

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

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# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mrs. D. Grace, Mrs. J. Jackson and Mr. I. H. Mitchell.

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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: *A suitably festive view of Manor Farm, Dalbury, south front, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Late 17<sup>th</sup> century with fenestration altered, east wing lowered and rebuilt, early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

[M. Craven]

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## FROM THE CHAIR

In September there was an initial meeting of the committee managing the Repton fund, generously donated by one of our members to complete the post-excavation process and to produce a final report on the excavations undertaken in the 1970s and 1980s by Martin Biddle and the late Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle in a number of locations around the chancel of St Wystan's Church, in the vicarage garden, to the west of the church and in the headmaster's garden. A brief is now being drafted for Phase 1 of the work, to undertake an initial assessment of the archaeological archive deposited with Derby Museums and its potential for the publication of the excavation results including specialist analyses.

In the meantime, the Derby Museums' Repton volunteers under the direction of Andy Austen, continue to garner material, including what seem to be some completed specialist reports, from computer records on old floppy discs. The recent Annual Lecture of the Friends of Repton Parish Church 'Fifty years of Early Medieval Archaeology at Repton 1974-2023', given to a packed church by Professor Mark Horton which included reference to the more recent excavations in 2016, highlights yet again the importance of the original excavations being analysed and published.

For some years there has been uncertainty about the location of a portion of land owned by the Society at Darley Abbey, a remnant of the purchase in 1936 of the 'stone historical building' which was then thought to be part of the abbey of Darley, the future of which was only secured (after 40 years of standing empty) when it was restored and converted for use as a public house by architect Mike Wood in the late 1970s. Research has now clarified what the Society still owns and the matter has been referred to our solicitors in order for the land to be registered with the UK Land Registry.

As members will have seen from our recent e-mails, a cut in grant funding by Derbyshire County Council due to budget pressures had put the future of ACID magazine – the free, attractive and popular heritage magazine that showcases local archaeology and conservation – in jeopardy for the coming year. As a member of the Derbyshire Archaeology Advisory Committee that produces the magazine, the Society offered a contribution to editing and design work for the next issue, in anticipation of sufficient funds being raised to publish the magazine in hardcopy, which is the preferred format to make it as widely available as possible. Crowdfunding to print 2,000 copies has been successful and is now doing well on its 'stretch target' to print 4,000. The magazine, which includes an article on the 3D laser scanning of the Morley Park furnaces and Cromford Bridge chapel carried out for the Society by Michael Lobb of MSDS Heritage early in the year, will be available as usual at Derbyshire Archaeology Day at the Winding Wheel Theatre, Chesterfield on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, for which tickets are now available.

Our winter programme of talks began at the end of September trialling the use of Strutts on the last Saturday of the month, when the Society's Library is also open, while also making the talks available simultaneously on Zoom and afterwards on the website as usual. A future event at Strutts, also part of our winter programme, is the Joan D'Arcy Lecture on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2.00pm when Professor James Clark of Exeter University will talk on 'The

Dissolution of the Monasteries in Derbyshire'. Professor Clark has been working at Hardwick Hall with the National Trust on Bess of Hardwick's collection of ex-monastic vestments and will feature some of what they have found in the talk, together with other aspects of Derbyshire's dissolution story. We will be inviting other groups to join us for the afternoon, the Library will be open before the lecture and copies of Professor Clark's book will be available for purchase. Please do join us and make the event well known.

Where possible we continue to attend special events to publicise the Society and were represented at the Commemorative Historical Fair in Alfreton in June and at the CBA Festival of Archaeology Closing Event at Hardwick Hall in July. Next year's 'Historical Fair', an opportunity for local historical and heritage groups to highlight what they do, will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at Strutts, when the Society will again be participating – and the Library will also be open. If you are involved with a group that would like to take part please get in touch.

We continue to use technology to improve the way in which we provide information for our members, to reduce costs and where possible to reduce (or at least streamline) the work of our office bearers and you will have noticed that MailChimp is now being used to send out our e-mails in an easily readable format. Members who do not have e-mail continue to receive all of our information by post.

As we come to the end of the year, annual subscriptions for 2025 now fall due. If you pay by standing order, then no action is needed, and if you pay on an annual basis the Society's bank details have been sent to you by e-mail or by post, depending on the way in which you ask us to keep in touch with you.

Thank you for your past support for the Society We value your membership and look forward to your continuing support in the future.

Rosemary Annable  
[chair@derbyshireas.org.uk](mailto:chair@derbyshireas.org.uk)

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Your editor would like to express his Christmas good wishes and for the new Year to all members – assuming publication happens in time! If not please accept them retrospectively.

Such is the quality and profusion of contributions for this issue, it would seem to be invidious to do more than express hearty good wishes and to thank all our contributors for their pieces and excellent photographs, and to look forward to receiving those that will record our winter programme in time for the early summer edition. The deadline will be May 25<sup>th</sup> for publication by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week in July.

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## JANE STEER (1936-2024)



We are very sad to have to report the death of Society stalwart Jane Steer aged 88, who died on her 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, at the Royal Derby Hospital. A full obituary of Jane will appear in the forthcoming Journal, but she was for over forty years an active member of the Society, originally impelled to join after completing a WEA course on archaeology. She soon became assistant editor of the *Miscellany* to which she was a regular contributor. She joined with enthusiasm the fight to stop Quaker Way in Derby being driven through at the expense of the 1803 Marble Works itself on the site of Derby's first recorded religious house, the convent of St. Helen. With the late Joan d'Arcy she collaborated on an assessment of the history of the site and appeared for the Society, alongside the local pressure group and the Derby Civic Society at the ensuing public enquiry.

Throughout my period as Keeper of Antiquities at the Museum I had the pleasure of exchanging research and opinions with Jane and after my redundancy, she was well head of me in becoming computer-literate and, knowing my own inadequacy in such matters, would send me unprompted snippets of information (and even bodies of research) which were invariably of either help or enduring interest.

Jane's enthusiastic contribution to the Society and her contribution to the ever-accumulating knowledge of our local history and heritage has been impressive and cannot fail to serve as a glowing testament to her memory. She leaves a husband, Peter, and three daughters.

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## THE SOCIETY'S GOVERNANCE

In 2022 a sub-committee of the Council was appointed to consider the constitutional structure of the Society with a view to seeing how it might be updated to provide the Society with a governance more fit to meet its needs for the foreseeable future and better adapted to fit the standards currently recommended by the Charity Commissioners. The survivors of the subcommittee reported back to the Council at its last meeting in September. A decision was confirmed that updating the constitution needed to be completed by 2028, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the DAS in 1878.

The 'Rules' were last updated in 2015. Unfortunately, the Society's attempts to register them with the Charity Commission were unsuccessful. The Commission denies all knowledge of receiving the relevant documentation, though the Society has record of it being sent. An impasse has been reached which is why the Commission's website still states that the Society's governing document is the 'Rules' dated 26 July 1934 as amended 5 May 1998.

To re-submit the 2015 Rules is pointless. The Charity Commission will not accept it as the document stands, because it falls short of the standards that it and the law now demand. Therefore the DAS needs to draw up a new constitution to take more careful note of Charity Commission and legal requirements.

The Charity Commission provides template model constitutions for charities. There are two that are appropriate for the DAS: the model for incorporated associations and the unincorporated charitable association model. The Council will be looking at these in more detail and taking specialist advice on the 'pros and cons' of each.

Why does this matter to the general membership? Whatever the Council recommends will require the backing of a resolution passed by an AGM or a General Meeting of the membership before it can be submitted to the Charity Commission and be registered. The Council may well recommend some constitutional changes in the meantime for AGM approval to make the Society more compliant with current standards.

So, I end with a plea. Please come to AGMs, even though they seem to fall in nice gardening weekends in May, to make your voice heard and your vote count and to help in the process of making the Society fit for the next few decades, if not for another 150 years.

Richard Clark, Deputy Chair

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## LIBRARY NOTES

Since the last Newsletter, the monthly Saturday morning talks have begun. Coinciding with the library opening this has seen more people through door before the talks start which is good news. Over the year 181 books have been issued and 69 added to the collection either by purchase or donation. The following are a selection of our new books:

*Archaeological Excavations at Hanging Banks, Wingerworth. York Archaeology Monograph. Vol. 1*  
*Craske, Matthew, Joseph Wright Painter of Darkness*  
*Edwards, David G., A History of Wingerworth, Derbyshire VCH Trust*  
*Powers, Anne M., Silver threads and Ironworks – the Other Wrights of Derby.*  
*Kingman, Mike, Brickmaking and Brick Building in the Midlands 1437 – 1780*

All new additions are on the online catalogue.

James Gibbs' book – *Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture* (London, 1738) generously donated by Jane Steer, who sadly died very recently, is now in the Joseph Wright Study Room at Derby Museum and Art Gallery where members can look at it on request. We will be able to have it for any occasion on which we wish to display it.

Any suggestions for books for the collection are always welcome.

