

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 98
SUMMER 2024



DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.derbyshireas.org.uk

Registered charity no. 225031

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The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Society, its Council or its editor. All contributions submitted under *noms-de-plume* or pseudonomously must be accompanied by a *bona fide* name and address if such are to be accepted for publication.

The Newsletter of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society is normally published twice a year by the Society’s editor, Maxwell Craven [qv above] and is printed by John E Wright, printers, 15-17, Brick Street, Derby DE1 1DU, Tel.: 01332 344743.

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COVER PICTURE

Carole and I decided to visit Glossop on a blazing hot day in July 2022, mainly to prepare for a piece on the town for *Country Images*, and it was a long time since we had last ventured thence, yet it never disappoints, especially Old Glossop.

Old Glossop sits on a south facing hillside, and originated in the medieval period. The modern town, initially Howard Town, later New Glossop and now just Glossop, was created around cotton mills in the early 19th century through the encouragement of the FitzAlan-Howards (whose coat-of-arms can be seen all over the place) and lies further down, occupying the valley.

The name, according to modern reference books, derives from the Anglo-Saxon *hop(e)* (= valley), suffixed to the notional Saxon name of 'Glott' (in the genitive, hence an additional 's'), thus 'Glott's valley'. However, in the manuals, these references invariably prefix the name with an asterisk, which means it has been deduced by academics from the name's earliest forms but is unattested by any known personage bearing it. Bearing in mind that the area probably remained under British control until near the end of the seventh century, one might propose a British origin for the first element, like *Glôg* (= a rock or knoll, appropriate enough hereabouts) or even the well-attested British personal name Glywys, with the Saxon suffix added. Such hybrid place names are not uncommon, especially in the North and West and more are being admitted as research is re-defined. Hence, if you look up a place-name in a reference book and spot an asterisk prefixing the name derived from the first element, always remain open minded (or cynical!).

Looking (and walking) up Church Street South provided us with a classic view, the village's more pretentious houses being on the east side, including a particularly fine double gabled house (No. 36) just below the corner of Well Gate, and a slightly earlier, simpler one adjacent. The view on the cover was taken as we reached the top. On reaching the top, one sees the remainder of Church Street, as it turns west, with its raised pavement and 18th century cottages above the parish church. In the foreground is the (to us) welcoming sight of, on the corner of Dunne Lane, the *Bull's Head* (late 17th century): all perfectly delightful. And one has a choice too, for a few yards to the east along Well Lane is the equally pleasant *Wheatsheaf* inn (18th or early 19th century). Enjoy! (as restaurant waiters invariably declare, triumphantly, on depositing the comestibles one has ordered in front of one).

I am indebted in the production of this newsletter, to all those people who have been willing to make a *précis* of the proceedings they have attended and send it in to me, along with, more often than not, bags of choice in respect of illustrations, to all of whom my thanks; please do maintain these good endeavours, without which I would have to fill the publication with my own ramblings. I am also grateful to Rosemary, our chairman, and other members of Council who give me considerable help and advice as we gather pace toward a publication date. My thanks also go to Carole, my wife, for her considerable logistical and other support, especially at publication time!

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NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL

From the Chair

As the new year began the winter programme continued with ten talks from January through to April which demonstrated, yet again, the immense variety of topics covered by contributions from the Society's special interest groups. On 23 March Dr Richard Clark gave this year's Joan D'Arcy lecture *'The Temple well purged'. The Seizure of Church Goods in Derbyshire 1552-53: a later act of Tudor Reformation destruction* followed by a second short talk on *Highlights from the Derbyshire Archaeological Society's Archive*. We are most grateful to Richard for both of his talks, and for his help in organising the day. A special addition to the afternoon was a special gift to the Society from Jane Steer, in memory of Joan, presented on Jane's behalf by her husband Peter. Details are in the Library Notes.

The choice of date for the Society's Annual General Meeting seems to guarantee brilliant Spring sunshine – as it did too, last year – and we are grateful to those who attended. Members have had the opportunity to read the review of the Society's activities in the Annual Report for 2023, to which a few additional comments were made at the meeting.

The first and most important was to thank all who help with the organisation and management of the Society, its publications and events. Keeping a voluntary society going is a considerable undertaking and a huge amount of work is undertaken, throughout the year, by our editors, treasurer, section committees, council members and many others for which we are enormously grateful.

The second was to comment briefly on finance. The Council has resolved to keep as much of the Society's funds as possible in investments, in order to maintain the value of a number of bequests and gifts which the Society has been fortunate to receive from past members, with a combination of long-term investment in bonds approved for charities and cash not needed for immediate budgeted expenditure, invested in short term bonds. During 2023, after initial set up costs had been met, our long-term investments began to show reasonable returns but the challenge of balancing regular income and expenditure remains. While some changes, such as the use of Zoom and Eventbrite, have extended the reach of the Society and simplified some of our operations, members will be well aware of constantly rising costs in all areas, in particular postage and publication. The Council keeps all expenditure under constant review and is committed to the prudent management of the Society's resources to ensure its continuation in the long term.

Finally, the year 2028 will mark the Society's sesquicentennial anniversary and the Council is beginning to look at ways in which to mark this event. Suggestions to date include: encouraging new research on the period and intellectual context in which the Society came into being; an exhibition or conference; additional cataloguing and some digitisation of the Society's archives; promoting more general publicity about the Society and its work; a commemorative lecture; and the establishment of an endowment fund. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions and – most importantly – are willing to help as we prepare for 2028.

Following the AGM, there were two talks by members: Keith Reedman on ‘Davis of Derby: instrument makers to the mining industry’; and Richard Finch on ‘St Saviour’s Church, Foremark – a restoration survival’.

Zoom recordings of the all of the talks mentioned above are available on the DAS website.

The summer programme is now underway, with a wide variety of visits and informative guides. When places are still available a short while before the event, these are then opened to the general public through Eventbrite. Please make this widely known and encourage others to join us.

Rosemary Annable
chair@derbyshireas.org.uk

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VOLUNTEER WANTED:

A Representative on the Derby City Conservation & Heritage Advisory Committee (CHAC).

As noted in the Society’s Annual Report, the DAS is represented on Derby City’s Conservation and Heritage Advisory Committee, which advises on planning applications in relation to designated and undesignated heritage assets – conservation areas, archaeology, along with locally and statutorily listed buildings.

Chris Wardle has filled this role for some years, but has now stepped down and we are looking for another representative to maintain the Society’s work in this area. A working knowledge of the history of Derby is an essential and some knowledge of the planning process is helpful, but can be learned to some extent ‘on the hoof’. The committee meets ten times per annum, always on a Thursday and invariably at 16.00hrs. The meetings take place in Derby Council House and last approximately 90 minutes.

Papers and recordings of past meetings can be found on the Derby City Council Democracy portal <https://democracy.derby.gov.uk/> Our Newsletter editor, Maxwell Craven, who is also a member of the Committee, will be happy to advise on the scope, responsibilities and time commitment of the role.

If you are interested, please contact Rosemary Annable at chair@derbyshireas.org.uk

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JUST PUBLISHED

The Lost Houses of Derbyshire (an effort by your editor) was published last month by Amberley of Stroud at £15.99. It has shorter entries than the 2003 hardback, which it revises, but many of them are different, as are most of the illustrations. Available in all good bookshops. *The Lost Houses of Nottinghamshire* will be along later this year and *The Lost Houses of Staffordshire* (co-written with James Darwin of the Georgian Group) will follow next year.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Since January the Library has been open on three occasions outside our normal opening hours – the Open Afternoon in January, the Joan D’Arcy Lecture in March and the AGM in May. This arrangement is proving very successful with plenty of people through the library doors – 60 at the Open Afternoon. It also allows us to showcase some of the special books which are not kept on the open shelves.

We have been pleased to receive two very generous donations recently. The first is James Gibbs’ book

'RULES for DRAWING the several PARTS of ARCHITECTURE, in a more exact and easy manner than has been heretofore practised, by which all fractions, in dividing the principal members and their parts, are avoided' (London, 1736)

which was on display at the Open Afternoon in January and at the AGM in May. It was originally on loan from Jane Steer but Jane has now very generously donated this lovely book to the DAS in memory of Joan D’Arcy. It was presented to the Society by Jane’s husband Peter at the Joan D’Arcy Lecture in March. Jane was sadly unable to attend due to ill-health. Peter spoke eloquently of how Jane had acquired the book on a visit to Scarthin Books and that the inscription – *Abram Denston: his book* – confirmed her view of the importance of the book in the history of Derbyshire. He also spoke warmly of the long friendship between Jane and Joan and the hours they spent together working on so many local history projects, the results of which which can be seen in various publications and in *Miscellany*. The book will be on permanent loan to Derby Museum and we will be able to access it when needed.

