michael Stratton.

Saturday 12 May: An Industrial Archaeological Expedition to South Wales

A visit which will encompass most of the principal monuments of the eighteenth and nineteenth century iron industry in South Wales, as well as tramways, working class houses and coal mines.

From Ironbridge and Kidderminster. Director: Dr. Barrie Trinder.

Thursday 31 May: Ironbridge at Attingham

A soiree combining a guided walk through Repton's landscape which incorporates traces of ironworks, and lectures on the historical links between Attingham and the ironmasters of Coalbrookdale.

Attingham Park, Shropshire. Directors: Dr. Michael Stratton and Dr. Barrie Trinder.

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 June: Water Power in Agriculture and Industry

A study of some of the varied applications of water power in Shropshire, and an extended tour of some of the most interesting mills. In association with the Shropshire Festival of Architecture 1984.

Ironbridge. Director: Dr. Barrie Trinder.

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 September: The Coalport Conference

The fifth in a series of annual meetings for collectors and historians of Shropshire ceramics, based at the Coalport China Works Museum.

Ironbridge. Director: Denis Blake Roberts.

Thursday 1 November: Quaker Industrialists

A study of the Darby and Reynolds families, John Bright and George Cadbury.

Ironbridge. Directors: John Punshon and Dr. Barrie Trinder.

Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 November: The History of Housing

A weekend seminar intended for people actively engaged on research into the history of housing in recent centuries.

Ironbridge. Directors: Dr. Jennifer Tann and Dr. Barrie Trinder.

Thursday 15 November: The New Light on the History of Waterways

A review of some recent developments in the investigation of the history of waterways, and of the ways in which historical and operational objectives can be reconciled during conservation work.

Ironbridge. Directors: Dr. Michael Stratton and Dr. Barrie Trinder



Friday 16 - Sunday 18 November: Agricultural History and Architecture

The third conference to be organised on the history of farming practice and buildings, and approaches to their conservation. Organised by the Department of External Studies, the University of Oxford, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.  
Oxford. Directors: Roy Brigden and Dr. Kate Tiller.

Friday 16 - Saturday 17 November: Marine Propulsion and Auxiliary Machinery

Development of steam engines, turbines and associated boiler plant, diesel and diesel-electric units and gas turbine systems. The evolution of auxiliary machinery such as generating plant, deck gear, refrigeration systems, etc. will also be considered. The second day is planned to include a ship visit.  
London. Director: David Spencer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trevor Rowley, Staff Tutor in Archaeology at the Department for External Studies, Rewley House, University of Oxford, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford, has expressed a wish to purchase complete volumes of the Shropshire Transactions between Volume 40 and 56.

Trevor is author of the Shropshire Landscape and a frequent visitor to the county to do archaeological fieldwork. He would be grateful if someone could assist.

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 June 1971. The first two days were spent in the laboratory, and the third day was spent in the field. The first two days were spent in the laboratory, and the third day was spent in the field. The first two days were spent in the laboratory, and the third day was spent in the field.

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Winter Meeting Programme 1984

No meeting on October 13th in view of the County Museum Day School at Shirehall on October 6th, to which members were invited.

Meetings will be held at 2.30 p.m. in Bear Steps unless otherwise stated.

Saturday November 10th: **TIMBER FRAMING ON THE MARCHES.**

Jim Tonkin F.S.A. (past president of the Vernacular Architecture Group).

A contribution to the 1984 Festival of Architecture.

Saturday December 8th: **POST ROMAN POTTERY OF THE WEST MIDLANDS - SOME RECENT RESEARCH.** Derek Hurst (Archaeology Department, Hereford and Worcester C.C.)

Saturday January 19th 1985: **MEMBERS' SLIDES AND SOCIAL MEETING.**

12.30 - 3.30 p.m. at The Gateway Centre, Chester Street.

Buffet lunch followed by short contributions. Cost £2.20.

(Please notify Meetings Secretary in advance if you are coming).

Saturday February 9th: **RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN POWYS.**

Chris Musson (Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust).

Saturday March 9th: **PAGAN SAXONDOM REVISITED.**

Chris Arnold (University of Aberystwyth Extra Mural Dept.)

For further information please contact -

Secretary: Yvette Staelens, Much Wenlock Museum, Much Wenlock, Shropshire.

Meetings Secretary: David Pannett, 53 The Oval, Bicton, Shrewsbury.

(tel: 850794 or 850773 Sat. a.m.).

SEE END SHEET FOR A TEAR-OFF FORM TO ENABLE NUMBERS FOR THE BUFFET LUNCH

TO BE CALCULATED.

Important Notices

THE SPAB BARNS CAMPAIGN

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has commenced a Domesday Survey of Barns throughout every County.

Volunteers, who require no special qualifications, are being asked to choose a local parish and complete a questionnaire for each traditionally built barn in that parish. If you would like to join this enormous national exercise please contact:

Mrs. I. Ensum,

The Old Vicarage,

School Lane,

Highley.

Tel: Highley 861772

It is hoped that information from this survey will be channelled into the Sites and Monuments Record.

An Exhibition on Farm Buildings in Shropshire

Following a successful and extensive survey of farmsteads in Shropshire last year, under the aegis of the Sites and Monuments Record, an exhibition will be mounted in the Shirehall from 9th November - 16th November 1984 (inclusive). This will outline the origin and development of farmsteads, beginning with their archaeology and culminating with the present day situation and the problem of underuse and new uses. Interested members are cordially invited to view the exhibition and attend a seminar at 2 p.m. on the 9th November 1984. Editor.

Membership and Subscriptions:

I am asked to remind you again of three very important matters:

HAVE YOU COVENANTED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

HAVE YOU RECRUITED A NEW MEMBER?

CAN YOU FIND A VOLUNTEER FOR HONORARY TREASURER? (see attached report).

HONORARY TREASURER:

It was with deep regret that the Society accepted Mr H. Tranter's resignation as Treasurer of the Society at the Annual General Meeting in June. Bob Tranter took up this office over four years ago and his presence on Council will be sorely missed.

His successor has yet to be found. Hence the Society is seeking a member with suitable experience who would be willing to serve on Council in this position.

If you feel that you are able to offer your services I would be grateful if you would contact me as soon as possible.

Yvette Staelens, Secretary, c/o Much Wenlock Museum,  
High Street, Much Wenlock, TF13 6HR (Tel: Much Wenlock 727773)

Archaeology and Vernacular

Members will be aware that there is a continually growing core of organisations involved in full-time archaeology in the County.

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology encompasses an archaeological unit which excavates and records sites in the Shropshire Coalfield Area, and is undertaking a survey of the archaeological potential of the Severn Gorge. The four examples illustrated here show the scope of their work.

The Sites and Monuments record located in the County Planning Department grows apace in both buildings and sites. It is essential that detailed or partial records of both are lodged with this record, as until they are there can be no guarantee of continued protection through the legislative machinery of local government at District and County level.

The museums of Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock have continued to receive stray finds and have been involved in rescue archaeology, particularly in the content of skeletons which appear to be turning up in unprecedented numbers. Recent sites include the Bullring and Barrow St., in Much Wenlock, St Austins Friars and the Music Hall in Shrewsbury.

Of special importance are the excavations being undertaken at the Carmelite Friary, Corve St., Ludlow, where the 12th century levels remain to be tackled. An excavation of Wat's Dyke at Pentrehyling began on Monday 1st October undertaken by the University of Birmingham Archaeological Unit.

Lastly we must not forget the sterling work being done by members of the Society in their chosen contexts.

Editor.

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust - Institute of Industrial Archaeology.LIGHTMOOR FURNACES (SJ 681053)

The site of one of the earliest ironworks in the Ironbridge Gorge was subject to archaeological investigation February - May 1984. Known as 'Lightmoor Furnaces', the ironworks was built by a partnership of local colliers by 1758, and is contemporary with but now far less intact than the preserved 'Bedlam Furnaces' built by the Madeley Wood Company. During its working life the ironworks expanded from one original blast furnace until three were in use by 1796. The works were later taken over by the Homfrey and Addenbrooke families, and were ultimately acquired by the Coalbrookdale Company in 1839 - by this time the ironworks comprised a small foundry with nearby coal and ironstone mines, clay pits and two rows of workers cottages - in addition to the three furnaces. The furnaces were eventually blown out in 1883, and during the last 100 years the abandoned site has not only been progressively demolished but also deeply buried beneath spoilheaps from the nearby Lightmoor Brickworks. The coke hearths area behind the furnaces bank was open-cast to provide earth for road construction work in Telford in the 1970s and by 1984, the only surviving surface remains were part of the stable block and an area of the furnaces - including a DOE Gr.2 listed portion of furnace brickwork.

In January 1984, the IGMT Archaeology Unit was informed that the site might be threatened by the future Ironbridge by-pass, and limited excavation work was carried out to determine the extent and depth of buried archaeological remains - and to establish how much of the complex might be affected by the road-scheme. A report is now being compiled on the results of the archaeological work, but an interim

conclusion is that most of the furnaces area and the foundry area are much more deeply buried under brickyard waste than first thought, and fortunately few of the remains seem likely to be destroyed by road. Some structures will be sealed beneath the level of the road, but the most important surviving part - the furnaces will be unaffected, and may eventually be conserved and landscaped as a roadside feature.

Julian C. Temple, Archaeological Supervisor. 19.9.84

#### BENTHALL - TOBACCO PIPE KILN

SA 3826

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit has just completed a small excavation to recover seventeenth century tobacco pipe kiln waste at Benthall (SJ 663019, SA 17219). The site was discovered during building works when large quantities of waste pipes were uncovered, and a small excavation mounted to recover a sample.

The pipes are attributed to Henry Bradley and date to c 1660-90. Preliminary analysis shows that he used at least fifty different stamps to mark his pipes - a quite unparalleled number. In some cases he has stamped a decorative pattern on the back of the bowl facing the smoker, and many different bowl shapes were produced.

Although the kiln was not located, large quantities of muffle were recovered. The muffle was a chamber built within the kiln which was used to protect the pipes from the naked flames during firing. The muffle fragments show that it was built of clay reinforced with waste pipe stems, and tapered towards a dome-like top. In the top was a circular opening through which the pipes could be loaded. Few muffles have ever been excavated, and this will add nationally important information about kiln technology, especially since this is the first excavated example of kiln waste from the famous Broseley industry.

D.A.Higgins, Senior Archaeological Supervisor. 17.9.84

#### SALTHOUSES: JACKFIELD

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit is currently carrying out a small excavation on the riverbank at Jackfield (SJ 689028). This area, just east of the Jackfield fault is suffering from major subsidence, and is in danger of being swept away by the river. During the eighteenth century waste from the Jackfield potteries was dumped here, and it is this waste which is proving to be of such importance.

The waste shows that fine quality white saltglazed stoneware was being produced. Developed in Stoke in the 1720s this was one of the most important eighteenth century ceramic types, and until 1981 was not thought to have been produced outside Staffordshire. The finds include a wide range of forms and show that cut, moulded, sprigged and scratch-blue decoration were all being produced. In addition chunks of calcined flint show that flint grinding (a constituent of the pottery) must have been taking place on the site.

The finished products are indistinguishable from those produced at Stoke, and show that a skilled labour force was developed. Together with the flint grinding mills this provides two good reasons why the porcelain factories at Caughley and Coalport were able to set up here later in the eighteenth century. It is hoped that the excavation will provide a series of the forms produced together with more accurate dating for them.

D.A.Higgins, Senior Archaeological Supervisor. 17.9.84

#### JACKFIELD - Craven Dunnill Tileworks (SJ 686029)

The IGMP Archaeology Unit has recently been investigating the site of the former Victorian tileworks originally built in 1875 for the Craven Dunnill Company in Jackfield. The tileworks was in production until 1952, when it was taken over by Marshall Osbourne & Co Ltd and converted into a foundry and engineering works.

Acquired by IGMP early in 1982, the relatively complete tile factory is now being returned to its original external appearance, whereas the interior is being adapted for museum purposes.

The Archaeology Unit has been monitoring this adaptive re-use of the site, and as well as making a photographic survey, has carried out several excavations both to record threatened archaeological remains and to aid museum interpretation by placing the restored tileworks in their historical context.

The first excavation took place in July 1983, intending to confirm the documentary evidence for earlier potteries on the site; maps of 1845 and 1846 showed the position of the "Ash Tree Pot Works" with three bottle kilns and associated buildings - all of which were (supposedly) totally demolished by 1871. The result of the

excavation was the discovery of foundations of a bottle kiln probably in use from at least 1800 until the 1860s. The kiln base measured approximately 11 metres diameter, and had at least 9 ash-pits radiating from the central oven area; however, several phases of alteration or reconstruction to the oven itself have complicated proper interpretation of the whole kiln. Excavation also established that after the demolition the remains were buried beneath layers of clay, brick rubble and also contemporary pottery and tile waste, before being finally sealed beneath brick and concrete floors. The presence of 'mocha-ware' pottery in these layers is notable because its production in Jackfield had not previously been recorded. The tiles found were mostly undecorated red, grey or buff-coloured floor and wall tiles, made both by Craven Dunnill & Co and also earlier partnerships such as Hargreaves & Craven, and Hawes, Denny & Hargreaves - all identifiable by stamps on their reverse.

For the summer season of 1984, the kiln base has been on temporary display to the public, and it is to be hoped that this remnant of the "Ash Tree Pottery" will in future be consolidated and put on permanent display.

Secondly an abortive attempt was made in October 1983 to locate any earlier 18th century levels slightly further east of the first trench. A large area (approx. 17m x 3m) was opened up through an existing concrete floor, but apart from the discovery of a 19th century circular brick structure (3m diameter) of unknown function, and some very compact layers of 19th century tile waste, little else of significance was found. The 18th century stratigraphy in this area at least was disappointingly shallow, before natural clay was reached.

Finally during the summer of 1984, part of the Archaeology Unit has been examining the site of the row of 4 large bottle kilns built for the Craven Dunnill Tileworks, these being depicted in an engraving of 1875. The need for a 1 metre wide drainage trench to be located along the north side of the area of the kilns provided an opportunity for archaeological excavation. The results of this recent work are still being written up, but the general conclusion is that 3 out of the 4 kiln bases may still exist beneath a thick concrete floor. No trace was found of the largest kiln at the east end of the row but two-thirds of the adjacent kiln were uncovered - complete with a complex system of flues and a central 'well-hole' and tunnel leading to a chimney outside the building - all indicating that this was a 'downdraught' kiln. The remains of this kiln are unfortunately incomplete as a deep concrete pit was dug near the centre by Marshall Osbourne & Co. Ltd.

The future of this area of the tileworks has yet to be finalised but the open area excavation of the 2 unexcavated bottle kiln bases is to be recommended if there is to be any major redevelopment.

J.C. Temple, Asst. Archaeological Supervisor. 12.9.1984

Shropshire County Museum Service - Recent Discoveries

Archaeological items recently accessioned and identified by the Museum Service include a fine Medieval Pendant from a Staffordshire site and a small collection of coins dug up in a garden in Much Wenlock.

Medieval Pendant (MW 17/84): A metal detector user from Telford (Mr Dummelow) recently discovered a small bronze pendant at Chillington Hall in Staffordshire and presented it to Much Wenlock Museum for identification.

The pendant is lozenge shaped with a small suspension loop. It measures 4.85 cms in length with a maximum width of 3.3 cms. It is made from a bronze alloy, inlaid with coloured enamels. The design depicts a bird with a nest containing three young. The bird appears to be plucking at her breast. I am grateful to Dr. Cox of the Victoria County History Office for pointing out that the subject is probably a 'pelican in her piety' a popular Medieval religious motif symbolising the shedding of Christ's blood. The pelican's preening behaviour led to the Medieval belief that she was actually plucking at her breast in order to nourish her young with her blood, hence the Christian allegory.

Decorated pendants such as this were a regular feature of horse-furniture and were attached to the harness in various ways. This example was probably suspended from a fitting attached directly to a leather strap. Pendants were in use from at least the 13th century. This one cannot be precisely dated but may have been manufactured sometime between the 13th and 15th centuries. It is currently on loan to the museum.

### 17th Century Coins from Much Wenlock (MW 7/84 and MW 9/84)

A small collection of coins recently came to light when a Mr Crump was excavating for a new drive at his home in Racecourse Lane. Two of the coins are common, a Victorian penny and a George III halfpenny, the other three are decidedly uncommon dating to around the period of the Civil War.

The first of these is a Charles I silver shilling with a pointed star mint mark. This indicates that it was produced at the Tower mint in London sometime between 1640 and 1641. The second coin is a silver half-groat dating to the Commonwealth period (1649 - 1660), and the final coin is a Charles II copper farthing. Neither coin has a mint mark and cannot thus be precisely dated.

The context of these coins is intriguing, and may not be readily explained. Has someone discarded part of their coin collection in a Wenlock garden, or is this a contemporary loss for which some 17th century personage was severely scolded? All coins have been returned to the finder.

Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum.

### Shrewsbury Borough Museum Service, Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury

A number of chance finds have been accessioned during recent months, some of the more important ones are listed here:

Bronze Palstave from Little Oxon Farm, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury. Brought in by a metal detector enthusiast and subsequently donated by the landowner. A badly corroded unlooped shield-pattern palstave of Middle Bronze Age date. The find has been conserved and accessioned under A84/005.

Bronze Palstave from Ollerton near Wem. Discovered by the farmer on land adjoining the River Tern at Ollerton, 'some years ago'. The Middle Bronze Age palstave is interesting for possessing a double trident-pattern on one blade face and a single pattern on the reverse. The find was subjected to metallurgical analysis at Oxford University and a full report will be published in the 1984 volume of the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.

Half-crown of Charles I - the Museum selected one example of a Shrewsbury mint half-crown of Charles I from the Priorslee Hoard, Telford which was subsequently purchased from the British Museum, Accession Number A84/003. This coin is an important addition to the museum's Mint collection which is currently undergoing cataloguing and restorage in mahogany coin cabinets.

Work continues at the Museum on the improvement of the storage and documentation for the archaeological collections. A programme of conservation work, beginning with the Wroxeter Roman bronzework has begun using the laboratories recommended by the Area Museum Service.

The substantial collection of Roman pottery has been moved into new storage. The complete vessels are now housed in steel cupboards and the fragments are now housed in acid-free boxes in the main archaeological store.

The Museum archaeologist was involved, along with Yvette Staelens, Secretary of the Society, in the emergency recording of the discovery of human remains at St. Austin's Friary, Shrewsbury. The discovery was a notable one for it included an inscribed gold finger-ring, this was identified by the British Museum as early 15th century. A full report will be published in Transactions.

Bruce Bennison, Archaeologist, Rowley's House Museum.

### Baschurch and Perry Valley Field Project

A watching brief on the Perry is only one aspect of a field survey of this part of the Upper Severn Valley, (Bayliss 1982/3) but nearly all resources have been directed to the area in 1984.

#### Background - Improvement of the River Channel.

A detailed report of sites located and an appraisal of the value of this type of work will have to await an anticipated run-down of the improvement work during the winter months, when less time will need to be spent in the field and more research will need to be undertaken (Thomas 1983). This note will therefore be confined to a basic explanation of why the fieldwork needs to take place and some of the results to date.

