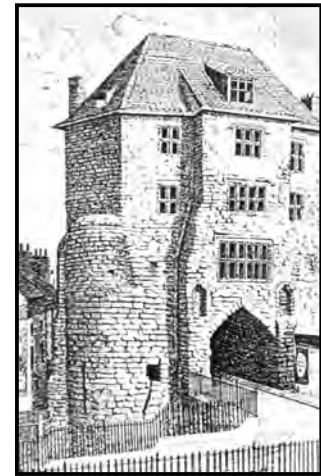


NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No. 44: JUNE 2008



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.

Look at our website www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk for more information, or contact the Membership Secretary at The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ, phone 0191 261 5390, e-mail admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk,

FROM THE PRESIDENT



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It is now over 40 years since I became a member of this Society, at the age of 21. Little did I think then that one day I might rise to the dizzy heights of becoming its President. Since 1965, I have excavated with eight Presidents, including four who were at my inauguration – Brian Dobson, Beryl Charlton, Barbara Harbottle and Norman McCord. I have published 10 articles and reviews in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, chaired two Pilgrimages on behalf of the Society (and C&W) and lost count of how many meetings I have attended!

Twenty years ago, I represented the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland at the 175th anniversary of our Society. One of my tasks is to prepare for our bicentenary in 2013. In the meantime, we are preparing for the next

Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall and for the events related to the British Museum's Hadrian exhibition later this year.

However, one of the most important forthcoming events is the opening of the Great North Museum in 2009. The Museum of Antiquities has now been closed, and Lindsay Allason-Jones faces the task of supervising the move of the Society's fine collection of inscriptions and sculpture to its new home. She will continue to be the Society's Honorary Keeper of Collections but within the University she is about to start her new role as Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies. Many congratulations to Lindsay on this exciting new job.

Our excellent and important library will also move. Our Librarian, Denis Peel, has been hard at work for months working with colleagues in the Natural History Society and the University's Archaeology Department, to create a wonderful new facility in the Great North Museum. Over the coming months, we will consider how to provide the best facilities for our members at the Great North Museum and optimise our presence there.

Lindsay and Denis are but two of a strong band of officers in the Society who work hard on a daily basis on its behalf. One of these was our Administrator of the Keep, Pat Blue, who, unfortunately, died a few weeks ago. Our Past-President Beryl Charlton provides an appreciation of Pat in this News Bulletin. I am glad to say that several officers of the Society, including four Past Presidents, were able to attend his funeral.

I look forward to the next three years with great enthusiasm.

David Breeze

PAT BLUE; AN APPRECIATION

Sadly, Pat Blue, Administrator of the Castle Keep, died suddenly on 22nd April at the age of 60. His funeral was attended by many mourners, reflecting the affection in which Pat was held by colleagues past and present and by his many friends.

Pat was appointed to the Administrator's post in 2000 and quickly gained the admiration and trust of all who came into contact with him.



Pat Blue, Administrator of the Keep; picture courtesy of Chris Blue

From his extensive experience with the police force he brought a new professionalism to the job which helped him transform the way in which the Keep was managed. Initially his aim was to improve conditions for the staff. He provided them with a uniform and found training courses on everything from customer care – essential for welcoming and guiding visitors to the Keep from all over the world – to First Aid and Fire Fighting.

Next he set himself the task of promoting the monument. From the outset he looked to the future. Whilst he ensured that day-to-day duties and maintenance were carried out, he was always thinking about how the Keep could be further involved with the local community and broaden its appeal.

Working closely with representatives of the City Council, and Paul McDonald, his chief of staff, he embarked on a series of promotional activities. Every event imaginable was accommodated – art and design exhibitions, TV and film productions, plays, concerts, educational activities, ghost hunts and even the visit of a Dalek. In partnership with the City Council and the authorities of St. Nicholas' Cathedral, he was the principal mover in the Heart of the City project, designed to raise the profile of the area around Castle Garth and the Cathedral, a concept he had been advocating for years. Hence our greater sense of loss that he did not live to see it come to fruition.

