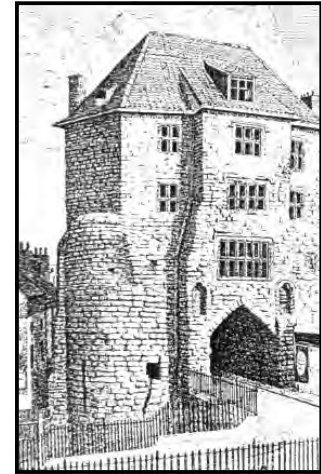


NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No. 46: JUNE 2009



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, and a learned journal. Our library and our main collection are housed in the Great North Museum at the Hancock, with further items in other museums around the region. We lease the Castle Keep and the Black Gate from the City Council.

For more information, look at our website www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk, 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

GREAT NORTH MUSEUM COMES TO LIFE



Andy Burnham, Secretary of State with responsibility for cultural matters (in the middle, in striped tie), with GNM luminaries during a visit before the opening. Picture courtesy Tyne-Wear Museums

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Years of planning, months of hard work, hours of heartache, and the Great North Museum opened its doors on 23rd May. Many members will have attended one of the previews arranged by Tyne and Wear Museums or will visit soon. You will be able to see for yourselves the new displays, the splendid library and our office.

The opening of the GNM is a major event in the recent history of the Society. It affects not just the re-display of our internationally important collections but many other aspects of our activities. Denis Peel and his marvellous team of volunteers have moved our whole library from the Black Gate to GNM and set it all out on the shelves. Our books are being added to the University Library's catalogue, so that in future it will be possible to search our library on-line. Derek

Cutts and his team have also worked hard on sorting out and finding homes for all the other objects in the Black Gate. Our membership secretary, Sarah Walter, has catalogued the pictures and works on paper, and is dealing with archiving office papers and arranging to move the office equipment to the GNM.

Our office is still in the process of moving, so for the moment please continue to address correspondence to the Black Gate. It is intended that the Black Gate will become part of the Heart of the City project. Unfortunately, our first application to the Heritage Lottery Fund failed. We are now in discussions with our partners about a revised bid.

The new lecture theatre at the GNM is flat and the seating is not raked. We therefore intend seeing it in use before deciding whether to move from our much loved and convenient lecture theatre in the Mining Institute.

Behind the scenes, a new Memorandum of Agreement has been negotiated with the University, to run until 2058. A Board of Governance for GNM has been established, with its own constitution: Lindsay Allason-Jones, as our Keeper of Archaeological Collections, sits on this. Other advisory committees are being established to aid the smooth running of GNM, with Society representatives on each.

Our seating appeal is still open. In total, through the generous contributions of our members and drawing on our own funds, the Society is contributing £40,000 to the seats in GNM, and is also helping with the running costs while the Museum gets established.

The move has thrown up some interesting problems. Our logo, for example, is in Latin. We need to consider adding a by-line in English, or creating a new brand for advertising, GNM literature and the like. Not the greatest of problems, but a delicate issue for a Society nearly 200 years old.

The fact that all has gone so well to date is due to the dedicated hard work of many members – and, of course, the staff of Tyne and Wear Museums – and I should like to thank them all most warmly on your behalf for all their endeavours.

David Breeze

MOVING THE LIBRARY



Our Librarian Denis Peel checking books in the new library at the Hancock

In January 2002, shortly after re-instating the Society's library after the Black Gate roof had been renewed, I learnt of proposals to move it to the Hancock Museum to form a joint library with the Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Cowen Archaeology Library.

We started discussions with the project architects, Farrells, in spring 2005. Building work began at the end of 2006 and the date of our move hopped through the whole of 2008, finally settling to start in spring 2009.

In advance of this, a gang of volunteers last summer removed some of the 100 years' accumulation of railway grime. They also security-tagged the books in the heated part of the library during the coldest part of the winter, but no bribery of coffee, chocolate biscuits and polar clothing could persuade anybody to tackle the store room then.

Having planned a leisurely move to start after my various summer travels, I then found out that a moveable wall could not be installed below the library until all our books were in place above to bend the huge support girders, something called 'deflection'. We rescheduled to start the move in mid-March, and finished in mid-May.

Problems of transport co-ordination in moving three libraries at once and cataloguing them were compounded by the difficulties of carrying 25kg boxes down the 62-step Black Gate spiral staircase, lack of storage space for full and empty boxes, and the difficulty of more than one person at a time getting access

to compact shelving. So far the only casualty has been one set of squashed stepladders, but as a safety measure I always choose a fellow worker of larger girth!