The deepening of the river channel by Severn Trent Water Authority necessitates the removal of topsoil from the adjacent meadows so that when the spoil from the channel is deposited and spread, the topsoil can be replaced over it. The process obviously eradicates any earthwork features and other indications of past landscape development; it may also reveal unknown sites. It is necessary to take photographs



before the work commences so that a record of the landscape is preserved, and to walk the meadows and study documentary and cartographic sources in an effort to locate sensitive areas. A watching brief is then kept as the work proceeds and a record made of previously unsuspected sites as well as the position of old channels and water-courses of both natural and artificial origin. Flimsy as some of the evidence of occupation or land use may be, the knowledge must be preserved, not only for the local record, but in the wider context to add to the knowledge of early activity in the Avon and Severn Valleys and their tributaries, (Hunt 1982).

#### The Fieldwork

The underpinning of the bridges affords the opportunity to record structural detail at foundation level, which may not be obvious from study of available documents, and evidence for the use of a site as a crossing point at an earlier date can be sought. The timber footings beneath Telford's bridge at Ruyton (Platt Bridge) were photographed, and industrial waste noted under the Railway Bridge at Wykey, which had been used as ballast.

The remains of fish weirs and mill leats have been recorded, and also the composition and position of weir banks, so that some record is preserved of the water supply to early mills (Major 1975), although much fieldwork in this direction has been done on the Rea Brook (Wharton 1978).

In the meadows through Ruyton XI Towns several sites were located, including the foundations of a timber building at Platt, and activity on a possible medieval Quay.

Some fieldwork has already been done to the North in Hordley Parish and on Baggy Moor, and a map prepared showing the position and relationship of known finds, sites and settlements to the drift deposits of the area.

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#### Vernacular Architecture

Research and recording work in the field of Shropshire's vernacular architecture continues. Recent notable discoveries include ...

Shootrough Farm, Cardington. Two bays of cruck hall survive, complete with an arch-braced collar-beam central truss. A later box-framed wing was added c. 1600 which had traces of original wall-paintings - now destroyed apart from fragments on the uprights in a redecoration undertaken without professional advice. Other interesting features included a cast-iron 'cloam' oven and a row of goose-pens with hen-houses above also now destroyed. This building was unlisted but eventual listing did little to improve matters.

Home Farm, Leighton. This has a crown-post roof in the crosswing. The bracing is in the traditional Shropshire fashion with curved down-swinging lateral braces. The longitudinal braces are cusped on the outer edge.

17-19 High Street, Clun. In this cruck house the central truss had evidence for a low horizontal beam, the purpose of which is not fully understood but for which suggestions have been made. The deviation occurs in six known Shropshire examples and has promoted an examination in some detail. (see Vernacular Architecture, Vol 15, 1984, forthcoming).

Catherton Cottage, Cleobury Mortimer. This was one of the examples where the deviation occurred. The house also displayed fine cusped decoration on the central truss. Situated as it is in an area associated with subsistence farming and squatters' cottages, the house represents the other side of the Clee Hills economy: wealth derived from early extensive sheep runs and arable farming.

Munslow Farm. A remarkable set of painted cloths - 'poor man's tapestry' - survived in this house where they were clearly made for a new parlour wing of c. 1660/70. We invited comment from various experts, most of whom were astonished at the evidence and rendered speechless. The theme of the cloths has been copied and is on display at Blakesley Hall, Yardley, Birmingham, (part of the City of Birmingham Museum Dept.)

Lower Farm, Aston Munslow. A box-framed medieval hall-house, complete with spere-truss, louvre opening and open central truss with low-reaching arch-braces is encapsulated within the later farmhouse. It is hoped to record this fully next year.

The Guildhall, Ludlow. During recent repairs to the Guildhall it was possible to examine the remains of the medieval posts which are usually concealed within 18th century woodwork. From the evidence of mortices on the posts it is now possible to prove that the medieval Palmers' Guildhall was a fully aisled building, the only example of this form known in Shropshire. It is hoped to publish the Guildhall paper next year. It is unfortunate that the repairs were carried out in such a way that some of the vital evidence of the medieval build is now lost.

The above buildings are only a fraction of those examined during the last three years. The cruck count for Shropshire is now 195, those noted since 1981 are...

Stottesdon, Chorley, Lower Farm, house and barn  
 Ellesmere Rural, Dick Whittington's Cottage  
 Ellesmere Rural, Dudleston, Sodylt Farm  
 Whitchurch Urban, 6 Dodington  
 Whitchurch Urban, Watergate, The Old Eagles (Base Cruck)  
 Whitchurch Urban, Church St., Horse and Jockey (Upper Crucks)  
 Whitchurch Rural, Ash, Ash Grove  
 Shrewsbury, Claremont Buildings, No.1 (Upper Crucks)  
 Little Wenlock, Rose Cottage  
 Montford, No.2, Forton  
 Hodnet, Drayton Road, No. 20  
 Clun, Little Hospital, No. 2  
 Clun, Clun Farm (possibly two cruck units at right angles)  
 Much Wenlock, Barrow St, nos. 26 and 27  
 Neenton, Hall Farm, house and barn  
 Bitterley, Middleton, Quarry Farm, house and barn  
 Aston Munslow, No. 7  
 Cardington, Shootrough Farm  
 Diddlebury, Little Sutton  
 Marchamley, Old School House  
 Greete, Lower Cottage  
 Oswestry, Maesbury, The Fields, barn (was house)  
 Eaton-under-Heywood, Wolverton (Upper crucks in added crosswing)  
 Mainstone, Cwm Colbatch, byre  
 Ludlow, Church St., Rose and Crown  
Houses which have been fully recorded recently include....

Shootrough, Cardington  
 Sibberscot Barn (now collapsed)  
 Catherton Cottage  
 East Farm, Crickheath  
 The Old Eagles, Whitchurch  
 Wolverton  
 18-19 Drayton Road, Hodnet  
 17-19 High St., Clun  
 Lower Brook House, Clee St, Margaret  
 Smithy House, Ruyton-XI-Towns  
 The Rectory, College St., Ludlow (very detailed recording by H.Hand)  
 Brand House, Brand Lane Ludlow  
 Tudor House, Lower Corve St., Ludlow  
 St. John's House, Ludlow  
 62 Corve St., Ludlow  
 Usher's House, Mill St., Ludlow  
 St. Leonard's House, Upper Linney, Ludlow  
 4 High St., Ludlow  
 15 King St., Ludlow  
 The Blue Boar, Mill St., Ludlow  
 The Library, Old St., Ludlow  
Forthcoming publication - "Shrewsbury in old picture postcards".

It is hoped that this will be published before Christmas. It is one of a series published by European Library. The Newport and Ludlow volumes are already available, Oswestry is to follow.



Hen Domen: Interim Report 1984

This site on the Shropshire/Powys border has involved a long and continuous yearly excavation which members will recall has always been reported in the newsletter.

Three weeks work (30 June - 21 July) concentrated on the northern arc of the bailey rampart and the platform of Building L111 lying on the tail of the rampart. Building L111: Removal of this building platform unexpectedly revealed a group of very large boulders presumably derived from the digging of the ditches. While these boulders appeared at first to be laid in a rectangular arrangement, they had air spaces between them and were packed with the clay of the building platform, so that although their excavation is not yet completed, it seems most unlikely that they are the foundation of the building. They probably fill up the steep slope of the pre-castle surface, or perhaps a specific hollow such as a quarry, hollow way or lynchet. The underlying contours of the site at this point may relate to the lay-out of the pre-castle field system but further work is necessary to reveal this in greater detail. The deep pit (1017) in the rampart crest excavated some years ago revealed the buried soil several feet below the present level of excavation in the rampart tail, so that the pre-castle ground surface must drop away steeply to reach the level of the field outside.

The Granary: Excavation of the western edge of the platform of Building L111 revealed that during the castle's occupation an accumulation of silt washed down the bailey slope had collected against the edge of the platform. This had sealed the post-pits of the eastern wall of the granary, which had themselves cut through part of the pre-castle buried soil. Excavation of the three remaining post-pits revealed that the builders had dug the pits situated up the slope more deeply than those downhill, so that the bottoms of the pits were level to within 10cms. This was also noted in the 1983 excavation, and may suggest a degree of pre-fabrication, which perhaps incorporated re-used timbers. It will be remembered that the base-timber of motte bridge T was also re-used from an earlier (pre-castle?) structure and evidence from elsewhere on the site suggests that re-use of timbers was common.

The Rampart: Approximately two-thirds of the rampart (some thirty metres) was lowered about half a metre, and recorded in a series of five running sections. A compact layer of stones occurred consistently around the tail of the rampart. This was perhaps the result of heavier material rolling downhill during the rampart's construction, though it may have been deliberately laid to consolidate the back of the defences. Within the body of the rampart there were various clay dumps, but as yet no clear pattern of construction has emerged. The excavation revealed the post-pits of two palisade post-holes excavated in earlier seasons, as well as three new post-holes on the crest of the rampart. It is not clear whether the stages by which features in the rampart are revealed are an accurate reflection of the stratigraphy, or whether variations in wet and dry conditions at the time of excavation may confuse our understanding of the relative chronology. This problem is also complicated by the apparent replacement of palisade timbers, which is suggested by the siting of some features immediately above others. The post-holes revealed in 1984 seem to represent timbers placed in the body of the rampart during its construction rather than dug through it. Only total excavation of the defences will reveal further details of their development. The deep pit (1017) excavated some years ago was flanked by two of the newly discovered post-holes. Two large post-pits were also discovered lying immediately behind it, and dug through the clay and boulder platform described above. It is possible that these features represent a quadrangular structure incorporated in the defences and with the deep pit (which cut through the rampart and buried soil into the otherwise undisturbed boulder clay) in its basement. Such a structure is most likely to have been a mural tower, an interpretation supported by its situation where the northern rampart turns through its sharpest angle.

The Finds: The excavation confirmed our previous impression that the earliest levels of the castle contain few artefacts. Three weeks' excavation produced a small handful of sherds and a few scraps of iron. A pig skeleton had been buried in the rampart, and there were fragments of bone from elsewhere on the site. A sherd of Romano-British pottery probably came from the fort at Fordon Gaer. Fragments of a quern stone and of an early medieval tile await further examination.

The tub excavated in 1982 had now undergone dendrochronological dating by Ruth Morgan. It certainly dates from after 1049, and the most likely date for its manufacture is the late eleventh century. It is impossible to know the useful life of such a vessel, in addition to which the good condition in which it was found suggests it

was lost rather than thrown away. The implication for the history of the castle is that the bailey ditch at this point was not recut at a late stage, as had previously been assumed. The mud which accumulated in its bottom must have made a useful contribution to its effectiveness. This situation contrasts with that in the motte ditch, which was recut a number of times.

P.A. Barker, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, Birmingham University.

R.A. Higham, Dept. of History & Archaeology, Exeter University.

#### The Work of Local Groups

Shropshire is endowed with a considerable number of historic and archaeological groups. Not all local history societies are represented here and members who are also members of these groups should contact the editor of the newsletter so that the activities of their group can be reported.

Newport and District History Society: It is encouraging to note that this newly-formed group, under the leadership of Heather Williams, is not content to work solely from documents but has embarked on a programme to investigate the town's buildings. Already some interesting discoveries have been made including what seems to be post-reformation development on the site of the old St. Mary's College. The architectural evidence suggests that a row of timber-framed shops, jettied towards the street and having living quarters above was situated on the site of nos. 20-24 St. Mary's Street.

Ludlow Historical Research Group: The group met regularly on Friday evenings from September 1983 to April 1984. There were 40 subscribing members with weekly attendance ranging from 35 to 15.

Some members have been analysing the material transcribed in previous years. Analysis of over 500 pre-1660 wills is now almost complete. Six members have been processing the 10th and early 19th century Easter Books, in which annual payments of church rates were recorded. These give the status and occupation of all tax payers. Analysis of voting lists of the 1830s and of a list of relief to the poor in 1817 is now complete. Two members have been working on scrapbooks of printed ephemera of the 1820s and 1840s, kindly loaned by the Museum, and others have made a study of the Workhouse in the 1750s.

Work continues on earlier original documents. The Corporation Register of leases for the 1660-1720 period is now almost all transcribed onto file cards. A large number of 17th century tax assessments have been transcribed including the Ship Money assessment of 1635. Several members have continued to work on probate inventories and we hope to complete the full Ludlow collection in 1984-85. The Powis papers, photocopied from the originals at the National Library of Wales, continue to yield important information on domestic and commercial life. Portions transcribed include medical prescriptions used by the Fox family at Bromfield. Two fascinating lists of books are also being processed.

Two important purchases have been made with Group funds. We now own a complete set of the 1:500 O.S. maps of Ludlow, published in 1885. These are an indispensable base for serious work on burgage plots and the town plan. The availability of a microfilm copier at the Local Studies Library in Shrewsbury has also enabled us to obtain portions of the 1851 census and a complete social and demographic analysis of the town in that year is now in hand.

An on-going task over the last four years has been the transcription of the Church Wardens' Accounts from 1577. Selections from these were published many years ago in the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society but a full transcription is needed for serious analysis. Records of Borough and other courts, preserved at the County Record Office, have been catalogued and in part transcribed during the summer.

Publication of Ludlow Research Paper No.5, on the Feathers has been delayed due to difficulties in interpreting this complicated building. Some of the material assembled by the Group was used in Ludlow: a Historic Town in Words and Pictures by David Lloyd and Peter Klein, which was published in June. More of the Group's findings will be incorporated in a two volume History of Ludlow, also to be published by Phillimore. The first volume, covering the period up to 1660, is now being prepared by David Lloyd and Michael Faraday. Members of the group have also written a new Ludlow Guide Book, published by the Chamber of Commerce, and a history of the Ludlow Festival. Members of the Group spent a great deal of time and energy collecting money to help finance the 350th anniversary of John Milton's Comus but were sad that certain features of the production lacked historical authenticity.

Members of the Group have been asked to give talks and to contribute to conferences in many parts of the country. In September the Chairman was the guest of the University of Buffalo, U.S.A., when 16 speakers contributed to colloquia on John Milton and Comus. As in 1983, the town tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons attracted about 1,000 visitors while groups spending a day or a half day in the town as our guests included Exeter Civic Society, the Birmingham branch of the Geographical Association and a party from Minnesota University, U.S.A.

Throughout the year members of the Group have given financial and menial help to the Archaeological Field Unit of Birmingham University, who have been excavating on part of the site of the Carmelite Friary in Corve Street. An interim report of the findings of this group will appear in the next issue of this news letter. Students associated with the Unit have recorded a number of the town's timber-framed buildings, including No. 15 King Street, parts of which seem to date from the 14th century, including an undercroft. Drawings have been made of buildings recorded during the summer of 1983, including the Rectory, which has an early collar-rafter roof.

New members are welcome at our weekly documentary meetings, held at the Further Education Centre in Lower Galdeford from 7.30 p.m. There is no fee but all members subscribe £1.50 a term towards the cost of room hire. Further details are obtainable from the Secretary, Margaret Shaw, Cliffdene, Dinham, Ludlow. (Tel: 0584/2850).

David Lloyd, Chairman.

#### Richards Castle Historical Research Group

The monthly meetings of this group, which had been held for some years, had to be discontinued in 1983-84, but six members of the group joined the Ludlow Historical Research Group though working on Richards Castle documents. Nearly all the pre-1660 wills at the Herefordshire Record Office have been transcribed and a start has been made on the difficult process of landscape reconstruction, using title deeds and other evidence. A planned settlement with standardised burgage plots has been identified on either side of the main Leominster road south of the Castle Inn. In the Middle Ages this was known as Blethelowe and one of the burgages was held by the Palmers' Guild of Ludlow.

This year the group is meeting under the leadership of David Lloyd on alternate Wednesday evenings at the Village Hall.

#### Cleobury Mortimer Historical Research Group

A small group was formed in October 1983 and ten meetings were held during the year. Some members worked on 18th century maps of Cleobury Mortimer, another on probate inventories and a third on 19th century trade directories and census returns. A sub-group of members from Neen Sollars worked on many aspects of the history of that parish.

This year the group is meeting on alternate Wednesdays at the Methodist Church Hall under the leadership of David Lloyd. As well as continuing work already started, it is hoped to use title deeds and other sources to reconstruct some of the town's tenurial history. The parish registers, which are unusually informative on occupations and other aspects of social history, will also be analysed during the year.

#### Telford Historical and Archaeological Society

Winter Programme 1984/5: The lecture meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise stated, at the Christian Centre, Dawley, at 7.30 p.m. and include the following which may be of interest to members:

Thursday 4th October 1984

"Oakengates - Then and Now". Slides and anecdotes on the past and present of Oakengates by Richard Bifield and Moses Evans.

Thursday 6th December 1984

"Heraldry". A talk to be given by Adrian Bayley of Preston Montford Field Studies Centre.

Thursday 3rd January 1985

"History of Coalport Works". The talk to be given by Roger Edmundson.

Wednesday 6th February 1985

Kevin Down will give a talk on Richard III. A topical subject in the 500th Anniversary year of the death of a much maligned king.

Saturday 9th March 1985

A half-day school is to be held on the "History of Transport" at the America Room, Ironbridge.

**Archaeological and Fieldwalking Group:** Now that the route of the new Ironbridge Bypass has been settled, the Society has obtained permission to walk the route. The Bypass will leave the Castlefields Roundabout south of Dawley, skirt Little Dawley and Lightmoor, cross Stoneyhill at the top of Jiggers Bank and sweep round over Coalmoor to emerge onto the Shrewsbury-Ironbridge road just beyond Buildwas Bridge. The group expect to find some industrial remains as the route crosses part of the old canal which ran from Lightmoor to Coalbrookdale, traversing land at the top of the old wind. Bob Cromarty will be leading the group in the fieldwalking and anyone interested in helping should contact him at 3 Beech Drive, Shifnal. (Tel: Telford 461184).

**Architectural Recording:** The Society has been assisting one of its members, Mr Michael Guppy, who is a student at Birmingham School of Architecture, in his study of C19th cottages on the Lilleshall Estate. Help has been given in providing background material and surveys. Mr Guppy's research will be of value to the Society as well as providing him with a study which will be presented as part of his course work.

**Documentary Research:** A class was held by Bob Cromarty for Society members wishing to study old Court Hand writing. An enthusiastic group met at the home of John Pagett in September and having received some instruction in reading the old hand, went on to look at wills and inventories of the C17th. It is hoped that follow-up classes will take place and that members will be able to do their own research work and possibly transcribe some old documents.

### Border Counties Archaeological Group

**Winter Programme - 1984/85 of interest to SAS members:**

Thursday 15th November 1984 "Recent Work on the Dykes" - talk by Dr. David Hill of Manchester University. In the Council Chamber, Parish Hall, Chirk (on the A5, nearly opposite the AAA Social Club - car parking at the rear).