When it came to securing funding and practical help for his projects, he could charm the birds off the trees. Pat's motto was 'If you

don't shout you get nowt'. On one memorable occasion, he wanted a female figure for a display in the Queen's Chamber and persuaded Bainbridges to give him a mannequin. He proceeded to manhandle this, naked as it was, up the Keep steps to the riotous amusement of onlookers and a party of school children.

His proudest achievement however, was to enhance visitor experience for the less able by providing access to the ground floor where he and Paul had installed an on screen virtual reality tour of the Keep.

Pat was like a breath of fresh air, full of great ideas, completely irrepressible yet always approachable. He will be remembered for his awesome energy, his terrific sense of humour and above all, his commitment to the building he loved. He will be missed as a colleague and a valued friend.

Beryl Charlton

JOHN FLEMING; A CORRECTION

Unfortunately two errors crept into my obituary of John Fleming in the last issue. He joined the Society in 1947, and not in 1949 as stated. Secondly, owing to a mishearing over the telephone, I referred to his transfer to 'the office of the Engineering Chief Officer'. This should have been the office of the Engineer in Chief.

My apologies to readers, and to John's family, for the mistakes.

Constance Fraser

OUR PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR

Public lecture

For the public lecture on 26 November this year we welcome back a good friend of the Society. Many will remember Humphrey Welfare from his time as head of the Newcastle office of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, when he was Chair of this Society's Activities Committee and a Member of Council. His career then took him away to Swindon; and now, following the amalgamation of RCHME with English Heritage, he is in York

as Territory Director for the north. In this capacity, Humphrey has the responsibility to care for the region's historic places and this is the subject of his lecture: *Borrowing from our children: caring for historic places in the north-east*. All members are welcome.

Colm O'Brien

Country meetings



Lastingham church, picture Sue Ward

The first country meeting of 2008, to the North York Moors in search of ancient monasteries, was well-subscribed and we spent a delightful day – including an excellent WI tea at Great Ayton. There are still places on the two trips in July, both to Scotland; to sites in East Lothian on the 12th, and to the Antonine Wall on the 19th. Look on our website for the booking form.

The final trip for 2008, on 20th September will be in the Penrith area. Sites visited will include the Long Meg stone circle, the eighteenth-century estate village at Lowther, designed by Robert Adams, and Lowther church, with its mausoleum and views of Lowther Castle. Full details and a booking form are included in this mailing.

John Griffiths

Time Walks

Apologies to anyone misled or confused by the discrepancy between the News Bulletin and the programme card in the information about the January walk. A late change to the walks programme could be reflected in the card but was too late for the Bulletin. Our website will always contain the most up-to-

date information – please look at that in the event of any future queries.

Both the January walk around Newcastle, and the May one around Binchester Roman Fort in May were well-attended – thanks to the leaders in both cases. The next one, on 7th September, goes further afield to Flodden; we look forward to seeing you there.

Rosie Serdiville

Summer Walks

We have our usual programme of summer walks, lasting no more than two hours. Some may involve moderate climbs.

- Monday 9 June: Royal Quays and North Shields; Meet Percy Main Metro at 7 pm; return from North Shields Metro.
- Monday 23 June: ‘Healthy and Salubrious’ – a walk around the Walkergate estate developed for the North of England Exhibition of Model Cottages 1908. Meet Walkergate Metro at 7 pm.
- Monday 7 July: Ouseburn Pubs, Past and Present – meet outside the Ship Inn, Stepney Bank, Ouseburn at 7 pm. We are grateful to the Ouseburn Trust for contributing this walk.
- Monday 28 July: A Co-operative walk around the centre of Newcastle. Meet at Grey’s Monument, 7 pm.

For enquiries please contact me on 07729 827244, 0191 285 7988 or at johnfrancisgriffiths@hotmail.com

John Griffiths

CHARLES AVISON

2009 will be the tercentenary of Charles Avison’s birth in Newcastle. He is nationally important not only as a composer but as England’s first writer on musical theory in his *Essay on Musical Expression* (1752).