Over 800 boxes were packed by a team headed by Peter Nicol and ably supported by Eric Waites, who for fitness and muscle out does many sixty years his junior, occasionally Sue for intellect and finesse (flattery will get you everywhere – Ed), and sometimes hindered by indecision from me as librarian when I popped in from time to time to supervise.

The new library is looking good. It is a great improvement in many ways on the Black Gate, our home for almost exactly a hundred years. Our books were last moved in 1909, from the Keep into the Black Gate. That must have been even more strenuous, with steep stairs at both ends of the move.

My thanks go to all our helpers, in particular Peter and the packers, Nico, Jo and Jody from Tyne and Wear Museums and the guys from Quicksilver who have done the humping without any complaints that have got through my earmuffs. I would sleep well at night with all this exercise were it not for the recurring nightmare that there has been a change of plan and it has all to go back to the Black Gate.

We will be welcoming a new full-time librarian, Nicola Clarke, when she takes up her post in June. However, we need volunteers for further cleaning, tagging and cataloguing, and to staff the entrance desk during the hours the library is open. Nicola will provide the training and co-ordination, but if you can help please contact me on gdpeel@btinternet.com or via the Membership Secretary.

Denis Peel

SECRETS OF THE BLACK GATE

*If in his study he doth take such care to hang
all old, strange things,
Let his wife beware*
John Donne, The Antiquary

Alongside the library move the Collections Committee had to arrange the removal of non-book material from the Black Gate.



The contents of a typical drawer in the cabinet of objects in the Black Gate. Picture courtesy

First, we needed to know what was in there. No lost wives turned up during our inventory-making, but there has been no shortage of old, strange things.

Alongside the mundane tables and chairs and the familiar items (the bracket clock, the Bible box) lurked 16th century pewter dishes stored in a plastic shopping bag, boars' teeth, shale and jet items and numerous fragments of Roman pottery, tile and metalwork. Carefully laid out and helpfully labelled in the flat on the top floor were items of furniture, one or two having regressed to Jacobean flatpack form, and a disparate collection of items representing five centuries of manufacture and two of relentless collecting. A label proclaims 'small box made of teak from Hell's Kitchen, Newcastle'. One tiny cabinet contained over 50 textile items from the 19th and 20th centuries.

A few items will be moved to the new office at the GNM, but most will go elsewhere. Everything which belongs to the society's collections will be loaned to suitable museums. Non-collection items, such as aluminium ladders, will go to the salerooms.

Making the inventory would not have been possible without the help of my wife Margaret, Sally Bird, John Nolan and Lindsay Allason-Jones, to all of whom much thanks.

Derek Cutts

SEATING APPEAL

Many thanks to all the new donors to the Seating Appeal for the Great North Museum;
Miss G A Cadman
Mr R Fern
Mr and Mrs T Heron

Mrs E J P Kendall
Dr V A Maxfield
Mr A G Mein
Mrs V C Motherale
Mrs J I Parvin
Ms G Plowright

All donors were invited to a special preview of the Museum before it was open to the public, and will have their names recorded on a special 'donor wall' within the Museum.

The Father Cotton Chronicles, and exhibited his work at Gateshead Civic Centre. Jimmy Parkins is a student of history and law at Newcastle College. Long-time team member Gabriela Petkova-Campbell is about to have her first book, *A Place in Europe*, published.

Society members and two guests can visit the Castle Keep free of charge. Come and see us sometime!

Tony Ball

LIFE GOES ON AT THE CASTLE KEEP



New starters Gary Carter (left) and Jimmy Parkins (right)

Nearly 25,000 people paid to visit the Castle Keep in 2008, a new record beating the previous best in 1991. Revenue was also at a record level. So far in 2009, both visitor numbers and revenue are up on the same period last year. Large group bookings from cruise ships are part of this.

Our 'Kids Go Free' policy has been well received, with about 135 children visiting the Keep every week. School groups have come from as far away as Sheffield in the UK and from Holland, Italy and the USA.

Paranormal investigations (ghost hunts) continue to be the mainstay of our events program. We hosted 'Coals to Newcastle', an audio-visual presentation, as part of Tyne & Wear Museums Late Shows weekend in May. We are also planning free admission during the Heritage Open Days in September.