Anne Allcock  
Hon. Librarian

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

### VISIT TO SOUTHWELL

Morning and afternoon, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

*Morning, by Jan Jackson*

On a lovely summer day in August, we met Mike Kirton, of Southwell Historical Group. The appeal of the visit attracted a full complement of numbers, as we gathered together at the doors of the majestic Minster. This was an experimental day, two visits in one, with more of an archaeological tour in the afternoon (see below). Mike gave us a brief history of how Southwell and its origins are linked to water and roads, and how early settlers probably arrived via the River Trent. The Fosse Way and the Great North Road are but only a few miles away, too. The River Greet which runs along the northern edge of the town, its subsidiary streams and four wells provided a reliable source of water.

Mike guided us through the great doors and led us to the Chapter House. The Chapter House was built beside a baptismal pool at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, it is decorated with rich naturalistic stone carvings. These carvings of flora are based on close studies of local hedgerows, yet also contain green men and creatures both real and fanciful; this Chapter House is the architectural glory of the building and the fluid carvings are of quite exceptional quality and regarded as the finest example of naturalistic carving in the UK.

Walking around the back of the Minster we passed the ruins of the Archbishops' Palace, only parts of which have survived, this has been preserved with Lottery funding and an educational garden has been created in the grounds.

We were then led through to a number of very pretty cottages and to a back garden, in which stands an ancient apple tree, where we met a descendent of Mary Ann Brailsford who originally planted a pip from an apple in 1809. This was a pip grown from a cross-pollination of two



unknown varieties of tree. The apples were named after a local butcher, Matthew Bramley who bought the garden in 1846. There are now over 500 growers in the UK and over 100,000 tonnes of Bramley apples sold every year. In March 2009, the first new stained glass window in Southwell Minster since the millennium was unveiled, dedicated to the Bramley apple.

*The ancient Bramley apple tree.*

*[Janette Jackson]*

We then proceeded through the town and learned the history of the many notable buildings: the house of correction, built in 1611 (now very appropriately houses the police station), just behind which is what was a lace making mill, a huge building and once the biggest employer in the area during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Elizabethan wall paintings in the Saracen's Head, Burgage manor and the 16 prebends. We ended the morning at Burgage green, where we were told that it is a place the archaeologists would like to investigate in the future.

On a final note, we did find a couple of places to eat, but if you happen to fancy a ploughman's for lunch in one of the many enticing pubs, you are out of luck, they don't open until 4pm.

#### *Afternoon by Ann Jones*

The leader and guide for our tour of the archaeology of Southwell was Dr Stephen Rogers, who is the Secretary of the Southwell Community Archaeology Group. We started off in the Minster, primarily to see a very secular item, a wall painting of Cupid.



The Minster stands next door to the site of a very large and splendid Roman villa. This had long been suspected from odd chance finds of *tesserae* and other Roman artefacts. However, when in 1959 new premises for Southwell Minster Grammar School (now Southwell Minster School) were to be built next to the Minster, it was decided to investigate the site before building started.

*The Southwell Cupid in all its glory.*

The excavation was run by Charles Daniels and what they found was astonishing: part of the remains of a very large Roman villa. Six rooms contained mosaics from the southern wing, which were exposed, and a bath house was revealed in the eastern wing. At the bottom of the plunge pool, they found a deposit of painted plaster, sealed by rubble when the bath house was



demolished. A fine depiction of Cupid was conserved and assembled by Norman Davey in the 1970s and displayed in the Minster. However, a large number of crates full of fragments of painted plaster remain in store – still with the original dirt but work on cleaning and conserving the remainder has now begun.

Furthermore, above the bath house were found a number of Anglian burials, presumably associated with the Saxon church which predated the Norman minster. At one time they found so many that it was impossible to deal with them properly, resulting in many of them being ‘disposed of’ (remember this was in 1959). Remains of this earlier church may well remain in the present Minster, for just in front of the ‘bread’ pews is a small fragment of mosaic pavement with large *tesserae* which have been shown to be Roman. Whether they are *in situ* or were re-laid in the Saxon church is open to debate.



*Southwell, Archbishop's Palace, state chamber as restored by William Caroë [Ann Jones]*

In 956 King Eadwig gave the land of Southwell to the Archbishop of York, Oscytel. This is why there is an archbishop's palace next to the Minster. Several English kings are known to have stayed there, as well as Cardinal Wolsey in 1530, shortly before his death in the November. Little remains of the palace, built about 1360, which was largely destroyed during the Civil War but some original remains, including the magnificent state chamber were incorporated in the relatively modern building and restoration campaign of 1906-1907 under architect W. D. Caroë. Inside, there are a few Roman artefacts and, anachronistically, even a lift. The building unsurprisingly is multipurpose: used for anything from meetings to weddings.

From here we moved on, passing the accommodation of the vicars choral, where there had been many early finds of further Roman building materials and *tesserae*, as well as later Saxon material. Then we came to the Dean's garden where we were told more Roman finds including painted plaster, were so commonly found that the then Dean used to give guests pieces to take away; happily, some of these have been returned recently.

Our next stop was Higgin's Mead, a field adjacent to the east end of the Dean's garden with the small River Greet bordering the field at its east end. A wooden structural post found in the river was dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. This field was intended by the planners to be the site of a large housing development, which the locals had fought hard to prevent. Extensive surveying and test digging by the developers, however, showed the ground was full of interesting features – Roman and late Medieval – with even more Anglian Christian burials. This would have been an immense loss if the development took place. However – as in the best story books – the field was saved when a benefactor from Southwell, who had made his fortune in North America, bought the field and donated it to the town.

It seems that the Roman villa/palace had an imposing ornate step/veranda facing the river which was in use from the first century until late in the second. The land closer to the river showed both industrial and settlement development. Thus, there are many questions to be answered – why was so opulent a villa built here and by whom? The best guess at present seems to be that it could relate to the Legionary fortress in Lincoln. The answers may lie buried in this field.

Thank you, Dr. Rogers, for a fascinating tour of the hidden but known archaeology of Southwell and a glimpse of what is still left to be found. It might be added that Dr Rogers has very kindly agreed to talk to us about 'Southwell: the hidden archaeology' on 14<sup>th</sup> February next year (2025) at St Mary's Hall. You can find more about it and have your questions answered then.

Ann Jones

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## **A VISIT TO WHITWELL WOOD, DERBYSHIRE**

**6<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

On a mercifully dry day, the group met Amy, a Community Ranger with Forestry England, to explore the hidden secrets of Whitwell Wood.

The wood, managed by the Forestry Commission, is on a 99-year lease from the Welbeck Estate. Amy began by expertly leading us through the wood explaining 60% of the timber is 80 to 90 years old, 22% is 71 to 80 years old and, although an even aged wood now, the wood has formed slowly, taking in more bits of land over time. Evidence of the wood's management programme was clearly to be seen in the felled trees to be found in patches everywhere.

Amy took us back in to the past describing evidence of a Saxon boundary, Woodbank, which is of probable regional importance. The Kingdom Bank, stretching from the eastern edge to the northern escarpment, must have been much higher in the past, and it was speculated that it might have been part of the boundary between the Saxon kingdom of Mercia and that of Northumberland, or even a barrier to keep animals out of the wood. It is certainly clearly visible in the wood.

Amy went on to describe the three enclosures found in the wood, of which two were earth and stone ones. A large D-shaped earthwork could have been an iron age fort before it was adapted for use as a pinfold to contain animals that had been driven up the valley from the water source below; the other one was thought possibly to have been a Romano British enclosure, but with parallels drawn with the early Neolithic, due to the shape and other evidence of habitation in

that period within a couple of miles. Fire-cracked pebbles and charcoal were also found, and Iron Age pot sherds. Later excavation done by MB Archaeology found an early Neolithic pot sherd, more fire cracked pebbles and worked stone fragments.

Bringing us more into the future, Amy led us to where there had been a survey carried out by Forestry England, revealing a fox house – these are artificially created fox earths with long



entrance tunnels, constructed some time before 1860. We were still able to make out the fox tunnels in the undergrowth.

*The Way Through the Wood: the group taking a breather on a timber bench beside one of the drives.*

[Jan Jackson]

Unusual cart wheel effects, in all totalling eight, marked drives created at the behest of the Dukes of Portland for shooting. We were led down to a fast-running stream where Amy described other features, including earthwork enclosures, banks, ditches and ridge and furrow from different eras, which show the expansion of the wood into cultivated areas over different periods of time. Stone boundary markers were also found on the northern boundary, 50cm (1ft. 8in.) high and marked DP and DL, demarcating the portions of the Dukes of Portland and of Leeds (of Kiveton Hall & Hornby Castle, Yorks., WR), found to the north of the stream and not on Forestry England land.

Amy expertly guided us back through the wood, to the entrance, and concluded the walk by showing us a directional board, with a marked guided route to save people from losing their way, erected towards the front boundary of the wood, and which also gives credit to the Creswell Heritage Trust for help in funding the earthworks surveys and the test pit analyses.

Janette Jackson.

