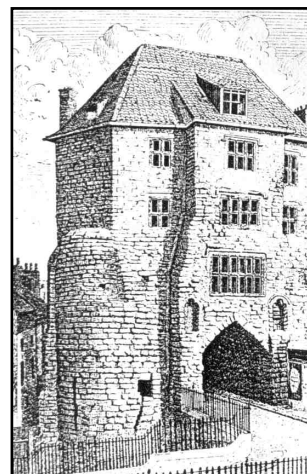


# NEWS BULLETIN

## THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No. 37: DECEMBER 2004



### WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

*The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the country's oldest antiquarian societies, founded in 1813. We have a regular programme of lectures and events, a learned journal, a library, and collections housed in several museums around the region. We also lease the Castle Keep and the Black Gate from the City Council.*

*Subjects for our monthly lectures next year range from the history and archaeology of Roman Britain, to local connections with the Battle of Trafalgar, and 20th century coastal defences. During the summer months, there are Country Meetings – visits to places of interest by coach – and Country Walks.*

*Every ten years, the Society organises a week-long Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage in conjunction with the Archaeological and Antiquarian Society of Cumberland and Westmoreland, at the other end of the Wall.*

*As well as this twice-yearly Newsbulletin, the Society has an academic journal, *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and publishes occasional monographs.*

*The Society's books, thirty thousand volumes or more, are housed in the Library at the Black Gate. Opening hours are Wed 2–4pm, Thur 5–7pm and Sat 10am–12 noon. Volunteers to help out are always welcome. Our collections, once in the Black Gate Museum, are now mainly in the Museum of Antiquities, the Bagpipe Museum at Morpe th, and the Castle Keep.*

*Contact the Membership Secretary for more information at The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ, phone 0191 261 5390. Our e-mail address is [admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk), and our website is [www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](http://www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk)*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Beryl Charlton, our outgoing President*

My three year term of office as President of this illustrious Society is now drawing to a close. There have been many pleasurable occasions, not least the annual President's Evening and the Anniversary meeting which have afforded the opportunity for convivial conversation with fellow members. It has been an enormous privilege to chair the monthly meetings and to hear such a diverse range of speakers.

However, it hasn't all been plain sailing. Inevitably problems have arisen, including the difficult decision to raise the annual subscription, which have required special meetings of Council and the Executive. Two issues in particular have been very time-consuming. One is the bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the Great North Museum project, the successful outcome of which is likely to affect the location of the Society's headquarters, and of its Library which remains its most import-

ant asset. The second is the uncertain future of the Chantry in Morpeth, which houses the Society's collection of bagpipes.

On the other hand, there have been many positive achievements. The Society now has its own web site. Archaeologia Aeliana is produced annually and offers outstanding value for money. The new general leaflet has been well received and one for the Black Gate will be out next year. Obtaining funding for the Archives for All project was a tremendous piece of good fortune. The work of cataloguing the collections will continue long after the funds run out in December 2004.

The revised Handbook to the Roman Wall is well under way, courtesy of our member Professor David Breeze. It will be published under the auspices of the Society. The annual Research Days have proved extremely popular. Country Meetings and Country Walks have been reasonably well supported. At the Castle Keep, the installation of a virtual reality tour has provided an essential facility for the less able.

Members may not fully appreciate how demanding it is on officers, Council, staff and finances to ensure that our complex and ambitious Society, approaching its two hundredth anniversary, remains afloat and thriving. With this in mind I should like to pay tribute to everyone who has helped me weather the squalls and enjoy the calmer waters of the past three years. I ask that my successor receives the same measure of support and loyalty as I have had.

*Beryl Charlton*

## IN THE BAG!

On 10th November, the Society managed to acquire one of the most famous sets of Northumbrian small pipes in existence at an auction at Sotheby's. We owe many thanks to the V&A Purchase Grant Fund which generously gave a 50% grant.