Andrea Soldi: James Gibbs (1682-1754) with the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford, right. [National Galleries of Scotland]



The second donation is a considerable number of 19th century engineering drawings from the Cromford and High Peak Railway. They were kindly donated by Nick Evans who is originally

from Belper. These drawings, of which the earliest we have catalogued so far is 1841, will be of interest to a great many people. given their importance to early railway history and to Derbyshire industrial history. A display of the drawings will be held at some point before they are deposited at the Derbyshire Record Office as part of our holdings there.

We thank both donors for their generosity.

A selection of new books added to our stock:

Garratt, H. J. H. (ed.) *Derbyshire Feet of Fines 1196 -1325* Derbyshire Record Series
Vol XLIX (Chesterfield 2019)

Malone, S. *et al.*, *Archaeological Excavations at Hanging Banks, Wingerworth,
Derbyshire*. York Archaeology Monograph 1 (2021) 134

Craske, M., *Joseph Wright Painter of Darkness* Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in
British Art, 2020

Anne Allcock
Hon. Librarian

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NEWS FROM THE RECORD OFFICE

New acquisitions

Since January 2024, we have accepted 81 new acquisitions, primarily additions to existing collections for schools, magistrates courts, parishes and non-conformist churches, local authorities including the county council, Derbyshire families, businesses and societies. Of particular note are:

- Two photograph albums and a diary with photographs from the Miller Mundy family of Shipley Hall (D517)
- Various records including plans from the Deepwood Mining Company who undertook hydrocarbon exploration in Derbyshire and Staffordshire during the late 20th century (D8759). These records had been stored in very poor conditions for about the last 20 years and are not yet sufficiently stable to enable access for cataloguing
- Derbyshire County Council, including records inherited from the County Quarter Sessions: Weights and Measures Departmental records 1834-1967 (DCC/PP); County Terrier maps and colliery site and police station property management files from the Architect's department (DCC/PR) and Clerk's correspondence 1863-1995 (DCC/CC/F)
- First World War scrapbooks and correspondence from the Garnett and Spaffold families of Buxton, including items relating to service in India and Mesopotamia (D8529)
- Personal diaries, 1968-2015, of Markham Colliery miner Andre Bradley, including diaries covering the 1984-1985 Miners' Strike and his time in Sudbury Prison for cutting the power to one of the pits that remained in operation during the strike (D7701)
- Selected ledgers and an extensive collection of carriage designs from Holmes & Co., of Derby, coach builders, including the first Directors' minute book from 1923 following a merger with Sanderson's of Midland Road to become Sanderson & Holmes

(D2696). This collection was purchased at auction for £25,000 following 100% funding from the V&A Purchase Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries.

For a full list of collections containing acquisitions received in 2024, see <https://shorturl.at/zQw2B>

Social media digest

This year we have blogged about tensions at Pinxton's Kirkstead Board School in the 1890s, the county's inspirational women, mango cucumbers (no mangoes required), 19th century 'True Crime', recent conservation repairs and guidance on how to find estate maps and plans in our online catalogue. We have also posted about hundreds of items from across the archive and local studies collections across our social media platforms. Follow us or just take a look on X (formerly Twitter): [@DerbyshireDRO](https://twitter.com/DerbyshireDRO) | Blog: recordoffice.wordpress.com | Instagram: [@derbyshirerecordoffice](https://www.instagram.com/derbyshirerecordoffice) | Facebook: www.facebook.com/DerbyshireRO

Events and Exhibitions

Our current exhibition, *Sign of the Times*, featuring a range of printed notices, from reward posters for stolen onions or lost dogs and posters for public meetings, to official proclamations, theatre bills and broadside ballads, will have ended by the time this reaches you. Our next exhibition, from 27 June, will be a guest feature from Fleet Arts of Belper prior to the deposit of their archive dating back to their establishment in 1983.

We are running a series of introductory sessions at the Record Office, between May and September:

Tuesday 30th July 10.30am-12noon Beyond Parish Registers – the other records in parish collections

Wednesday 14th August 2.00pm-4.00pm An Introduction to Records of Crime and Punishment

Wednesday 25th September 2.00pm-3.30pm An Introduction to Maps and Plans

All sessions are free, but booking is essential and spaces are very limited. To book, please email record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk or call us on 01629 538347, specifying which event you would like to attend and providing your preferred method of contact, preferably email and telephone number. We will only contact you about the event.

Also coming later this year:

New additions to the Derbyshire Heritage Mapping Portal as we begin a programme to add more historic maps for parishes across the county, starting with tithe maps for places including Ashbourne, Hayfield, Ripley, Chesterfield (St Mary and All Saints parish), Ticknall and Hope. Link:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record-office/records/historic-maps/historic-maps.aspx

Becky Sheldon

It is many years since a collation or round-up of summary reports of archaeological activity in Derbyshire last appeared in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. We are pleased to announce, however, that the next edition of the journal, due out later this year, will be featuring such a summary and it is intended to make this a regular feature. This will highlight the range of fieldwork: survey, excavation, geo-archaeological monitoring, building recording and so on, carried out in the previous year by the various archaeological contractors, academic bodies and amateur groups active in the county. On this occasion the period covered goes back in some instances to 2020, so this article will be longer than those which, hopefully, will appear in future editions of the journal.

Most of the major contractors working in Derbyshire have submitted summary reports, with over 80 received. Although this is not by any means a full or definitive coverage, it represents a very high percentage of the fieldwork activity in the county during the last two to three years. The summary article will feature over thirty of these sites in some detail, with many having an accompanying illustration. There is also a list of thirty other sites deemed of lesser significance, with just basic information provided.

Fully negative or insignificant sites have not been included. Generally, the sites listed have a widespread distribution across the county and the time coverage of finds extends from the Mesolithic period to Second World War remains found at Kedleston Park. We hope that this will help rebalance the archaeological - historical content of the journal.

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Archaeological Research Group

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN DERBYSHIRE

Sarah Howard

8th March 2024

Dr Sarah Howard is the senior archaeologist for the Midlands at the Environment Agency (EA). She has had a very varied career, her first degree being in archaeology followed by a masters in environmental archaeology and a PhD in sustainable development policy. She has worked in many areas of England, as an assistant inspector in Historic England's Heritage at Risk team as well as working with several local authorities. However, she finds that her present job enables her to make good use of her experience, knowledge and skills. She also explained that as a major developer the Environment Agency has a duty under the 1995 Environment Act (which set it up in the first place) to have regard for the protection and conservation of buildings and sites of archaeological and historic interest, to maintain access to them and to minimise any detrimental effect the Agency's projects may have on the historic environment; this is why the EA needs archaeologists.

At present, most of the Environment Agency's projects involve water management and flood prevention and can range from major schemes involving building walls, embankments and dams, to smaller schemes aimed at slowing the flow of water and reducing the need for major interventions. This work can either be planned for well in advance, or be an emergency response to flooding. Sarah used three case studies of projects in Derbyshire that she had been involved with recently to illustrate her work. She described her role as being part facilitator, part project manager and part 'meetings archaeologist'.



Matlock, the river Derwent looking towards the historic bridge

Sarah's first case was an emergency when, in February 2022, part of the river wall in the centre of Matlock was washed away. The EA had to ensure that buildings did not collapse into the river, or that the next storm did not cause flooding in the centre of Matlock. The Agency also had to ensure that the work did not cause problems elsewhere, especially that might affect the historic Matlock bridge, parts of which date to the mid-13th century. A great deal of heavy lifting equipment was required for work on the river bank and in order to minimise the traffic disruption thus caused, the bridge had to temporarily return to having traffic crossing in both directions. The increased risk to the historic fabric from collisions and from the greater load had to be minimised, too. This meant that all the planning had to be done with the agreement of Historic England, the Highways Authority and Derbyshire County Council.

The historic flood wall which had partially collapsed had to be replaced too but before this was done, it was recorded in detail. It was then necessary to excavate the river bed for sheet piling for the replacement wall. One of the most interesting finds was a 5.5kg (12lb 2oz) horn of an aurochs. The new wall also had to blend in with the historic environment, so was clad with Birchover quarry gritstone. Matlock Park is part of the Natural Flood Management scheme, so

when the river is high, it is allowed to flood. The team spent some time when the river was too high for them to work on the new flood wall improving its flood resilience. They also found time and money to carry out improvements for the local community and produce educational resources, which they trialled in the local schools. However, at present, these are languishing unseen. Sarah put out a plea to our members for help in finding digital space to host these resources.