Wednesday 5th December 1984 "The Mary Rose" - by Lieut. W.H.A. Davies, R.N., who is a presenter for the Mary Rose Trust. To be followed by the AGM. At Yale 6th Form College, Crispin Lane, Wrexham.

Wednesday 23rd January 1985 "Chirk Castle and the National Trust" by Mr V.B. Keen, Administrator of Chirk Castle. At the Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry.

Wednesday 20th March 1985 "The Victoria History of Shropshire" by Mr A.C. Baugh (Editor), Shirehall, Shrewsbury. At Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry.

**Oswestry Town Wall.**

**Oswestry: The Historical Question**

Oswestry is identified from the earliest years as a border town. It was in the respective reigns of Henry III and Edward I that Welsh and border towns were enclosed by circuit walls during the English campaigns of conquest and consolidation. Documentary evidence attests to the building of Oswestry's medieval town wall in 1277-1278 during the sixth year of Edward I's reign, immediately after the Welsh war of 1277.

**Existing Background:** Within the last one hundred years the medieval town wall of Oswestry has been seen only on rare occasions, mostly during reconstruction of buildings, sewer and mains maintenance. There has been a total of twelve sightings, the most recent in 1980 at the junction of Willow Street and Castle Street during sewer excavation and repair work. The town wall was known to run approximately along Welsh walls to Willow Street and its junction with Castle Street. Its line of direction from the last sighting in 1980, when its foundations were seen at a depth of three metres, was uncertain and a matter of considerable conjecture.

Three previous excavations to locate the town wall foundations, in 1979 and 1980, had been carried out over several weekends but had a negative result. In 1983 an area of land, in use as a car park, became scheduled for the construction of flats. For a period of five working weeks in December 1983 - January 1984 rescue excavations were conducted by the Border Counties Archaeological Group. The work took place through the courtesy of the Oswestry Borough Council and was made financially possible by the town's Civic Society, together with equipment and personnel from the Manpower Services Commission.

The Excavation: The first premise, that the line of direction which the wall took, followed east along Castle Street and turned into or beyond Chapel Street, to eventually conjoin with the Castle or its outer defences, the bailey.

The second premise, that the town wall, although initially taking the line of Castle Street, turned at some point south toward the Castle Street/Chapel Street car park.

If the first premise was accurate then, even though the wall could not be located, it provided a rare opportunity to examine an area immediately within the town wall's perimeter of the medieval period. If the latter was the case, then the foundations of wall would be exposed for detailed examination and the line of direction confirmed.

Excavation commenced on 12th December 1984 using a mechanical digger to establish a trial trench to test the modern and archaeological stratigraphy. Trench I, arbitrarily cut in the direction of Chapel Street from a central point within the car park, measured 1.5 metres wide by 2 metres deep, and ran for a length of 35.80 metres along an eastern alignment, parallel with Castle Street. At this point the Trench located a substantial stone structure and mechanical excavation ceased.

Intensive cleaning revealed an 8 metre length of sandstone wall, constructed in ashlar blocks of regular size and bonded in good quality mortar. The surface of the wall measured 2 metres in width and had a flat horizon, suggesting that it had been deliberately reduced to the level at which it was located. The size and orientation of the wall's line of direction, north/south towards the Castle-bailey, strongly indicated that the foundation of the Medieval Town Wall had been located. Confirmation of this theory was established during the excavation of the wall's construction trench when medieval pottery of the 13th century was recovered.

Due to the rapid location of the wall, area stripping east and west of the wall's foundations was commenced by machine. The view was held that if two larger areas were opened, one beyond the wall, and one within the wall, additional information relating to Oswestry's medieval background may be forthcoming. Foundations of several buildings were recovered in both areas, dating from the 19th, 18th centuries and late medieval period. Beneath the late medieval structure in the north section of the area west of the town wall, two almost complete animal skeletons, thought to be pigs, were removed and sent for identification.

On the last weekend of the excavations a machine cut trench located the moat, 1½ metres east of the town wall foundations. Four metres in length, the section could not be extended further east towards Chapel Street without disruption and danger to traffic. The view of the moat profile in the north section of the trench revealed a capping of mixed clay, soil and cobble, and eleven tip lines of backfill dump. At nearly 3 metres, the deepest point of the trench, the moat's profile was continuing to plunge at a steep angle. Without doubt the moat had been deliberately filled, and not allowed to silt up. Support for this theory is lent by the clay and rubble tip lines of dump, and the deliberate capping over the moat's top, prior to the construction of post-medieval houses.

From the section viewed in the machine cut trench, the central point of the moat must lie beneath Chapel Street, and its eastern edge under the Methodist Chapel.

A combination of adverse weather and time delayed the location of the natural deposits in the area of investigation west of, and within, the town wall's circuit and similarly, as with the moat, it was in the last days of the excavation that evidence of the earliest activity on the site came to light within this area.

Five post holes, once housing timber uprights, were located and from one of them two sherds of 11th century pottery were recovered. Four of the post holes ran on a north-south axis and were equidistant. It would be speculative to proffer an interpretation as to the purpose of the post holes without the further evidence, unlocated, that pressure of time made absent. However, what may be demonstrated is that activity existed, certainly in the 11th century, in an area well away from the site of the Castle, whose date of origin is uncertain. During the excavation over 100 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

Clearly, the archaeological implications for other areas scheduled for redevelopment in future years within the modern town core cannot be overstated.

Paul N. Reynolds.



Whitchurch Area Archaeological GroupWinter Programme 1984/5Lectures of interest to SAS members:

September 20th 1984

Bruce Bennison B.A., Archaeological Officer at Rowley's Museum, Shrewsbury - "The Archaeological Collection of Rowley's Museum".

November 15th 1984

Richard Hughes of Ash - "Farming in the early 1800s".

December 13th 1984

(2nd Thursday)

David Wilson M.A., Lecturer in Archaeology of the Extra-Mural Department of Keele University - "All the fun has gone out of Archaeology!" (N.B. This lecture will be held in the Caldicott Library by kind invitation of the Librarian, Mr Don Yuile).

January 17th 1985

Yvette J.E. Staelens B.A., Assistant Keeper, Much Wenlock Museum - "Flints and Bones - Recent Finds from Shropshire".

March 21st 1985

Joint meeting of Audlem District History Society, Malpas Field Club and Whitchurch Area Archaeological Society, to be held in the Edward German Room.

Norman Dore F.R.H.S., author of "Civil Wars in Cheshire" - "Parliamentary Campaigns during the Civil War in the Shropshire and Cheshire Borders".

April 18th 1985

Dr. David Hill Ph.D., Staff Tutor in Archaeology at Manchester University - "Offa's Dyke".

As in previous years, the monthly winter meetings will be held at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Lounge Bar of the Civic Centre, High Street, Whitchurch, with the exception of the December and March meetings, the venue of which has been mentioned above.

Courses and Conferences

As usual Birmingham University are offering a splendid selection of weekend conferences.

Weekend Courses at the University of Birmingham

Details of the following courses can be obtained from Miss J.M. Lawson, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT (021-472 1301 Ex. 2188).

Recent Progress at Wroxeter (Macellium site)

Day School, Saturday, 13th October 1984, Winterbourne.

Particular attention will be paid to the Civil Defences and recent problems.

Speakers: Donald Machreth, Graham Webster.

Origins and Development of the Medieval Village

Day School, Saturday 10th November 1984.

Birmingham and Midland Institute. In co-operation with CBA Group 8.

Speakers: Guy Beresford, Trevor Towley, Christopher Taylor.

Wroxeter: From Romans to Saxons - Third to Eight Century.

Day School, Saturday 24th November 1984, Faculty Arts.

Speakers: Philip Barker, Steven Bassett, Kate Pretty, Graham Webster.

Current work on the five centuries from the end of the great public buildings, through the transition from civitas capital to Anglo-Saxon village.

Third Annual Conference of Techniques of Archaeological Excavation: machine based and machine assisted post excavation techniques.

Saturday 8th December 1984, Faculty of Arts.

Food and Drink in Roman Times

Day School, Saturday 2nd February 1985, Winterbourne.

Various speakers.

The Prehistoric Artist

Day School, Saturday, 16th February 1985, Faculty of Arts.

Speaker: Aubrey Burl.

York: Then, Now and In the Future - A study in continuity.

Day School, Saturday, 2nd March 1985, Birmingham and Midland Institute.

In co-operation with CBA Group 8.

Speakers: Peter Addyman, Richard Hall, Derek Phillips.

West Midland Archaeology, 1984

Weekend non-residential conference, 16th, 17th March 1985, Faculty of Arts.

A round-up of research and rescue in the West Midlands during 1984.

The Archaeology of Prehistoric Rows, Avenues and Cursuses.

Weekend residential and non-residential conference.

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st April 1985 - Manor House, Bristol Road South, Birmingham 31.

Various speakers including Aubrey Burl.

Recent Recordings of Vernacular Architecture in the West Midlands.

Day conference, Saturday 27th April 1985, Faculty of Arts.

1985 Conference on Computer Applications in Archaeology - London.

Details from Institute of Archaeology, 31 Gordon Square, London WC1.

The Graham Webster Lecture

"Celts and Romans in Britain: Conflict and Continuity" - Faculty of Arts,

Friday 29th November 1985.

University of Oxford

We are indeed fortunate that the Department of Extra-mural Studies at the University of Oxford is within reasonable reach of Shrewsbury. There are some very exciting courses/conferences available this year.

Details for all the following courses are available from the Archaeology/Local History Course Secretary, Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA

Farm Buildings: Their History and Conservation

To be held at Rewley House 16th-18th November 1984 (weekend).

Historical Photographs - Bulmarsh College, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading.

Saturday 24th November 1984.

Medieval Moated Sites : Rewley House.

14th - 16th December 1984.

1830's Decade of Reform

Saturday 5th January 1985.

Dissolution and Resurrection - the Re-use of Monastic Buildings - Rewley House.

18th-20th January 1985.

Artist and Patron in Roman Britain - Rewley House

16th - 17th February 1985.

The Country House and the Local Historian

A day school to be held at Rewley House, Saturday 2nd March 1985.

The English Parish Church in the 11th and 12th centuries - Rewley House.

26th - 28th April 1985.

The Economy of Romano-British Villas

Rewley House, 3rd - 5th May 1985.

Planning and the Historic Environment - The Management of Monuments.

Rewley House, 1st - 3rd May 1985.

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology

Our own Institute of Industrial Archaeology and the University of Birmingham co-operate in organising research and course programmes which advance the understanding of industrial history and archaeology. Courses which would interest members are listed below and details are available from - The Institute of Industrial Archaeology, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire. TF8 7AW

Quaker Industrialists - A study of the Darby and Reynold Families, John Bright and George Cadbury.

Thursday 1st November 1984.

The History of Housing

A weekend seminar for people actively engaged on research into the history of housing in recent centuries.

Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th November 1984.

Preston Montford Field Centre

A course on Field Archaeology, a part of which will involve a detailed ground survey of the Berth at Baschurch or a threatened deserted medieval village. The course will be taken by Trevor Rowley.



Miscellaneous ItemsHandbook of Shropshire Archaeology

The first edition of this Handbook is now available. It incorporates details of as many sources and resources for research into the archaeology of Shropshire as is possible. Included are details of: local societies concerned with archaeology, museums with archaeological collections, adult education and basic information on where to start your archaeological research in Shropshire. As a bonus, Dr. Graham Webster has kindly allowed the inclusion of his Wroxeter Bibliography, and there are also details on the guardianship sites and monuments in the county.

Copies are available from: Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum, High Street, Much Wenlock. TF11 6HR. Price: £1.00 (cheque or postal order).

Fred Powell of Wheathill would like to contact some person(s) with experience of surveying who would be interested in doing instrument surveys of the DMV's in the vicinity of Wheathill. He would be prepared to assist. Anyone interested should get in touch with Fred Powell at Malthouse Farm, Wheathill, Bridgnorth.  
Tel. Burwarton 236.

The Members Social Meeting

I will be attending the members social meeting to be held at The Gateway Centre on Saturday January 19th, 12.30 - 3.30 p.m. and will require a buffet lunch.

Signature: .....

Address: .....

To be returned by January 9th 1985 to David Pannet, 53 The Oval, Bickton, Shrewsbury.

1944

Department of Psychology

The following information is for the use of the student who is planning to take the course in Psychology. The student should consult the course description in the course catalog for a complete description of the course. The student should also consult the instructor for any questions concerning the course.

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A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest.

Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Edited by Carole Ryan, B.Sc., M.A., 6 Church View, Preston Gubbals, Nr. Shrewsbury.

Tel: Shrewsbury 222332

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SUMMER MEETINGS PROGRAM 1985

This is on a separate coloured sheet so that you can affix it to a convenient spot for constant reference.

Please support the program as a great deal of work goes into compiling it and have an enjoyable time!

Editor.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND VERNACULAR

Again a varied pattern of activity in these fields is evidenced by the following reports. Of particular interest are the exciting developments which are taking place on the site of Shrewsbury Abbey and expectations run high for a thorough investigation and positive conservation proposals to run in tandem with the redevelopment of this site.

Editor.

INVESTIGATIONS AT THE ABBEY INFIRMARY BUILDING, SHREWSBURY

In March 1985 a watching brief was carried out during structural assessment work at the Abbey Infirmary Building in Bertram Edwards Timber Yard, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. The aim of this work, which was undertaken by the Highways and Transport Department of Shropshire County Council, was to ascertain the depth of the foundations of the Infirmary building so as to assess the effect on its structure of proposed adjacent road works. The operations were limited to the SW angle of the building and were closely archaeologically monitored throughout.

The building in question is the postulated Infirmary of Shrewsbury Abbey and its surviving fabric is largely C12 in date. It appears to have been situated at the W edge of the monastic precinct. The investigation showed that the foundations of the building lie 3m below present ground level, and consist of large, flat stones of red sandstone laid directly on top of a natural deposit of sand and gravel, with pockets of clay. It must be stressed, however, that only the base and foundations of the SW buttress of the building were located, but it seems likely that those of the rest of the building are at a similar depth, as the buttress appears to be contemporary with the main body of the building. The ashlar facing of the buttress was seen to survive in excellent condition at its base as compared to its much weathered condition higher up, where at one point its straight corner had been chamfered off to an angle, possibly to facilitate the laying of a later drainage pipe.

Running in a SE direction from the SW angle of the building was found a substantial stone wall, 75cm wide and extending for at least a length of 1.9m. The wall was constructed mainly of the same red sandstone as that of the Infirmary building, and bonded with mortar. Its W face, however, had a number of stones of white sandstone built into it, which could be the result of later repair work. This wall butted directly up to the S wall of the Infirmary but was not bonded into it. It also extended to the same depth as the Infirmary's SW buttress but only stood to a height of 1.75m, it having been levelled off at a point 1.25m below present ground level. The function of the wall is uncertain, but it seems probable from its alignment that it originally ran to join onto the NE corner of the Abbey mill which stood c. 4m S of the Infirmary on a NE-SW alignment. The wall may therefore be part of the monastic precinct wall joining together the Infirmary and Mill buildings, and in so doing forming a continuous physical barrier along the W side of the precinct.

Directly overlying the wall was a brick floor of probably C19 date, which is likely to be associated with a former building attached to the length of the S wall of the Infirmary and which is known to have stood till at least 1869. Part of the S wall of the building still survives, and is built largely of reused medieval masonry from the Abbey, together with C19 brick. It is clear from the floor level of this building that during the C19 the ground level was some 1.25m below that at present and the depth to which the foundations of the SW buttress of the Infirmary extend suggests

48 lines

68 lines

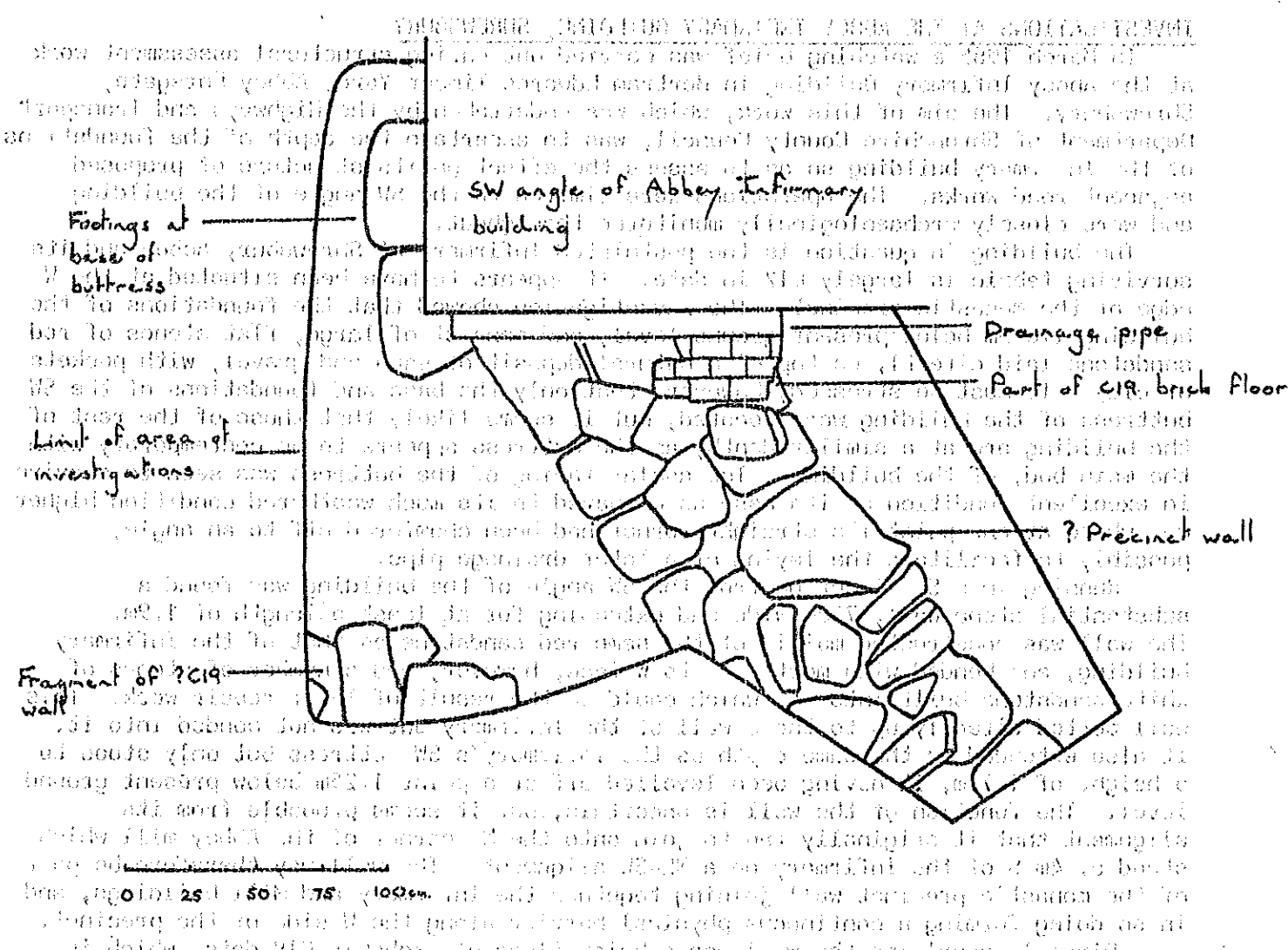
that at this point the medieval ground level may have been lower still. On the W side of the buttress and the possible precinct wall abutting it, natural ground was not found until a depth of 3m, directly below their foundations. Above this the deposits were entirely of made up ground, consisting of C19 building debris and which is probably the result of the construction of the nearby Shrewsbury Hereford railway line in 1850. Observations in 1984 below the railway viaduct 25m to the W showed made up ground of a similar character to that at the Infirmary extending to a depth of at least 5m. However, on the E side of the wall that leads SE from the Infirmary buttress, sand, gravel and clay deposits similar to that at the base of the buttress foundations were located immediately below the C19 brick floor at a depth of only 1.40m below present ground level.