The set was made by innovative pipemaker John Dunn (1764–1820) as a present for Duke's Piper John Peacock (1755–1817). The gift was recorded by an engraved inscription on the drone mount in the hand of Thomas Bewick, dated 1797. There is a drawing of them in The Northumbrian

Bagpipes (1967) by Cocks and Bryan.

The Collections Committee became aware in October that the pipes were coming up for auction, and agreed to take steps to ensure they stayed in the region. A major obstacle to securing funding, however, was the uncertain future of Morpeth's Chantry, home of our bagpipe collection. Castle Morpeth Borough Council had launched a consultation process in the summer prompted by the Chief Executive's avowed desire to replace the bagpipe museum, Tourist Information Centre and craft centre with a more commercial tourist attraction (ahem!). However, after frenzied troubleshooting, we were able to reassure grant-givers that it was a case of "business as usual", and the pipes were duly acquired during a nail-biting morning.

It is intended to display the pipes as soon as possible at the Chantry, though they will ultimately require considerable conservation work. Sadly, the original chanter is missing, a fact recorded by Cocks in 1933.

*Kim Bibby-Wilson*

## JANUARY SOCIAL EVENING

The first meeting of 2005, on January 26th, will be the Anniversary meeting and as usual, we will be having a social evening after the lecture. It will be held in the Wood Memorial Hall on the first floor of the Mining Institute where the lectures are held. There will be food, drink, and good company! Donations of food for the buffet will be very welcome – please contact me on 0191 285 5303 to say what you are bringing. We will also be requesting a small donation, around £1, from anyone who has a glass of wine.

*Freda Thompson*

## PRESIDENT'S EVENING

The 2005 President's Evening will be held at Saltwell Towers in Saltwell Park, Gateshead on Friday 29th June at 7.30 pm. The house is a Gothic mansion built between 1850 and 1862. It was the home of William Wailes, master of stained glass. The park contains a rich mixture of architecture, stunning landscapes,



*The newly restored Saltwell Towers; Photo; Sue Ward*

and water features. John Hancock, founder of the Hancock Museum, designed the lake in the Park. Both the Park and the Towers have undergone a 5 year restoration – in fact, more a transformation, as anyone who has not visited for a while will see.

Details and booking form will be in the Spring mailing.

*Freda Thompson*

## INDOOR MEETINGS 2005

### Horsley Memorial Lecture

The 2005 Horsley Lecturer, at our meeting in November, will be Dr Carol van Driel Murray of the University of Amsterdam. The Rev John Horsley (1684–1732) was author of the three-volume *Britannia Romana*, published three months after his death in 1732. The lecture series as an institution developed from a commemoration of the bi-centenary in 1932, and Horsley Lectures are now given every ten years. The Horsley Lecturer is always a first-rate scholar, and the text is published thereafter in AA. More about the speaker and the event in the next issue.

### Other lectures in 2005

There is a strong Roman theme to the year to support the Horsley Lecture, with Paul Bidwell reviewing recent work on Hadrian's Wall, Andrew Birley on Vindolanda – too long absent from this programme – and Professor Roger Wilson speaking about the trade in animals for the arena.

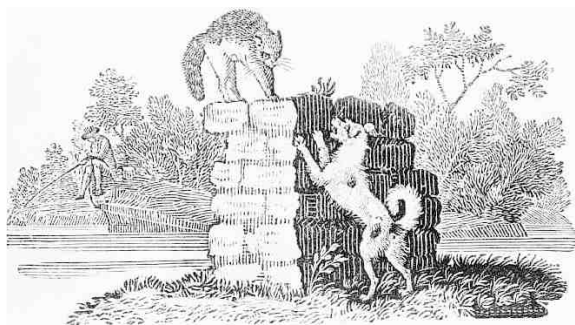
We will also be commemorating the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar. Max Adams will speak on Admiral Collingwood and Dr Les Hople on the way the battle was marked at Swarland.

In the rest of the programme, Dr Chris Burgess will speak on building traditions in western Scotland while, closer to home, David Heslop explores a site off the coast at Cullercoats; Roger Thomas speaks on his survey of coastal artillery defences of the 20th century; and Dr Aron Mazel will show the computer archive of Northumberland rock art which he has developed with Stan Beckensall. Not least, we keep up with the continuing work at Bamburgh when Sarah Groves speaks about the cemetery and considers its wider setting.