The second case study was the Darley Abbey weir where it was thought some stones had been displaced. This was very important because it is of course part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The EA commissioned a survey carried out by an archaeologist who was also a structural engineer; with historic structures minimum intervention is the best solution so that as much of the historic fabric as possible can be maintained. In this case an experiment putting dye in the water above the weir showed that the structure was still sound.



The new footbridge across the Derwent at Darley Abbey Mills, 13th February 2022 [M. Craven]

It is now being continually monitored and the EA has time to plan the major works which will have to include diverting the river round the weir. This will only be necessary if the weir starts to fail. Sarah then gave a little of the history of the mills. When the fish pass was put in in 2013, some waterlogged timbers were found. These were dendrochronologically dated to late 15th to early 16th century, so were probably associated with the monastery – either part of the water management for their mill or reused later. Unfortunately, the 1960s bridge which had to be closed for safety reasons is sitting on historic stone work, so if the bridge has to be replaced, the damage done to this will have to be minimised. Furthermore, because it is in a world

heritage site, the bridge has to be replaced as like the original as possible including materials and only the original holes in the historic stone work can be used to anchor it, so that it will not further damage the historic stonework. Consultation is ongoing with Derby City Council about replacing it.

The third case study was the removal of the Dovecliffe weir. This had been planned for some time as it was impeding Natural Flood Management (NFM) and preventing movement of fish and was a failing structure. The history of the weir could well go back to the 14th century and under the present concrete capping there could be a well preserved much earlier core. In order to reroute the river past the weir, a shallow channel which followed the route of a paleochannel, had been excavated. However, heavy rainfall over 2019-2020 caused the river to scour out a different paleochannel and revealed wooden structures which also required immediate inspection and recording. The archaeologists worked in very trying conditions in the middle of Covid and on a site that was frequently flooded. They uncovered structures which consisted of wooden piles up to 5m long with brushwood packing on either side of the paleochannel, and interpreted this as probably being an extension of the weir which they had come to remove. Dendrochronology provided a felling date of 1296 to 1409 for the structure on the left-hand bank, earlier than the historic core of the concrete capped weir where the felling dates spanned a wide period from the mid-15th to late 17th century. Since the weir was on land that was part of a grange belonging to Burton Abbey it is probable that it served mills run by the monks.



Dovecliffe Weir, from the air

[Environment Agency]

Sarah ended by looking to the past and how much they were finding out about prehistoric water management and that its future was not necessarily building more walls but in encouraging natural water management. However, this does not mean ripping out existing historic structures.

Thank you, Sarah, the job that you do sounds fascinating, demanding and rewarding.

Ann Jones

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Architectural Section

BUILDINGS OF HOLBROOK

Michael Lobb

27 October 2023

Our speaker, a buildings archaeologist and DAS member, works for the specialist archaeologists MSDS Marine, who rather surprisingly are based in land locked Derbyshire, but now have a more terrestrially based section trading as MSDS Heritage, for which Michael works. The project that he talked enthusiastically about was funded from a heritage grant which supports everyday working-class histories of places that are overlooked or under represented but can be driven by the interests of a local community. The Holbrook Hidden Heritage group was formed with the local community to explore historic workshop buildings, two of which are listed, that had links with the development of the framework knitting industry in 18th and 19th century Holbrook, where MSDS is based.

Framework knitting was a cottage industry, 90% of which was based in the midland counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. It often involved the whole household but normally with the man operating the machine. In Holbrook 54 buildings and 146 workers, one in three, were involved in the business during the 19th century, according to census returns.

The project was launched as a community outreach engagement activity, meeting in the Spotted Cow, that drew on local community societies and historians who gathered appropriate documentary material from the local record office. An equally important part of the project was the involvement of the local Primary school whose curriculum for the 3rd and 4th years at that time included the Industrial Revolution. Two walkabouts were organised for the children who were provided with archaeological recording sheets, cameras and some training to enable them to note the architectural evidence from buildings in the village. It produced several young enthusiasts but also the intended fieldwork reports that were then encapsulated in posters at a school open day display. An important output of the project was a map of the village with key sites marked. Also on show were examples of knitting produced by the children, often scarfs that were intended stockings but without their feet.

The project focus was on the buildings of the village that were specifically associated with framework knitting and these included purpose-built workshops as well as modified domestic houses and even repurposed agricultural barns. Those built as workshops had long wide windows with closely spaced panes with plenty of internal head room on upper floors that were supported by large beam joists to accommodate the large and heavy machines. One building, off Town street, has stairs outside to access the upper floor workshop independently of the domestic ground floor.

Many of the older domestic buildings in Holbrook have a pattern of small closely spaced windows in their ground floor rooms but some of which are now blocked off. There are also examples of the upper rooms of houses built by the Strutts for their mill workers with later modified closely spaced windows.



Holbrook, off Town Street: workshop over accommodation.
[Michael Lobb]



Cottage (much modernised) with original windows blocked off.
[Michael Lobb]

Documentary evidence from the 1785 Enclosure map and the 1841 Tithe map were combined with the 1841 Census returns to cross reference the people and buildings involved in framework knitting. To link with present times the maps were digitally overlaid using geographic information system (GIS) software. One document of particular interest was the Parliamentary enquiry into Framework Knitting in the late 1840s to which Henry Williamson of Holbrook gave evidence on behalf of the village. It states that there were 43 silk and 61 cotton frames and perhaps 10 or 12 'lying down'. In reference to the workers, the submission states that "they

are very much impoverished,” a stark reminder of why Parliament had been set up this general enquiry. From the census returns and maps, Michael identified where William lived and even the pub where the villagers met to agree their submission to the enquiry.

Michael gave us a most informative insight into the architecture, history and operation of this local industry and showed by his infectious enthusiasm why MSDS had made a real success of their project involvement with the local community and particularly the Primary school.

D G Jones

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LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL. THE SHRINE OF ST CHAD

The Equilibrium between Conservation and Spirituality

Robert Kilgour

1st December 2023

Robert Kilgour is the Diocesan Architect of Derby, Hereford and Lichfield cathedrals and is Chair of the Cathedral Architects' Association.

In November 2022 a relic of St Chad (d 672), the first Bishop of Lichfield, was translated from St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham to Lichfield Cathedral (dedicated to SS Chad and Mary). Robert's talk explained why and how a new shrine was constructed to house this relic.

In 2005 a discussion took place between Robert and the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber, Dean Emeritus of Lichfield, about the fabric of the Cathedral and what made it a spiritual place. A lack of Christian symbolism led to the installation of a nave cross and two icons, depicting the Archangel Gabriel and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The Lady Chapel already had an icon of St Chad located on the former shrine site, demolished during the Reformation.

In 1966 the then Pope and the then Archbishop of Canterbury met to consider how to build bridges between the Catholic and Anglican churches, which was followed by much theological discussion over the years.

Dean Adrian was convinced that to reinstate St Chad's shrine and to have a fragment of his relic might be a small contribution to celebrate and stimulate Christian unity in a primary place of spirituality. However, a number of conflicts had to be considered. Some saw the building for its historic significance, some in spiritual terms alone and others distrusted the ecumenicalism between the Anglican and Catholic churches.

Robert's role was to prepare designs for the relic in a spiritually respectful manner and at the same time to conserve the building in which it was to be located. The original shrine stood in the spiritual east end of the church, in the retro-choir. Dr Louise Hampson of York University researched its position, location and scale. The brightly coloured shrine would have been surrounded and protected by expensive iron-work. The reliquary containing the relic would

have sat on a dais, above head height. This would have been housed by a cover suspended from ropes or chains so that the relic could be revealed on saints' days.



The shrine of St. Chad, Lichfield Cathedral.

[Robert Kilgour]

Robert found inspiration for the classical form of the altar in the church of Sant' Apollinare, Ravenna and for the Barbarossa wheel chandelier in Aachen Cathedral. He found examples of recently replaced shrines in York Minster and Hereford Cathedral. We were shown intricate designs indicating how the shrine would fit into its space in Lichfield. The corona needed to be contained within the east end so that it was invisible from the main body of the Cathedral. It was to hold 28 candles, one for each of the deaneries within the diocese. Research into three unevenly spaced roof bosses above the shrine site found that each contained a hole, indicating where ropes were inserted to allow for the raising and lowering of the casket cover.