Charles Avison, Tyneside’s Greatest Composer, Avison’s first full biography, will be published in February 2009 to celebrate the tercentenary. In it, Dr Roz Southey of Newcastle University describes Charles Avison’s successful career in the music scene in the North East and nationally. My own



Avison, from a drawing in the Monthly Chronicle of North-Country Lore and Legend, Dec 1889

contribution looks at Avison’s family, his patrons, and his literary and artistic interests.

Finally David Hughes documents the revival of Avison’s music through the Avison Ensemble and the Society, and the acquisition of the composer’s two workbooks now forming the heart of an Avison Archive in Newcastle City Library.

The book is to be published jointly by the Avison Ensemble and Tyne Bridge Publishing. It . Anyone subscribing before 1 November 2008 will receive a copy signed by all three authors, and may also have their name published on the subscribers’ list in the volume. Copies will cost £10 (including a free sampler CD of Avison’s music, postage and packing). Order forms are available from The Avison Ensemble, Book Offer, 3 Bentinck Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6XN, or from www.avisonensemble.com.

Margaret Maddison

GREAT NORTHERN MINERS

The latest title from Tyne Bridge Publishing pays tribute to the memory of the generations of miners who made the Northumberland and Durham coalfield. Journal sub-editor Ken Smith and wife Jean provide a historical

Continued on page 8

Last Days at the Museum

The Archaeological Museums at Newcastle University closed their doors for the last time on April 19, 2008 after a series of celebratory events.

The first was a public lecture in the University given by me on April 17th, called 'The Museum of Antiquities: a Retrospective'.



Eddie Evans, Museum Technician, and Karen Barker, freelance conservator.



The Museum of Antiquities reception staff, past and present.



Dr Peter Jones, Lindsay Allason-Jones, Grace McCombie and Prof Richard Bailey in the Museum of Antiquities

This was attended by over 300 people, many of whom accepted the University's invitation to drinks in the Museum's galleries afterwards. It was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome Dr David Smith, the Museum's first Keeper, to this event. Others with very long connections to the Museum also attended and many of the Society's members were able to renew old acquaintanceships during the reception.

On Friday 18th another reception was held in the Shefton Museum, when the attendees were addressed by Professor Brian Shefton. He and Dr Anthony Spawforth, Honorary Keeper of the Shefton Collection, were both presented with a special bottle of Burgundy labelled Musée Shefton.

The final event was a reception held in the Museum of Antiquities when the last visitors were entertained with drinks and nibbles before the door was locked for the last time.

Both Museums are now closed to the public but still very busy. The first priority is to get those objects packed which are to be loaned to other institutions over the summer. In particular, many Roman artefacts are being loaned to the British Museum for the Hadrian exhibition. After that everything has to be



Professor Brian Shefton receiving his special bottle of Musée Shefton at the closing of the Shefton Museum



The last visitors!



Lindsay locks up for the last time.

inventoried, photographed and packed ready to be transported across the road when the Great North Museum building is ready.

Lindsay Allason Jones

The Foot goes to London

One of the better-known items in the Shefton Museum was the giant red porphyry foot, which has gone to the Victoria and Albert for exhibition on Thomas Hope, regency designer. It has been in the Shefton on a long term loan agreement from the Wellcome Institute, since 1982. Shifting it

was a major task, worthy of a photographic record in itself, and an example of what will need to happen when our own collection goes across to the new Museum.



The first task was to erect a gantry, and then to tilt the foot, using brute force, in order to get the straps underneath.



Beginning the nerve-wracking job of winching the foot up



The foot safely in its box. Getting it secured took an hour but there was a further hour's work in stabilising it with padded struts to ensure it didn't move in transit

All pictures courtesy of Glyn Goodrick



Job done. The participants were Edwin Evans, Glyn Goodrick, Andrew Parkin and Lindsay

Hadrian; Empire and Conflict

The British Museum's major national exhibition, *Hadrian; Empire and Conflict* will run from 24th July to 24th October 2008, in the Round Reading Room at the Museum. As well as the items from our Museum of Antiquities, exhibits include loan objects from 31 countries, and from the British Museum's own collection, including tablets from Vindolanda.