A further wall was located 1.25m S of the Infirmary's SW buttress and on the W side of the ?precinct wall leading SE from it, to which it stopped 30cm short. This is unlikely, however, to be of any great antiquity as its base appeared to sit on the presumed C19 made up ground and was constructed of a mixture of red and white sandstone blocks of varying size. It was located 1.25m below present ground level and was at least 60cm wide.

This watching brief has served to confirm the good below ground archaeological potential of the precinct of Shrewsbury Abbey and has emphasised its importance as one of Shropshire's prime urban archaeological sites.

Michael D. Watson,  
Archaeological Field Officer

10/11/85



**PLAN OF INVESTIGATIONS AT THE ABBEY INFIRMARY BUILDING, SHREWSBURY**

MDW 85

Following the above investigation a small hole was bored into the side of the Infirmary in close proximity to the SW angle of the building, to determine the composition of the internal floor. The possibility that this building had a crypt could not be ignored as this combined with the proximity of the road could undermine the stability of the building. The angle of entry was 42.5, and a core was taken to a depth of 2.14m and a distance from the outside wall of 1.96m. The resultant core was a clay and sand mixture, the latter possibly contamination from the sandstone wall, and contained flecks of mortar, and actual fragments of as well as flecks of charcoal.

C. Ryan  
Sites and Monuments Record.

#### BASCHURCH AND PERRY VALLEY FIELD PROJECT

Work continued during the winter months on research into sites located in 1984 and visits were made to areas where Severn-Trent are due to machine this year.

Bog iron ore deposits in meadows north of Boreatton re-open the question of Sir Basil Brooke's involvement in iron working at Forton five miles to the south at Bromley's Forge, and the reference to his cutting of cordwood at Birch near Boreatton, which is only a mile from these deposits (LAWSON). The question of whether or not locally available but limited sources of ore was suitable for smelting and at which periods it may have been exploited, has been explored recently in three papers (CROSSLEY, CLELAND, POTTER). A visit to Ironbridge, ironically provided no clues, but independent research has proved that work is being carried out in this area of industrial archaeology, and helpful correspondence with Mr. Cleland and discussion with Welsh archaeologists involved in excavation of ironworking sites has proved useful. It must be remembered that this area was not perhaps as remote and free from industrial activity in past centuries as appears the case now. A C16/C17 glassworks at Ruyton Park? (SA2516) existed in the vicinity, and many routes and river crossings have gone out of use, the modern map therefore giving a false impression of earlier communication lines, (forthcoming). The writer would be interested to hear from anyone who may have further comments or information on this subject.

#### Bibliography:

- Lawson J.B. Shropshire News Letter No. 44 1973 7  
Crossley D.W. CBA Research Report No. 40 1981 29  
Cleland J. Current Archaeology No. 77 1981 165  
Potter J.F. Industrial Archaeology Review, 6 No. 3 1982 Ironworking  
in the Vicinity of Weybridge, Surrey.

Patricia Bayliss.

#### SHREWSBURY AND ATCHAM BOROUGH MUSEUM SERVICE, ROWLEY'S HOUSE MUSEUM, SHREWSBURY.

The archaeological work at the Museum has continued to revolve around the consolidation of the collections. Record cards for the archaeological collection have been designed and are now being utilized for a systematic cataloguing of the prehistoric bronzework.

The Wroxeter coin collection has been in the hands of specialists at the Institute of Archaeology in London who are producing comprehensive lists of the excavation coins which will enable easier and quicker analysis of the collection when it returns to the Museum in March 1985.

A steady stream of identifications continue to flow into the Museum, mostly consisting of coins of all periods as well as the ubiquitous utilized stones and numerous items of social history interest.

The most important accession has been a group of Roman copper alloy objects from Kathleen Kenyon's excavations at Wroxeter in 1952, these were returned from the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in London, via Dr G. Webster - and are accessioned under A84/007/01-17.

A major redisplay of the Potters Stall from the Forum at Wroxeter is nearing completion. It utilizes life-size figures and will feature a reconstruction of the stall to give an impression of what the scene might have looked like 1800 years ago.

Bruce Bennison  
Archaeologist,  
Rowley's House Museum.

SUBMISSIONS FROM IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Results of Fieldwork:

LITTLE DAWLEY

SJ 683059

SA12018  
SA12022

Excavation has begun again at Little Dawley in the grounds of two seventeenth century timber-framed buildings being dismantled by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums for removal to the Blists Hill site. The trench has been extended in order to investigate further both the evidence for a medieval house floor and early metalworking discovered by the unit in 1982. During the course of work more extensive eighteenth century activity has been recognised. The excavation will be extended beneath the standing buildings as soon as possible.

SA12694

The Victorian shop adjacent to 15/15a Holly Road has been completely dismantled, and all bricks recorded. It will be re-erected at Blists Hill museum as a bakery.

Fairfield, the box framed building to the south of 15/15A Holly Road, is now almost completely down. During the work we have discovered that the building was constructed in two boys. The central queen post truss was open at ground level suggesting that the building was originally a single-storied open hall. The wattle and daub smoke hood was inserted into the building only a little later than the erection of the frame. Some of the panels of the smoke hood were replaced with brick infill but it seems that the massive timber mantel over the fireplace was part of the construction of the original smoke hood. Perhaps contemporary with the rebuilding of much of the fireplace in brick, was the lowering of the ground level of the building and the insertion of a first floor. This floor rested on two massive timber beams with pyramid stops which themselves sit upon pads on the original mantel of the fireplace. Their positioning has caused the mantel to split. Much of the smoke hood was then rebuilt in brick, and at the same time a grate and second flue was constructed on the upper floor. Later, the fireplace itself again narrowed to create a more efficient flue.

SA12018

Some of the wattle and daub panels of the original smoke hood have been removed intact. Further work on the building should clarify the construction of the chimney, and it should be possible to begin work on 15/15A Holly Road - a cruck-framed building, again with a plaster and wood chimney.

SA 12022

BRIERLEY HILL

SJ 670052

In March 1985 students of the Institute of Industrial Archaeology carried out a recording project at the site of a branch of the Shropshire canal potentially threatened by the Ironbridge bypass. From 1791 the canal terminated in two perpendicular shafts down which cargoes were raised and lowered. At the bottom plateways led to the Coalbrookdale Ironworks and the River Severn. In 1794 the shafts were replaced by an inclined plane. In 1800 a railway was constructed along the towpath, and by 1832 the canal was out of use.

The area between a canal bridge and the "Old Wind" - the site of the inclined plane - was surveyed in order to locate the old line of the canal, and any remaining evidence for the shafts or plane.

The canal bridge was a single-span arched bridge built of brick with a stone keystone. The spandrels are slightly concave and the original bridge seems to have piers on each abutment. The arch has been filled with coursed blocks of furnace slag after the canal went out of use. The centre of the bridge has now eroded leaving the modern road supported entirely upon the slag fill. Parts of the bridge have been rebuilt in a dark purple brick and on the south side the slag is coursed with re-used original bricks. The rebuilding and the blocking of the bridge seem therefore to have been contemporary.

The northern keystone of the bridge has an Ordnance Survey datum cut into it and on the southern side another arrow has been cut into the brickwork.

At the Old Wind the line of the inclined plane where it cuts into the hillside is clearly visible despite considerable dumping of recent rubbish. Stone masonry can be seen in the western face of the cutting. An old well to the north of the plane may have been a ventilation shaft for the tunnel linking the two original shafts. However, the proprietor of the house nearby claims to have encountered a brick-lined structure whilst digging a cesspit to the north of his house, suggesting an alternative location for the shafts.

The line of the canal is visible to the north of the canal bridge, but to the south it survives only as a slight depression in a field. The road to the Old Wind lies along an old railway embankment.

Ideally a geophysical survey should be undertaken in the area in order to locate the shafts.

**BENTHALL OLD VICARAGE**

SJ 669019

SA 11472

In January 1985 the archaeology team undertook excavation in advance of the cutting back of a bank at the Old Vicarage, Benthall. In 1978 the Wilkinson society had excavated at the site following the discovery of large amounts of eighteenth century pottery by the then owner, Mr Cragg. In particular a number of complete salt glazed saggars, salt glazed stonewares, brown glazed earthenwares and slip wares had been found. The 1851 census referred to the occupant of the house as a potter.

Four trenches were excavated all of which produced much pottery ranging from the eighteenth to the twentieth century in date, none of which confirmed the existence of a kiln on the site.

An additional find was a number of yellow bodied pipes, perhaps 50cm in length. They are tapering in form resembling some types of drainage pipes which would be joined simply by sliding one into the other. In this case a marked thickening of the casing at the narrow end of some pipes and on a bulbous swelling in others suggests some other unknown purpose.

BRITISH LITERATURE  
INDEXED AND ABSTRACTED

**LINCOLN HILL LIMEKILNS, IRONBRIDGE**

SJ 669037

The lower portion of a lime kiln was exposed by building work on a site adjacent to Buffons tool works between the Swan and the Malthouse pubs in Ironbridge. Although no further damage to the site is likely to occur the Archaeology team undertook some recording.

Limestone quarrying at Lincoln hill was probably taking place in the late seventeenth century but underwent considerable expansion with the increased demand for fluxing limestone by local ironworks in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century the workings were owned by the Reynolds family who were selling stone to ironworks at Horsehay and Madeley Wood. Operations here on a large scale seem to have ended by about 1850. The kilns themselves were producing lime for agricultural and building purposes, and were worked by independent contractors. Lime kilns in the area were depicted by Turner in the 1790s, and by Munn in 1802.

The exposed section represents about the lower third of a kiln. The last charge of mixed coal and limestone was still present in the base suggesting that the kiln would have been of a continuous feed type. The kiln was lined with a double thickness of brick and supported by yellow clay which appeared to have been banked up against the kiln to the south. Any trace of a retaining wall to the south had been lost. To the east of the kiln, and clearly pre-dating it in its construction, was a chamber with stone walls topped by a bricked vault. The eastern and western walls were pierced by small arched openings, 62cm wide by 45cm deep, but the northern and southern ends of the chamber were blocked by modern brickwork. The chamber may have allowed access to the base of the kiln for the drawing off of the calcined lime although no trace of a passage linking the opening of the chamber and the base of the kiln has been preserved. A single sherd of pearlware was found within the kiln. The section and the adjoining chamber are now completely preserved behind a breeze block retaining wall.

**CALCUTTS IRONWORKS, JACKFIELD**

SJ 686030

Trial excavations in advance of redevelopment were carried out between December 1984 and January 1985 on the site known as the Calcutts ironworks.

The site was most recently used by Marshall Osborne as a brass foundry between the 1950s and 1980. W.H. Smith produced specialist tile machinery at an iron foundry here some time after 1862 when the Severn Valley Railway was built across the site. In 1767/8 a cannon boring mill was established by George Mathews of Broseley, and a plan of c.1800 depicted the boring mills now owned by Alexander Brodie who also had moulding shops, a smith's shop and a blast furnace on the site. Pottery was being manufactured here in 1728 and a map of 1697 records a turpentine, tar and pitch works owned by Martin Eale.

48  
16  
64  
1  
lines  
at  
1/2  
space



...of the site, where the remains of a brick wall, possibly of a water wheel, were found. The largest trench was located in the area of the blast furnace and revealed the brick built vaulted arch of what may have been the water wheel for the furnace, as well as tips of ash, slag and coal waste associated with the use of the furnace. Features presumably associated with the earlier pottery included a stone wall and ditch or plot boundary containing a double row of saggars. Much eighteenth century pottery was found including press-moulded dishes and Jackfield ware. The earliest layers encountered were deposits of coal shale waste associated with the turpentine, tar and pitch works.

A second trench was cut into the embankment of the railway and revealed a brick floor associated with the ironworks, but most of the deposits were disturbed by later activity, by Marshall Osborne. Several walls of the canon boring mill survive above ground, and two trenches were dug to further investigate them. A floor of bricks set into tar was found stratified over a cast iron floor with casting slots in it. This floor immediately overlay a levelled dump of eighteenth century pottery, again associated with the making of pottery at the site. The other trench revealed floors and walls linked with the brass foundry as well as a Victorian grill which dated to the use of the site by W.H. Smith as an iron foundry.

Kate Clark - IGM Archaeology Unit  
22.4.85

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

11, Upper Bar, Newport SA 15078

Application to demolish this listed building had been received from the owners, Wheat & Kirkby Ltd. The Civic Society objected and investigation revealed that the building was a late C16 or early C17 hall-and-crosswing box-framed town house, the hall being two-storied and jettied towards the street, the crosswing having a solar or great chamber at 1st floor level with an open decorative roof. A public enquiry was held in September. Permission to demolish was refused.

The Guildhall, Newport and No. 1, High Street SA 818

The Newport and District History Society made the recording of this important complex the first major exercise for their recording group. The complex proved to be of special interest, having three distinct building phases. The earliest, No. 1, High St., proved to be a fine four-bay hall house, box-framed throughout. The two central bays consist of an open hall which has a remarkable central truss. Late C14 or early C15 in date. The Guildhall itself is late C16 and appears to relate to incorporate rather than domestic use. The date of 1615 which appears on the front cannot relate directly to the structure. Extensive C19 re-modelling took place.

Hall Farm, Stottesdon SA 12078

An unremarkable exterior conceals a four-bay open hall at first-floor level which has decorative roof trusses. The bays are each 14' long.

Sodylt Farm, Dudleston SA 13471a SA 17206

External appearances suggest a U-shaped C17 box-framed farmhouse but this is the result of the re-modelling of an earlier cruck-built house. Four distinct building phases may be identified.

The Old Farm, Bucknell SA 13471a SA 17206

External cladding conceals a C17 box-framed farmhouse which probably functioned as a longhouse. The farm buildings are arranged around a courtyard. One of the buildings contains an upper-cruck truss and a similar truss was found in a rear wing of the house. Entrance to the complex is through the drift-house. An adjacent motte has been converted to an ice-house.

The Post Office, Bucknell

The 1950s exterior conceals a cruck-built hall house which has an open central truss with an arch-braced collar-beam.

2, Ryton Grange Cottages SA 17208

This was known to contain a two-bay cruck hall but recent stripping-out has revealed that the central truss contained a 'low beam' (previously called 'mantel-beams') see N.W. Alcock and M. Moran, 'Low Open-Truss Beams', Vernacular Architecture, Vol. 15, 1984. The other surviving cruck truss consists of extended crucks. The means of operating the louvre are apparent.

...

Lower Farm, Chorley, Stottesdon

During the recording of this complex in October it was noticed that this was another example of the 'low beam' typology. It is also a base-cruck variant. The barn contains six cruck trusses.

PUBLICATION

The book, 'Shrewsbury in old Picture Postcards' by Madge Moran is now available from the town bookshops, price £7.50 in hardback.

Madge Moran,

THE SHROPSHIRE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR - BUILDINGS)

The above has one of the foremost and leading methodologies for recording the features and characteristics of vernacular and polite buildings in the British Isles. At present there are 7,000 buildings on this record, but a much contracted workforce cannot hope to continue this sterling work unless assisted by individual recorders in the County who continue to produce excellent measured drawings and reports, which regrettably do not seem to be finding their way on to the SMR in any quantifiable number. This is more than disappointing; it is devastating for the buildings concerned. Once they are investigated by private recorders and their special attributes come to light they can be at risk. The aim of the SMR is to record buildings so that they can be subsequently protected and firmly married to their archaeological context. Leave buildings off this record and they are at risk - not recognisable by statutory authorities, highway authorities etc. The pitfalls are too numerous to elaborate on here. So I say for the last time to building recorders everywhere in Shropshire - please may we have a copy of your work - we will always give you the credit for this work, and in return we will protect your heritage so that you may in turn study it in relative peace, undisturbed by anxieties about demolition. This is positively my last word on a matter which is of grave concern in this County.

Carole Ryan, Conservation and Archaeology,  
Sites and Monuments Record, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

How?  
?   
What  
is the  
banister  
as before like then?  
B

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE - recent accessions.

Two items of note have recently been passed to Much Wenlock Museum.

Neolithic Stone Axe from Pattingham (MW 92/84)

This specimen was discovered about 20 years ago in a ploughed field at Nurton, just over the border into Staffordshire. It turned up last November on a rockery in Pattingham. Fortunately its history had been recorded by the finder who re-discovered it and presented it to the museum for identification. The axe is large and complete, although much weathered. Its general appearance and form seems to point to a Cornish source, however, thin-section analysis will provide the answer. The axe is currently undergoing examination at Birmingham University, under Professor Shotton who is the C.B.A. Implement Petrology Group representative for the West Midlands. It will be returned to the finder once the research has been completed.

Bronze Age Socketed Axe (MW 12/85)

This item was recorded in the 1984 Spring Newsletter as an identification. The finder has now donated it to the Museum Service. Members may recall that this axe was recovered with a portion of haft intact. Unfortunately despite rigorous examination, not a single fragment of this remains in the socket, therefore hopes of obtaining a radio-carbon date have been dashed. Despite this, it is anticipated that the axe will be sampled by Dr. Peter Northover and that something of its metallic composition might be learned.

Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum.

THE WORK OF LOCAL GROUPS

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group

Archaeological Report, by Jack Field.

During the year excavations have taken place at 3 Roman Way. Mr Wilfred Pople, the householder, found a small structure in his front garden which was constructed of Roman roofing tile and was lined with mortar 8cm thick. It was 1 metre square and 30cm in depth, the inside being packed with sandstone and sealed with a layer of mortar.

On the west side of the house, members of the archaeological section excavated an area 2 metres x 1 metre, and at a depth of 50 cm, found a line of irregular stones running in a North/South direction.

In the rear garden was an area of heavy burning which contained cremated bone and two small pits which also contained cremated bone. A large quantity of pot sherds were found.

#### Recent Roman Finds - High Street Whitchurch

During April this year, 1984, digging was taking place for the foundations of a new showroom. The area concerned was just above the Civic Centre on the north east side of High Street, and the site to the rear of the present 'Lowcross' furniture showroom some twenty three metres behind the street frontage.

Whilst this excavation was taking place, and at a depth of approximately one and a half metres a collection of sherds were found. They were in black topsoil just above the undisturbed subsoil. As the area is archaeologically sensitive these sherds were passed on to the Grosvenor Museum in Chester, for Tim Stricklands report and comments.