After approval from the Cathedral Fabric Committee for England work began on the construction of the altar. The corona was constructed by Archie Kennedy of Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The brass components were cast in the Barr & Grosvenor Foundry, Wolverhampton, whilst the doors to the shrine itself are of bronze. Because of its size, and with a final weight of 600kg (just over half a ton), the corona had to be cast in individual equal sections so that it could be carried through the west door. The components were fitted together and fixed to a steel armature. Midland Stone Masonry, who have worked in Derby Cathedral, repaired the chequerboard patterned floor and heating grilles. Scaffolding was erected to the

height of the roof bosses. This enabled a device to be built on top of the vault so that the corona could be suspended from rods, which were inserted through the bosses.

On 8th November 2022, the new altar was consecrated during an ecumenical service presided over by the Bishops of Birmingham and Lichfield. The relic was translated from St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham to Lichfield and placed into the shrine, having first processed from St Chad's well next to St Chad's Parish Church. The altar is inscribed with the words St Chad, Disciple, Bishop, Evangelist, one word on each side. The east side is also inscribed with words from Bede: 'Christ is our morning star, who when the darkness of this world is passed, brings to his saints the light of Christ and opens everlasting day.'

The complete ensemble comprises the shrine altar with candles and candlesticks, a statue of Our Lady (donated by the All Hallows Sisters of Ditchingham, Norfolk), a St Chad icon, the Sacrament House and the Gospel House. A series of icons were painted in Jerusalem by iconographer Nicola Dewar and placed along a wall of the Lady Chapel. Votive lamps shine above them. Robert acknowledged the huge team of organisations and individuals who worked on the project.

The consecration marked 1,350 years since the death of St Chad. It was seen as a mark of unity between the two churches and as a message of hope and unity in our divided world. As a sign of reconciliation and healing two fruit trees were planted in the cathedral grounds, with special saplings being given as gifts to institutions around the city.

During question time it was revealed that money required had been raised by donations; the relic has no provenance, in common with many other relics and that there is no cover over the reliquary, as today people expect to see the relic at any time and not merely on saints' days.

Pat Haldenby

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THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF BUILDING AN ECO-HOUSE

Derek Latham

Friday 26 January 2024

The Tribulations included Derek Latham's builder going out of business early on so Derek had to become his own project manager. But the problems extended to our meeting too, as the Zoom connection could not be made to work properly and the talk could not be recorded. However, Derek kindly made available a film of the construction which covered much of his presentation.

Derek is well-known locally as the managing director and later chairman of a firm of Derby architects specialising in conservation. He has been associated since its inception in 1974, and now chairs, the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust. He has contributed to many organisations, both nationally and in Derbyshire, and so has helped in practical ways to bring about the change in appreciation of the continued importance of historic buildings, their conservation and new uses, to our enjoyment of the built environment. It was salutary to hear

in his talk that even someone with so much experience did not find the enterprise straightforward.

Derek's old family house lay in a former quarry (one of many locally, all of them hidden now by trees) that was abandoned after the Great War. His plan was for a retirement home at the front of the old quarry where the debris from the quarry had been buried. The site is on the outskirts of Long Eaton but it is in the Green Belt. To be granted planning permission it needed to be something special. He explored what the impact of his new house would be from a number of locations on the far side of the Derwent Valley. To live up to the title his ambition was to build an innovative house as much as possible from materials lying to hand and which in its construction and operation in the future makes as little carbon imprint as possible. The house was to have four bedrooms and several other rooms in a basement partly dug into the ground and on the upper floor an open plan reception room. There was also to be a mezzanine study and a subterranean double garage.



Eco-Château Latham, Little Eaton: aerial view

[Derek Latham]

An excavation was dug 8m deep into the sloping site of quarry debris to allow a huge reinforced concrete slab foundation. The green concrete earned its eco credentials as it used recycled steel and recycled aggregate. New sand was used. But the cement was of 60% pulverised fuel ash (PFA) waste from a power station. This foundation was to support a concrete retaining wall at the back of the house and side walls. The outside of the foundation block was insulated as were part of the side walls. Part of the roof was of concrete to support a wildlife terrace so disguising from the old house that there was a new house there.

For heating and ventilation an Earth Tube a metre in diameter was constructed. It goes across the back of the house then dives down to the lower rooms and has vents to control the passage of air. It was adapted from those used in places like central America and Australia where variations of temperature are greater. In winter, air preheated by the earth heats the rooms. When the weather is warm, then this air is cooler. The windows are double glazed and insulated

shutters cover most of them, so there is little need for expensive heating and cooling. The shutters also serve to provide security.

The front of the house incorporates modest amounts of timber, the strength of which is largely provided by hemp lime 'Hempcrete'. It is a composite of chopped up hemp mixed with lime and water contained within shuttering and trodden down. This is just like the cob building technique still seen in Devon. It dries out very slowly, taking more than a year and shrinks a little as it does so. The timber allows weight bearing while the hempcrete protects the timber from decay and fire.

The upper part of the house is partly glazed allowing enjoyment of great views over the Derwent Valley. Elsewhere the kitchen area is made of hemp panels of compressed wood chipboard with hemp in between and clad with sycamore. The sloping roof is of plywood sheathing largely covered with solar panels that are interspersed with a few skylights which give light to the reception area and the mezzanine. The timber roof is filled with wool insulation. Small transparent roof lights allow light to be conveyed through sun tubes with reflective inner surface to areas under concrete; the stairs are of glass. Thus, during much of daytime, there is no need for electric light.

In the area there is plentiful self-seeded sycamore, an invader that probably arrived here sometime after the Anglo-Saxon invasions. It is hardy and strong but contributes poorly to ecological diversity. It has been little used in construction as it is prone to splitting and rot but testing at Derby University of a trial panel confirmed that it had good qualities. Derek was keen to find out whether it could be used commercially. It splits because of the tendency of capillaries from the growth rings to form spirally, so allowing saplings to grow vertically from uneven and sloping surfaces. Even when logging was done carefully, splitting still happened. Derek harvested as many larger pieces as he could and sent them away to a workshop in Ilkeston for lamination to make into larger pieces that could be used. Before this, the wood needed to be dried out so a polythene cover was employed to allow the wood to be dehumidified (seasoned) by drawing outside air over it with a pump. This took several months. The laminated wood was soaked in non-toxic chemicals to protect it from fungal and insect attack. This sycamore was used for flooring, for the sides of the mezzanine and for the cladding of the kitchen area. He showed that sycamore could be used and had a pleasing appearance but that it was not commercially viable.

Underfloor heating is from an air-source heat pump (the manufacturer has a plant in nearby Belper). The temperature inside the house is usually very comfortable, though the qualities of the concrete raft mean that when there is a sizeable sudden change of temperature, a desired increase or reduction of temperature is slow to effect.

Little Eaton lies on a gritstone projection at the southern tip of the Pennines. A 65m deep borehole near the eco-house yielded ample water. It has been capped and a filter removes the fine silt that comes out with the water. A water treatment system results in potable waste water that is fed into the garden.

The site of the house was characterised by lines of drystone walling that were built to retain quarry spoil. These walls were adapted as they approached the new house to become an integral part of it. Discarded gritstone of no commercial value when the quarry was working was used to clad the front of the lower storey. As it is partly below ground, the house is much larger than you might think it to be.

John Morrissey

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Industrial Archaeology Section

HISTORY BOARDS FOR LONG EATON RAILWAY STATION

Ian Mitchell

The Society's open afternoon at Strutt's in January provided an opportunity for four members to give short talks on their personal projects. Mine was about my role as a 'Station Adopter' at my local railway station, and how I was putting together information to be displayed at the station to engage passengers waiting for their trains with local railway history.

The history boards have now been installed, with a set of four on each platform, and another set in the station car park. The four boards cover the topics:

Long Eaton's Four Railway Stations

Tamworth Road Bridge

Midland Railway Sheet Stores

The Trent Triangle

The last of these includes a QR code that links to the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership website with a detailed description of a circular (triangular) walk to learn about the history of the railways and canals between Long Eaton and the River Trent. You can find this and copies of the history boards at:

<https://derwentvalleyline.org.uk/walks/the-trent-triangle-walk/> .

Two of the topics were based on articles I previously wrote for DAJ and Miscellany which are of course available to download from the Archaeology Data Service and our own website:

The Midland Counties Railway bridge in Sawley

[Derbyshire Miscellany Volume 16 Part 2 Autumn 2001](#)

The Midland Counties Railway basin and coke store at Long Eaton

[Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Volume 128, 2008](#)

On the morning, we installed the boards it was most gratifying to see that even before we had finished, passengers on the station were reading and photographing the boards.