Two new part-time recruits joined the team in February. Gary Carter, when not on duty at the Keep, writes, paints and teaches art. He has recently published a graphic novel,

LATEST NEWS ON THE BAGPIPE MUSEUM



Piper Chris Ormston at a Woodhorn performance. Picture courtesy John Bibby

Following last autumn's flooding in Morpeth, the Chantry has reopened. It was able to host the usual range of concerts, talks and competitions at the Morpeth Gathering, though Woodhorn still has its temporary exhibition, and has held a series of public performances to keep the bagpipes in the public eye.

We have a new lift, and the main gallery is back in action, although the sound system still needs reinstating. Curator Anne Moore and

volunteer Maureen Davison have cleaned the cases and redisplayed some of the exhibits.

A disabled WC has been installed, with access from the Seminar Room. This will mean that some of the cases from that room must be relocated in the main gallery and on the balcony.

Kim Bibby-Wilson

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Sharp-eyed readers may note that there is no list of new members in this News Bulletin, a break with tradition. Council have decided that instead there should be a more permanent record in our Annual Reports, starting with the next one. A warm welcome to everyone who has joined recently.

The opening of the Great North Museum offers a good opportunity to publicise our activities. The membership committee is putting together a campaign aimed at increasing and broadening our numbers, which now stand at just over 700.

Updated information boards and leaflets are in hand, for use in the museum and at events such as local history fairs. Working with the other bodies involved in GNM, we hope to run a series of events such as tours highlighting the history of SANT and focusing on some of the artefacts we have provided.

We are contacting higher education bodies and the various history networks in the North East to alert younger people to our existence and encourage them to join us. We are emphasising our value as a resource for research and education, the wide variety of activities we engage in and the fun to be had in the process.

Ideas for developing the work, and offers of help, would be gratefully received. Contact Rosie Serdiville on 0191 230 3797 (rosie.serdiville@talktalk.net) if you would like to know more.

COLLINGWOOD 2010: BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN THE NORTH-EAST



Collingwood's statue on his monument at Tynemouth

In March 2010 a series of celebrations and commemorations will mark the bicentenary of the death at sea of England's forgotten hero: the man who survived Nelson at Trafalgar in 1805 to become virtual viceroy of the Mediterranean.

Collingwood, son of a debt-ridden Newcastle trader, went to sea at thirteen. In an extraordinary 44-year career, he achieved fame as the greatest gunner the navy ever produced; the man who virtually banned flogging in his ships; who fought in three of the great fleet actions of the era and rescued Nelson in the heat of battle when all seemed lost. He was also a great writer and wit, a humanitarian ahead of his time, and an early and committed conservationist. He could both outwit Napoleon and lecture Muslim emperors on the correct interpretation of the Koran.

To mark Collingwood's long-neglected career the Royal Navy, the 1805 Club, Trinity

House, Tyne and Wear Museums, the Sage Gateshead and local authorities all along his native River Tyne will be uniting in a grand festival. Tyne and Wear Museums are planning a major exhibition, and a stunning new sculpture has been commissioned for a site close to the Quayside. A Royal Navy destroyer will salute the guns that adorn Collingwood's monument at Tynemouth. For the first time in 200 years those guns (the first to fire at Trafalgar, from Collingwood's flagship Royal Sovereign) will return the salute. The organisers are also hoping that the Northern Sinfonia will play an evening of naval music following a Civic reception and Cathedral service.

There will be a souvenir brochure and Max Adams's biography of Collingwood is being reprinted. A competition for schools to raise awareness of Collingwood's life and achievements is also planned.

More details about the range of events planned, and of how interested parties can get involved, will be released during the summer. Max can be contacted on beatandtrack@yahoo.co.uk

SUMMER WALKS

This year's summer walks programme concentrates on Tyneside.

On June 15, there will be a tour of our industrial heritage in the Backworth area, led by Gordon Moir (meet Northumberland Park Metro, 7pm). 29 June sees an examination of carved stonework on some of Newcastle's Victorian and Edwardian commercial buildings, led by John Griffiths (meet Central Station portico 7pm). On 13 July we have a visit to the 'New Brasilia' planned by Dan Smith and Wilfred Burns, also led by John Griffiths (meet Guildhall, Sandhill 7pm). Finally on 27 July, a celebration of the tercentenary of composer Charles Avison's birth, led by David Hughes, founder of the Avison Society (meet Central Station portico, 7pm).