I hope that there will be interest for everybody in this mix. Thanks again to all who have assisted in the indoor meetings programme during 2004.

*Colm O'Brien*  
*Indoor Meetings Secretary*

## THOMAS BEWICK PROJECT



*'A Cat at Bay' wood engraving by Bewick, courtesy of Newcastle City Library (Pease Collection)*

A new website, researched and written by our membership secretary Sarah Walter, will give the public the chance to see works by the naturalist and artist-craftsman Thomas Bewick, engraver of the Society's seal. The Discovering Bewick digitisation project brings together a representative selection of nearly two hundred Bewick and Bewick-related engravings, drawings, paintings, woodblocks

and copperplates from the Pease collection, City Library Newcastle and Laing Art Gallery. Click on to [www.twmuseums.org.uk/discoveringbewick](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/discoveringbewick) to see some really interesting images. Some will be familiar, while others are shown now for the first time.

## DURHAM VCH PROJECT

Since we started officially on Sunderland on 1 September, we have been setting up our Sunderland office and database, and making local contacts, as well as much source-searching. Dr Gwenda Morgan, seconded from the University of Sunderland, is working on 18th century social history, while assistant editor Dr Christine Newman continues her research on medieval Sunderland. We're looking forward to receiving a contribution from Prof. Rosemary Cramp about Anglo-Saxon Monkwearmouth. Dr Maureen Meikle is writing her contribution on Monkwearmouth and Bishopwearmouth, up to the creation of Sunderland parish in 1719. Architectural research will start soon, and in the New Year, a volunteers' programme.

I have been concentrating on material beyond the local repositories. Significant finds include a petition objecting to the Aire and Calder navigation scheme in 1698, signed by more than 700 coal fitters and other tradesmen of Sunderland, which between us we've located in the House of Lords Record Office; also some very interesting early (and later) plans of the river and harbour. Some of these are in the Hydrographic Office in Taunton, which I would heartily recommend to anyone working on the history of a port. Other material on the building of the harbour is in the Institution of Civil Engineers' archives.

I have also succeeded in obtaining a grant of £3,000 from the Marc Fitch Fund to start an online bibliography of north-east articles. This involves digitising a card index with approx 7,500 entries, which was produced by a Manpower Services Commission scheme in the early 1980s, supervised by Graham Potts at the University of Sunderland. We are looking to have this done in about six months, and hope then to extend and update the con-

tent. This is likely to be of use to anyone interested in the history of the north-east, or indeed beyond the region.

*Gill Cookson*

## COUNTRY MEETINGS, 2005



*Cocker mouth Castle, one of the sites visited by the Antiquaries during the May outing in 2004; Photo Sue Ward*

After three successful outings in 2004, our first outing for 2005, on 7th May heads back to the Eden valley, aiming to see some fortified medieval houses adapted as rural homes and working farms. Yanwath, overlooking a ford on the Eamont started as a sturdy 14th-century tower, added a 15th-century hall with a magnificent king-post roof, and then acquired civilised 16th-century plasterwork and windows. It is one of Westmorland's most important semi-fortified houses. Less well-known is Howgill Castle, which looks like a sedate Georgian home until you get to the astonishing interior. We also call at Clifton Tower and Brougham Hall.

On 9th July we head for the Tees, principally to see one of the North's stateliest homes, Rokeby Hall, built 1725–30 by its enterprising young owner. Sir Thomas Robinson later failed as a colonial governor but earned a reputation both as man of fashion and gentleman architect. His Palladian residence has fine interiors, furniture and pictures. We shall also visit Roman remains at Piercebridge and Iron Age ramparts at Stanwick, as well as at least one riverside church.