Fixing one of the boards; note typical Midland Railway diagonally slatted fencing.

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JCB HELP RECONSTRUCT THE SUDBURY GASWORKS RETORT BENCH

Brice Bozier

Friday 23 February

The Victorian gasworks building for the Sudbury estate has recently been rescued and restored with the aid of a significant grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but all the original equipment was lost. Our speaker, Brice Bozier, is a Trustee of Sudbury Gasworks who works at JCB in nearby Rocester and came up with idea of re-creating the missing gas producing retort benches as a project for a team of apprentices at JCB.

This involved tracking down examples of original gasworks parts from around the country and then working out how to reproduce them using modern manufacturing methods. A collection of retort parts was found stored in the undergrowth behind a textile mill in Devon, and more emerged from the excavation of a gasworks site in Durham prior to redevelopment.

Most of the replica was constructed from sheet steel, with more complex parts produced using additive manufacturing (3D printing) techniques based on laser scans of the originals. However, it was decided that the hinged retort door needed to be cast iron to reproduce the

weight and feel of the original, and this was achieved by taking a plastic version to the foundry at Blists Hill Museum in Ironbridge, where it could be used as a pattern in the traditional sand-casting process. As well the retorts, a replica burner for a gas streetlamp has also been created. This incorporates genuine original gas mantles bought on e-Bay with warm white LEDs installed within them to give a realistic appearance.



The Seven Apprentices!

The seven apprentices working on the project took a great pride in what they were doing, coming into work out of hours to make progress, joining Brice at the Gasworks on weekends, and bringing their families along to the official unveiling.

This was an inspiring talk, enlivened for those attending in person by the opportunity to handle samples of the bits and pieces that had been manufactured by different 3D printing methods. If you missed it do take the opportunity to watch the recording which is still available on the DAS website until September, via links from the [Winter Programme](#) page.

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Local History Section

HISTORIC INN NAMES

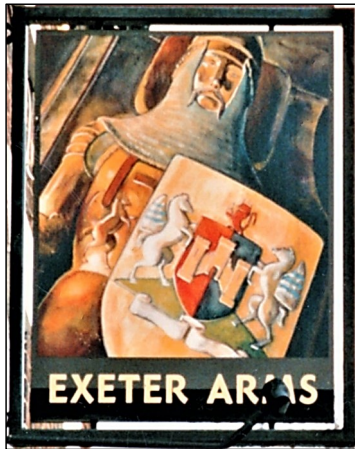
Trevor James

16th February 2024

Trevor James gave the Society a lecture based on his research into the often hidden meaning behind some names of inns. He first defined an inn by using that stated by Blackstone as a premises having a sign and being open to travellers offering hospitality for both man and horse. Indeed, if such a place did not offer hospitality to all travellers, they could be fined. Thus an inn is neither a tavern, an ale house nor a public house. It may indeed not have had a licence to sell alcohol.

Mr James contends that many names have arisen out of an association over some period of time with the church, a trade or guild, or connection to a local landowner or peer. Some stranger ones, like The Ostrich at Castle Acre was a misspelling of the name “Hospice” used by the locals, or again St Peter’s Finger was next to the church of St Peter *ad vincula* (‘St. Peter in chains’). In Biddenham in Kent the Three Chimneys was a corruption of an instruction to French PoW’s from the Seven Years’ War not to stray further than *les trois chemins* (‘the three paths’).

A common name for an Inn is The Bull. This could very often indicate that the premises were owned, leased or had an association with a religious house and would have a *bull* from the bishop on the door to indicate this. Inns bearing names or heraldic arms of prominent landowners might indicate that it was situated on or near land belonging to such a person, e.g. Talbot for the Earls of Shrewsbury, Bear and ragged staff for the Earls of Warwick, or White Horse for Dukes of Norfolk. The most common inn name is the Red Lion – this has associations with the arms of John of Gaunt.



Left: *Some mistake, surely! The inn sign of the Exeter Arms, Derby, established on land owned by the Cecils, Earls and Marquesses of Exeter. Unfortunately, the brewery (Marston’s) failed to brief the signwriter, who provided a knight with the entire achievement of the City of Exeter on his shield instead!*

Some names indicated the economy of the area. Thus, in landlocked Bala (North Wales), the Royal Ship has been corrupted from the Royal Sheep. The Rainbow and Dove in Sheffield is a reference to the Dyers’ Company arms and is to be found on the confluence of the rivers Don and Sheaf. The Elephant and Castle is both the emblem of the Cutlers Company and of the Royal Africa Company. The Drovers would indicate the inn was on a drovers’ route.

There are often associations with religious themes such as the star (the symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary); Chequers referencing the scene at the cross when the soldiers drew lots for the apparel of Christ. Another connection to the Virgin Mary was the Vase of Lilies. After the Reformation some of these were changed to the flower pot.

Names such as the Falcon, the Hare and Hounds, and so on referenced a place used for hunting and perhaps the Old Bowling Green in Winster referenced a time when the locals played bowls. The inn in Ashover called The Crispin Inn commemorates both the battle of Agincourt and the local land owner Sir Thomas Babington who had fought there.¹

¹ SS. Crispinus and Crispinianus were a pair of brothers and long-forgotten Gallic and pre-Anglian Kentish saints; cf. Shakespeare, *Henry V* Act 4, Scene 3.

It is easy however to draw some unlikely conclusions. The White Hart might indicate an association with Richard II but he was not a popular monarch and at one time The White Hart was just a generic name for a tavern. The George does not allude to George I, II or III for the same reason. It is for St George, the patron saint of England, or indeed the jewel of the Order of the Garter. George IV was more popular and, if an inn was named for him, it would proudly show George IV.

Jane Heginbotham

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OIL REFINERY AT RIDDINGS: WAS THIS THE WORLD'S FIRST?

Cliff Lea

5th April 2024

Society member Cliff Lea commenced by reminding his audience that oil had been found in many places in Derbyshire over the years, including near Iron Age sites such as Mam Tor. However, the earliest written record of oil in Derbyshire was from Eyam in 1665. It was, however, an hundred years later that an important discovery of oil was made at Riddings which led to the establishment in Britain of what was probably the world's first oil refinery.

The iron works at Riddings at this time were part of the landed estate owned by James Oakes of Riddings House. Keen to find new materials to develop his enterprise, he dug down very deep into the adjacent pit, which promptly flooded with brine. On this being pumped out into the Cromford Canal, it was found that an oil deposit formed, which could be ignited easily. Oakes eventually sought advice from his son in law, Lyon Playfair, a celebrated chemist on whether this oil, which he had been using as a lubricant for his wagons, could be turned into a profitable venture. Playfair in turn suggested a former colleague of his, James Young, who was then working in the chemistry industry in Lancashire, to advise him on whether this oily substance could be developed commercially.

By fractionation, James Young was able to separate the various components of the substance into its various parts. The lightest fraction had very good power to illuminate when burned and could be used in oil lamps. Soon James Young was selling paraffin and lamps. The lubricants were also developed further to meet the requirements of machinery driving the industrial revolution. A later development was the manufacture of paraffin wax which, when made into candles, was a boon to households everywhere.

The establishment of the Riddings refinery came about through a collaboration between James Oakes and James Young. They entered into a contractual arrangement in September 1848, whereby James Young would refine and sell the products from the oil from Oakes' mine and pay the day to day running cost of the operation and Oakes would supply the land, buildings, initial equipment and of course the oil. Young paid Oakes 10% commission in respect of the initial capital outlay and Oakes also had the rights to five eighths of the proceeds. Eight stills were in use at the refinery, which enabled all the output of oil at the mine to be converted –

approximately 1,300 litres a day. Young was careful to patent his operations and within a few years, he was earning large sums from these patents as worldwide oil extraction increased.



Riddings House, garden front.

[Somercotes Local History Society]

Young also developed the production of Kerosene and other oil products at Bathgate (West Lothian) using coal as the source for the oil. Again, the business proved profitable for Young. In 1851 his products were displayed at the Great Exhibition.

Eventually the supply of oil from Oake's Deep Pit became too small to sustain the maintenance of the refinery at Riddings, but oil was still brought to the surface and sold until 1884.

Cliff ended his talk by offering a chronology of various instances of distillation of oil around the world during the middle of the 19th century, but none would appear to have resulted in a commercial refinery before the Riddings one in 1848.