In recent years these walks have benefited from largely benign weather (this cannot, however, be guaranteed!). Offers or suggestions for future walks would be gratefully received. For further information contact John Griffiths on 0191 285 7988,

mobile 07729 827244, email johnfrancisgriffiths@hotmail.com.

TIME WALKS



The intrepid walkers at Flodden; picture courtesy Rosie Serdiville

Two of this year's walks have already taken place. In January John Charlton explored Newcastle's links to the slave trade, using the city's buildings to create a vivid picture of the social and commercial links that enabled local families to benefit from the sugar, rum and tobacco produced by slaves in the West Indies and North America, alongside the active and intertwined abolitionist movement.

The communal lunch afterwards was so much fun that we plan to adopt the same idea next year.

In May, John Sadler (with able assistance from Clive Hallam-Baker) led us over the site of the battle of Flodden. Brilliant sunshine made up for the cancellation of the same outing last September, when the weather mimicked the conditions of the battle in 1513, flooding surrounding roads.

This year's walk began with an introductory talk, complete with an opportunity to play with some of the weapons of the time. By the time we reached the top of the hill, we knew that this landscape can be highly deceptive depending on your viewpoint and light conditions, helping to make sense of what seemed like an odd choice of position on the day.

In the afternoon we explored the legacy of John Heron at Etal Castle, placing the battle firmly in the context of the border conflicts of the period.

Our next walk will take place on 6th September. Gordon Moir will lead us in looking at railway history at Brusselton Incline and the National Railway Museum at Shildon. Contact Rosie Serdiville if you need any further information or would like to offer or request a lift. Telephone 0191 230 3797 or email rosie.serdiville@talktalk.net



COUNTRY MEETINGS

For the first country meeting of the year in May, Mary Longley took us along the course (and history) of the Settle to Carlisle railway. As we followed the line, with pauses to look in detail at viaducts and stations, the beauty of the Cumbrian countryside at this time of year was a severe distraction. At Hawes we had a trip round the Dales Museum, excellent ice cream and a beautifully timed second hand book sale.

The weather had closed in by the time we reached Ribbleshead, adding drama as we heard about the construction of 24 magnificent arches and a tunnel on boggy ground in high winds and driving rain. Sunshine returned, however, as we explored Penrith. Tea at the station at Langwathby was the usual glorious spread, including the best Yorkshire gingerbread ever tasted. Many thanks to Mary for a great day.

We are off to Bowhill House and Park on 11th July, and to Middleham Abbey and Church on 19th September. There are still places, and booking forms and full details are on our website. Mary can be contacted at 19 Leazes Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LW.

THE PILGRIMAGE OF HADRIAN'S WALL, AUGUST 2009

Final preparations are under way for this summer's Pilgrimage, the decennial event organised with the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society at the other end of the Wall. This time we will start in the west, inspecting the visible forts and fortlet on the Cumbrian Coast before moving onto the Wall proper.

We will visit a number of locations linked to new work, including that on the earthworks of the Wall by Humphrey Welfare, the narrowing of the berm noted by Paul Bidwell at Brunton, the geophysical survey by TimesScape, and the display of the bridge at Corbridge. There will be two lectures, by Professor Sean O'Brien on 'Hadrian's Wall in Literature' and another by Professor Ernst Künzl on 'Enamelled Vessels Of The North-West Provinces' linked to our visit to see the pans in Tullie House Museum.

The final letters and invoices for balance of payments went out at the end of May, with payment due by 21st June. If you think you have booked but have not received such a letter, please contact Ian Caruana at elizabethallnutt@btinternet.com

If you haven't booked but would still like to attend, contact Ian to be placed on the waiting list in the event of late cancellations.

David Breeze

SANT TO HOST GLASGOW SOCIETY

Over the weekend of 5–6th September 2009, around 60 members of the Glasgow Archaeology Society (GAS) will be visiting parts of Hadrian's Wall as guests of this Society. This is the return leg of the event in July 2008, when the GAS hosted a visit by our members to the Antonine Wall.

GAS members will arrive at Segedunum on the Saturday morning, to go round the site and then head for Arbeia, where SANT members are welcome to join them. Weather permitting, the GAS members will have a picnic lunch on the grass before their visit.

On Saturday evening there will be a wine reception and a meal at the Swallow Imperial Hotel, Jesmond. Again Society members are welcome to attend. at a cost of £20 per person.