The 3rd September outing heads north of the Border to the delightful Paxton House. It was built (with much Adam involvement) only thirty years after Rokeby, but its interiors represent a further sixty years of changing fashion. There is a notable picture collection, for the house is an outstation of the Scottish National Gallery, and most attractive grounds running down to the Tweed. Other places to be visited en route include the museum at Eyemouth (social history, especially of the fishing fleet) and the priory at Coldingham.

The booking form will be included in the March mailing, or contact Tom Corfe (20 Hudshaw Gardens, Hexham NE46 1HY; tel: 01434 603562; E-mail tom.corfe@ukonline.co.uk

### NEW MEMBERS' EVENING

In October I welcomed 27 new members for an evening in the Society's headquarters at the Black Gate, including one who had come all the way from Glanton near Wooler. As he was a non-driver, the journey involved travelling by car, courtesy of his wife, to Alnmouth Station, then taking the train to Newcastle – returning the same way. He will only be able to get to future monthly meetings if the 5.00 train from London continues to stop at Alnmouth!

Our secretary, Dr Nick Hodgson, and Archaeologia Aeliana's production editor, Roger Fern, were on hand to answer questions. Then the Librarian, Denis Peel, gave members a conducted tour of the library and talked about the history of the library. It was started mainly by members' donations in 1813, and was housed in the Keep from 1848 to 1908 when it was moved to the Black Gate. It has now grown to thirty thousand volumes, with its strength lying in the periodical runs received by exchange for Archaeologia Aeliana or by purchase from like minded Societies in the UK and Europe.

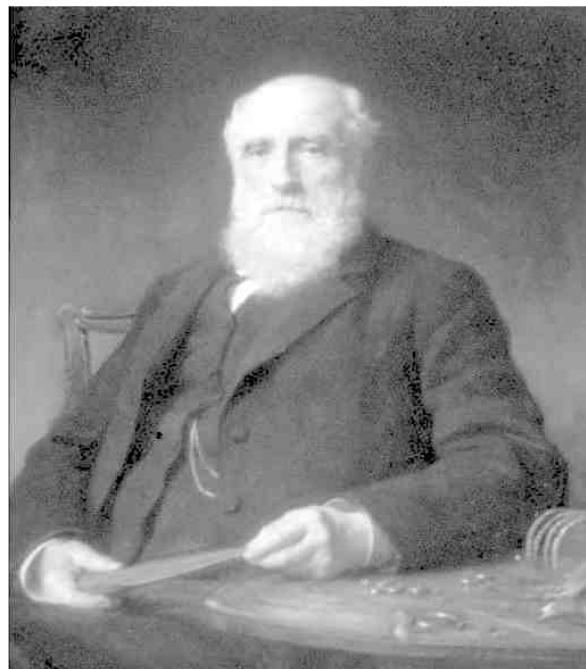
Our Keeper of Coins, Gil Gilmour, put on a display of coins and tokens from the extensive collection. Any part of the collection may be viewed by members on application to the Keeper of Coins. though the more valuable items are kept in the bank, and the import-

ant Greek collection is at present in the British Museum being prepared for publication in a volume of the Sylloge of Coins.

I do hope all new members now feel sufficiently encouraged to make use of the Society's collections and facilities in the Black Gate. Thanks to David Hide, Freda Thompson and Kay Simpson for putting on the bar and buffet

*Beryl Charlton*

### GREENWELL CONFERENCE



*Canon Greenwell – picture courtesy of Durham Cathedral*

As announced in the last News Bulletin, the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham, are holding a conference on April 16–17, 2005, on Canon William Greenwell and his contemporaries: The history of British archaeology in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It will run from 9.30 to 5.00 on Saturday, and 9.30 to 1.00 on Sunday. There will be a reception in the Monks' Dormitory in Durham Cathedral on the Saturday night.

The life and work of William Greenwell provides a focus for this event. Greenwell was a prominent antiquarian, archaeologist and historian, a keen collector and famous

fisherman. Greenwell and his peers worked on subjects ranging from the tools of the Stone Age, the barrows of the Bronze Age, Ancient Greek coins, Anglo-Saxon sculpture, and medieval architecture.