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EXCITEMENT IN REPTON AND DERBY MUSEUM

Andy Austen

Late in 2022, there was great excitement amongst those of us with a keen interest in Repton's early history. The message had come through from Spencer and Rachel at Derby Museum to say that 54 document crates had arrived from Oxford University bearing the contents of Professor Biddle's office. The museum team unpacked the boxes and relocated them onto bookshelves in the old Library. They contained over 700 folders of documents plus the trench notebooks, layer records, the concordance, year books, card indexes, slides, and over 500 A0 drawings of sections and plans, and more. This material was supplemented shortly after by documents and artefacts held by Cat Jarman, which means that not only does the museum hold the artefacts from the dig, but also the supporting documentation.

Members of the Repton Village History Group had worked previously with the museum in listing the Repton small finds and so it was suggested we might put a team together to find out what had arrived and produce a preliminary listing. This was a bit delayed by a number of factors including building work going on in the library, but in October 2023 five members of the history group were joined by two younger team members seeking opportunities in librarianship/archiving and, for them, this was both interesting in itself and a useful experience.



Repton: the famous vicarage garden mound/mausoleum at its earliest stage, taken from the vicarage 20th August 1981. [Martin Biddle]

Hence, we met on Monday mornings in the space that had been the children's area of the library and which was conveniently close to the documents. Boxes 1-4 contained the Trench notebooks but after that, the box contents were more mixed. Initially, handwritten notes were made and typed into an Excel spreadsheet at home, but common-sense prevailed and we started bringing lap-tops in with us. We recorded the box number, allocated an item number for each item in the box together with its description (e.g. box file, folder, ring binder.... and its colour), its title if any, and a description of the contents. Often it was possible to subdivide the contents and separately describe them as sub-items.

An early problem was in identifying the items. They had been shelved as they came out of the boxes, which were delineated on the shelves. In fact, by and large, the contents of the boxes were mostly unrelated but they made convenient units to work on and helped us to find things later. There was some reluctance to put permanent markers on the box contents, but after a while it was clearly essential and so a supply of small self-adhesive labels was acquired.

The task took us through to February 2024 and we went on to categorise the items: those that were core to the dig (information emanating directly from the dig), material that was the result of post excavation analysis (e.g. carbon 14 dating), and information arising from study of the finds such as tabular information on graves and bones. Then there were the items that were part

of the research, for instance – a paper on frogs and toads, the Roman origins of the crypt pillars, the finding of the central burial in the charnel mound – and many papers on related topics, some written by Martin and Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle and some from other sources. Other items included a lot of correspondence (some in Danish) and drafts of chapters of one of the planned volumes about the excavation.

The dig seems to have been very well organised and fastidiously documented and increasing use was made of computing to create databases and documents. This posed the inevitable problem of the technology being left behind. We managed to find plug-in drives for the 3.5in discs but the twenty-one 5.25in floppy discs were a different matter. Eventually, one of our younger team members approached the new and very excellent Derby Computer Museum in Irongate and they were able to help her download the contents. With a little work we have been able to read much of the content and build an index to the discs. Not all the files are currently readable – it is probable that we will need to find a copy of dBase or other old software, but there is lots of useful and interesting material. At the present time the 3.5in discs are still being downloaded and indexed.

The team does plan to dig deeper into selected items to make the listing more useful and to scan some material so that it is digitally available. Meanwhile, the research carried out by the archaeologists is fascinating and thorough and we all found items of great interest and, indeed, we plan to spend some time reading and learning.

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THE DERBY HOSPITAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

by Beth Rawson

In 2018, I received an email from our estates department asking me to house boxes of artefacts that were being stored in one of the surviving pavilions (known locally as ‘pepperpots’) of the former Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. Part of the building, including the towers, had been sold to Wavensmere Homes as part of a housing redevelopment for the Nightingale Quarter.

Derbyshire General Infirmary (William Strutt FRS & Samuel Brown, 1806-1810) from the NE, after a painting probably by Henry Lark Pratt, before the alterations of 1865.



The artefacts were moved to the library storeroom and were gradually opened over the coming year. It soon became apparent that the artefacts were quite special and so a bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2020 for full conservation and cataloguing. Our bid was successful and the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton Medical Museum was formed. We have a unique collection and are the only NHS Trust in the UK linked to a World Heritage Site due to our historical connection to the Strutts. The construction of our first hospital site, The Derbyshire General Infirmary (1810-1894) was overseen by Derbyshire cotton manufacturer William Strutt, known for building Belper Mills, in the UNESCO Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The collection features some astonishing artefacts and an extensive array of ‘everyday’ NHS objects which come together to show the fascinating story of the people and places involved from the very beginnings of our NHS Trust.

Left and below: *The ivory ceremonial hammer and spirit level that Queen Victoria used to lay the foundation stone of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary in 1891.*



The objects are displayed in museum cabinets across five of our Trust sites, in the foyer of London Road Community Hospital, on the main corridor and Library at the Royal Derby, in the Therapies Centre at Queens Hospital Burton and next to the restaurant at Robert Peel Hospital, Tamworth.

Selected items from the collection are also taken out on to hospital wards by our volunteers and we hold object handling sessions as part of staff wellbeing events. We have also worked with local artists who have created pieces of work and provided art wellbeing workshops for NHS staff based on items from the collection. Recent workshops include making a poison bottle, skull and a glass eye.

If you'd like to find out more about our museum collection. Please have a look at our website: [Home \(uhdbmedicalmuseum.wixsite.com\)](http://Home(uhdbmedicalmuseum.wixsite.com)) or contact Beth Rawson, the Museum Curator on beth.rawson@nhs.net

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BUXTON MUSEUM NEWS

by Anna Rhodes

Editor's note: Anna Rhodes sent this up-date in October last year, but has since left the Museum. It has subsequently appeared from the news (May 2024) that the County Council (which rashly closed and dispersed the collections of their Museums at Darley Dale and Elvaston decades ago) is at it again. Buxton Museum is to be re-located from its purpose-built HQ – to where is quite unclear – so that the leaky building can be sold off. And this time, the Council's leader is an archaeologist! You couldn't make it up.

New acquisitions for Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

Over the last 18 months the Buxton Museum has acquired some important pieces of Derby porcelain. The table wares which date from the last decades of the eighteenth century all feature hand painted landscapes of Derbyshire. Some have been attributed to the hand of Zachariah Boreman (1738 – 1810) and are copies of the watercolour designs in the collection owned by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

Of particular significance is a coffee can showing a rare view of Richard Arkwright's Mill at Cromford and an associated plate showing evidence of waterwheels on the River Derwent, below Matlock High Tor. These pieces were bought with assistance from the Art Fund's New Collecting Award.

Coffee can, detail: Arkwright's mill at Cromford c. 1790.





Left: *Derby plate showing high Tor and the waterwheels in the Derwent, installed for un-watering the adjacent lead mines.*

Below: *the Society's equivalent view by Zacharia Borman.*



The Museum also received a donation from a metal detectorist in the shape of an Iron Age linch pin (c.100BC – AD100). The pin, made from copper alloy and iron, was found near Newhaven and has been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

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DERBYSHIRE: BECOMING CHRISTIAN IN MIDLAND BRITAIN AD 500-1050.

A report on project work grant-aided by Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

The Project is intended to examine how, when, and why people living between the Mersey/Trent line and the Thames moved from being mostly 'pagan' to being 'Christian', and what kinds of Christianity were involved over time and space. It asks how and why a dense network of churches with graveyards developed; what people did in them; what their relationship was to natural and human topography including earlier monuments, boundaries and settlements; and how ancient ideas like human sacrifice and the power of human remains were re-worked in new contexts. Published records, site visits, finds reported in the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), and 'grey literature' available only in reports on the web are all exploited.

This has involved creating comprehensive data bases which record the archaeological, historical, topographical, hagiographical, architectural and artistic information, with bibliographies, together with their surrounding sites, of all the early church sites in fourteen midland county units, some 3,600 sites altogether. We stress the importance of 'the churches in between' as well as those with clearly significant characteristics. The entire record is being

installed on a GIS programme, which will be freely available. The Derbyshire parish notes have been provided to the Society and will also be available from ADS but not before August 2024.



Early Christianity: the Eccles Cross, now in the churchyard at Hope, but until 1966 on the trackway crossing by Eccles House. Once thought 13th century, it is now thought more likely to be post-Roman and associated with the after-life of the vicus adjoining Navio.

Derbyshire is obviously a highly important region within this study, marking the northern border of historic Mercia and including the rich religious landscape of the Trent Valley at its confluences with the Dove, Derwent, and Soar. Thanks to a very generous Pilling Grant from the Society, we were able to incorporate the now completed county record in the study.