Tickets are available online at www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/invt/mexhadrian or by phone on 020 7323 8181. The admission charge is £12, but there is a range of concessions.

Recollections

The final publication by the Museum of Antiquities was *Recollections*, a celebration in poetry and photography of the work and collections of the Museum.

Poet Maureen Almond has helped many adults to find literary inspiration in the museum's exhibits. This collection of her own work is rooted firmly in those artefacts, complemented by Glyn Goodrick's imaginative photography.

Maureen Almond does not reject the traditional forms that often seem to suit such classical inspiration. At the same time she is not afraid to tinker with the frameworks, slipping in an unexpected rhyme to tie together an apparently free-form poem such as "Recipe for Englishness" or making use of more subtle internal rhymes or assonance.

Her modern metaphors vividly recreate the world of the people who owned and used the objects. Hercules becomes the lad from South Shields "On the pull and undressed-down to kill" and in Glyn Goodrick's witty photograph the museum's statuette, is apparently on the beach, the hero's lion skin transformed by the viewer's eye into a bathing towel.

Priced at £10, copies are available from Flambard Press (www.flambardpress.co.uk).

Ann Liddon

Museum seating appeal

The Appeal leaflet for contributions towards providing seating throughout the galleries in the Great North Museum went out in a special mailing in May, and we do hope that all members who have not yet done so will consider donating.

We are very grateful for the donations already received from the following;

Mrs M Anderson
 Prof G R Batho
 Mr F Bettess
 Mrs S Bird
 Mr A W Brewis
 Mrs D B Charlton
 Mr R J Cruse
 Mrs J L Drury
 Mr M Dunn
 Dr M Flood
 Dr C M Fraser

Mr A E Gilmour
 Mrs E Gould
 Mr J R Green
 Mr J R Grieves
 Mr S T L Harbottle
 Mr M Hassall
 Mr B Heal
 Dr J A Hedley
 Prof N McCord
 Mrs G McCombie
 Dr M M Meikle

Prof C D Morris
 Mrs E I Randall
 Ms J Reynolds
 Mrs R E Richardson
 Miss T Rooney
 Mr J E Scott
 Ms I Soulsby
 Mrs B Thickett
 Mr P RG Thirkell

Donations received after 14 May, when this list was compiled, will be recorded in the next News Bulletin. Our thanks to all concerned.

David Hide, Treasurer

Moving the Library

Work has been going on apace in planning the move of the library to the Great North Museum. The Library committee have inspected the shell of the building, and met the shelving contractor. The shelving allocation between the 3 libraries being brought together, and the layout, have both been agreed.

Book choice will be as at present, though we may be able to do the actual ordering through the Robinson University Library to benefit from discounts.

No borrowing was permitted after 1st April and we have asked that all books be returned. About 30 are still outstanding. However, one book borrowed in 1987 has now been returned and is being rebound at the Lit and Phil bindery. All members still having books on loan have been or will be contacted in the next dawn raid!

A dozen or so volunteers have come forward and through the summer will check each book against the catalogue, clean as necessary and insert a security tag. Donal Donnelly-Wood has agreed to assist me in supervising this work and I hope to set up a number of small groups to work independently.

Cataloguing has now also been agreed and will be done through the Robinson Library, but each library will retain its existing shelf numbering of books. At present funds only allow for about a year's work, which is not enough, so much more has to be raised. In the meantime we carry on with our present card catalogue. The electronic catalogue will be on the web from the start.

There is funding for one full-time librarian post, though we are discussing whether having two part-timers might fit better. We will still need an active volunteer rota, though, as the library needs to be open for at least the current SANT hours, with the evening perhaps changed to fit in with the Natural History Society. We need at least two people on duty at all times, not counting the librarian.

We have also been discussing the practicalities of the move itself with Pickford's. The current plan is to pack some crates on the Monday and Tuesday of each week using volunteers, transport them on Wednesday and unpack and shelve on Thursday and Friday. The books would be packed and unpacked in strict shelf order. We will probably not reach this stage until at least October, however.