On Sunday two separate coaches will leave Newcastle at around 8.45, heading first of all to Chesters fort. After lunch we will go to Vindolanda, where Excavation Director Andrew Birley will be on hand to show us the 2009 excavation results. The day will end around 5.00, and the SANT coach will be back in Newcastle no later than 6.30. The cost of the coach for Society members, on a cost-recovery basis, will probably be around £10.00 a head. Admission charges to the sites, and the cost of lunch, will be extra.

There are still places available for SANT members. Download the booking form from our website, and send it with the deposit to Graeme Stobbs, Arbeia Roman Fort & Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, NE33 2BB. Alternatively, tel. 07770 554625 (note, this number was incorrect on the original forms) or e-mail graeme.stobbs@twmuseums.org.uk.

THE INGENIOUS MR AVISON

2009 is the bicentenary of the birth of Newcastle's most famous composer, Charles Avison (1709–1770). To commemorate, Tyne Bridge Publishing has published a new book co-authored by one of our members Margaret Maddison, interviewed here by Sue Ward.

How did the project come about?

“By a slightly roundabout route. One of my original interests was in garden history, but I came across Avison in the records quite often when I was researching some contemporaries of his, the Callenders who owned pleasure gardens just outside the town walls. With the tercentenary coming up, I suggested to academic Roz Southey, whose thesis was on 18th century music making in North-East England, that we collaborate on a publication. We then discovered that David Hughes (founder of the Avison Society) also had plans to write. So we decided to form a triumvirate, and it's worked out very well.”

How hard was the research?

“Well, no Avison diaries or account books have survived, and very few letters. So our sources were newspaper reports, publications, and the correspondence and accounts of other people.

“There are some wonderful papers in the local Archives, like the Strathmore papers from the Bowes family of Gibside. Mary Bowes kept meticulous accounts of every penny she spent, all through her married life - though she stopped as soon as her husband died, which makes one wonder how voluntary it was! One can see all Avison's comings and goings to Gibside, and the family's visits to Newcastle and London, and even those of the servants who they sent to play at concerts. Newcastle also had some very good local newspapers, from which one can glean an enormous amount.”

Are there still mysteries you couldn't clear up?

“Plenty. We don't know if Avison ever went to Italy to study, as one contemporary recorded, despite searching for passports and other records of his early employer, Ralph Jenison MP. And there was a vituperative row in 1736 between Avison and someone described as “the Swiss violinist”. I'd love to know who he was, but in all the copious material in the newspapers and pamphlets, his name never appears.”

Did you have trouble finding the very good illustrations?

“Most of them come from the Lit and Phil collection, or Local Studies in Newcastle Library. The splendid picture on the front cover, of the Sharp family by Zoffany, is in the National Portrait Gallery and we needed special permission to reproduce it.”

What are you working on now?

“Something completely different. Some editing for a Romanian archaeological conference, as I've long had contact with an archaeologist there. And sooner or later I shall be able to burrow back into Northumberland's archives to research garden history, which is where we came in....”

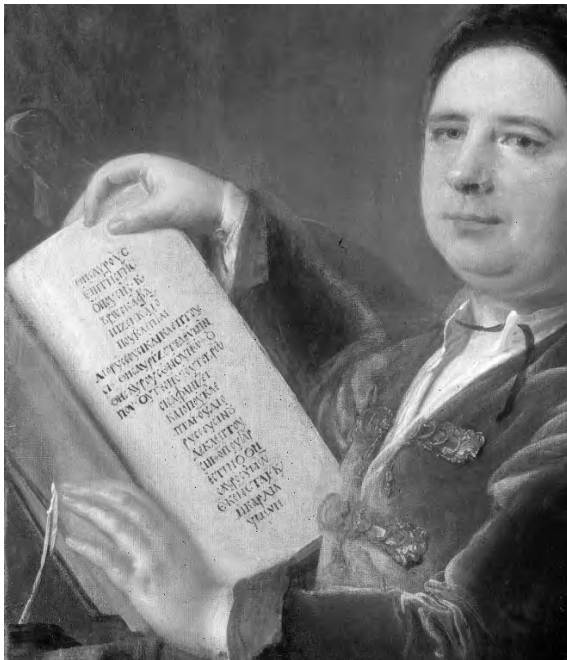
The Ingenious Mr Avison, by Roz Southey, Margaret Maddison, and David Hughes, is available from Tyne Bridge Publishing, £10.