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## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

### A TOUR OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The buildings in Lichfield Cathedral Close are of various styles and dates and surround the Cathedral on all four sides. The area was originally, and still is, defined by the lines of 12<sup>th</sup> century defensive ditches on three sides, and by the Minster Pool on the fourth, south side. We





gathered in Erasmus Darwin House, standing at the west end of the Close, for refreshments and to meet our knowledgeable guide, Alun.

Left: *Erasmus Darwin's House (1758/9) as seen from the street.*

Right: *Erasmus Darwin, MD, FRS, by John Holland of Ford after Joseph Wright, 'Dr. Darwin with a hand'.* [Derby Museums Trust]



Erasmus Darwin's House originally faced inwards, looking towards the Cathedral, but in 1758-59 the house was remodelled from a medieval dwelling so that it faced outwards (south west) to front the fashionable Beacon Street, in common with its neighbours. We passed the remains of the West Gate (of c. 1300) to enter into the Close and looked at Newton's College, a row of 19<sup>th</sup>-century almshouses, on our way to the impressive Vicars' Close. The houses here were timber framed and partly jettied, built in collegiate style around two courtyards, with a common hall. The buildings date from 1558, with one range having been rebuilt in the 1660s.



*Lichfield, Vicars' Close, the jettied 15<sup>th</sup> cent. north side, listed grade II\* and the best surviving close of residences for secular canons after Wells. A notable vicar choral, Richard Bassano (1654-1729) was the father of Francis Bassano, the Derby painter who was born here in 1675.*

[Pat Haldenby]



We paused to look at the head and pump of a conduit dated 1786 – an early example of piped water supply in the town. We proceeded along the tree-lined Dean’s Walk, which runs along the length of the north side of the Cathedral. We looked at a number of notable buildings along here, mostly dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These replaced medieval buildings or those that were damaged during fighting in this area during the Civil War (1642-1651).

Two of the most interesting buildings are the Deanery and the Bishop’s Palace. The former



was built in 1707 and is a fine example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The latter replaced a medieval building and dates from 1687, with the later addition of two Victorian wings. It’s now occupied by the Cathedral School.

*Lichfield, the conduit head of 1786; Derby’s – dating from 1691 – were all swept away when the Little Eaton waterworks were established in 1848.*

*[Pat Haldenby]*



*Lichfield Cathedral Close, former Bishop’s Palace, built 1686-87 to the designs of Edward Pierce with interior plasterwork by Edward Gouge and listed grade I. [Lichfield Civic Society]*

The buildings on the east and south sides of The Close are mostly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelled medieval houses, brick built. They're presently used as Cathedral offices, dwellings for staff, the visitor centre and the Cathedral café (originally the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bishop's Palace).

Exterior features of the Cathedral were pointed out on our way round. These included statuary, windows and doorways. We concluded our tour back at Erasmus Darwin House and were then free to explore more of Lichfield.

Pat Haldenby

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## **A VISIT TO GEORGIAN BAKEWELL AND THE OLD HOUSE MUSEUM**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The Architectural Section organised a tour of Bakewell that was divided into two smaller, morning and afternoon, groups for safety reasons. After a stiff climb from the town centre, we were met at the Old House Museum by the manager, Mark Copley, and with some welcome refreshments, which we enjoyed whilst he gave us a brief background introduction to the Museum.

The Old House was built for the Gell family of Hopton Hall around 1530 as a two up and two down building to accommodate a bailiff who collected tithes on their behalf. There is still evidence inside of the wattle and daub walls, original fireplaces, a garderobe and some witch



marks remaining from the original building. It was considerably extended in 1620 before being converted into tenements by Sir Richard Arkwright about 1790. The building was saved about 70 years ago when the Bakewell Historical Society was set up specifically to restore and renovate it.

*Bakewell, the Old House Museum. [MC]*

The museum contains artefacts from the local area and is run by volunteers. One display board, accompanying exhibits of Blue John, caught the eye of this visitor with the novel suggestion



that its name may originate from the Cornish 'bleujenn' (flower), brought by Cornish tin miners moving to Derbyshire in the 1740s for lead mining.<sup>1</sup>

Our town tour guide was David Berry who came well supplied with quotes from earlier historic visitors to Bakewell and a strong voice to compete with the modern traffic. From The Old



House it was downhill, passing a rather well hidden Bagshaw Hall, built in 1684 for attorney Thomas Bagshawe of Ridge Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Steward of the Duke of Rutland.

*Bagshaw Hall, 17<sup>th</sup> century east front.*

[M. Craven]

From thence we came to Bath Street with a row of classical stone buildings opposite the Bath House built for the Duke of Rutland in 1697 and occupied at one time by the celebrated Bakewellian, carver and petrifactioner White Watson FLS. Beside are the Bath Gardens, laid out by Watson in 1814.



*White Watson, FLS (1760-1835), silhouette by Edward Foster.*

[Derby Museums Trust]

A diversion from the centre, along the Buxton Road, took us to the Victoria Mill, formerly a corn mill, built c 1800, with an enormous cast iron waterwheel (of *circa* 1850) on display but now clear of water. Further on, we crossed the Holme packhorse bridge, datable to 1664, to see the Lumford Mill, set up by Sir Richard Arkwright in 1777. It had led to a conflict with the then Duke of Rutland over the diversion of water from the River Wye. Here, David showed us samples of chert from a nearby quarry.

We returned, following what had been the tailrace from the mills, to a delightful row of 18<sup>th</sup> century terraced stone houses in Castle Street that led to the main bridge over the Wye. This dates from *circa* 1300 and has five pointed arches but had to be widened, on the north side, in

<sup>1</sup> Presumably cognate with Welsh *blodyn* (= flower) from Gaulish *blatus* – Ed.

the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Beside it is Bridge House with attractive gardens that are said to have been laid out by Paxton. Nearby, along Bridge Street and at its corner with Market Street, is the old Market Hall, dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century with a low mullioned window on the ground floor and a bay window on the upper floor.

The main square is dominated by the Rutland Arms hotel, with its imposing Doric porch, built in 1804 for the Duke of Rutland who wanted to upgrade the accommodation in Bakewell and widen its streets, to enable the town to rival Buxton as a spa. Indeed, David mentioned that there had been as many as seven springs in the town at one time. From the main square, King Street leads to the Cornmarket, whose upper side is fronted by the old Town Hall, built in 1602.

To one side of the square is the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Catcliffe House with its striking Gibbs surrounds to the windows and main door. Close by, on south Church Street, is an attractive row of former alms houses founded by Sir John Manners in 1709 but now modernised to provide affordable housing.



*Catcliffe House, Bakewell, with its rusticated window surrounds, busy quoins and wide central bay, suggesting a date nearer to circa 1790-1820, despite the retardataire detailing.*

[D. G. Jones]

Our tour of a sunny Bakewell finished at its celebrated Anglo-Saxon cross shaft in the churchyard of All Saints. We thanked our guide, David, for a very extensive and interesting walk that covered many of the notable buildings of this most attractive town.

David Jones

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## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

### VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF TIMEKEEPING, UPTON HALL, NOTTS. AND LOWDHAM SIGNALBOX

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

This summer day in Nottinghamshire was spent visiting two contrasting museums. In the morning, we were at Upton Hall, the headquarters of the British Horological Institute. This is a Grade II\* listed building, designed in 1825 and completed in 1832, in the fashionable Neo-Classical style as refined by Sir John Soane, by architect William John Donthorne (1799-1859) for Thomas Wright, a notable figure in Nottingham's banking sector. Indeed, the estate had been acquired in the 1790s by Smith family grandee, Robert, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Carrington (created 1797)



whose son and heir, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, assumed the surname of Carrington *in lieu* of Smith. It was much extended for John Warwick, a Newark brewer in 1896.



*Upton Hall, Nottinghamshire, south front.*

[*British Horological Institute*]

The Institute was founded in 1858 to promote best practice amongst clock and watchmakers. Originally based in London, their headquarters building was damaged by bombing in the Second World War, and they relocated to rural Nottinghamshire in 1972. Upton Hall is now their administrative headquarters and where they run training courses and maintain their Museum of Timekeeping.

On our conducted tour of the museum, we saw a fascinating variety of mechanical and electrical mechanisms for measurement of time. We learnt the difference between a clock (which chimes the hours) and a timepiece (which does not). One room contained four generations of the



GPO/BT speaking clock which many of us remember as the best way to set our watches accurately by making a telephone call to TIM or 123. Another contained a bank of electronic equipment that provided the BBC's Greenwich Time Signal ("the pips").

*The Greenwich Time signal machine.* [Ian Mitchell]

After some lunch in the café housed in an outbuilding of the hall, we proceeded to the village of Lowdham to visit a preserved railway signal box. This had been in use from 1896 to 2016



controlling a level crossing at the station on the Nottingham to Newark line of the Midland Railway. After closure it was re-located to a new site, slightly further from the railway tracks where it could be safely opened to the public as a museum. It has now been fitted out with a lovely selection of original Midland Railway instruments, aiming to restore it to its



configuration in the 1950s, with working bells and levers connected to an example of a semaphore signal.