The sherds were all rather large, and from one spot, which gave rise to the speculation that we had the contents of a rubbish pit, and from examination of them this was of late first or early second century. Of the seventeen sherds recovered four were intrusive and post medieval in date.

Seven of the Roman sherds were of a grey fabric, a pair being the complete section of a campanulate bowl. No close parallel has been published for Whitchurch, and they would be uncommon in Chester. A similar form, from Hadrian's wall is dated 160/200. The bowl would have been about 180mm in diameter and about 130mm high but the foot is missing.

Two more sherds formed the joining rim of a grey jar which would have been about 130mm across the mouth, and three others of the same fabric gave a further rim section and two bases. This grey fabric is in general typical of late first or early second century coarse pottery. The material is imitation Samian ware in form and is thought to have been of local manufacture at or near Whitchurch.

The last shard was a complete section of a Holt mortarium of an orange coloured fabric, which had been burnt after breakage.

These finds will be housed in a small showcase in the kitchen showroom from which foundations they came, and will therefore be available to the general public during shopping hours.

Richard Hughes, Ash Wood. October 1984.

WAAG has a few copies left of the following publications. The prices include postage and packing, and the booklets should be ordered through Mrs Margaret James, 21 Bathfields Crescent, Whitchurch -

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <u>Whitchurch Remembered</u>  | £2.25 |
| (A photographic record of the town produced in conjunction with Shropshire Libraries) |       |
| <u>Whitchurch - A Short History</u> by R.B. James                                     | £1.05 |
| <u>Whitchurch to Castillon</u> by Joan Barton   | £1.30 |
| (The life of John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury)                                     |       |
| <u>Transport in the Whitchurch Area (Roads)</u>                                       | £2.25 |
| by D. Barnard.  |       |

#### BORDER COUNTIES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Details from:- Meetings and Excursion Secretary - Mrs Kath Lloyd, 19 Middleton Road, Oswestry. Tel: Oswestry 661708

#### SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMME 1985

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 12 May, 2.30 p.m.   | <u>Field-trip:</u> Meet at Bersham Heritage Centre (SJ313493), for tour of Wilkinson brothers' Iron Works sites in and around Bersham, led by Museum curator, Ann Williams, taking approx. one hour, followed by visit to Heritage Centre. The tour and Museum visit are free. |
| Sunday 16 June, 10.30 a.m. | <u>Field-trip:</u> MOEL, FENLLI HILL FORT, RHUDDLAN CASTLE & PRESTATYN ROMAN SITE EXCAVATIONS.   |
| Saturday 6 July            | 50th Anniversary of the Closure of the Glyn Valley Tramway. Celebrations, exhibitions, canal trips, displays etc. all day.   |
| Sunday 14 July, 10.30 a.m. | CAERSWS ROMAN SITE, DOLFORWYN CASTLE, MONTGOMERY.  |

Sunday 1 September

COACH TRIP TO LION SALT WORKS AND SALT MUSEUM, NORTHWICH,  
AND NORTON PRIORY, RUNCORN.

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AT ALL MEETINGS AND ON ALL EXCURSIONS.

#### SHROPSHIRE BARN SURVEY

Barns are of great interest in their variety of form and contribution to the landscape, as well as providing a record which historians can use to interpret past agricultural patterns. However nowadays they are largely used for storage, as workshops, adapted to accommodate livestock, or converted to entirely non-agricultural uses. They are expensive to maintain and insure, and as farmers can claim grants for new, more appropriate buildings, it is not surprising that they are disappearing at an increasing rate.

It is for this reason that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has launched a 'Domesday' survey of barns, as part of a national Barns Campaign. The aim of the survey is to log the details of all barns in the country, so that an accurate statement can be made about the range and variety of remaining barns, and perhaps bring some pressure to bear to make more money available in the form of grants to farmers, for the maintenance of the barns, if they wish to retain barns, or convert them to other uses. The survey is co-ordinated county by county, and relies upon volunteers to complete a simple questionnaire for each barn within a parish. It is an ambitious scheme, as there are obviously a great many parishes to cover. In Shropshire 30 parishes are currently being surveyed, but this represents less than a quarter of all parishes in the county. If you think that you may like to help with the survey in Shropshire, please contact the county co-ordinator, Jan Ensum, on Highley 861772, for more details.

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Council for British Archaeology

Two reports are due for publication in March 1985 -

1. Roman urban topography in Britain and the Western Empire.  
(Research Report 59) - edited by F.Grew and B.Hobley.
2. The archaeologist and the laboratory (R.R. 58) -  
edited by Patricia Phillips.

#### COURSES, CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS etc.

Following the success of last year's Day School on "Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire", the County Museum Service is proposing to repeat the venture in 1985. This year the Day School will be held on Saturday 9th November at the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, commencing at 10.30 a.m. Admission will again be free. A full programme of speakers will be announced nearer the date.

##### Shropshire County Museum Service - forthcoming exhibitions at Bridgnorth Library.

##### "Street Entertainment" (June 9th - 29th).

A lively, colourful exhibit featuring the origins and development of a variety of popular entertainments. The display is to include sections on morris dancing, miming, ballad singing, also less savoury events such as bull-baiting, cock-fighting and public punishment. Local traditions, tunes, songs and characters will be featured, there will also be a programme of children's activities. In addition, the Ironmen and Severn Guilders morris teams will be dancing in the town between 11.00a.m. - 1.00p.m. on June 22nd.

##### Shropshire Prehistory' (November 2nd - 23rd).

Currently being prepared by Bruce Bennison (of Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury) in conjunction with the County Museum Service display team, this exhibition will first be shown in Bridgnorth and then at venues around the county. Concentrating on Shropshire's rich prehistoric heritage it is hoped that a selection of artefacts from museum collections around the county will be included. Hopefully incorporating some of the more recent finds made and reported in this Newsletter.

Yvette Staelens, Curator, Much Wenlock Museum.

Courses of Interest to Members

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology

Details of the following can be obtained from the above at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford. Tel: Ironbridge 2751.

- 7.5.85 Films as a source for historical study.
- 9.5.85 Period Paint : Decorative Paintwork and Architectural Murals.
- 13.5.85 The Great Western Railway - its traditions in architecture and engineering.
- 18.5.85 Probate Inventories and Local History.
- 23.5.85 John Fletcher and Industrial Society.
- 7.6.85 - Quakers in Industrial History
- 9.6.85
- 17.8.85 - Ironbridge and Britain's Industrial Heritage - a summer school in association with the "American Historic Preservation Trust".
- 23.8.85
- 19.10.85 - Decorative Glass : Tradition of Design from 18th century to present day.
- 24.10.85 - Threatened Buildings. A course reviewing the plight and possibilities of new uses for barns, redundant churches and textile mills. A must for planners and conservationists everywhere.

Courses - University of Oxford - Institute of Extension Studies

Details of the following courses can be obtained from the Archaeology/Local History Course Secretary, Oxford University Dept., for External Studies, Rewley House, 3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

- 26-28.4.85 The English Parish Church in the 11th and 12th Centuries.
- 1-3.5.85 Monument Management.
- 4.5.85 Day School at Stowe School, Buckingham - including history of the house and landscaped gardens.
- 3-5.5.85 The Economies of Romano British Villas.
- 10-12.5.85 The Victorian Village.
- 18.5.85 Waterfront Archaeology of the Thames, Kennet and Avon.
- 15.11.85 Dissolution and Resurrection. The Re-use of Monastic Buildings. (note date has moved).

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest.  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Acting Editor - P.A.Ward MA MIFA 1,Crewe St,Shrewsbury SY1 2HQ

#### INTRODUCTION.

This issue is simply a hasty assemblage of the responses I received to my call to various groups, bodies and individuals for a brief summary of their activities last year and their plans for the next six months. It includes one response, from Cheshire, to a similar call to the most relevant bodies in our neighbouring counties.

Penny Ward, Acting Editor

#### THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

The compilation of the County SMR has continued during 1985, a further 140 entries being added. Comments have continued to be made on planning and conservation proposals, and archaeological contributions made to Local Plans. Development and threats to archaeological sites have also been closely monitored, and arrangements made for any necessary investigations. The annual programme of aerial photography again concentrated on West Shropshire.

The first stage in the computerisation of the 4000+ archaeological sites on the SMR, the creation of the database, has been completed. The mastering of the current version of the HBMC Software, which enables the production of indexes, tabulated lists and gazetteers, is in progress. A new version of the HBMC software, which should provide interactive search and retrieval, may be in operation by the end of the year.

Shropshire County Council.

#### VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

During the last year Volume XI (Telford), the fifth Shropshire volume to appear, completed its progress through the press and was published at £50 in September. Work continues on the last 'general' volume (IV, written largely by outside contributors), which will deal with Shropshire's agriculture and architecture, and on Volume X, a 'topographical' volume to include parishes in Wenlock liberty and Munslow hundred, from the Severn Gorge, along Wenlock Edge, in Upper Corvedale, and extending to the Stretton and Clee Hills. There has been useful collaboration with the new Keele Office of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)

G.C. Baugh

#### VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Investigation and recording of Vernacular buildings continues and some of the results were on display in the exhibition of "Old Houses of Shropshire" at the Gateway during February. During the last 12 months several interesting discoveries have been made, perhaps the most exciting being a farm-building in Easthope which was once a hall-house of great significance. Two aisled trusses survive and it may have been fully aisled originally. It also had a crown-post roof.

The loss of "Beslow" near Wroxeter was regrettable. Far from being an ordinary Regency farmhouse, which its external appearance suggested, it contained 16th century and earlier work including a range which was jettied on all sides.

I shall be running a 20-week day-time course at the Gateway in the Autumn. Details will be available later.

Madge Moran

## BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

### Work in Shropshire 1985-1986

During 1985-86, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was involved in several projects in Shropshire.

Excavations at Ludlow's Carmelite Friary, carried out by the Unit's Manpower Services Commission "Roving Team" and funded mainly through public subscription, were completed in August 1985. A popular report on the results of the excavations is due to be published later this year by the Ludlow Historical Research Group. Thanks to the sponsorship of the owner of the land, the Friary remains are to be preserved as part of a public garden. The Unit's MSC Roving and Display Teams are at present involved in consolidating and landscaping the site and in producing an accompanying display of the archaeological discoveries.

During the winter of 1984-5, an area excavation was undertaken on a short section of Wat's Dyke (a major linear earthwork on the Anglo Welsh border) which was threatened by a new road system. Several phases of activity were identified, including, most spectacularly, a 3.75m deep & 7.5m wide ditch with accompanying rampart: a very substantial feature which had not apparently, been evident on previous trenched cross-section examinations of the Dyke.

In Shrewsbury itself a major new project, the Shrewsbury Heritage Project, was established in 1985. This was in response to a development proposal for the area south of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter: an area which once comprised the greater part of the Abbey's walled precinct and part of one of the adjacent suburbs of medieval Shrewsbury. Excavations are currently in progress and it is hoped that a combination of research into the unusually complete documentary record and of careful archaeological investigation will result in a much greater understanding of the functioning of the Abbey as a whole and of its role in the development of the medieval town.

For the future...BUFAU has produced a Research Design for the archaeological examination of the proposed route of the A5 but it seems unlikely that funds will be available for this in 1985-86. It is hoped that work may commence in 1987-88.

### WHITCHURCH AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

The Group arranged a varied programme of eight lectures and three field meetings, all well-attended.

The Archaeological Section carried out an excavation in a garden outside the northern defences of the Roman fort and a small chamber constructed of broken Roman building material was discovered but is still unidentified. At the same level were several structures which indicated that the area was of an industrial nature.

In the Local History Section extensive research is continued by several members. Douglas Barnard's booklet "Transport in the Whitchurch Area, Part II - Canal & Railways" was produced last October, and was sold out by Christmas.



## BORDER COUNTIES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Border Counties Archaeological Group's activities for 1985 began very rigorously, when amidst snow showers, members of the Group took part in the Oswestry Festival Gardens dig. This was a follow up to the very successful December 1983 excavation when the line of the Medieval town wall was discovered. The 1985 dig revealed considerable Medieval pottery, which would appear to have been rubbish thrown over the town ditch.

In a more sedentary mood, the group also held a number of winter lectures covering topics such as the Glyn Valley Tramway and Domesday Clwyd.

The summer outings were to Bersham Industrial Heritage Centre, Moel Fenlli, Rhuddlan and Prestatyn in Clwyd, and Caersws, Dolforwyn and Montgomery in Powys.

Our Summer Programme for 1986 includes visits to the Greenfield Valley, the Llangollen area, and Shropshire's Abbeys and Priories.

In the Autumn, it is hoped to hold a number of practical sessions. Further details of these will be printed in the Newsletter or can be obtained from our Programme Secretary, Ann Williams, at Bersham Industrial Heritage Centre, Wrexham, Clwyd.

## CHESHIRE

The problems of the management of earthwork monuments have been discussed with the Eaton Estate south of Chester. This has led to clearance, and improvement of access to the fine motte and bailey at Adford and monitoring and trial excavation of a large moated site at Belgrave. The latter appears to be surrounded by the undisturbed earthworks of a garden of c 1300 laid out by Richard the Engineer.

The wider issue of managing the historic landscape particularly in lowland rural areas, is being considered. Two areas in the former cheesemaking region of South Cheshire, Castletown and Edge, have been taken as good but typical examples of the late Medieval landscape, and ways of developing management and enhancement are being explored.

The chance find of an interesting Early Bronze Age hoard by a metal detector enthusiast at Bridgemere should lead to an excavation of the site this autumn. Prehistoric hoard sites are rarely accurately known, and hoards of this date are most unusual.

The wider issue of historic or relict gardens is of growing interest. Any well-preserved earthworks and/or structures from 17th century or earlier gardens known to readers would be of great interest in comparison with an increasing number recognised in Cheshire.

SSC/RCT/MED

Cheshire County Planning Dept.

## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The SAS Summer Meetings Programme is enclosed, but members may also wish to take note of the following:-

The Institute of Industrial Archaeology Short Courses Programme

Thurs 8 May HISTORIC GARDENS

Wed 14 May LECTURE "A PROSPECT OF INDUSTRIAL HISTORY"

Thurs 15 May CONVERGING ROLES OF MUSEUMS & THEME PARKS

Tues 20 May SHROPSHIRE'S SEASONS

Mon 14 to Thurs 17 July INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON WROUGHT IRON

Mon 8 to Fri 19 Sept TRAINING EXCAVATION IN INDUSTRIAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY

Wed 17 to Sun 21 Sept QUAKERS IN INDUSTRY

Sat 4 to Sun 5 Oct COALPORT CONFERENCE

Sat 11 Oct CBA/IIA INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM

For further details contact the Institute of Industrial  
Archaeology

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group

Thurs May 15 IHTFIELD CHURCH 7.30 outside Church

Thurs June 19 TOUR - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN CHESTER  
7.30 Grosvenor Museum, Chester

Thurs Sept 18 "THE REIGN OF KING RICHARD III"

7.30 Civic Centre, Whitchurch

Thurs 16 Oct "THE MAKING OF THE TUDOR DYNASTY"

7.30 Civic Centre, Whitchurch

## Recent Archaeological Work in Shropshire-Day School

The Shropshire County Museum Service will again be holding its annual Day School on the above theme. This year it will be held on Saturday 22nd November at the Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Admission Free. A full programme and further details will be announced later.

## EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

A number of items arrived too late for inclusion in this issue of the Newsletter. These have been held over for the Autumn edition. Other contributions for the next issue would be most welcome. The closing date for the next issue is August 31st.

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest.  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Acting Editor - P.A.Ward MA MIFA 1,Crewe St,Shrewsbury SY1 2HD

#### AERIAL SURVEY IN 1985 AND EARLY 1986

The uncertainties of archaeological air-survey are well illustrated by the contrast between flying over Shropshire in the wet and dismal summer of 1985 and the summer drought of 1984. When the soil remains damp in the run-up ripening season of grain crops (between late June and early August) the tell tale 'cropmarks' of archaeological sites eroded by centuries of ploughing fail to develop. Drought, by contrast, can 'paint a picture of the past' across the landscape in a way which startles even those who have regularly taken to the air for archaeological purposes.

Not surprisingly, 1985 was an exceedingly disappointing year for the recovery of new cropmark sites in Shropshire as in most parts of Britain. Indeed, only two new cropmarks were observed, and most of the well known ones remained obstinately inaccessible on the few occasions when flying was possible amid the summer winds and haze.

By contrast, excellent photographs of upstanding 'earthwork' sites were obtained during spells of bright and clear weather in the early months of 1985 and 1986, in the latter case with the advantage of a snow-cover to further emphasise the pattern of contours revealed by the low winter sunlight and the absence of summer vegetation. Particularly useful records were obtained for earthwork castles and prehistoric enclosures in the western part of the county, as well as for substantial lengths of Offa's Dyke between Chirbury and Clun. Ridge-and-furrow fields clearly pre-dating Offa's Dyke were recorded for the first time at Dudston, just south of the Montgomery-Chirbury road.

Aerial survey has now contributed photographs of most of the known sites in the western third of Shropshire. Future years will need to extend coverage to the central and eastern parts of the county, while still maintaining watch for new 'cropmark' sites and improving the record of earthworks which have not yet been photographed in ideal conditions of light or vegetation. Aerial survey will also have a role to play in detecting land use change and other modern developments which may have a damaging effect on archaeological sites.

C. Musson

#### THE NUFFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY Institute of Industrial Archaeology Ironbridge Gorge Museum

The Nuffield Archaeological Survey of the Ironbridge Gorge is just one year old, with one more year to run. The survey was set up to compile a complete inventory of archaeological sites for the whole of the Ironbridge Gorge from Coalbrookdale through to Coalport, on the both sides of the river. Kate Clark has tackled the landscape and industrial aspects of the work, Judith Alfrey the standing buildings, and the work is being compiled in a series of interim reports.

Coalbrookdale was the subject of the first report. Each of the plots of land marked on the 1902 Ordnance Survey map was surveyed for its architecture. The information itself has been presented thematically, with chapters on power, industrial sites, mining remains and different building types. Emphasis has been placed on the use of the map and pictorial sources, and maps dating back to 1756 have been redrawn to a common scale. Leases have provided new ideas about the development of land ownership and building in the Dale, whilst an intensive study of the pools has produced a new picture of the way in which the Coalbrookdale Company used water power.

Coalport and Blists formed the second part of the survey stressing the archaeological material within the ownership of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. The sites of some of the less well known industries at Coalport were identified, and the Blist Hill iron works have been reinterpreted.

This report is almost with the printers, and the survey is moving on, first to Benthall, which will be followed by Ironbridge and then the Jackfield area. So far the survey has been a great success, and has pinpointed areas of particular archaeological priority as well as establishing an important new data base of the Gorge as a whole. It is hoped to be able to extend the project in future years.

Kate Clark  
Judith Alfrey  
16/7/86

#### THE SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT

In 1985, the Shrewsbury Heritage Project was set up by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, at the request of Shropshire County Council, to excavate on the site of Shrewsbury Abbey and on sites in the town centre, in advance of redevelopment.