We are delighted to welcome Professor Tim Murray from La Trobe University, Australia, as our keynote speaker. Other papers have been offered by Rosemary Sweet, author of the recent book *Antiquaries*, on the background context to Greenwell's era; by Alexandrina Buchanan on Greenwell's pioneering work on the architectural history of Durham Cathedral; by Mark Bowden, expert on the famous antiquarian, General Pitt-Rivers and by a range of other researchers.

For more information, or if you would like to submit a paper, please contact Dr. Anne O'Connor at [canon.greenwell@durham.ac.uk](mailto:canon.greenwell@durham.ac.uk). or at Greenwell Organising Committee: Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE

There will be a charge of £10.00 for delegates, with a reduced rate of £6 for students. You will need to find your own lunch, and we are asking for a contribution of £3.00 towards the reception.

#### **Editor's note;**

Canon Greenwell was first elected a member of the Society 3 June 1845, and was Vice-President from 1890–1918. For full details of his life, see 'Memoir of the Rev. William Greenwell, DCL, FRS, FSA, a Vice-President', *Archaeologia Aeliana* 3rd Series, Vol. XV (1918), pp. 1–21, by JC Hodgson.

Details from Barbara Harbottle's admirable database of Society members – see the next article.

### **SANT MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**

The Centenary Volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* (3rd series Vol. X (1913)) includes a 'Chronological List of Ordinary Members 1813-1913' as well as several other very useful articles concerning the Society and its history. It occurred to me recently that there was no easy way of looking up members elected since 1913, since there is no single source of information, and that it would be useful to

create such a database. I have therefore started doing this, and have got as far as 1970.

The database, on Microsoft Access, has been designed by Keith Gilroy of the Northumberland Record Office, with fields agreed by Sally Bird, Sue Wood and myself. It exists at present on my PC, and on a CD in the Record Office. While the Council of the Society is aware of its existence we have had no discussion as to its future use and maintenance, and it is therefore not available for public consultation. I am, however, willing to answer the occasional e-mailed question, though you should bear in mind that the quality and quantity of information available is not brilliant.

We have asked some very basic questions viz. surname, first name, title, degrees and awards, date, county and place of birth, address(es), occupation, date of election, date of resignation or death, offices held, references to bibliography, memoir and source of information, and Keith was keen to have space for a portrait if anyone ever has time to scan it in. Many of these fields don't get filled in because the information is not available, so the average member gets little more than what he/she put on their original membership application form.

From 1913 to 1956 the elections of members were published in *Proceedings*, plus notices of deaths, little memoirs, and a certain amount of chitchat. When Herbert Honeyman died *Proceedings* were abolished, and I had to move to using the minutes of the ordinary meetings, not difficult as the minute books are among the Society's administrative papers in the Record Office. These however list only the elections of members, and there is no additional information. And, before you rush to look at them, Council has agreed that, for reasons of confidentiality, access to these papers should be restricted, and they are subject to a 75 year embargo.

*Barbara Harbottle, [barbara.harbottle@virgin.net](mailto:barbara.harbottle@virgin.net)*

## 2005 RESEARCH DAY

150 members met at Brunswick Methodist Church on 9th October for a day's discussion on the archaeology of prehistoric Northumberland

As an introduction, Penny Spikins alerted us to the amount of settlement evidence to be found in coastal areas in general. The North East coast is likely to be particularly rich in these sites because of the nature of our coastal shelf and the length of settlement at each site. She also gave us an entertaining description of the popular press reaction to the discovery of a prehistoric settlement on the seabed off Tynemouth, which commenced with the announcement of a prehistoric Atlantis and ended with drawings of a purported volcanic basin in the vicinity of the metro station.

Michael Tooley provided us with a hydrologic framework for all of the day's speakers, and argued strongly for his views on changes in sea levels.

Moving inland a little, Clive Waddington brought everyone up to date on the findings from Howick while Steve Speak took us firmly onto dry land with an overview of settlement evidence for the Northumberland area in general.