Ian Mitchell

*Lowdham signal box, rear elevation, complete with grounded wagon body and classic Wolseley!*

[Ian Mitchell]

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## VISIT TO THE NATIONAL STONE CENTRE

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

Lynn Willies of the Peak District Mines Historical Society led a party of members on a walk starting and ending at the National Stone Centre, just north of Wirksworth. In the course of the afternoon, we learned a great deal about the geology of the area and how this influenced the quarrying of limestone for various applications. We visited several of the quarries to see



evidence of how they were worked and the road and rail transport routes for the material that was extracted.

*The party examining a nearby quarry.*

[Ian Mitchell]



Processing of the quarried material was visible in the form of three impressive limekilns on the edge of one of the quarries and some evidence of manufacture of asphalt in another. Also, some traces remain of the much earlier mining of lead ores from mineral veins within the limestone. The route included part of the Cromford and High Peak Railway, and the incline connecting it to the Midland Railway Wirksworth branch, which appears to have been completed with track laid but never connected or used as a through route, but which eventually found a use when it was connected to the quarries by narrow gauge tramways and an aerial ropeway.

Ian Mitchell

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### **AQUEDUCT COTTAGE, LEA BRIDGE** **Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

Meeting at Smedley's car park, Ian Hooker, one of the volunteers at the Aqueduct Cottage restoration, gave us an introductory talk about the origins of the first Smedley's mill, built by Peter Nightingale, his connections with Richard Arkwright – both as his landlord and financially as a lender of money – and how the need for the canals arose with the development of the factories.

On the walk along the towpath of the Lea Wood Arm, Ian picked out all sorts of interesting details, sometimes just a stone in the ground, a set of flag stones, or grooves in a stone pillar, all of which provided pieces in the jigsaw of our industrial history. Passing the site of the old hatters' factory and the wharf manager's house, it was explained how the canals were built, including the position of the 'plughole' used to drain the canal when necessary. Despite being



long out of use, the Lea Wood Arm still retains some water, showing how effective the original clay waterproofing was. By the time we'd reached the cottage we'd already had two very informative talks!

*Lea Wood: Aqueduct Cottage, as restored.*  
[Derbys. Wildlife Trust]

The cottage itself was built in 1802 and is listed grade II and appeared so fresh in the afternoon sunshine that it was hard to believe that only a few years earlier it had been in a very derelict condition. When London developers wanted to purchase the site in 1996, local villagers formed the the Lea Wood Trust and, in time, sufficient money was raised to buy the cottage and the surrounding woodlands and, under the auspices of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the work has now been completed.



Ian also took us through the stages of the restoration of the cottage, including interesting details about how a stone slate roof is constructed and he outlined the future plans they have for the surrounding natural areas. Since our visit, the new lock gate has arrived.

Ian was an excellent guide, making for a very interesting afternoon of a previously forgotten part of Derbyshire's industrial and natural history. Anne Allcock

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## **WHY DID PEOPLE BUILD IN BRICK IN THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL MIDLANDS?**

**Dr Mike Kingman, 1st November 2024**

Dr Kingman is a local historian, based in Staffordshire. His talk gave us a new insight into brick building which, from Victorian times onwards, was and possibly still is regarded by many as a very humble and understated building material. This was not the case in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The cost of bricks dictated that brick-built buildings could only be in the realm of the court and the church and they were regarded very much as a status symbol. Mike took us through some of the houses and religious buildings of the Midlands all with stories to tell – where the bricks came from (possibly imported to begin with), who built them – possibly Dutch brick masons in the early days as, it is thought, at Prior Overton's Tower, Repton Hall (1437).

The transport of brick was so prohibitively expensive that eventually most major projects had brick kilns on site – after all, a house might need a million bricks. Bricks were also best fired from March to September as winter-fired bricks were of poorer quality and unstable for effective use. The Brick Tax, imposed in 1784 allowed for a 10% loss.



*Sudbury Hall, south front with fine diapered brickwork of mid-17<sup>th</sup> century date. [R S I Smith]*

Huge costs and debts were often incurred in the building of brick houses resulting in unfinished houses or for a slow build: Sudbury Hall, for example, took around 30 years to complete. There are plenty of examples of other Derbyshire brick houses, some with brick frontages but the rest of the house in stone, and some the other way round, some infilled timber houses and many

other patterns. For the fine Friar Gate houses, Mike picked out many details not immediately noticeable to the untrained eye. It was clear that for the 300 years which were the core of the Mike's talk, that bricks showed the owner's status and where they wanted to be in Society.

This talk will make us look at brick houses with a different eye now, and Dr Kingman's book is highlighted in the Library report. Anne Allcock

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## LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

### DRONFIELD HALL BARN

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Our party of fifteen met in the café courtyard in the rear of the barn and were greeted by our guide, Maureen S. Taylor, who is a well-qualified historian with three degrees and a teaching certificate, no less!

Maureen dresses in Medieval costume to introduce her visitors to the Barn and to the Lady Alice d'Eyncourt, who was born in 1358 and who had the Hall rebuilt in 1430. Lady Alice was eldest daughter of Sir John Neville and Maud Percy. Her brother Ralph married Joan Beaufort and they were grandparents of Edward IV and Richard III. Alice married William, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord d'Eyncourt of Blankney in 1379 and had her first child Ralph in May 1380 (briefly 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord d'Eyncourt but he died aged four in 1384). She became pregnant again by the following August with her second son, John, born in February 1381 (from 1384, he succeeded



as 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord d'Eyncourt), and died in 1406. Nevertheless, her husband, William, was already very ill and in October 1381 he died, aged only 23.

*Dronfield Hall Barn.*

[*Madeinderbyshire.com*]

As a widow, Lady Alice inherited the lands and manor of Holmesfield, which she managed by employing stewards, and she eventually took a lease of the neighbouring Manor of Dronfield. She made a life for herself looking after her own and other family members' children but when it became obvious that the Hall at Dronfield was becoming derelict, she decided it should be renovated. Among other improvements to impress the tenants, a wooden canopy was erected for the Steward to sit beneath to receive payments of rent. As well as the main hall, the kitchen, brew house, dairy, stables were added or renewed, but set further down the hill, so as not to affect the setting of the Hall.

Her steward was also tasked with visiting all the churches on her lands to see what repairs needed doing, with an eye to Purgatory as by this time she was 71. Despite eventual conversion



to agricultural use, the stone lower courses of the Hall and the posts supporting the roof are still there for us to admire today, even though a very modern extension has been added to house community rooms and a café. A very beautiful garden has been created by volunteers which on a very sunny day finished our tour in a very satisfactory way.

Susan Peberdy

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## MELBOURNE HALL AND GARDENS

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Eighteen members took part in this visit, but split into two groups visiting at 13.30 and 14.00. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and after a rainy morning we had a dry warm and sunny afternoon.

The guides at the Hall were all very knowledgeable and had all the families that have owned the Hall down the ages at their fingertips. The name of the family has changed through being passed down the female line three times but the Hall has never been sold.

The succession has been from Sir John Coke (1563-1644) to George Lewis Coke 1715-1751, whose heiress Charlotte married Sir Matthew Lamb, 1<sup>st</sup> Bt. of Brocket, who died 1768; his son Peniston was created 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Melbourne of Kilmore in 1770. The heiress of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Melbourne, Emily married Peter, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Cowper and 4<sup>th</sup> Prince of the Holy Roman Empire (d 1869) who inherited the estate in 1853. The heiress of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl (and 6<sup>th</sup> Prince), Lady Amabel married Lord Walter Kerr, a younger son of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Lothian, who succeeded in 1905



and the family has continued to the present proprietor, Ralph, 14<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Lothian, although at the time of our visit he was still Lord Ralph Kerr.

*Melbourn Hall, south front, May 2018.[M. Craven]*

Our tour started at the main door of the Hall entering into the Billiard Room which is like a conservatory, on the footprint of a courtyard, built in 1911 by Lord Walter Kerr as there was nowhere else he could fit in a full billiard table. This leads to the oldest part of the house being altered and partly rebuilt in 1629-31. The house was rebuilt by Francis Smith of Warwick and then by his son William in 1744. The dining room is very little changed and has rich wooden panelling and elegant portraits of the family. The staircase hall leads to the study which is more modern in *décor* and has modern portraits of the family. The drawing room is a very formal

Georgian space re-decorated by Joseph Pickford in 1772 and leads to the library where the Lamb family portraits are hung. The most scandalous story about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount (Prime Minister) Melbourne – his disastrous marriage to Lady Caroline Ponsonby – is well known, her affair with Lord Byron being public knowledge. The whole house still feels what it is – a loved family home.

The gardens were laid out in 1704 by Henry Wise (with hydraulic assistance from George Sorocold) and have been little altered in layout since, with wide sweeping lawns and long vistas. Recent restoration has re-opened the vistas, especially that to the famous wrought iron arbour called The Birdcage, made by Robert Bakewell.