Excavation on the Abbey site has revealed two phases in the southward expansion of the monastic Outer Court into a pond area: an early precinct wall, demolished by the construction of a square, late medieval building, with stone walls raised on piled foundations. The building was of more than one storey and was equipped with a drain channel outside its south wall. The lower levels of the site are waterlogged and a variety of wooden and leather artifacts have been recovered. The site of the monastic building was used as a tannery in the post-Dissolution period.

Excavation and a watching brief on the Bennett's Hall site, Roushill, in the town centre, revealed large late medieval rubbish-pits at the bottom of tenements backing onto the Town Wall. Evidence was found for the demolition of Bennett's Hall in the 16th-17th century. The Town Wall was examined, and the 13th century core found intact behind the face, rebuilt in the post-medieval period.

Excavation on the Talbot Chambers site on Market Street found no evidence of occupation before the late 12th-13th century. Late medieval pits were found cut into yard areas behind modern cellars and the site of a documented medieval undercroft.

Nigel Baker  
Shrewsbury Heritage Project

## ST. ANDREWS CHURCH, WROXETER

SA 13416

St Andrew's at Wroxeter is a partially Anglo-Saxon church situated in the south west corner of the defences of the large Roman city.

The unused church was falling into disrepair when, in 1985, the Redundant Churches Fund, with a grant from English Heritage, began a programme of restoration which included archaeological excavation in advance of the creation of a new drainage system.

The church consists of a chancel and nave, with a narrow aisle and vestry along most of its south side, and a tower to the west.

Within the standing building, the north nave wall is Anglo-Saxon for most of its length, dated by Taylor and Taylor to the 7th or 8th century, and is built of monolithic blocks of masonry robbed from the Roman city.

The church was given an unusually long chancel in the late 12th century, which may be a reflection of its collegiate status. An extension at the west of the nave dates to the late 13th or early 14th century.

The tower is of two phases of construction. The upper stages are late 16th century, while the bottom 5.5m seem likely to be 15th century in date.

Behind the Victorian porch, the south face of the church, nave and vestry were completely rebuilt in 1763, demolishing a 13th century chantry chapel, 14th century aisle and a 15th century porch. The foundations of these demolished elements of the medieval building were exposed in excavations for the new drain along the south side, and plaster stripping of the interior east wall of the 18th century vestry revealed it to be the stub of the 13th century chantry chapel, containing half of a blocked lancet window, which had been retained in the construction of the 1763 vestry. Substantial traces of an extensive 14th century paint scheme were observed within the vestry.

While the main excavation has furthered the understanding of the church's structural development, two further excavations approximately 1.5m square and 2m in depth, for soakaways north and south of the church, produced hand-made pottery of a type previously unexcavated at Wroxeter, and possibly post-Roman in date. At about 1.5m depth in the south soakaway an intercutting sequence of ditch and pits was excavated. A number of these potentially 5th/6th century sherds came from the upper fills of the latest feature, which contained Roman building material and pottery. In addition, two sherds of late Saxon Stafford-type Ware were recovered from the backfill of post-medieval graves.

C. Moffett

3/9/86

## D.M.V. PIONEERS VISIT SHROPSHIRE

In early May J.G. Hurst and M.V. Beresford, accompanied by P.A. Stamper, spent two days visiting the sites of suspected deserted medieval villages and classifying them for the Medieval Village Research Group. This was perhaps the last major county visit by Beresford and Hurst, the doyens of D.M.V. studies, who have been making such inspections for thirty years.

All but one of the sites visited were in Corvedale and around the Clee hills, an area roughly bounded by Bridgnorth, Ludlow, and Much Wenlock. Twenty-four potential D.M.V.s were visited. Some were well-known (e.g. Heath and Abdon), or had been suggested by Trevor Rowley in the 1960s and 1970s. Others were visited to examine earthworks visible on air photos taken by Prof. J.K. St. Joseph. Almost all the sites visited were classified after inspection as either deserted or shrunken village sites. Beresford and Hurst's general impression was of the general high quality and abundance of the earthworks. House platforms were observed on most sites, as were hollow ways, probably the most notable feature of the area. No actual house foundation earthworks were seen though, a surprising observation in an area where building stone is widely available.

A fuller account of the visit is to appear in the Annual Report of the Medieval Village Research Group. The Group's records, including air photos, record cards, and plans, is available for consultation at The National Monuments Record at Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London.

F. A. Stamper, V.C.H

#### NOTICE BOARD

The Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group is at present negotiating for the purchase of a resistivity meter, with which it is hoped to locate the remaining confines of the Roman fort.

It has been suggested that other groups in the County might be interested in hiring this machine out for a reasonable fee.

Enquiries should be made to the Archaeological Secretary, Mrs Janet Forster, The Old School House, Grindley Brook, Whitchurch Shropshire. (Tel. Whitchurch 4780)

\*\*\*\*\*

A Mr E.H. Davies of 5, Tillington Terrace, Ashburnham Rd Hastings, E. Sussex TN35 5JS has requested that I draw the Membership's attention to the publication, (on 19/12/85 by Stockwell of Ilfracombe), of his book "Channel Crossing". This concerns the involvement of his ancestor John Davies of Wellington in an episode in which 250 workmen under one Aaron Manby went to France in 1822 to set up an Engineering works and Gas Works. It also includes a story involving Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and one Sachaverell Harwood, originally a ships' carpenter from Shrewsbury.

#### EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

Contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter would be most welcome and should be sent in as soon as they are ready - there is no need to wait until next Spring.



## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## WINTER MEETINGS PROGRAMME 1986-1987

**Saturday October 18th**

Vernacular Architecture of the Clee Hills - the results of recent research.

*Madge Moran*

2.30pm

Bear Steps

**Saturday November 8th**

Bewdley - its significance for South Shropshire.

*Members of the Bewdley Historical Research Group.*

2.30pm

The Gateway

**Saturday December 6th**

The Misericords and Bench Ends of Ludlow Parish Church - some new interpretations.

*Peter Klein*

2.30pm The Prince Charles Suite  
Feathers Hotel, Ludlow

**Saturday January 10th**

Buffet Lunch and Members Slides

Catering by Bicton W.I. Ample Car Parking Cost £2.50

See Reply slip. Contributions to entertainment welcome.

12noon Village Hall, Bicton  
nr Shrewsbury

**Saturday February 14th**

Woman in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries - the results of a three year project.

*Dr Susan Wright, Dept of Local History University of Leicester*

2.30pm

The Gateway

**Saturday March 21st**

The Architectural Personality of the British Isles.

*Peter Smith, President of the Vernacular Architecture Group.*

2.30pm

The Gateway

**Saturday May 16th**

Visit to the Maltings, Ditherington, the former Marshalls Flax Mill.

*D.J. Pannett and W.A. Preen.*

2.30pm outside main gates.

Further details in the Spring Newsletter.

**RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN SHROPSHIRE**

A review of recent archaeological work in Shropshire is to be held in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, commencing at 2pm on Saturday 22nd November 1986.

**Programme**

- |      |                               |   |
|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2pm  | Cameron Moffat                | Excavations at St Andrew's Church Wroxeter        |
| 2.30 | Raphael Isserlin & Kate Clark | Recent Archaeological Work in the Ironbridge Area |
| 3pm  | Nigel Baker & Malcolm Cooper  | Abbey & Town: Archaeology in Shrewsbury 1985/86   |

**ADMISSION FREE**

*Organised by Shropshire County Museum Service*

**Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group**

- 16 OCT Henry VII-The Making of the Tudor Dynasty  
Dr C.H.Clough
- 20 NOV Food and Cooking in the 17th century  
Mrs Betty Bryan
- 18 DEC The History of the Crossbow until the 18th century  
Dr W.E.Flewett
- 15 JAN Fate of the Templars in the Midlands or The Life of  
St Chad  
Dr J R Studd
- 19 MAR Chester Silversmiths  
Canon M H Ridgeway
- 16 APR In Search of the Legio XX VV (Roman 20th Legion)  
Mr T J Strickland

*All meetings at 7.30pm at the Civic Centre, High St, Whitchurch.*

**Telford Historical and Archaeological Society**

- 2-10-86 Masters, Merchants and Merchandise: the trade and  
navigation of the River Severn Peter Wakelin
- 13-11-86 History of the Feathers Hotel Ludlow
- 11-12-86 Dudley Castle excavations
- 5-2-87 Broseley Pipe Industry David Higgins
- 5-3-87 Archaeology of Ludlow Annette Roe
- 2-4-87 A talk by James Lawson

*Non members welcome-small fee charged. All meetings at Stirchley  
Grange at 7.30pm. Further information-Ms M. Sumnall Telford 594661*

**Other Events**

- Sat 11 Oct SHREWSBURY ABBEY EXCAVATIONS OPEN DAY  
Free Site Tours from 10am. Access from  
Abbey Car Park.
- Sat 11 Oct CBA-INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM  
New Purposes for Old buildings-Seminar & Visits  
10.30am -5pm The Gateway, Shrewsbury .  
Advance Registration Necessary - contact\*
- Fri 7 Nov RECORDING INDUSTRIAL SITES: AIMS, METHODS &  
RESULTS. Day Course directed by Dr M. Stratton.  
Contact \* Janet Markland, Institute of Industrial  
Archaeology, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Ironbridge,  
Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW Tel Ironbridge 2751
- Sat 15 Nov THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CLWYD
- Sun 16 Nov A 2 day review of the Archaeology of Clwyd from the  
Paleolithic to the Post Medieval periods. Organised  
by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and Clwyd  
County Council. Contact John Manley, c/o DAPE, Clwyd  
County Council, Shire Hall, Mold, Clwyd. CH7 6NH  
Tel. Mold 2121 Ext 2325 or 2745

REPLY SLIP

To:- The Meetings Secretary, David Pannett, Merton Nurseries,  
Holyhead Rd, Bicton, Shrewsbury. Tel Shrewsbury 850773

I/We shall be attending the Members Meeting at 12 noon, January  
10th 1987, at Bicton Village Hall.

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
.....  
.....TEL NO.....

I need help with transport/I can offer .....places in my car.

*Please state any contribution to the programme of education or  
entertainment.*



A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest.  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

Acting Editor F.A.Ward MA MIFA 1,Crewe St,Shrewsbury SY1 2HQ

Editor's note.

Any views expressed in items in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect those of either the Editor or the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

The reference numbers with the prefix "SA" allude to the unique Primary Reference Numbers (PRNs) of individual sites or buildings in the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The absence of an "SA number" does not necessarily mean that a particular site or building is not recorded in the SMR.

#### A WATCHING BRIEF AT THE TALBOT CHAPEL, LONGFORD SA 794

The Talbot Chapel is all that remains of the medieval parish church of Longford, demolished in c1803 to make way for the present church of St Mary. The Chapel, which measures 6.09m by 3.65m internally, is C13th in date with a C17th roof. Cranage(1) demonstrated that it was a chapel attached to the S side of the medieval church and the Rev. Williams' 1790 painting of the church(2) shows the Talbot Chapel attached to the S side of the chancel. It is presumably the "Lord Shrewsbury's Chancel" recorded in 1802.

In November 1986 a watching brief was carried out during drainage works at the Chapel. The following is a condensed version of its results, which have been deposited in the relevant detailed records file of the SMR.

A drainage trench 60cm wide and 50cm deep cut along the S wall of the Chapel exposed a 2-stepped chamfered plinth of the same build and character as the Chapel wall. It was almost certainly originally intended to be visible, but had subsequently been masked by a 50cm rise in the surrounding ground level. No features were noted in the extension of the S side drainage trench to the 60cm deep soakaway dug c 5m W of the Chapel's W wall.

The section exposed by the excavation of the soakaway consisted simply of a lower layer interpreted as material from the C19th demolition of the church, succeeded by brown earth.

The drainage trench cut along the N side of the Chapel wall revealed no trace of a plinth; thus confirming that it had never been a free-standing structure. At a point 1.95m from the W end of the N wall, at c40cm below the modern ground surface, the trench exposed the red sandstone footings, only 50cm wide, of a wall running N at right angles from the Chapel's N wall. They may have represented the base of a former chancel screen in the old church. Immediately to the W of this postulated screen wall, at 35cm below the modern ground surface, some complete and fragmentary medieval floor tiles were found, which may have indicated the medieval floor level at the E end of the nave of the old church.

Directly adjacent and to the W of the Chapel's NW corner the extension of the N drainage trench to the soakaway encountered an area of large, hard packed red sandstone building blocks and lime mortar at a depth of 27cm. However, they did not appear to be the remains of a wall and their position did not correspond to any walls depicted on the painting of 1790. They were thus interpreted as rubble from the demolition of the old church.

1. D.H.S. Cranage (1905) An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire, Pt VII, 604-6

2. SPL Manuscript 372, vol 2, pl-2

### THE ABBEY CHURCH, SHREWSBURY SA 983

A measured survey of the standing remains of the north and south transepts of the late 11th century Abbey church was undertaken in late 1986 in advance of consolidation.

Both transepts consisted for the most part of original fabric. In the case of the north transept a two-light tracery-headed window had been inserted into the opening of a primary window, probably in the late 14th century. Ground reduction here exposed a short foundation, probably defining the width of a bay, and possibly forming part of the base of a secondary tomb or altar.

Copies of the report and drawings have been deposited with the SMR and the LSL.

C. Maffett  
B.U.F.A.U.

### THE SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT

Work is continuing both in the town centre and at Shrewsbury Abbey, the former Benedictine Abbey on the eastern edge of the town.

#### Shrewsbury Abbey

Excavation work on the "Queen Anne House" site, located in the south-west corner of the abbey precinct, is nearing completion. A deep and complicated sequence of waterlogged deposits has been revealed in which it is possible to trace the expansion of the precinct southwards in the later medieval period. Water-lain organic clays rising onto gravel suggest that in the 11th and 12th centuries this was an area sloping from the outer-court of the monastery to the fishponds. In the 13th century an expansion saw the construction of a sandstone precinct wall across the area and this was replaced in the 14th century by a large, square sandstone building, constructed on timber pilings, which was of very high quality and survived until c1540 when the monastery was dissolved.

A large and varied assemblage of artefacts has been recovered during excavation, the highlight being a silver bowl of 14th century date with a small leopard's head stamp on its rim. Preliminary research suggests that this may be the earliest example of an English Sterling Standard mark recovered in this country to date, and the bowl is to be the subject of a detailed study. A large collection of later medieval pottery, including an unusually high number of ceramic bottles and jugs, was discovered in the area outside the square building, and these together with large quantities of wooden and leather artefacts, suggest that this area was used for refuse disposal in the later medieval period. This rich assemblage is at present under study and should provide a great deal of information on the later life in the monastery.

Work has also started on the western edge of the precinct - the "Goode and Davies" site - close to the "Old Infirmary" building. Preliminary study of the structure and form of the building and evidence from early illustrations has suggested that its function might have been that of a minor gate-house associated with waterside warehousing. Limited excavation to the west of the building has revealed large 19th century dumps of material infilling one arm of the Rae Brook.

M.A. Cooper  
Shrewsbury Heritage Project  
B.U.F.A.U.



## THE PROPOSED A5 SHREWSBURY BY-PASS

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (B.U.F.A.U.), at the behest of Shropshire County Council, has produced a research design outlining a strategy for prior evaluation and any necessary full excavation of seven sites identified by aerial photography along the course of the proposed new road. The sites are of presumed prehistoric and Romano-British date and in general fall into a category of rural settlements with associated field systems.

English Heritage have been approached with a request to joint fund, with the MSC, the programme of evaluation (estimated cost to English Heritage is £5759). Their response to date has been negative.

All landowners have been approached and asked to consider allowing evaluation to take place prior to any compulsory purchase order for land being imposed. Their response is encouraging.

A Brooker-Carey  
Manager BUFAU

## A5 SHREWSBURY BY-PASS - SHARPSTONES HILL SITE K SA 2

(Centred at SJ489096)

### Discovery

Aerial survey by the Prehistoric Res Group in July 1969 (SNL no 38) revealed a number of features:-

- A Double ring ditches of a probable henge
- B Discontinuous, parallel linear ditches of possible "cursus"
- C Pits - close to A
- D Gulleys other than identifiable field boundaries
- E Linear "dry" mark of possible road-track

Field walking subsequently yielded but small quantities of carbon and cremated bone in the vicinity of "A" & "C". However, a systematic survey along the projected A5 route approx 210 m SE of "A" produced a wide scatter of predominantly R.B. material and the following results.

The Main Feature (E), plainly visible at ground level after ploughing, is a raised, stony alignment of at least 180m at the S edge of a level crest overlooking the Rea Valley and partly bounded the Moneybrook and the Branbrook. Some dense sub-assemblages of R.B. pottery with sandstone chips, daub, boiling stones and darker soil were identified and earmarked for excavation; especially two which coincided with resistivity survey "anomalies". The R.B. pottery scatter reaches up to 160m N and S of the alignment of stones. Finds of equal density E of the railway continue the alignment and an important discovery of linear tooled tiling and large sherds of mortaria close to the Moneybrook indicates domestic activity here also. Just downstream is "Fishpool Leasow", a feature created by damming the Moneybrook probably at SJ49100100 where a crossing point is observed and the brook bends sharply. This would have provided communications with the coeval enclosure Sharpstones Hill site "E" (SNL no 37 and "Cornovii" (1975) p14)

Small quantities of medieval pottery were found E & W of the main feature amongst the RB scatter.

A well preserved thumb scraper in light-grey mottled flint and a few unworked flakes were found on the NE side at SJ49125 09845

Other Finds:-

Pottery 23.15kg including amphorae, Mortaria, decorated and plain Samain, colour coated Severn Valley ware. (but no BB or lattice pattern)

Coin Faustina II (very poor condition)

Glass Prismatic or cylindrical bottle (AD70-120) and other fragments (one molten)

Iron Small pick head

Slag, Daub, Boiling Stones, ?burnt sandstone chips

Discussion

If the main feature "E" is projected eastwards, it aligns with a re-entrant of Sharpstones Hill suggested (Dr A.W.J Houghton) as a possible RB route. This would be the natural approach to the ridgeway of Sharpstones Hill. If produced westwards it makes for the crossing place (R.Rea) at Washford via an intersection of lanes at SJ48520985 known locally as "Five Lanes" (1) (Only 3 lanes are visible but folk-history preserving detail of S is now given authority. Intriguingly, there is another S point junction where the RB road breasts the other side of the Rea Valley at Nobold (SJ474101)

The general site is suitably placed to afford a control for the Washford crossing(s) Note also that the Iron-age hillfort of the Buries SA 60 lies but 800m to the S.

Feature B may be a Roman military site.

Resistivity Survey

a) 2941 readings @ 2ft grid

b) 307 readings @ 3ft grid

Total area surveyed 546.8m<sup>2</sup>. This revealed a steep sided ditch running roughly parallel with the main feature (but not seen on APs).

However, no shallow, gulley bounded features were measurable. Some local anomalies may indicate disturbed subsoil associated with habitation.