Rob Young of Northumbria National Park finished the day by introducing us to a study of Lindisfarne, which demonstrated habitation in small settlements, dating from prehistoric times through to the tenth century. A lively debate between Rob Young and Clive Waddington showed just how much energy and enthusiasm had been generated by the day. The discussion would probably still be going on had the caretaker not demanded the hall back.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to arrange the day and who provided the practical support that made everything run so smoothly.

*Rosie Serdiville*

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ON-LINE – THE SITELINES PROJECT



*Group presentation at Black Gate as part of Sitelines' Mediaeval Trail with schoolchildren*

Tyne and Wear's Historic Environment Record (HER), covering information on all sorts of historic sites, is a public record open to all. Few people are aware of just how much information it holds, or how it can be used. SITELINES is an exciting new project involving Tyne and Wear Museums, Newcastle City Council and the Museum of Antiquities. It aims to make the record more accessible to everyone interested in the history and archaeology of this region. We are busy creating an online Internet database of all sites in the record, and a corresponding website, providing themed pages relevant to the region and of direct interest to the local community.

As part of the larger project, we are promoting the use of the HER within education. We have created and piloted a "Mediaeval Trail", with pupils from Wellfield Middle School in Monkseaton. Eleven- and twelve-year-olds were asked to research a number of mediaeval sites within Newcastle on the database. They then had a day out 'on the

trail' through Newcastle, spotting the particular sites on the way.

The project has also worked with local history groups in the Houghton-le-Spring area, and we are keen to be in touch with other groups. If you are looking for a speaker for a group you are involved, why not ask our Project Education Officer to come along and talk about it, and give you a demonstration of how the website works.

*Will Graham*

*Archaeology Education Officer, Sitelines Project  
william.graham@twmuseums.org.uk, 0191  
236 9347 or mobile 0790 1838122*

## FAREWELL TO OUR WEBMASTER

Sadly, Tom Chadwin has had to step down from running our website and sitting on the Council and the Publications Sub-Committee, as he has a new job in Hexham – though he is going to carry on volunteering to help with developmental work.

Many thanks to Tom for all the work he has done, and best wishes in his new role.

*Roger Fern*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Just in case our own meetings have not satisfied your appetite for antiquarian lectures, here are a few notes about meetings being held by other groups in early 2005. Contact the societies themselves for more details, and for information on how to join.

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*I would be very glad to have readers' comments or suggestions for the content of the Bulletin. I am also happy to receive contributions from members, but with the warning that pressure of space means that articles frequently have to be drastically cut, deferred, or dropped altogether. My address is 5 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, fax 0191 222 1559. E-mail is sue.ward@btinternet.com. Deadline for the next edition will be May 27th 2005 The mailing date will be June 29th. There will also be the usual Spring mailing, scheduled for 23rd March. Anyone who wants to have an insert included in either mailing should contact the Membership Secretary at the Black Gate in good time before these dates, for details of the requirements.*

Bede's World have lectures on the last Saturday of the month, at 12 noon. The January 29th lecture is by Michelle Brown, Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts, British Library, and is on "The contribution of Wearmouth-Jarrow to the Lindisfarne Gospels". More details, and future programme, at [www.bedesworld.co.uk](http://www.bedesworld.co.uk)

Northern Architectural History Society meets on the third Tuesday of the month, in a lecture theatre at the University of Newcastle. The lecture on January 18th is on "Brancepeth Church – after the fire" by Christopher Downes, and on February 13th, Hentie Lowe is talking about 19th century joinery. Contact David Hide, 0191 281 1918 for membership queries.

Northumberland Archaeological Group meets in Newcastle Arts Centre. On 12th January, Chris Burgess, the Northumberland County Archaeologist, will be talking about "The archaeological importance of Martin Martin's 1690 tour of the Hebrides". Contact Sheila Day, 0191 258 2479 for membership queries.

### Future Issues

I would like to make this a regular feature, and would be glad to receive details of relevant lectures being organised for the second half of 2005, in good time for the next issue. It might even help to prevent a few clashes of dates – something that has happened only too often in the recent past.

*Sue Ward, Editor*