Susan Peberdy

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## **BELPER NORTH MILL**

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Eleven attendees gathered in the North Mill Trust's room within the building to start the tour, led admirably by Christine and Jane. After a brief introduction to Jedediah Strutt, born in 1726, a hosier who made a fortune from inventing and patenting the 'Derby Rib', a weave to hold stockings up, our first stop was by the river facing the mill's front door, to see the stone base of the first mill, the rest lost to fire in 1803, 17 years after opening. It was then rebuilt the following year with an iron frame clad in brick, designed by William, Jedediah's eldest son – five storey, 'fireproof' and forerunner of the skyscraper. It had an attic school room where the child workers of the families employed – the Strutts never used orphans as was often the case elsewhere – went on Sunday, their one day off!



We then visited the basement, seeing part of the iron column and brick arch construction, the wheel pit for the 22 x 18 ft. diameter water wheel, the mounts and voids for the extensive gearing and driveshafts which carried its power throughout the mill, and the iron wedges dating from 1804, adjusted daily to counter vibration in the mill.

*North Mill from the SW [DVMWHS]*

Then to the river to see the Horseshoe weir with its step half way up, where it was raised as more mills needed more power, and the stone lined river bed downstream of the road bridge, installed to prevent backward erosion when the river level dropped. One each of the water channels fed the North, West and South mills, the latter two now gone, except that the South's wheel pit now produces electricity via turbines. In the mid-1800s, a steam engine was installed on site, the base of its tall red brick chimney, dated 1854, and the Italianate pump house which it powered are still extant.

The Strutts' firm merged with several other English textile companies in 1897 due to external



competition, forming the English Sewing Cotton Company, still boldly displayed on the 1912 East Mill, largely built on iron columns over the pre-existing water channels. Since closure, this huge structure has had various uses but is now largely in a state of dereliction.

In the early 1900s, the large area of water behind the weir had for some time been used for boating and, on a request from this group, George Herbert Strutt, great-great-grandson of Jedediah, funded the cost of converting a piece of his land just north of the mills, Pickle Island, (previously an osier bed – used for making baskets) into pleasure grounds, with a promenade on the water's edge, a club house for the boaters, tea rooms and a bandstand. This still exists as the River Gardens, open to the public. We enjoyed a most interesting visit, even for those members familiar with the site.

Robert Grasar

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### THE SOCIETY ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR 2025

The 2025 summer trip will be based in Folkestone. As usual it will be four nights half board, and will include coach transport from Derby. The hotel is the Grand Burstin Hotel, situated on Folkestone harbour. We hope to hold the cost close to last year's level, i.e. £430 per head in a twin or double room with a £60 single supplement. The dates are June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The itinerary is not finalised, but we expect to include Dover, Sandwich, Canterbury, Rye, a Martello tower, Richborough, Eltham Palace and Knole. There will be the usual scattering of churches to satisfy David Carder, who will once again be our guide.



Left: *Richborough/Rutupiae, robbed walling.* Right: *Sandwich, Lutyens' The Salvation*

To reserve a place, send a £50 deposit to Mrs. Jane Heginbotham, 59 Hickton Road, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 1AG; e-mail [jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com). Pay by cheque or bank transfer to Derbyshire Archaeological Society, CAF Bank Ltd., sort code 40-52-40, account number 00032054 by February 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. Please indicate if a receipt is required.

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## THE SOCIETY'S VISIT TO LANCASHIRE

July 2024

*1st-2nd July*



*Janette Jackson*

Our journey as usual began from Derby 'Bus Station and, as we arrived, the change in the climate from the hot humid weather of last year, was noticeable, as raincoats and stout shoes were the order of the day.

*Rufford Old Hall, entrance front. [National Trust]*

Our first stop on the way to our destination in Blackpool was Rufford Old Hall. As we arrived, we were ushered in to the majestic great hall and offered a seat; the façade of the Tudor hall was magnificent with close studded walls and quatrefoil decoration, lit by very large windows including a polygonal bay window. Pevsner described it as having, 'an exuberance of decoration matched nowhere in England.' Surrounded by this splendour, we were given an excellent talk on the history of the hall.



*Rufford, detail of screen.*

*[Jan Jackson]*

Afterwards we continued to browse the rest of the building but before leaving this magnificent great hall, it was difficult to imagine that from 1816 to 1825 it was used as the village schoolroom; its massive beautifully carved screen dominating the room must have seemed somewhat intimidating to small children. As we moved around the Tudor Gothic building, one noticeable feature of which was the upstairs gallery and in which we came across an opening, high up in the wall, where we could look through and view the Great Hall from above.



After looking at the many treasures in the house, we made our way down to the tea room for lunch, where there was an alternative eating area in the courtyard outside, surrounded by the coach house and stables. We enjoyed a final chance to look around the garden, topiary, lawns with the surrounding paddocks and woodland, before setting off towards our final visit of the day to see the Parish Church of St. Michael at Hoole.

This intriguing church, dating from 1628, was originally a chapel of ease to Croston Parish Church until 1641, before taking on the parochial mantle. As we entered through the South porch, with its segmentally arched doorway and leaf spandrels, it felt well-used, with a comfortable, welcoming, feeling. An unusually large gallery surrounded the church's interior, and evidence of the former presence of choir boys and musicians still remained. A stained glass window recorded the history of Jeremiah Horrocks 1618-41 who lived in Hoole from 1639-40, observing the transit of Venus, the first person ever to have done so. He continued to make measurements of the movement of Venus across the sky for several weeks contributing greatly to scientific knowledge.

*Much Hoole, St. Michael: detail of window commemorating Horrocks' observation of the*



*Transit of Venus, designed by Heike Sahner for Pendle Stained Glass and installed June 2004.*

[Jan Jackson]

Arriving at our destination, the Savoy Hotel in Blackpool, from which, once again, we had splendid views of the sea. We were welcomed, room keys were swiftly distributed, and a number of our party took the opportunity to take a brisk walk down the promenade before drinks, dinner and an enjoyable evening talk about the surrounding area by David Carder.

The following day, we continued on our way to our first visit of the day, Standish church. The church lies on the Roman road from Wigan to Lancaster. Our arrival at the church wasn't at first very welcoming, as the cleaners were busy at their weekly tasks, but this soon dissolved as they began to realise how much they enjoyed sharing their knowledge of the church until the vicar arrived. A church existed at Standish in 1206 but was entirely rebuilt during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Standish family were patrons and the main coal owners of the area; indeed, in the churchyard we saw five plaques commemorating miners from six local pits who were killed, or honoured in WW1. The church is built in late perpendicular style of buff yellow coarse

sandstone with some medium grained red sandstone. The tower is of coarse grey sandstone ashlar. The church sported several examples of the Standish crest – an owl with a rat in its talons.



*!7<sup>th</sup> century pew end carved with the crest of Ralph Standish of Standish (d. 1656). [Jan Jackson]*

***Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July***

***David and Ann Jones***

Our first full day took us north by a scenic route to the village of Heysham, the older part of which is picturesque and conveniently well separated from the modern ferry terminal. On the cliffs with spectacular views across Morecombe Bay are two ancient, pre conquest, Christian foundations, the parish church of St Peter and the ruined remains a much smaller chapel dedicated to St Patrick.

The church is quite modest in size yet still has identifiable Anglo-Saxon features in the west doorway, perhaps from the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century and also an early Norman chancel arch. Much of the rest of the church is an eclectic mix of decorated and perpendicular styles from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries but with the Victorian additions of an aisle, chapel and vestry on the north side. Notable features of the church are the monuments and sculptures. A 13<sup>th</sup>C coffin lid richly carved with foliated cross and sword is prominent, but more striking is a magnificent hogback tombstone from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, with carved bears biting into the ends and decorated all over with incised figures from both Norse and Christian mythology.



*Heysham, St. Peter: Norse hogback tombstone; crudely carved yet powerful. [David Jones]*

We had been guided by the churchwarden, Graham Berry, but another parishioner analysed these scenes for us in almost Wagnerian detail. In the churchyard is the lower part of an Anglo-Saxon cross showing the swathed figure of Christ (or Lazarus) in his tomb.

The ruins of St Patrick's chapel, close by, has an even more commanding position. What remains are part of a wall and an impressive doorway with long and short work that has been



dated to 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century. Nearby are six rock cut graves, four of which are body shaped and with socket holes to carry timber crosses. The dedication may be very early for British control lasted a long time in NW Britain.

From Heysham it was but a short trip to Lancaster, the main focus of our day. David Carder led a brief walk around the centre of this largely Georgian town. Particularly attractive were the Almshouses of Penny's Hospital, itself long since gone, which were built for 12 old people in 1720 and situated either side of a colourful flower bed that was terminated by a small chapel. Another attractive building was the Music Room, of three storeys decorated, with fluted columns in the classical style and probably dating from the 1730s. Close by, in Market Square, is the old Town Hall with a giant Tuscan portico from the 1780s that now houses the city museum. Lancaster only became a city in 1937. Nearer the castle was one of the oldest town houses, built in c1625 for the castle's constable, subsequently becoming the Judges' Lodgings and used when the Assize court was held in the castle, the assizes lasting until 1971.