Denis Peel, Librarian

Continued from page 5

overview of numerous milestones and sidelights in the pitmen's progress, and a thoughtful balance of coverage which for example includes a chapter on the much neglected 1926 lockout.

A great accomplishment of this title is the integration of testimony from today's former pitmen. Disappeared collieries and a lost subterranean world are recalled in first hand accounts which also cover the 1984-85 strike, the final pit closures at Wearmouth and Ellington, and the subsequent resurgence of community banner groups and Durham's 'Big Meeting'.

Generously illustrated and footnote-free, this highly readable 192 pages will be of enduring value and interest to antiquarians and novices alike. It is available from Tyne Bridge Publishing at £12.95; see their website

www.tynebridgepublishing.co.uk for details of how to order.

David Ridley

EXPERIENCING THE WALL

Tales of the Frontier is a two-year research project based at Durham University and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council with the aim of developing a social and cultural history of Hadrian's Wall and its landscape from Bede to the Internet. To bring our ideas about the history of visiting and walking the Wall up to the present day, over the summer of 2008 we will be carrying out participant fieldwork with both locals and visitors to the Wall. Participants will be tracked with Global Positioning Systems as they move around the landscape and create

their own photographic record of their experiences.

For more information, visit the project website at or contact the project at hadrians.wall@durham.ac.uk

Robert Witcher

MONKWEARMOUTH LECTURE

As part of National Archaeology Week 2008, there will be a lecture on *Bede and Archaeology* by Professor Richard Morris, of the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, at St. Peter's Church Monkwearmouth, on Wednesday 16th July 2008 at 7pm.

For information on other National Archaeology Week events, look at their website www.britarch.ac.uk/YAC/national_archaeology_week.html or phone the Council for British Archaeology on 01904 671417, or E-mail: naw@britarch.ac.uk

REPORTS FROM MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 2007 Public Lecture

The 2007 Public Lecture attracted an audience of nearly 300 people, our biggest ever. Stephen Oppenheimer, of Oxford University, spoke on *DNA and the Origins of the British*.

Stephen is a leading expert on using DNA evidence to track migration. He began by looking at some common myths; that the Romans found a uniformly Celtic population throughout the British Isles, that these Celts came originally from a central European homeland, and that the indigenous folk of the English heartland fell victim to genocide and replacement by the 'Anglo-Saxon hordes' during the fifth and sixth centuries.

However, his research shows that in fact, two thirds of the English people show an unbroken line of genetic descent from southwestern Europeans arriving long before the introduction of farming. Welsh, Irish and other Atlantic-fringe peoples derive from the Ice Age refuges in the Basque country and Spain. They followed an Atlantic coastal route many thousands of years ago. The

Celtic languages were brought in by later migrations, following the same route, during Neolithic times. Long-term European trade and immigration especially from Scandinavia, between 7,000 and 3,000 years ago contributed most of the remaining third – and may have led to the introduction of the earliest forms of English language.

The Origins of the British: A Genetic Detective Story, is published by Constable and Robinson, £9.99.

January 2008

Lindsay-Allason Jones, Director of the Museum of Antiquities and our own Keeper of Collections, gave us a retrospective on the Museum.

Almost from the start in 1813 members were donating artefacts. By the early twentieth century, it was clear that the Keep and the Black Gate, by now both stuffed full, were not suitable places for keeping the collections. There were discussions with the University of Durham in the 1930s, but action was deferred on the outbreak of war. Only in 1950 was a joint agreement signed between the Society and the University.

The new Museum's first home was in the now-demolished Sydenham Terrace. In 1959 the existing building on the University Campus, originally built as (of all things) a coke-testing station, became available. This was formally opened as the Museum of Antiquities in April 1960.

Policy is to collect artefacts from the earliest era to the post-mediaeval, and from the Tyne to the Scottish Border with some exceptions and from the east coast to the Cumbrian border. Items have come from various sources, including the Society of Antiquaries of London and the National Museums of Wales and Scotland. The Duke of Northumberland's collection arrived on long-term loan after a visit to Alnwick Castle by Sir Ian Richmond. Some material has come from hoards officially declared treasure trove, but there has never been an acquisitions fund, so purchases have depended on the generosity of the Society and of other grant-givers.