TWO EXHIBITIONS

Centurions at Segedunum

A new exhibition at Segedunum explores what the centurial stones from Hadrian's Wall can tell us about the builders of the Wall. It features nine stones, including some from fort sites. Six of them are on loan from our own SANT collection. The exhibition focuses on how far it is possible to find out where the centurions come from from their names, and at the centurion's role in organising and supervising the workforce who actually got their hands dirty building the Wall. It will run until 17 January 2010. Find out more from www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum/

London Antiquaries in Sunderland



Humfrey Wanley, one of the three founding members of the Society of Antiquaries of London (copyright, Society of Antiquaries of London)

To mark their 300th anniversary, the Society of Antiquaries of London have set up a touring exhibition of choice parts of their collections. The exhibition includes historic treasures of international importance,

records of lost buildings and objects, and an extraordinary collection of English royal portraits from Edward IV to Henry VIII.

It will be at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens between 11th July and 4th October, and there will be a public lecture by historian David Starkey at St Peter's Campus on 10 September.

For information about the exhibition and lecture, look at the Society of Antiquaries' website, <http://makinghistory.sal.org.uk/index.php> or contact Sunderland Museum on 0191 553 2323

ST WILFRID IN YORK

On 10th and 11th September 2009 in York, a group of historians, art historians and archaeologists will assess the life and legacy of Wilfrid, Bishop of York and Abbot of Ripon and Hexham, on his 1300th anniversary.

There is also to be a Public Lecture in York Minster on the evening of 9th September by our own Richard Bailey, on *St Wilfrid – a European Anglo-Saxon*.

SANT members speaking at the conference, in St William's College, include Paul Bidwell (Head of Archaeology, Tyne and Wear Museums), and Eric Cambridge. There will be a visit to Ripon, Hexham and Escomb on 12th September.

Admission to the lecture costs £5, and to the conference itself £50. For full details, see the York Archaeological trust website, www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/involved/stwilfrid.htm.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 2008

The Annual Public Lecture in November was given by Humphrey Welfare, English Heritage's Territory Director for the North, on *Borrowing from our Children; caring for historic places in the North-East*.

What must be done, he asked, to ensure that our environment was a place in which to bring up our children, and to persuade them to stay and bring up their children? If people could understand their surroundings they

were likely to value them; in doing so they would care for them and enjoy them; this, in turn, would stimulate a desire for more understanding. For a child, going to a historic building could be off-putting, or could fire the imagination. English Heritage's older guidebooks had been hard to read, but the newer ones were more accessible, and explained the landscape outside the gates as well.

In the statutory sphere values could change, but EH had codified them into a set of *Conservation Principles* (2008). The trick for the heritage sector and for planning authorities was to try to capture changing values and act upon them. Listing and research were now more inclusive than they were a generation ago.

EH had to seek to manage sustainable change, rather than prevent it. Finding a suitable new use was often the key for older buildings but even when this was successful, cultural changes in the building industry were required, and a need to reverse the collapse of skills in the use of traditional materials. We still had VAT on repairs while new-build was VAT-exempt, despite the fact that regular maintenance is needed to sustain buildings.

Deep social changes were putting parish churches at risk, but the problems could be confronted if the community got involved. It was harder to know what to do with the remnants of heavy industry and mining. On the threats posed by coastal erosion and by flooding we had to be realistic: some heritage assets would be lost.

There was also a role for individuals, not only in lobbying and in fundraising (for instance for Seaton Delaval Hall). Owners could demand better specifications from builders, and resist damaging changes. Parents could ensure their children are involved, and all could volunteer – for example, for Heritage Open Days. The Government really did take notice of grassroots movements.

January 2009

Sally Waite, of the new interdisciplinary Centre for Artefact Studies at Newcastle University, spoke about her researches on a *kalathos*, a pottery container shaped like a wool-basket, half of which belongs to the Society and half to Lord Elgin. It was made



The mysterious Kalathos. Picture, courtesy Sally Waite

in Athens around 440 BC, but is too small for practical use, so perhaps was made as a gift or a symbol. It has six images of women on it doing different activities, in 'attic red-figure' style.

The pot was first excavated in 1814 on the Mouseion Hill, in one piece. Sadly, there is no information about the archaeological context, but soon afterwards it was drawn by a German traveller and antiquarian. It then went into the collection of Italian painter Lusieri, employed by Lord Elgin to oversee his artistic mission to Greece.