We were reminded of the antiquity of Lancaster when David led a small group around the outside of the castle to examine what is left of the bath house of a Roman fort on the hillside. Now squeezed by an apartment block and with the remnants of only a few small rooms, one of which contained the *pilae* of a hypocaust; it required a lot of imagination to appreciate its original scale. Behind it, stands, rather forlornly, an attenuated lump of stonework 15ft high which is the Wery Wall, the last remnant of a very large Roman Saxon Shore style fort, built very late, c. 330, to help strengthen the British west coast against Irish raiders. Around AD 400 it was manned by the *Numerus Barcariorum* (literally, 'bargees' company').



*The remains of the bath-house with the chunk of Wery Wall in the background. [M. Craven]*

The castle itself, on a commanding position above the river (and within the limits of the late fort), remains a formidable presence and particularly its early 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse. Beyond, the great stone keep is probably mid-12<sup>th</sup> century while one of the circular towers and its associated curtain wall has been dated to c1210 but much of the rest has been added to or rebuilt as the castle lost its military role and became a prison. Our tour began in the south west corner which had been the female penitentiary from 1821 until quite recently, as the ironwork and fittings provided an uncomfortable reminder. Attached to the castle on this side is the very impressive half polygon sided Shire Hall, built in 1798 in



the gothic style. On its curved wall are the arms of all the English monarchs, those of the Constables of the castle and the High Sheriffs of the county, producing a riot of colour but regrettably without the permission to photograph. Adjacent to the Shire Hall is the Court with an elaborate canopy over the Judge's bench and next to it the fascinating circular vaulted Grand Jury room. The last Assize held here was in 1971.

*Lancaster: the fifteenth century castle gatehouse.* [David Jones]



Beside the castle is the parish church, formerly the Benedictine Priory church, of St Mary. The present building is largely perpendicular dating to 1430s but is believed to have been on the site of a Roman fort, that was followed by a Saxon monastery of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, and then the Benedictine priory, contemporary with the castle, that was founded by Roger de Poitou in 1094. A Saxon doorway survives in the nave west wall and fragments of Anglo-Saxon carved stones and crosses are on display as evidence of earlier churches on the site. The most impressive feature is the carved oak choir stalls, dated to c1340, although probably arriving here after the Dissolution of the monasteries. They contain a very fine set of misericords.



*Lancaster, Castle Park, a fine Georgian Street.* [M. Craven]



*Lancaster: Lune aqueduct, looking north from the Lancaster bank.* [David Jones]



Our final visit on leaving the city was to the Lune Aqueduct which carries the Lancaster canal 600 feet above the river Lune on five semi-circular stone arches. It was designed by the Scottish engineer John Rennie in 1794-7 to link Preston and Kendal, a distance of 41 miles which he achieved without any locks but at three times its estimated cost. The canal is 20 feet wide with a towpath on each side where it crosses the aqueduct. We were treated to the delightfully rural scene of a family of swans with 8 cygnets, as we inspected this triumph of the industrial revolution.

***Wednesday 3rd July***

***John d'Arcy***

Our first stop on a grey Wednesday morning was the Heritage Centre in Barrowford, a small town under the witch-famous Pendle Hill. The heritage centre is in a fine partly 16th century house that was the ancestral home of the Bannister family, and so includes some references to Roger Bannister, the world's first four-minute miler, as well as items associated with witches. It is situated in a pleasant garden that included an imported tithe barn containing an auditorium with a roof supported by three pairs of crucks.



*Barrowford, Park Hill (LGII), rebuilt by Henry Bannister in 1661 – surely once with a lost left hand cross-wing?*

*[John d'Arcy]*

The next visit was to the somewhat fragmentary remains of the former Cistercian abbey of Sawley. The layout of the abbey is traceable, but the architectural glories are gone. The night stairs are standing and there are some patches of ancient floor tiles. The most notable feature however was the splendid drain from the reredorter.

*Sawley Abbey, view along the magnificently paved reredorter drain.*

*[John d'Arcy]*



From Sawley we proceeded to the unspoilt town of Clitheroe, where there is a fine castle keep which was, unfortunately, officially closed for repairs. The keep has a single room on each



floor with walls up to three metres thick, heavily battered on two corners. There was, however no barrier to nosy parkers getting inside: the views from the top were remarkable. The museum in the Steward's house contains a good local history collection.

*Clitheroe, the Castle (on a sunny day).*

[R S I Smith]

We then continued to Whalley and the remains of its abbey. The weather had turned from miserable to umbrella time, but nevertheless, there are more standing buildings here, though the abbey church itself has long been demolished. The site is entered through an impressive vaulted gatehouse, apparently undamaged. Passing through another smaller inner gatehouse,



we found ourselves facing a large house, long the seat of the Asshetons, converted from the abbot's house and now used as a conference centre. Turning to the right, the west range of buildings are standing some three metres high with window and door openings. The main drain here was the mill leat which runs under the reredorter which remains to its full height. The leat can be followed to see the huge fireplaces of the abbot's kitchen that are visible on the outside wall of the abbot's house.

*Whalley Abbey, the house (converted from the abbot's lodging after the Dissolution), seen from the gatehouse.*

[R S I Smith]

The interesting parish church is a short distance from the abbey, with three Saxon crosses in the churchyard, though it was really too wet to appreciate them. The nave is largely Early English and some good stained glass, including a window by Pugin. The pews are well carved, and a splendid set of misericords, brought from the abbey, could be viewed by lifting the choir seats. These included such items as a smith shoeing a goose and another of a woman indulging



in actionable domestic abuse by beating her husband with a ladle! In the evening, some brave souls explored the delights of Blackpool, trams and tower.

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July*

*David and Ann Jones*

The penultimate day of our tour of sites in Lancashire led us from an Elizabethan manor house to a Roman town and finally a textile mill. The house was Hoghton Tower, set impressively on a spur of the Pendle Hills. It has been home to the de Hoghton family since the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is essentially an Elizabethan exterior with Jacobean interiors, restored from near dereliction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Henry de Hoghton, 9<sup>th</sup> Bt. We had a most informative tour of the public rooms and had time to stroll through the gardens: a little gem.



*Hoghton Tower, entrance court.*

*[David Jones]*

Our next stop was Ribchester which is an attractive little town with many interesting buildings, including a row of weavers' cottages. However, we concentrated on visiting the museum, which is on the site of the former Roman fort and later small town – *Bremetenacum Veteranorum*. This contains many artefacts from excavations and a replica of the Ribchester helmet (original in the British Museum – I always think he looks like a jockey! – Ed.) By taking a short walk along by the river (*Belisama* to the Romans which, as the Ribble, has washed away a third of the Roman settlement), the remains of the bathhouse can be viewed. The nearby church, which stands within the fort walls, is a multi-period building containing wall paintings, fragments of medieval glass, box pews and a gallery supported by columns, two of which are suspected to be Roman. There was a good choice of cafés and pubs for lunch.



*The Ribchester Helmet*

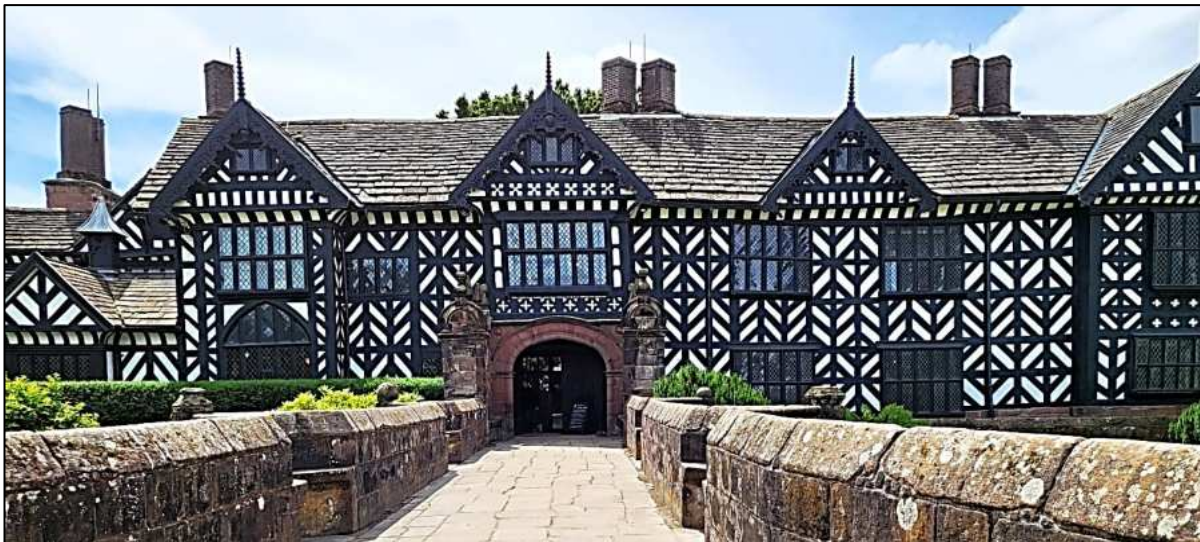
[*British Museum Images*]

Finally, Helmshore Mill is actually two mills, one 18<sup>th</sup> and one 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earlier Higher Mill was built by the Turner family as a wool fulling mill and it remained in operation as such until 1967, when it closed. Whitacker's Mill was for carding, spinning and weaving wool but subsequently became associated with cotton. The exhibits, which includes demonstration of the looms tell the story of wool and cotton.