Early ridge and Furrow patterns were also plotted.

Summary

Finds ranging in date from Neolithic to present day give indication of another site with intensive occupation which might be regarded as a major research target requiring excavation on a very urgent basis.

W E Jenks

PENTREHYLING ROMAN FORT 1986 & 1987 SA1214

1987 will be the 9th season of excavation on the site of the Fort. Last year work was mainly concentrated in the north-east corner, finishing off trench 24 which had first been opened in 1964. A number of pits were excavated which represented the later phase of occupation after the Fort had gone out of regular use: the pits were cut into the area normally occupied by the intervallum road. The main feature in trench 24, dating to the primary period of use, was a 5-post corner tower - represented by five large post pits each containing large rectangular post holes. A pit, drained by a small ditch was seemingly contained within a sub-rectangular building - the position of which respected the line of the rampart, but passed right through the corner tower showing that this building and ditch were part of the Fort's second phase. The final excavation on the last

weekend in September investigated the possibility that a second ditch existed on the northern side of the Fort: a small ditch was found but it was not large enough to be part of the main defences.

The 1987 season will start firstly in the north-east corner again, the object to complete the area between the main road and the north-east corner of the ditch. By the time the main summer excavation comes along we should be ready to move outside the Fort and to work in the industrial or Vicus area to the east.

All who would like to join these excavations during the coming season would be most welcome. No previous experience is necessarily required.

The dates of the excavations are as follows :-

Starting date	Finishing date	Remarks
2nd May (Sat)	4th May (Mon)	First May Bank Holiday
23rd May (Sat)	25th May (Mon)	Second May Bank Holiday
27th June (Sat)	28th June (Sun)	Weekend
18th July (Sat)	19th July (Sun)	Weekend
24th July (Fri)	9th Aug (Sun)	Main Summer excavation
26th Sept (Sat)	27th Sept (Sun)	Last dig of the year

Contact Mr Allen at 33, Shaftesbury Dr, Heywood, Lancs or phone 0706 624161 (home) or 061 273 7121 Ext 5155 (Work) for further details.

J.H. Allen, M.Sc  
Central Marches Archaeological Research Group

#### THE OFFA'S DYKE PROJECT

The Project, under the direction of Dr David Hill of the University of Manchester, has continued during the year to record in detail the two Anglo-Saxon linear earthworks which run through Shropshire; Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke. The Survey is undertaken by trained amateurs with assistance from local groups and anyone interested in helping should contact David Hill. Two small excavations were undertaken in the autumn to investigate the possibility that culverts had been laid through the Offa's Dyke as part of the original construction. No evidence was found of culverts at these sites. The group was concerned at the amount of active erosion in the upland area from water, animals and walkers; some parts of the scheduled ancient monument would seem to be in urgent need of conservation.

Work on the Dykes has stimulated the group's interest in the area and work continues on the Roman marching camps at Brompton and a team is busy in people's gardens and cellars in Bishop's Castle recording surviving sections of the castle walls.

The annual excavation and survey training weekends will be centred on Bishop's Castle and will take place from 18th July to 1st August 1987. Full details from Dr David Hill at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Manchester, M13 9FL.

Margaret Worthington  
Offa's Dyke Project.

### INVESTIGATIONS BY SHROPSHIRE CAVING AND MINING CLUB 1986

Members of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club have made much progress during 1986 with exploratory work at two sites. At Clive Mine in North Shropshire, access has been gained to extensive workings on several levels served by a number of surface and underground shafts. The survey and exploration at Clive will continue in the coming year with a view to publication of findings. At Snailbeach in South Shropshire, the Scott Level has been explored through and beyond a wooden and brickwork dam to a total distance approaching 200 metres, mostly in chest-deep water. Investigations are to continue.

Mike Clough  
Hon. Secretary,  
S.C.M.C.

### VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Work continues on the investigation and recording of smaller buildings, and recently a pleasing association between "dirt" archaeologists and recorders of buildings took place at Easthope Cottage Farm SA 17196, when an attempt was made to determine the nature of the demolished hall by excavation. Unfortunately, the results were inconclusive.

It is good to note that Brookgate Farm, Plealey SA 13367 is, at last, in safe hands. The stripping-out has revealed some interesting features which may affect the interpretation of the building sequence.

It was suggested at a recent conference that houses which were moved from one site to another were built originally with earth-fast posts, and reference was made to Richard Gough's "History of Myddle" in which seven examples are quoted. I am trying to locate the sites of Gough's peripatetic houses in the hope that they will throw some light on what appears to me to be an unlikely situation.

On a similar theme, a rare type of document, namely a detailed contract for moving a "Ffat-oxe-house" in Flaish and re-erecting it as a dwelling was discovered in the Local Studies Library by Dr. Paul Stamper. (Deed 17734 dated 1689). Unfortunately I cannot locate the building.

Recording on several interesting houses is in progress, eg Wolmer House and others on the N side of Barrow St, Much Wenlock, Habberley Hall SA 13303, and The Old Hall, Claverley SA 11788

Madge Moran

### THE SPAB DOMESDAY SURVEY OF BARNES

Eight hundred years after Domesday, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings embarked on a countrywide survey of traditional Threshing Barns, prompted by a concern about the rapid loss of these buildings which are not only of great historical interest in themselves, but also contribute in no small way to our landscape. The aim of the the survey was to gain hard information to support the case for subsidising the maintenance of these buildings, rather than their demolition and the erection of new ones, and to encourage alternative uses for barns where necessary, especially within an agricultural context.

The survey was organised by county, relying upon volunteers to survey all barns within one or more parishes. In Shropshire over 20 parishes were surveyed, and the results have been added to the County Archive, as well as being forwarded to SPAB in London.

All threshing barns have certain features in common, for example, large double doors opposite each other to allow access for carts and a through draught for winnowing of grain threshed on a hard floor between the doors, and also bays for storage either side of the threshing floor, with ventilation in the walls. However, there are variations both in size, which gives an indication of the amount of grain grown on the farm when they were built, and in style, which reflects their age and regional differences. The barns surveyed in Shropshire showed a surprising degree of diversity. The walls were most often brick, with a significant proportion timber boarded and stone, and some timber frame with brick infill. Ventilation was usually by slits in stone walls, and decorated patterns of holes in brick, generally in diamond shapes. Roofs were tiled, although about a quarter had been replaced by metal or asbestos. Most had "pop holes" in the end walls, but there were more unusual features in detail, such as owl holes, and in construction, such as aisles or cruck frames. Only one was a listed building, but, encouragingly by far the highest proportion were described as being in "fair" or "good" condition. Most were also still in agricultural use, being used for storage of grain or implements. Some, however, had been converted for non-agricultural use, and this seems to be a trend that is likely to continue. It is to be hoped that this will be done sympathetically, to retain features of interest, and reflecting the origins of the buildings.

Advice on methods of sympathetic conversion, and grants, is available from SPAB, at 37, Spital Square, London E1 6DY, as will be the results of the national survey when it is fully processed. One can also see the diversity of traditional farm buildings in Shropshire simply by driving round the lanes, or on walks in the countryside, and a well preserved and interesting example can be found at Acton Scott Working Farm Museum.

Jan Ensum  
County Co-ordinator

#### TELFORD HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1986

Nedge Hill. The proposed site for re-development has been fieldwalked and Naird Farm photographically recorded. The Society hopes to undertake a small excavation below Naird Farm in the Spring.

Stirchley Lane. A photographic record has been made of the piece of old road between Wallows Farm Estate off Hinkshay Road and the junction of Stirchley Road at the "Elms", before it was improved.

Friorslee Turnpike. A preliminary report of the excavation which the Society undertook on the line of the old turnpike road at Friorslee in 1981 has now been published in the Society's newsletter.

Margaret Sumnall  
Hon. Secretary  
T.H.A.S.

### THE PORTBOOKS PROJECT AT WOLVERHAMPTON POLYTECHNIC

A major research project is currently shedding new light on the early trade of the River Severn. The project aims to computerise the Gloucester Port Books, the customs records of vessels and their cargoes passing through the Port of Gloucester between 1581 and 1765. This will permit study of about 50,000 voyages, giving information about industries in the Severn valley, individual trowmen, inter-regional flows of trade, and the navigation of the river. The completed database will be accessible to historians researching a wide variety of subjects. So far about 13,000 voyages have been computerised, thanks to volunteers throughout the Severn valley who have helped transcribe the documents. Anyone who would like to help by working on the records at home or typing in data at the Polytechnic should contact Peter Wakelin at SHCS, Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Castle View, Dudley, DY1 3HR; or by telephone on Telford 588453.

P. Wakelin

### SHROPSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE

The County Museum Service has examined an interesting collection of artefacts over the past few months. We offer a free identification service, therefore, if you find anything of interest we'd be happy to look at it and give you an opinion as to what it might be. Call in at Ludlow, Much Wenlock or Acton Scott. The following have come to our attention recently and are of exceptional interest.

#### Jackfield Sword SA 4120

A bronze sword found in the River Severn on a small gravel island at Jackfield in the 1960's has just come to light via the Newport Historical Society. It is a complete example of a Hallstat "C" sword datable to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. It is leaf shaped and the blade has been slightly bent at some time in the past. Such swords are common in eastern England and Ireland, but they are highly unusual in the Marches. A similar example was found before 1850 near Brogyntyn, Sellatyn, in the north of the county. It was probably associated with a bronze socketed gouge and a bronze tanged chisel. All three items were donated to the National Museum of Wales by Lord Harlech. The Jackfield sword was apparently an isolated find and is yet another example of the association with watery contexts of such artefacts. The sword is presently being conserved and will then be displayed at Much Wenlock Museum.

#### Oswestry Axe and Axe Mould SA 4253

Lord Harlech's Brogyntyn Estate has recently yielded yet more finds of interest. They are a Late Bronze Age socketed axe and a two-part axe-mould for casting a similar (but not the same) axe. Both were discovered by a metal-detector user who forwarded them to the County Museum Service. The axe-mould in particular has caused great excitement, especially at the British Museum where Dr Stuart Needham of the Dept of Prehistoric and Roman Antiquities, has been examining it. At present, it seems that it may be a unique example of a complete socketed-axe mould made of bronze. A first for Shropshire and possibly Britain. There is a chance that other finds may be located nearby and investigations are continuing.



### Metalwork finds from Quatford

An arable field adjacent to the River Severn at Quatford has continued to reveal a range of metalwork finds and the Bridgnorth based metal detecting group (D.O.B.O.) has been forwarding a series of interesting artefacts from this site to Much Wenlock Museum. A small leaden "inkwell" shaped object has so far defied identification. It was associated with a collection of small lead objects weights (some decorative) musket balls, a silvered ornamental plaque and a small casting drip of lead, indicative of metal working in the proximity. This field has previously yielded 13th-14th century coinage and a lead or pewter pilgrim's ampulla also of Medieval date. The finds are currently being drawn and it is hoped to publish a note on the discoveries in the Transactions in the near future.

### SHREWSBURY BOROUGH MUSEUMS

The last twelve months have seen much activity in all departments of the museum. The art collection has been enhanced by the addition of two major panoramic views of Shrewsbury by John Bowen, dating to the late 18th century. A further fine oil of the English Bridge by E. Dayes is another recent addition.

In the Archeology department the programme of cataloguing continues with the help of volunteers. The medal collection has been listed and housed in better storage. The recent acknowledgement of Rowley's House as a provisionally approved centre for the storage of archaeological material from government financed excavations, has led to grant aid being received for the improvement of the attics in the building for that purpose. This is particularly important in relation to the expected acquisition of material from the current Abbey excavations being carried out by BUFAU.

The past year has also seen the Borough Museum Service transferred to the new Health, Tourism and Leisure Department of the Borough Council, adding a new sense of purpose and unity to the role of the Museum within the community.

### THE PARISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD PROJECT

The need for comprehensive Inventories of Archaeological Finds and Features, readily accessible to a wide range of users has often been expressed. (1) Participation in their compilation provides an interesting and useful form of involvement in archaeology for those unable or unwilling to take part in excavations or other forms of large-scale field work.

The work of Miss L.F. Chitty, O.B.E., F.S.A, M.A., who was for so many years Correspondent for the Ordnance Survey and for C.B.A. Group B, and Recorder of Archaeology for the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, provided the inspiration as well as much of the source material for the collation of the Archaeologia of Shropshire into a GAZETTEER. This project, begun in 1967 by members of the Shropshire Arch Soc, and still in progress, lists by type both Finds and Features of periods up to 1450AD and cross indexes them to form a parish reference system. The Gazetteer has been built up from documentary sources, aerial and ground surveys, and local knowledge. It has generated an extensive bibliography.

Meanwhile the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has been and continues to be compiled by the County Council. For further details contact the County Planning Dept, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Tel Shrews 252562 or 252563, from whom a leaflet outlining its content, form and role can be obtained. A means of correlating the contents of the PARR Gazetteer and the SMR is currently being explored.

It is thought that many would enjoy maintaining a file on the archaeology of their locality. It is thus proposed that a useful development of the Gazetteer Project would be to invite people to become local RECORDERS, prepared to commit themselves on a long-term basis to the augmentation of the Gazetteer entries for their locality. The latter could comprise a single parish or a group of parishes. Those in a very large parish may wish to team up with other Recorders in order to cover it.

Recorders may be requested to visit sites, and should thus undertake to adhere to the Countryside Commission's guidelines on rights of access, etc as set out in their publication No CCP186 "Out in the Country", available from the Countryside Commission, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucs. GL50 3RA.

If you would like to volunteer as a local Recorder in the PARISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD PROJECT, please fill in the Reply Slip. You will then be sent an outline of the Project's procedures, and meetings can then be arranged ad hoc during the summer.

W.E.JENKS.

(1) Current Archaeology, No 18, p205

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

### Parish Registers

The Parish Registers of SILVINGTON (1663-1837) and UFTON CRESSETT (1637-1840) have been published by the Society. They have been compiled by Janice Capewell from the original registers and bishop's transcripts. Copies can be obtained from the Hon. Editor, Shropshire Archaeological Society, c/o Local Studies Library, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AS. The price is \$1.80 per register (£2.00 to non-members), plus 40p packing and postage per register or 50p p&p if both registers are ordered together. For overseas orders, postage is \$1.00. Cheques, etc. should be made payable to the Shropshire Archaeological Society.

### Handbook of Shropshire Archaeology, 1987

The County Museum Service has just produced a new edition of its Handbook of Shropshire Archaeology. It contains information on Societies, Museums and an enhanced list of sites to visit. New this time is a section on past Shropshire Historians and Archaeologists, with a delightful photo of a young Miss Chitty. Copies of the Handbook are available from Much Wenlock Museum High St, Much Wenlock, TF13 6HR. The price is \$1.30, plus 30p for postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to Shropshire County Council.

## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Single Events

Sat May 9th

*Recent Developments in Local History in Shropshire.*

This year's Day School will comprise :-

a) A series of talks on the variety of current local history projects in the county, including  
 -the use of a personal computer to analyse census returns in Clun.

-the work of a new research class working on probate inventories in Shrewsbury

- a project on domestic service in C19th Shrewsbury.

-Recent work at Ludlow & Shifnal

b) Tours of Shifnal on foot (afternoon)

Hosted by the St Andrews Archives Group. Venue Village Hall Aston St Shifnal. Prior booking essential. Details from The Gateway or the organiser, Dr Barrie Trinder, Adult Education Tutor for Historical Studies, 20 Garmston Rd, Shrewsbury. Tel Shrewsbury 52310.

Thurs June 4th

*St Laurence's Parish Church, Ludlow* - a fund raising event for church funds.

Talk "What the Church was like during the reign of Richard II. Coffee. Guided Tour of The Rectory, an interesting medieval building with an early collar-rafter roof.

Venue - the Church Time 7.30pm No booking required No charge but small donations requested.

Sat June 27th

*Shropshire Arch Soc AGM & Afternoon Lecture* --see Summer Meetings Programme.

Thurs 2 July

*Hen Domen - A Norman Castle on the Welsh Border.*

A lecture by Dr Philip Barker (a Vice President of the Shrops Arch Soc) who will be summarising his many years of excavation at Hen Domen, and presenting some reconstruction drawings for the first time.

A Ludlow Festival Event. Venue Ludlow School (on Bromfield Rd) Tickets £1 & £2, obtainable from Ludlow Festival Box Office, Ludlow. SY8 1AY

Sat 3rd &amp; Sun 4th Oct

*Coalport Conference*

The 8th in a series of annual meetings for collectors and historians of Shropshire and other decorative ceramics.

Venue the former Coalport China Works. Director Denis Blake Roberts. Brochure no.15 from the Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7AW Tel (095245) 2751

Thurs 22 Oct

*The Marriage of Mechanical Engineering and Mining*

A 1 day course examining the role of engineering in mining and the development of pumping and winding equipment as used in mines. Venue Ironbridge Director Dr Hugh Torrens. Brochure no 17 from the Ironbridge Institute etc (as above)

Sat November 21st

*The County Museum Service Annual Archaeology Day School*  
Venue Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Further details and a programme will be issued later.

**Programmes of Guided Tours or Walks**

Tues April 28th -->

*Exploring the Historic Landscape of S. Shropshire, N Herefordshire & N W Worcestershire*  
One lecture & seven guided walks. Venue for initial lecture Lady Dyer Rm, Ludlow College, Castle Sq. at 7.30pm  
Tutor/organiser David Lloyd tel Ludlow 4293 Fee £12/£6  
A Birmingham University Extra-Mural Course.

Jun 22nd/26th/29th

*Guided Tours of 3 Great Houses in South Shropshire*  
Mon 22nd Oakly Park/Fri 26th Bitterly Court/Mon 29th Mawley Hall  
All begin 7.30pm. £2 per tour, £5 the 3. Coffee provided  
A Ludlow Festival Event. Apply by post (remittance with sae cheques to Ludlow Festival Society) from Ludlow Festival Box Office Ludlow SY8 1AY  
*Bookings have already opened for ticket issue by early May*

Tues 7th July -->

*The Suburbs of Shrewsbury*  
A varied series of guided walks on Tuesday evenings in July & August. The walks bring to light a great deal of recent research into the history of the town & its suburbs.  
Leaders D Fannett & Dr Barrie Trinder. Organised by Shrops CC Community Education Service. Full details from the Gateway and local libraries.