The Project was led by Prof. Susan Pearce (spm14@leicester.ac.uk) with a team from the University of Leicester, including our GIS specialist funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust. Derbyshire parish notes were compiled by Dr Jane Ainsworth, generously supported by a Pilling Grant from the Society.

Jane Ainsworth

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AN UNIDENTIFIED BOREMAN WATERCOLOUR

by the Editor

Back in the dreary short, cold and dispiriting days of February, our chairman sent me a message about a Zachariah Boreman miniature watercolour in the Society's collections, which was of a timber framed house but the identity of which was uncertain. She wondered if I could suggest an identification for it.

Now, Zachariah Boreman was born in 1738 and was an outstandingly gifted porcelain painter who normally specialized in landscapes. He originally worked at the Chelsea factory, but from 1784 to 1794 he worked as a China painter at the Derby Porcelain factory and his landscapes from that period depict Derbyshire scenes. He is recorded as having travelled extensively around Derbyshire and the general area, making small watercolour sketches of scenes that caught his eye, with a view to translating them onto the wares that William Duesbury II wanted him to decorate. He later returned to Chelsea, where, from time to time, he continued to apply Derbyshire views to their wares (usually un-named). He died in 1810, leaving two daughters.

A collection of his work was presented to the Society in the early 1920s by the ecclesiastical lawyer, A. T. Lawrence (*Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* Vol. XLVII (1925) 262-264). They are now on loan to Derby Museums and can be viewed by appointment at Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS.



Zachariah Boreman: sketch of an unidentified timber framed house, c. 1790.

[DAS]

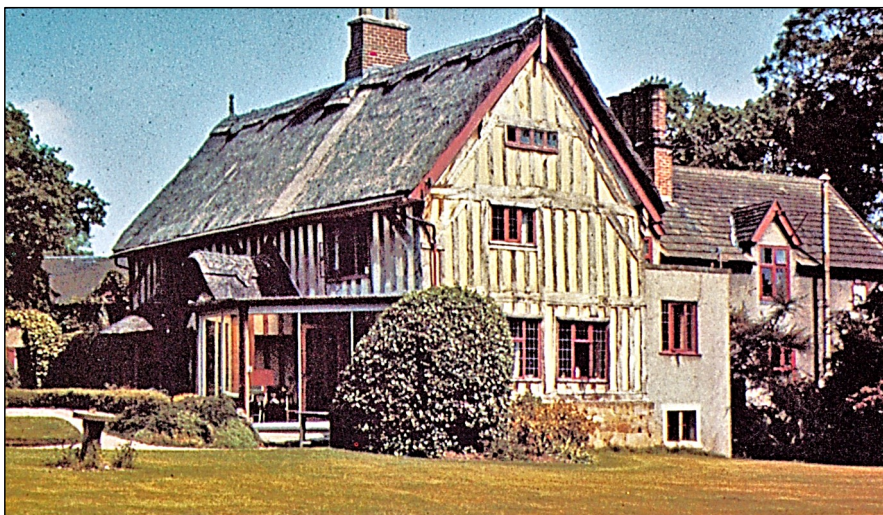
The wide range of subjects depicted in his small, but exquisitely detailed sketches, is typical of the Georgian interest in every aspect of the landscape, from brick kilns to country houses and cotton mills to lead smelting and I feel sure Boreman was influenced by the contemporary quest for the Sublime, and the manner in which he managed to capture such scenes with such an economy of brushstroke, makes his sketches almost proto-*Impressionist*.

Of the 55 watercolours and sketches in the collection, 30 have been attributed to Boreman by Anneke Bambery (then Keeper of Ceramics at Derby Museum) and the late Andrew Ledger (an important lay expert on Derby porcelain) which they later published in the *Journal* of the Derby International Porcelain Society: *Watercolour paintings by Zachariah Boreman* Vol. III

(1996) 70-95. The remaining 25 are a mixed group of different periods, styles and sizes, which remain unattributed but are probably also by Derby China factory painters.

The subject locations of many of the watercolours are identified on the reverses; others are not. One of these unattributed views is of a timber framed house of modest size, viewed obliquely from across a road. One factor that narrowed the search down, was the comparative paucity of timber framed houses in Derbyshire visible from roads especially, even in the late 18th century: most lie south of the Trent, but there are certainly notable examples to its north, like Somersal Herbert, Arleston House (north side), Breadsall Old Hall (where there are some timber framed cottages as also in neighbouring Little Eaton) and so on.

Having pondered on the matter I reached the conclusion that the sketch was of South Sitch, Idridgehay, in the days before it had its service wing replaced by what I feel sure the Victorians would have branded a more 'convenient' one.



South Sitch, Idridgehay, photographed from the south by Mick Stanley FGS, during our peregrinations in the writing of The Derbyshire Country House in May 1981.

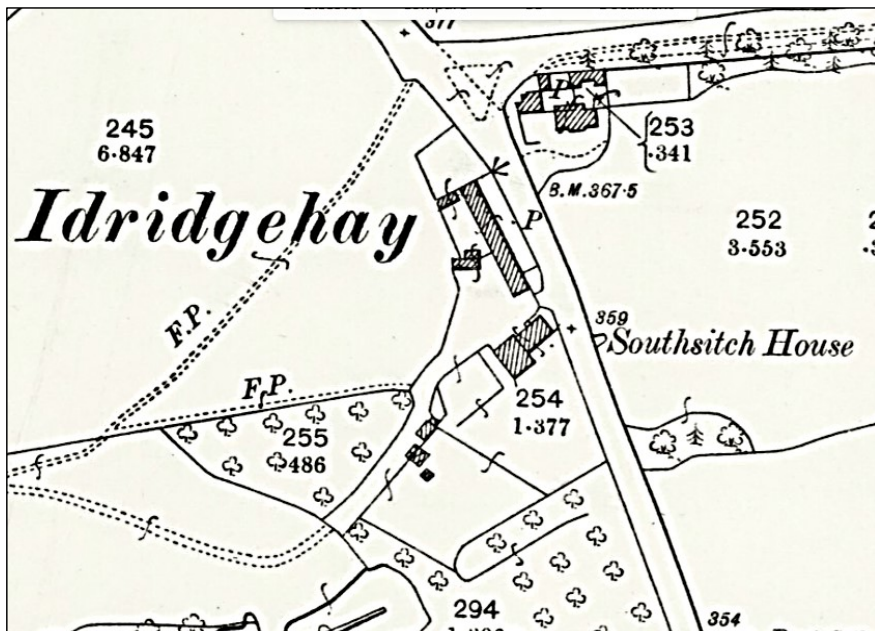
The house is listed grade II* and the picturesque added porch is dated 1842, which I suspect is a little early for the service wing, which looks at least 30 years later to me, if not more, though on the ground today, such a diagnosis is more difficult, as the building has been somewhat over-primped more recently; it may even have been the work of Percy Currey in 1904 (cf below). The house was in 1790 in the hands of a Derby family, which might account for the choice of subject. The first-floor windows could well have also been changed, too, although as it's only a sketch and not a finished picture, there may be artist's leeway there, too.

A pre-existing house was rebuilt and extended by George Mellor, whose ancestor had inherited the house from the de la Haye family: he and his wife Millicent caused their initials and the

date M/GM/1621 to be carved, which survive on the fabric. George's brother Henry was Derby's first Mayor, dying in office in 1637. The house and very modest estate passed to Henry Cock, tanner, in 1801 and thence to his nephew Robert Crosswell, who was succeeded by his sister, married to another Derby Mayor, Ald. Robert Baker Chambers.

None of these, after 1801, lived in the house but tenants included Derby-born Nottingham architect William Jolley of Evans & Jolley (1836-1919) who was there in 1888-1895, and William Bemrose for the following decades, during which time Percy Currey undertook a sensitive restoration of the house in 1904-05: possibly including replacing the service wing. When the Mellor descendants finally sold, it was to Sqn. Ldr. Clive Bemrose in 1947.

After Mrs. Bemrose had died, John Cresswell of Idridgehay bought it (with four acres). I often wonder if he was a descendant of the Robert Cresswell, a land agent, who inherited it in the 1840s and died in 1863. It was for sale as recently as 2012, but I do not know if it sold then or if so, who bought it.



Idridgehay, 1: 2500 map of 1898 (detail) showing the position of the house. [National Library of Scotland]

But to have a late eighteenth century sketch of such an important surviving house by Boreman is a real treat.