The Museum is well-known for its innovative exhibitions policy; in 1996 it was the first Museum on Britain to mount a virtual exhibition on its website, and it has received many awards since for the site. *Museum of My*

Life was a creative writing project which ended with displays of writing and objects all round the museum, and has now developed a second life with members coming each week for voluntary work around the museum.

Scraping the Bottom displayed items found when the lake in Leazes Park was drained, while a Roman exhibition went to Poland for eighteen months and has stimulated a flow of Polish visitors ever since.

Education work has included a celebration of Hadrian's birthday and efforts to teach primary schoolchildren to fight in Roman army 'tortoise' formation. Hadrian's Wall, one child confidently declared, was built to protect the Romans from the pixies.

At the end of her lecture, Lindsay introduced the Museum's staff, who had attended en masse, and stressed that it was the quality of the team, not any individual contribution, that made the Museum so special. No doubt a great deal will be gained with the new enlarged Great North Museum, but all the audience left feeling that a great deal would be lost also.

February 2008



Brian Roberts in Indiana Jones mode

Professor Brian Roberts gave us 'New Thoughts on the Origins of Northumbria', showing how computer-power can be used in the analysis of maps, bringing together overlapping layers of material from different sources and dates. By mapping woodlands

and wastes throughout the North, he was able to identify 'cultural cores', zones of long-standing cultivation, and link these to Bernicia, Deira, and in North Yorkshire and the Tees valley, Catraeth. Within these frames he compared distributions derived from the work of other scholars. For instance, Anglo-Saxon sculptural and architectural survivals lie in border zones, one between sea and land, the other between between the cultivated cores and the waste, or (in the case of Wearmouth and Jarrow) between Bernicia and Deira/Catraeth.

Along the eastern line of the Roman Wall, cartographic evidence suggests a continuity of settlement and people; townships – agrarian economic units – bearing Old English place-names, sit astride the Wall, which is not in general used as a township or parish boundary. Brian argued, following Stephen Oppenheimer's recognition of the small genetic inputs from the Anglo-Saxons, that there is evidence of the appearance of Old English as a language long before the *Adventus Saxonum*. Many units of the Roman army had links with Lower Rhine. Following the collapse of the Roman economic order, represented by coinage, new systems and new polities appeared, at first more locally based, and it was the coalescence of these which generated the 'kingdoms' we read of in Bede.

March 2008

Rob Collins, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the North East, spoke about the latest coin finds on Hadrian's Wall, and what they might tell us about the end of the Frontier. The older view was that the Wall was abandoned when the army was withdrawn, either by the usurper Magnus Maximus in 383 or by Stilicho or Constantine III in the early 5th century.

However, the famous Rescript of Honorius was known only at second-hand from a passage in Zosimus, and was a reply to the *civitates* seeking military help, rather than an instruction to the army. The archaeological evidence pointed clearly to continuous occupation of the forts into the post-Roman period.

Coin finds included large numbers from the mid-4th century, though in the North any coins later than this were a rarity. Recently, however, a coin dating from 406–408 had been

reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, from Great Whittington north of the Wall. There was a parallel with a hoard from Heddon on the Wall in the 19th century. This included at least one coin of the Emperor Arcadius, dating from 404–408, and there could be more lying unrecognised in coin collections. This demonstrated that there were still Romans on the Wall at this date, and probably for some time after – as some coins remained in circulation for up to 100 years – and that they were using coins for at least some transactions, or perhaps to pay taxes.

For further information, contact Rob at robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk. Details of the Portable Antiquities Scheme are at www.finds.org.uk

April 2008

Dr Matt Perry, who lectures in history at the University of Newcastle, spoke about the Jarrow Crusade of 1936, and especially the way that its significance had both changed and become greater since the event. The myths surrounding it today included the idea that it had universal support, when in fact the Bishop of Durham was bitterly hostile, though the local bishop of Jarrow was a supporter, and the reception of the marchers varied from town to town.