***Final day: 5<sup>th</sup> July***

***Janette Jackson***

Our final visit, with the sun shining brightly, was to Speke Hall following a brief stop at Septon church. The Nores (pronounced 'Norris') family, followed by the Molyneux Earls of Sefton, lived at Speke from the early fourteenth century until 1795, when they sold to Richard Watt. The house itself was later sold to Liverpool Corporation after the death of Adelaide Watt and passed on to the National Trust in 1943. Although it continued to be managed by the Corporation until 1986, it is now directly managed by the Trust. The Nores family, like so many Lancashire gentry, were recusant Catholics and the house has numerous observation holes and priest holes.



*Speke Hall, entrance front viewed from the bridge over the moat.*

[*Jan Jackson*]

Speke is one of the most developed and complete examples of a moated courtyard house of its period, it comprises four ranges around a small courtyard, within which stand two yew trees, one, Adam and one, Eve. The examination of tree rings suggests that Adam is nearly 1,000 years old, whereas Eve's age is only half that. After a leisurely stroll through the magnificent house, we all went our own way to meander around the gardens in the lovely warm sunshine. From there, however, it was all aboard for the journey back to Derby.

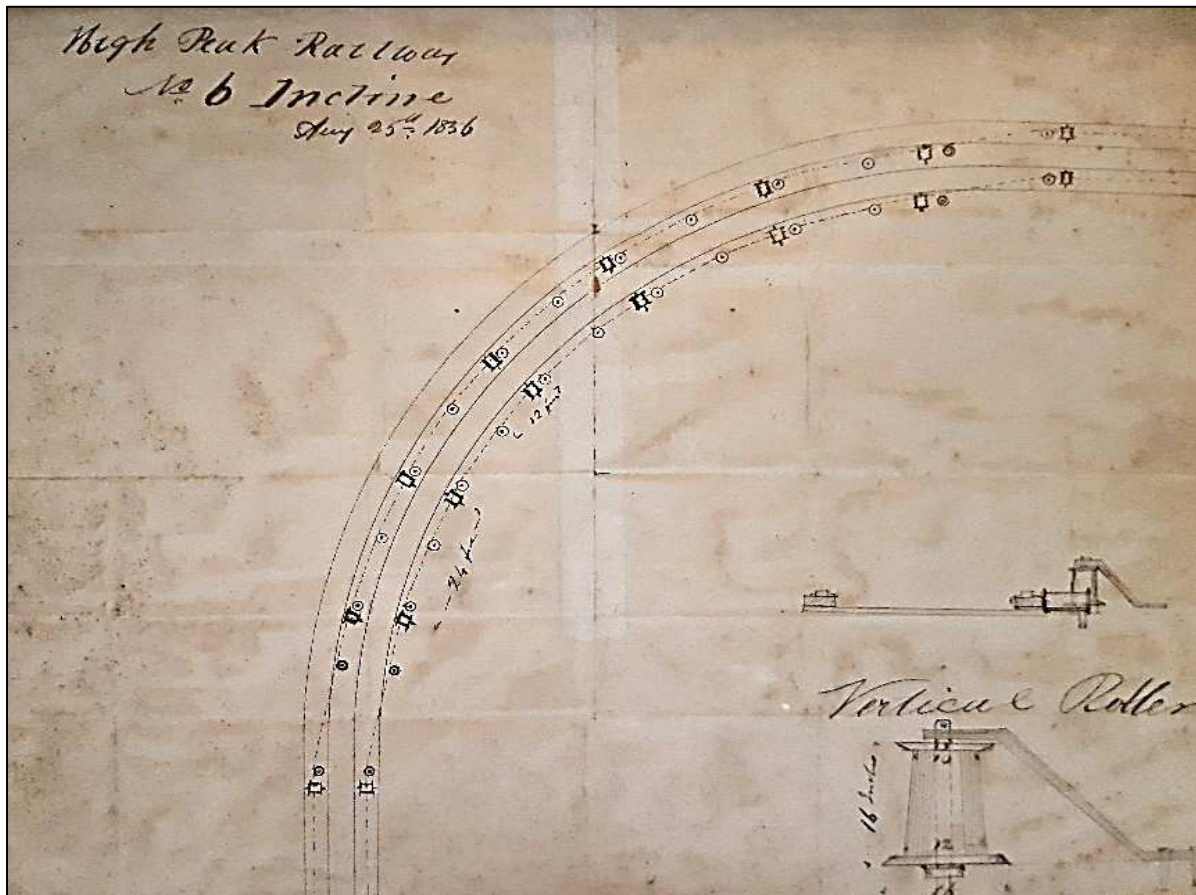
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## OTHER NOTICES

### CROMFORD AND HIGH PEAK RAILWAY DRAWINGS

As mentioned briefly in the Library Report in the last Newsletter, the Society has received a donation of a collection of engineering drawings that were rescued in the 1960s from the former railway workshops next to the Cromford Canal (the site now known as High Peak Junction). Most of these are hand drawn originals and date from the period 1840-1860. Many of them have the initials T.B. who we think is a Mr Blenkinsopp who the CHPR company minutes record was employed as an engineer from 1856-1857 to supervise relaying of the track to make the railway suitable for locomotive haulage and improvements to the inclines.



*One of the drawings, labelled High Peak Railway No. 6 Incline Aug 25th 1836 [Ian Mitchell]*

Many of the drawings are of individual components, presumably to be used for manufacture of parts needed for repairs or improvements. Some are labelled and recognisable as parts for locomotives, stationary engines, buildings and pulley wheels for the inclines. Others are unlabelled and enigmatic.

Perhaps the most interesting are a group of drawings that are linked to the combination of inclines that took place in the late 1850s with the introduction of wire ropes. The upper and lower Bonsall inclines at the north end of the line, and the Cromford and Sheep Pasture inclines at the south end were combined, and there are drawings showing the old and new vertical and horizontal alignments where the original inclines meet, and detailed drawing of the pulley wheel arrangement required to guide the wire ropes around the resulting 'kink'.

Another notable drawing is dated 1844 and labelled as ‘Break for Passenger Carriage’. This is one of those initialled T.B. despite being over a decade earlier than the period that Blenkinsopp is mentioned in the company minutes, suggesting he may have had a much more longstanding relationship with the railway. The carriage of passengers in the early days of the CHPR is a little obscure and this drawing may shed some light on the subject.

The long-term intention is to deposit the drawings with the Derbyshire Record Office, but before that we hope to put together a small exhibition at the Society’s Library, probably at the next Annual General Meeting.

Ian Mitchell

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## **DERBYSHIRE HISTORIC BUILDINGS TRUST**

### ***Buildings at Risk – project update:***

Following a £207,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we are proud to have started our exciting pilot ‘Buildings at Risk’ (B@R) digital application (app) project. The project aims to identify hundreds of endangered buildings, and draw in new volunteers, across the county- starting in Amber Valley.

This project focuses on Grade II listed buildings, as the condition of these is often less well documented. All listed buildings are identified within an app. called Mergin Maps and are colour coded by their condition. The app. allows the project to alert the Trust to buildings that potentially need attention and creates an ongoing recording system. This innovative new scheme was launched to the public at two extremely successful events in Belper on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of October and is already yielding vital data about the condition of Derbyshire’s Grade II listed buildings.

### ***A Call for Volunteers***

An encouraging number of volunteers have already signed up for the project and, thanks to them, the survey in Amber Valley is already off to a flying start. We hope that many more people will continue to get involved in this important initiative, encouraged by the flexibility it offers. Volunteering can be done entirely on applicants’ own terms, whenever and wherever wanted. People will not need any previous knowledge nor experience of the heritage sector to volunteer, just an inquisitive nature, an interest in local history and an enthusiasm to explore.

### ***Strengthening Community Ties***

The Trust is working closely with the county, district and parish councils on this project. By establishing these links, we aim to ensure that as many people as possible can enjoy the benefits of getting outdoors and connecting with like-minded people, whilst also helping to understand and preserve their local heritage. To this end, we have already established strong links with Amber Valley Centre for Voluntary Services (AVCVS) and their social prescribers, as well as other organisations, such as the Derbyshire Museums and Heritage Forum, which have endorsed the initiative.

### ***Future Plans***

Following the survey in Amber Valley, the Trust will be expanding to Derby City in the new year and then rolling the scheme out to the rest of the county. Even if the survey work isn’t yet happening in your area, you may still register your interest in the project by contacting us at:



[volunteers@derbyshirehistoricbuildingtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@derbyshirehistoricbuildingtrust.org.uk) or by calling me, Anna Cluley (Heritage Development Officer/BaR project lead) on 07478462857 during office hours. You will then be the first to know of any updates and training opportunities relating to the project.