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APRÈS MOI, LE DELUGE: THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND DERBY

By the Editor

Prompted by the talk to the ARG reported by Ann Jones above, it is interesting to note that the much-trumpeted and eye-wateringly expensive scheme of the Environment Agency (EA) to protect Derby from flooding by building walls on either side of the Derwent from Little Chester to Holmes Bridge ('Our City, Our River') had one unintended consequence, not addressed at all in the preliminary hype.

The phase one scheme was completed in 2020, but on the night of the 8th/9th November 2021 following persistent heavy rainfall over the Peak, a huge torrent careered down the Derwent Valley, coursed through Derby, successfully constrained by the EA's hideous walls but prevented from moving south efficiently by the backing up of the Trent, and debouched onto The Meadows, flooding over 20 businesses and two major car dealerships. Several businesses, including the one that used to print our Newsletter, never recovered. Bamford's auctioneers had almost 6 feet of water in its building the following morning, and lost over £2M worth of clients' goods. On previous occasions, a certain amount of flooding used to strike Derby, but the torrent was never sufficiently concentrated to flood the meadows seriously. Indeed, the City Council's officers are reputed to have told at least one businessman, in taking a lease prior to 2021, that there was no need to obtain flood insurance.

Then, on the night of 19th and 20th October 2023, storm Babet came and deluged the Peak and Staffordshire uplands, overloading the Trent which again backed up the swollen Derwent.



Museum of Making, Derby Silk Mill, Saturday 20th October 2023. Imperial Russian battlecruiser rescuing survivors!

Despite the EA's floodgates closing, the walls proved utterly ineffective. None of the roads serving the town centre were passable by the Saturday morning. The A52 was flooded by Cardinal Square to a depth of over 9 feet in places, and every possible alternative route was either also flooded or jammed with re-routed traffic. A superfluity of vehicles desperately trying to pass through the town, access the A52, reach the railway station (Station Approach was flooded) or go south on the London Road led to *stasis*. The much-vaunted pumping station on Bass's Rec was overwhelmed with brown discoloured water and left with a warning light and siren on top helplessly flashing and hooting; there were no visible EA personnel present making efforts to alleviate the situation, nor anywhere else, nor council personnel, nor elected members. It was a jungle out there; it was dog-eat-dog (if they could get anywhere to do it)!

Other places where flooding closed roads were the A61 Pektron Island roundabout, closing off egress to the North via the A38, the East Gate underpass, Station Approach, A514 Osmaston Road, parts of Sinfin and Alvaston and of course, Exter and St. Mary's Bridges were closed due to the flood gates being shut. There was much damage to the Museum of Making and many other businesses. The Meadows were once again inundated, although mercifully, Bamfords had by then re-opened in a new HQ in Spondon, well above the flood plain. The Jaguar/Land Rover garage was particularly devastated, leading to a huge number of electric vehicles having to be written off and a neighbouring dealership also had its stock ruined. Apparently, legal redress is still being sought.

The EA still has to build its phase II, which would see the destruction of locally listed buildings on Canary Island (Derwent Street East, Phoenix Street and Stuart Street) to enable a flood channel to be built right across the area which would, of course, enable The Meadows to flood even more comprehensively.

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THE OAKES FAMILY'S FIRST ENDEAVOUR: THE NAG'S HEAD INN, DERBY

For most of the 18th century, the *Nag's Head*, a relatively important coaching inn situated at 64, St. Peters Street (otherwise Nag's Head Yard) was kept by the Oakes family, who were also rich attorneys and who became richer still by discovering oil shale on their newly-acquired estate at Riddings in 1818, as so succinctly described above.

The family descend from Gilbert Oakes, recorded as a maltster in 1649; his grandson James (1673-1714) seems to have built the inn, or at least have been its first owner. It seems to have been run by younger sons for the most part thereafter. It is first mentioned by name in 1733 but without being named as early at 1714.

In 1779, Benjamin Oakes (1746-1785) – also a described as a 'liquor merchant' – was, according to a notice in the *Derby Mercury* of 4th June that year, declared bankrupt and everything was to be sold up but it must, in the end, have been kept within the family, for his brother, Alderman James Oakes (1750-1828) – father of another James, first of the family to

own the Riddings estate – was offering a lease of it two decades later in 1799 (*Derby Mercury* notice 10th January). His sister Mary married Derby born Charles Houghton, landlord of the *Black's Head* in Ashbourne.

The Oakes eventually sold the Nag's Head in 1822 and it was advertised to let at the end of July 1828 with a 'newly erected dining or club room' 30 ft by 19 ft and stabling for 50 horses – this at a time when the inn also hosted a 99-member Friendly Society – following a contents sale early the previous month. By 1833 it was in the hands of a Mr Mason, a coach proprietor, who ran the London to Manchester *Independent* from here.



Above: *Crest of Meynell of Meynell Langley: hence the name.*

Left: *St. Peter's Street, Derby, photograph by Richard Keene, May 1855, looking north. The entrance to the Nag's Head, beneath a large lantern is ringed.*

The inn was approached by a lane leading from St Peter's Street and in 1856 was the venue for one of a number of sheep roasts to celebrate the peace treaty with Russia. By the year following, it had been re-titled the '*Nag's Head and Commercial Inn, coach office and Nag's Head stores*', which suggests a degree of diversification in the post-coaching era. It was reduced in size in 1877 by losing its original façade to street widening and again much later by extensions to the Midland Drapery 1924-9, reducing it to little more than a beer house in size.

Throughout most of the 18th century, the inn was also a leading centre for cockfighting, whilst in the later part of that era, the *Nag's Head* was the inn for the registration of racehorses wishing to be entered for the Derby Races on Sinfin Moor. It was the place of numerous bloodstock sales, although the sign in this case may have not been associative, the name having been in existence prior to the connection with the turf. In fact – to reference another of our recent talks written about above – the name almost certainly refers to the crest of the Meynell family of

Langley and Bradley, both branches of which had Derby town houses and strong urban connections. Their crest was (and is) *a horse's head argent*.

The premises (or what was left of them) were sold to Marks and Spencer's in 1958 for an expansion project and closed on 28 January 1959, being demolished shortly afterwards.

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THE SOCIETY'S PROGRAMME JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2024

Full details of the summer programme of visits are available on the website and booking arrangements for the summer programme have already been circulated to members. The following is a summary of the events that will take place after the expected publication date for this newsletter, and places are still available at the time of going to press.

The electronic version of this newsletter contains links to the Eventbrite booking page for each event – members without internet access can make bookings via Rosemary Annable by telephone on (01773) 828141 (evenings):

[Wednesday 17 July 1.30pm Dronfield Hall Barn \(LHS\)](#)

[Thursday 25 July 1.30pm Georgian Bakewell and the Old House Museum \(AS\)](#)

[Friday 2 August 2.00pm Derby Riverboat trip \(IAS\)](#)

[Tuesday 13 August 10.30am Southwell History walk \(ARG\)](#)

[Tuesday 13 August 2.15pm Southwell Archaeology walk \(ARG\)](#)

[Tuesday 20 August 1.30pm Melbourne Hall & Gardens \(LHS\)](#)

[Saturday 31 August 2.00pm Aqueduct Cottage on the Cromford Canal \(IAS\)](#)

[Wednesday 4 September 1.30pm Belper North Mill \(LHS\)](#)

Winter programme

The winter programme of talks will commence at the end of September. Full details will be circulated by post and/or email when the programme is finalised, but advance information will be made [available on the website](#) as speakers are booked and dates are fixed.

In the last couple of years, we have experimented with occasional Saturday daytime meetings at Strutts in Belper as an alternative to our traditional Friday evening meetings at St. Mary's in Derby. These have proved to be popular, and this winter we will hold a regular Saturday meeting at Strutts to coincide with the Library opening dates, i.e. the last Saturday of the month. The programme will start on Saturday 28 September with a talk from Daniel Waterfall of CFA on their excavations of the cotton mill site at Milford – very appropriate for this venue. Please note these meetings will be in the morning (11.00am) as the venue is no longer available on Saturday afternoons. **Recordings of talks** in last year's winter programme will remain [available on the website](#) until early September – they will then be deleted to make space for the new season's recordings.

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REAR COVER, Upper Masson Mill, painted in vignette by china painter George Robertson, looking north. [Derby Museums Trust]

Lower: Winster Hall, frescoed ceiling in the dining room. The ceiling looks very retardataire – about 1680, you might think, and in the manner of Edward Pierce – for an early 18th century house. Bizarrely, when David Fraser and I went from the museum to examine it in the 1980s, the frescoes were alleged to have been the work of Benjamin West, no less! They are almost certainly attributable to Francis Bassano of Derby (1675-1746).