The Crusade was also now considered non-political, when in fact although there was a *local* political truce, neither the Conservative nor the Labour Parties nationally supported the march. Ellen Wilkinson, now seen as ‘Wor Lass’ and a frail woman, was actually a tough left-wing figure. Her book, *The Town that was Murdered* was a strong denunciation of the capitalist system.

A third myth was that the Crusade was ‘not like other marches’ or indeed that it was the only march of any importance. On the contrary, there were six national hunger marches, including one by the National League of the Blind and Disabled and others organised by the National Unemployed Workers’ Movement, which have been eclipsed by the Jarrow march. The Cross of Jarrow, another part of the legend, had in fact been deposited in Leicester by marchers in a separate event the year before.

Matt considered the role of memory and of publicity in creating the legend, which had

taken off in the early 1970s with the sponsorship of key institutions including the Labour Party and the BBC, and with a play by Alan Plater and a song by Alex Glasgow.

Matt can be contacted at matt.perry@ncl.ac.uk. His book *Jarrow Crusade; Protest and Legend* was published by Sunderland University Press in 2005.

SUNDERLAND AND ITS ORIGINS



Historian and broadcaster Michael Wood at the launch with Christine and Maureen, picture courtesy Maureen Meikle

As foreshadowed in the last News Bulletin, this new book, the fourth in the Durham Victoria County History series has now been published by Phillimore, and is available through www.amazon.co.uk.

Written jointly by Christine Newman and Maureen Meikle, it tells the story of Sunderland from its origins as a Neolithic and Bronze Age site to its establishment as an independent parish in 1719.

The Society has supported the project throughout. At the launch event Barbara Harbottle collected complimentary copies of the book from historian and broadcaster Michael Wood on our behalf.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Without wishing to sound like an ogre, please could I remind people to pay up! 35 individuals haven’t paid to date. Some people may have forgotten that the cut-off date has changed, and that subscriptions are now due

NEW MEMBERS 2007-8

Welcome to the following new members, who have joined us since May 2007;

Mrs Pauline Allen	Mr Don Greenwood	Mrs Irene Queen
Mr Rodney Balcomb	Mr and Mrs Hunwick	Prof Brian K. Roberts
Miss Julia Boulton	Mr Ian Jackson	Mrs Marian Scott
Mrs Susan Brophy	Ms Margaret Jones	Miss Rachel Scott
Mr William Chapman	Ms Jane Kennedy	Mr Matthew Symonds
Mrs Lorna English	Ms Anne Liddon	Dr Robert Witcher
Sister Lazarus Gent	Mr Jason Mole	

on 31st January, not 31st March as used to be the case.

Sarah Walter

NEW SERIES FROM BEDE'S WORLD

The origins of Jarrow: the monastery, the slake and Ecgfrith's minster by Ian Wood, was published by Bede's World in March, the first of a new series of Studies. It costs £6.00, plus postage and packing of 60p for one copy and £1.00 for two or more, and will be reviewed in full in *Archaeologia Aeliana* in due course. It's available from Bede's World, Church Bank, Jarrow NE32 3DY

LOOK AT THE WEBSITE

As well as editing this News Bulletin, I also edit our website, www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk for the Society. (Only the

content – the technical side is looked after by the very competent Cornwell Internet.) Over the last few months, I have been gradually making changes, especially on the home page. This now includes a rolling programme of events for the next three months, and a list of new additions to the site. Please make use of the website for up-to-date information on events.

I will be making further changes over the next few months. One task is to weed the links pages, and introduce a Website Wonders page (instead of having it as an occasional feature here) highlighting sites that have come to my attention and could be of interest to members. I would be glad of any suggestions. Please send e-mails about this to webmaster@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk

Sue Ward

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 1 NQ, phone 0191 232 2968. e-mail . Deadline for the next edition will be October 31st. The mailing date will be 10th Dec. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Secretary at the Black Gate by 3rd Dec.

Anyone who wants 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.