If you would like to get involved in the survey work in Amber Valley, visit the dedicated BaR (Buildings at Risk) Volunteer Hub on our website. Here you will find further information about the project as well as everything you need to know to register and start surveying Grade II listed buildings in the pilot area.

*Testing out the app. in the field (nasty looking bit of ribbon pointing!) [DHBT]*

<https://www.derbyshirehistoricbuildingtrust.org.uk/bar-volunteer-hub>

It is with thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund that this project has been made possible. Follow @dhbtrust on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and visit our website at [www.derbyshirehistoricbuildingtrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirehistoricbuildingtrust.org.uk) to find out more about us and keep updated with our latest news and projects.

Anna Cluley

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## WINTER PROGRAMME 2025

The winter programme remains as announced in September; a summary of dates and topics is provided below. All the meetings are hybrid, may be attended in-person or on-line and, where possible, we will be providing a link to a recording after the event. Members who have provided an email address will receive the link to register on Zoom on the Sunday preceding the meeting. We will also use email to announce any last-minute changes, for instance due to adverse weather.

**Friday 10 January** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby  
Village Lockups  
Speaker: Robert Mee

**Friday 17 January** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby  
Beyond Hope Valley: Recent Archaeological Discoveries: Castleton & the Upper Hope Valley  
Speaker: Colin Merrony

**Friday 7 February** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby  
Bolsover Castle – Some lesser-known aspects of its History as revealed by Archaeological Investigation

Speaker: Richard Sheppard

**Friday 14 February** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby

Southwell: the Hidden Archaeology

Speaker: Stephen Rodgers

**Saturday 22 February** at 2.00pm at Strutts, Belper

The Joan D'Arcy Lecture – The Dissolution of the Monasteries in Derbyshire

Speaker: Professor James Clark

**Friday 28 February** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby

Holmes of Derby – Coach makers to the Monarch and Loyal to the Locals

Speaker: Amy Bracey

**Friday 7 March** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby

The Foulds Family

Speaker: James Foulds

**Friday 14 March** at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Derby

Investigating Hillforts in Derbyshire and across the Northern Midlands

Speaker: Graeme Guilbert

**Saturday 29 March** at 11.00am at Strutts, Belper

Derby and Ale

Speaker: John Arguile

### **OTHER EVENTS – Both on aspects of photography**

**Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 7.30pm on Zoom only, PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE COUNTRY HOUSE: lecture by Jonathan Wallis.**

How did the owners of the country house engage with photography in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? Jonathan will use the example of the Pennyman family of Ormesby Hall in N. Yorkshire, and with some examples from W W Winter Heritage Trust collection.

Jonathan Wallis is a former member of staff at Derby Museum, of the National Trust, and has been the chairman of the W. W. Winter Heritage Trust for the past seven years. Bookings, by donation, via Eventbrite and donations will be shared between the Trust and our Society.

**Saturday 29 March, 2025: HUNTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY and Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society** are organising a day conference at The Creative Lounge, The Workstation, Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX, *Exploring Archaeological Landscapes: Celebrating the Legacy of Derrick Riley and William Arnold Baker* and focusing on two significant aerial photographers, and the evolving aerial archaeology techniques and research they inspired. If interested contact Ruth Morgan on [ruthmorgan755@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthmorgan755@hotmail.com)

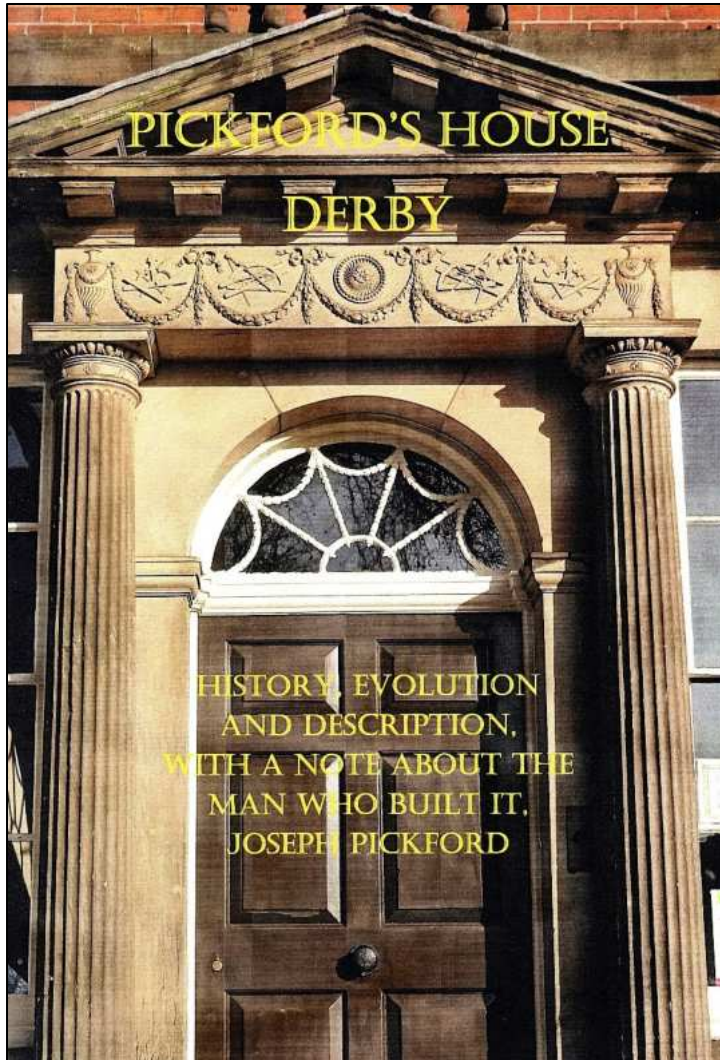
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**PICKFORD'S HOUSE, DERBY:  
A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORY AND ITS BUILDER**

**by the Editor**

For almost the whole decade that I was a founding board member of the Derby Museums Trust, I was, from time to time, moved to offer to write a guide to the history of Joseph Pickford's house: when it was built, what it tells us, how it was used originally, its vicissitudes up until the time it opened as a museum and with a note about the architect himself. This was mainly because there never *has* been a guide book there, nor is there much information about the history of the house to be seen within, especially in the light of recent research.



Nevertheless, we seem to have met with a tide of indifference from the Museum. They seem more intent on turning the place into a showpiece of social history – the sort of thing now done in historic houses everywhere. No mention so far of the unique Midlands Enlightenment connection nor of Pickford's important role in it, of his work for Lunar Society members and his friendships with Wright, Whitehurst, Wedgwood, Boulton, Darwin and others: strange.

Recently, at Carole's suggestion, I adapted an article I wrote for a learned journal on the origins and history of Pickford's House, to make an A5 32-page card-bound booklet [*front cover pictured left*], adding a brief biography of Pickford himself, amplifying the forthcoming article in *Derbyshire Miscellany*. I lectured to the Museum Friends (and some

Pickford's House volunteers) a few days after it was printed and sold a surprising number at a fiver each but, when we offered to let the Museum have a pile to sell at Pickford's House to raise desperately needed funds, we have received no response.

However, we have had a number printed (and can have more done if required) and if any member would like one, just send a cheque for £6 (which covers postage) to Maxwell Craven at the address on the inside front cover. The small profit will go, *ceteris paribus*, to the Civic Society until such time as the Museum decides to take it on, when it will be re-directed to them, instead.

MC

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**DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Section Officers & Committees 2024-2025**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP*

Chairman	Ann Jones
Secretary and CBA representative Committee	Janette Jackson David Budge, John d'Arcy, Denise Grace, John Morrissey Vicky Wade

*ARCHITECTURAL SECTION*

Chairman	John d'Arcy
Secretary Committee	Rosemary Annable Pat Haldenby, David Jones John Morrissey

*INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION*

Chairman	Ian Mitchell
Vice Chairman	Anne Allcock
Secretary	Jane Heginbotham
Treasurer	Robert Grasar
Auditor	Keith Reedman
Committee	Dudley Fowkes, Michael Lobb

*LOCAL HISTORY SECTION*

Chairman	Susan Peberdy
Secretary/Programme Secretary Committee	Anne Haywood Mick Appleby, Jane Heginbotham David Kenyon, Vicky Wade

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**REAR COVER:**

**Upper:** *Chapel Milton, Chinley viaducts (Midland Railway) looking south, March 2022. The right hand one was built in 1867 for the Manchester line and that on the left in 1890 to link to the M S & L R Hope Valley line to the north, both by W. H. Barlow (1812-1902) & LG II.*

**Lower:** *Marion Adnams (1898-1995), Spring in the Cemetery, showing a vista looking SSE across Derby's Uttoxeter New Road cemetery in the 1960s, towards the saddleback tower of St. Luke, Parliament Street (by Stevens & Robinson 1868-71, LG II\*) and the backs of the houses in Drewry Lane. Derby Civic Society are erecting a blue plaque to commemorate her.*