**Fieldwork, Survey & Excavation Training Courses**

Sat 18th July - Sat 25th July

Sat 25th July - Sat 1st Aug

**OFFA'S DYKE**

Two week long courses involving a number of small excavations and detailed survey work on the Dyke, visits to nearby sites, and ancilliary work in Bishop's Castle and the Roman sites at Brompton. Tuition Fee £51/£34 for 1 week, £76/£52 for 2 weeks  
Director Dr David Hill. Contact the Enrolment Secretary, Dept of Extra Mural Studies, the University, Manchester M13 9PL a.s.a.p for a brochure/application form

August (whole month)

**Symon's Castle (C13th) Churchstoke, Powys**

Week-long courses, both residential & non-residential, on the techniques of archaeological excavation.  
Experienced volunteers are also welcome to join the excavation.  
Organised by the Tutor in Archaeology, Dept of Extra Mural Studies, UCW, Aberystwyth. Contact the Tutor, Dr C.J. Arnold, at Bronawel, Green Lane, Abermule, Montgomery, Powys Tel 068 686 334

SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
No 25 Autumn 1987

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Acting Editor P.A.Ward MA MIFA 1,Crewe St,Shrewsbury SY1 2HQ

**RCHME FIELD SURVEYS IN SHROPSHIRE**

Field surveys in Shropshire by RCHME Keele office during the past twelve months have been confined to intermittent work on the project to investigate medieval and later settlement remains (what might conventionally be called deserted or shrunken medieval villages or hamlets) in the liberty of Much Wenlock. Sites where surveys have been completed include Gretton (manorial complex and pond bays), Ruthall (settlement remains), Holdgate (castle, settlement remains and ?formal gardens), Sydnall (settlement remains), Broadstone (settlement remains), Broadstone (settlement remains), Benthall (alleged settlement remains), Abdon (settlement remains), Great Oxenbold (grange and pond bay), and Patton (settlement remains).

A complex of earthworks in Wenlock Park, suggested as a lost village or hamlet, has been planned at the request of the National Trust. It includes a mill leat, but principally represents a palimpsest of open-field arable furlongs and overlying enclosed fields and tracks that is in itself quite typical of the medieval and later land-use changes in the area.

An account of work based on RCHME field survey at Attingham Park that located the settlement of Berwick Maviston and documented its desertion has been published in the latest volume of TSAS.

Paul Everson  
RCHME  
Chancellor's Building  
University of Keele

**NUFFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
IRONBRIDGE INSTITUTE**

The limestone quarries of Benthall Edge, the buildings and commerce of the Ironbridge, and the brick and tile industries of Jackfield are just three of the detailed studies undertaken recently by the Nuffield Survey of the Ironbridge Gorge. But the aim of the Survey is to cover the whole landscape, and reports on Coalbrookdale, Coalport & Blists Hill, and Benthall are available, with Jackfield and Ironbridge well underway. The end of 1988 will hopefully see the production of a book tackling some of the wider issues covered by the Survey, and making the results more accessible.

Kate Clark  
Judith Alfrey

## THE SHREWSBURY HERITAGE PROJECT

### Excavations at Shrewsbury Abbey

Earlier this summer, excavation began on the Abbey Mill site as part of the archaeological response to the proposed English Bridge Gyrotory System. Throughout its life, the Abbey derived an income from water-mills along the lower Rea Valley, one or more of which may have been established before the Abbey was founded in the 1080's. The lowest of the mill sites was that of the Abbey Mill, which stood outside the south-west corner of the monastic precinct; milling continued on this site into the earliest years of the 20th century.

The excavation began by uncovering a well preserved 19th century milling complex: the last Abbey Mill, a brick building of c.1800, with its head race, overflow weir and sluice, culverted tail-race, and cobbled hard-standings around the mill building. About two-thirds of the interior of the mill have been excavated, revealing an undershot (Poncelet-type) wheel pit, and machinery bases. Excavation outside the mill has located the corner of a structure probably associated with an earlier mill building, and an earlier overflow channel. Excavation of this site is scheduled for completion in December 1987.

### Shrewsbury Town Centre

Construction work for the John Laing Development's Charles Darwin Centre, between Pride Hill, Castle Hill and Raven Meadows, has been monitored by the Project. Structures and land-fill associated with the mid-19th century Smithfield Cattle Market were recorded in the low-lying Raven Meadows area, with little evidence of earlier activities in this area. However, on the Pride Hill frontage and on the hillside behind (on the site of the former Top Shop premises at the top of Seventy Steps) project staff recorded two stone-built cellars, not closely dateable but likely to be of late medieval or early post-medieval origin. The front cellar was built with Keele Beds sandstone rubble walls; the rear cellar, a short distance behind, had walls with rubble cores and interior faces of finely cut Grinshill sandstone ashlar, into which a brick barrel-vault had been inserted.

About thirty metres behind the frontage, underpinning work to standing buildings encountered a mass of Keele Beds sandstone rubble in a matrix of greenish gritty mortar. This can almost certainly be identified as the core of the medieval town wall, the course of which was not previously known with precision in this area.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY .

Day Schools

Sat 21st November 1987

10.30am-12.30pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN SHROPSHIRE

The County Museum Service Annual Day School  
Venue-The Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Illustrated talks on:- "Recent Excavations at Madeley Court, Telford", "Underground Shrewsbury", "Approaching 200-the work of the Victoria History of Shropshire", "The Civil War Roushill Wall, Shrewsbury", "The Land that Telford Forgot: the South bank of the Ironbridge Gorge", "Fit Shafts and Broken Tiles -ceramic industries in Jackfield", "Aerial Archaeological Work in Shropshire, 1985-1987", "Excavations at Shrewsbury Abbey 1986-1987"

Refreshments available

Admission Free

Birmingham University Dept of Extra Mural Studies Day Schools

Sat 24th Nov	Religion in Roman Britain
Sat 7th Nov	25 Years of Archaeology in the West Midlands
Sat 5th Dec	The Roman Imperial Army in the C1st & C2nd AD
Sat 12th Dec	Lascaux & Altamira-Paleolithic Cave Art
Sat 13th Feb	West Midlands Archaeology 1987
Sat 27th Feb	Interpreting the Landscape
Sat 5th March	News from the Celtic West

Fees payable Various Birmingham Venues Tel 021-472 1301 X2186  
or write to Dept of Extra Mural Studies, University of  
Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT for further details.

Whitchurch Area Archaeological Group Winter Programme 1987-1988

Oct 15th	"The Life of St Chad" Dr J.R. Studd, Univ of Keele
Nov 19th	"Food of the Georgian Period" Mrs B. Bryan, Prees
Dec 17th	Tenth Anniversary Dinner
Jan 21st	"Prees Past " Mrs J. Dyke, Lower Heath
Feb 18th	AGM and Social Evening
Mar 17th	"Houses of North Shropshire" Mrs M. Moran, Shrewsbury
Apr 21st	"The Battle of Nantwich and the Activities of the Sealed Knot" A. Gillitt nb at Audlem Village Hall.

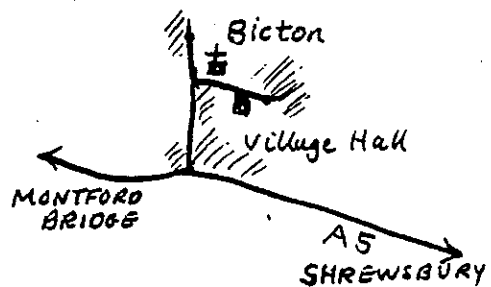
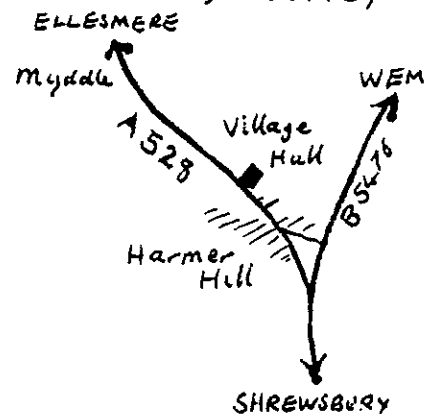
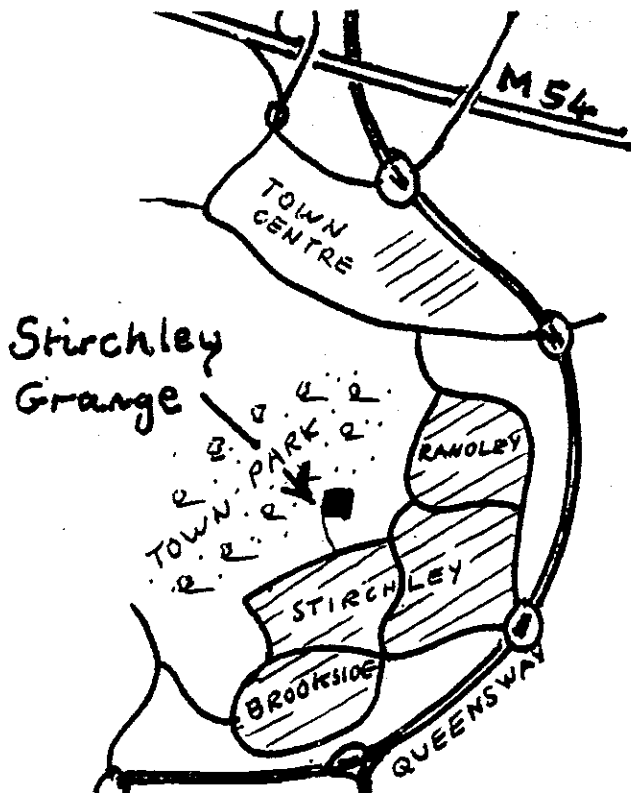
All except Dec and April at Civic Centre Whitchurch 7.30pm



Winter Meeting Programme 1987-8

- Sat. October 10th. LUDLOW TOWN PLAN, A REASSESSMENT, a lecture by David Lloyd, at The Gateway, Shrewsbury, 2.30.pm.
- Sat. November 14th. MYDDLE REVISITED, a lecture discussing the the buildings of Gaugh's history, by Madge Moran at Harmer Hill village Hall, 2.30.pm.
- Sat. December 5th. LOOKING AT SHROPSHIRE CHURCHES, a lecture by Eric Mercer, at Stirchley Grange, Telford, 2.30.pm
- Sat. January 16th. MEMBERS' SLIDES AND SOCIAL MEETING at Bicton Village Hall, nr. Shrewsbury, 12.30-3.00.pm.  
(Refreshments £2.50 - prior booking essential)
- Sat. February 13th. SCRAP OR SUBSTITUTE ? ROMAN OBJECTS IN ANGLO-SAXON GRAVES, a lecture by Roger White, at the Gateway, 2.30.pm.
- Sat. March 12th. THE CHESTER SILVERSMITHS, a lecture by Canon M.H.Ridgway at the Gateway, 2.30.pm

Location of Meetings (if there are any problems of transport, please contact David Pannett, Meetings Sec. Shrewsbury 850773)



The first meeting of the Summer programme will be on Sat. May 14 th. Details will be announced.

Reply slip for January meeting *(by January 5th please)*

To David Pannett, (Meetings Sec.) Merton Nurseries, Holyhead Road, Bicton, Shrewsbury, SY3 8EF. Tel. Sh. 850773

From ..... Tel. ....

Please reserve ..... lunch(es) at the meeting on Jan. 16th.

for which I enclose ..... (£ 2.50).

I should like to make the following contribution.....

A bulletin of news of archaeological and historical interest.  
Published by the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Acting editor F.A.Ward MA MIFA 1,Crewe St,Shrewsbury SY1 2HQ

#### BUFAU IN SHREWSBURY

The completion of the Abbey Mill site earlier this year marked the end of of the campaign of excavations at Shrewsbury Abbey by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. Post-excavation work is currently in progress at Severn Villa, both on the Abbey excavation and on the results of work undertaken in the Pride Hill area in 1986-1987.

In June 1988 a trial excavation by Hugh Hannaford in the cellar of St. Mary's Cottages, prior to the lowering of the cellar floor by the owner, produced a rim-sherd of Stafford-type ware and revealed a grave-cut cut into the natural sands and gravels, suggesting that the area was once part of St. Mary's churchyard.

#### IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT-RECENT WORK

During the last six months the Unit has been largely involved with building surveys, and the production and issue of a number of reports.

The latter have included:-

"The Coarse Earthenwares" Pottery Typology by Allison Jones.

Buildings surveys of eighteenth century labourers cottages in Ironbridge, and the Severn Trow Inn at Jackfield.

A preliminary survey of Sunnyside Arboretum, a nineteenth century wooden garden in Coalbrookdale.

At present the team is working on a series of reports including Lightmoor Brickworks; Excavations and Building survey at Little Dawley 1983-1986; The eighteenth century Malthouse at the Swan, Ironbridge; The Old Wind, Brierly Hill (the terminus for the W. branch of the Shropshire Union Canal), and the Coalbrookdale Chapel.

With the cldown of the MSC Community Programme, the team hopes to be able to complete all its projects by February, when it is due to close down.

#### VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

During the last year work has concentrated on finishing off Volume IV, a general history of Shropshire agriculture. This will be published next year simultaneously with a popular booklet on the same topic by Dr Paul Stamper. (See below for an appeal for photographs)

Dr Cox has extended his earlier history of the County Council (published in Volume III) to enable a centenary history of the Council 1889-1989 to appear next year as a County Council publication. Progress has also been made with Volume X (the

Wenlock -Church Stretton area), now half written, and Volume V (a general history of Shropshire Architecture) by Eric Mercer.

G.C. Baugh

#### VCH FARMING PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAL

As outlined above, in 1989 the V.C.H. is to publish two books on the agricultural history of Shropshire: Volume IV of the County History, which will cover the history of farming in Shropshire from the Neolithic period to the mid 1980s, and a shorter version of the same, to be published by Shropshire Libraries. Potential illustrations for both publications are being collected, and Dr Paul Stamper would be delighted to hear from anyone with old photos, drawings, or paintings showing any aspect of farming. The definition of farming is broad, and includes such things as woodland management, hedging, and lime burning. Any materials loaned will, of course, be treated with great care, and will be copied and returned as soon as possible. If you have any material which you feel may be of interest please contact Dr Stamper, V.C.H., The Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Tel Shrewsbury 252858

#### MSC COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IN THE LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY.

Since January 1986, MSC employees have worked on several projects in the library, two of which have involved the creation of databases using the mainframe computer at the Shirehall.

The first, now virtually completed, is a keyword index to the library's manuscript collection. The information entered for each of the 25,000 documents include date, placenames, personal names, nature of document (parish, guild, plan, etc), type of property if of particular interest (water mill, lime kiln, barn, chapel) and occupations of parties. The object of the index is to provide rapid access to information in the manuscript collection so that more efficient use may be made of it.

The second database contains information from the 1881 census enumerators books. So far around 100 parishes in South Shropshire and north Herefordshire and Worcestershire have been entered. For these it is now possible to search for individuals by their name, a great advantage when their place of residence is uncertain or unknown. Eventually, the completed database will be accessible throughout the County as libraries are linked to the Shirehall mainframe.

#### COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE

The Museum Service has been preparing for the return of the very fine Roman mirror to Whitchurch town centre. This 1st century AD mirror was discovered just south of Whitchurch in 1973, taken to London to be conserved and eventually returned to Shropshire in 1987. The Museum Service was approached by the Whitchurch Town Council and the Local Archaeological Group to return the mirror to its place of discovery.

After the County's Assistant Keeper, Isabel Churcher, had visited the proposed site of the display, in the Civic Centre, the Museum Service designed a display for the mirror. This will put the mirror in its context to ensure that locals and visitors understand its social significance. The display will hopefully be erected later this year.

**A RECENT PUBLICATION**

"The Carmelite Friary, Corve St, Ludlow: Its History and Excavation". by Peter Klein and Annette Roe.

A joint publication by the Ludlow Historical Research Group and Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

Available from the Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT. price £4.95.

**THE ANNUAL COUNTY MUSEUM DAY SCHOOL SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER.**

A one day review of recent archaeological work in Shropshire is to be held in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, beginning at 10.30 am.

Morning Session 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| I. Churcher             | Recent Bronze Age Finds from Shropshire                                   |
| M. Watson               | Archaeological Round-Up 1987-1988   |
| J. Gowlett              | Hunters From the End of the Ice Age: Can We Trap Them in Shropshire?      |
| G. Barrett & M. Roberts | Images of Past Landscapes: Aerial Archaeology at Berghill, near Oswestry. |

Afternoon Session 2.00 pm - 4.00pm

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| M. Horton | Excavations at Newdale, Telford                  |
| I. Ferris | Recent Buildings Recording in Shropshire         |
| J. Allen  | Excavations at Pentrehyling Roman Fort 1985-1988 |
| J. Cane   | Investigations Along the A5 Shrewsbury By-Pass   |

Refreshments Available

ADMISSION FREE

**OTHER DAY SCHOOLS AND CLASSES**

For details of all these events and courses contact the following Organisers:-

- #1. Shropshire County Council-Community Education Service, The Gateway, Chester St, Shrewsbury SY1 1NB. Tel Shrewsbury 55159. For all BT ref courses you can also contact Dr Barrie Trinder direct at 20, Garmston Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 6HE Tel Shrewsbury 52310
- #2. The Ironbridge Institute, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford .TF8 7AW Tel (0952 45) 2751/2093/4
- #3. Dr Peter Toghil, Co-ordinator for Shrewsbury, University of Birmingham School of Continuing Studies, The Gateway, Chester St, Shrewsbury SY1 1NB Tel Shrewsbury 55137

DAY SCHOOLS

- |            |                                       |                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| SAT 15 OCT | Agricultural History in Shropshire    |                   |
|            | Walford College of Agriculture        | Organiser 1 (BT7) |
| FRI 11 NOV | Industrial Archaeology as Archaeology |                   |
|            | Ironbridge Institute                  | Organiser 2       |

SAT 12 NOV	The History of the Severn Navigation	
The Gateway		Organiser 1 (BT)
THUR 17 NOV	The Origins of Industrial Housing	
Ironbridge Institute		Organiser 2
SAT 26 NOV	Stonehenge and its People	
The Gateway	Prior booking required	Organiser 3
FRI 17 FEB	Medieval Stained Glass	
The Gateway		Organiser 1 (WE2)
SAT 18 MAR	Railway History	
The Gateway		Organiser 1 (BT10)
SAT 22 APR	Shropshire History and the VCH	
The Gateway		Organiser 1 (BT11)
SAT 13 MAY	Annual Local History Day School	
Ironbridge Institute		Organiser 1 (BT12)

#### DAY AND EVENING CLASSES

A simple list, in start date order, of titles which may be interest. The postal dispute and other delays in the issue of this Newsletter mean that some may have started.

**Great Houses of Shropshire			
Tues 20th Sept	2pm	12 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 3
**The History of Shropshire: An Introduction			
Tues 20th Sept	7.30pm	6 mtgs	Oswestry College Organiser 1 (BT)
**Aspects of Shropshire History			
Mon 26th Sept	7.30pm	8 mtgs	Adams School Wem Organiser 1 (BT)
**Urban Archaeology			
Tues 27th Sept	7.30pm	14 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 3
**Maps Old and New			
Tues 27th Sept	7.30pm	12 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 3
**The History of Shrewsbury			
Wed 28th Sept	7.30pm	20 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 1 (BT5)
**Medieval Parish Churches			
Thur 29th Sept	7.30pm	14 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 3
**The History of Shropshire- An Introduction			
Wed 5 Oct	2pm	20 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 1 (BT4)
**Family History- An Introduction			
Mon 17 Oct	7.30pm	10 mtgs	The Gateway Organiser 1 (BT)
**An Introduction to Shropshire History			
Mon 27th Feb	7.30pm	4 mtgs	Worfield School Organiser 1 (BT)