Lusieri was in contact with a small group of Britons resident in Athens at the time, including Hobhouse and the architect Cockerell, who also drew the vase. It was exported to Broomhall, Lord Elgin's seat in Scotland, in about 1825. The greater part of Lusieri's collection was lost at sea in 1828, so this is a rare survival.

At some point after it had reached Broomhall but before 1913, the pot was broken. There is mystery over how half of it got into the Society's possession. Contemporaries accused our then secretary, Robert Blair, of stealing antiquities that took his fancy. However, there is no evidence that he visited Broomhall, so the jury must be out on that. We do know that, at some point after it arrived at the Black Gate it was broken again, and some fragments lost, but not how or by whom. In 1961, it was transferred to Durham and reconstituted, and brought back

to Newcastle into the Shefton collection in 2001.

Sally can be contacted on
s.a.waite@ncl.ac.uk

Editor's note; Derek Cutts reports that sadly, no missing fragments of Kalathos-type pottery turned up during his researches in the Black Gate.

February 2009



The Pegswood excavations, picture courtesy Jenny Proctor

Jenny Proctor, of Pre-Construct Archaeology North, described a large scale open area excavation at Pegswood Moor, done in 2000 ahead of opencast mining.

The earliest phase of activity found was a small and fairly simple Iron Age settlement, probably a farmstead with outlying buildings perhaps used for craft work. The next phase was on a much larger scale, with enclosures laid out for dwellings, storage and industrial activities, along with field systems, stockyards, and a droveway. There were also 'briquetage' vessels, used for transporting salt - evidence of trade with coastal communities.

Considerable efforts had been made to keep the living areas clean, which meant that artefacts were scarce. However, groups of sherds from single pots and complete quernstones were found, deliberately placed in specific locations following the disuse of buildings or other features.

Under the Romans, the settlement was dramatically reorganised. A new timber enclosure cut through the middle of existing roundhouses, and there were no new dwelling houses within the area of excavation.

Until this excavation, it had been thought that there were only isolated enclosed Iron Age settlements in the area. However, several subsequent large-scale open area excavations

have found extensive settlements, for example in Newcastle Great Park. What has not been found, however, is any sign of settlement after 2nd century AD. Indeed, there is a scarcity of Roman artefacts on the whole coastal plain north of the Wear, in marked contrast to the area south of the river.

The site is being published by Pre-Construct Archaeology as a monograph. Jenny Proctor can be contacted on north.postex@pre-construct.com

March 2009

The March meeting was held jointly with the Society of Antiquaries of London, as one of their regular provincial meetings. SANT president David Breeze, asked *Did Hadrian design Hadrian's Wall?*

As a border-work of the Roman Empire, he said, it was almost unique. It was a very substantial stone structure, with regular fortlets protecting the gateways, main forts astride the Wall, a Vallum and thorn or stake entanglements in at least some parts of it. Other border-works were much flimsier wooden palisades, or turf walls. Even where they were made of stone, they were much thinner.

The historian Mommsen had suggested that the Wall was so formidable because the tribes to the north were in a permanent state of war with Rome. David argued that the difference was due to the involvement of Hadrian in the design of the British frontier. The over-engineering could have come about because it was a grand scheme by an Emperor who 'thought big', as with his Tivoli villa.

Stone might also have been easier to source locally than wood or turf, since the area had already been deforested in the Iron Age, and the Wall was built across arable farmland. This in turn might have affected the design, it being harder to amend stone-built structures than timber ones.

Recent work, though, suggested that the first part of the project had been completed in a much shorter period than originally thought. It was quite feasible that enough of the first plan had been done during the Emperor's sojourn in Britannia in AD 122, for him to order the changes in design once he saw the work on the ground.

Afterwards, in celebration of the presence of the London members, a reception was held

in the Wood Memorial Hall upstairs in the Mining Institute.

April 2009

The April lecture was given by plant historian Dr Marie Addyman, on the medical career of William Turner, born in Morpeth round about 1508. Although he is celebrated today as a natural historian, in his own time he was applauded as a physician, and referred to himself as such. His plant studies were carried out to provide accurate material for physicians and thereby to improve standards among his fellow-countrymen. Today, however, he is rarely mentioned in medical history and little material concerning his medical career has been published.

Medical history has tended to concentrate on the history of ideas, as illustrated by a tiny group of university-trained physicians. Turner belonged to this group, having trained at Cambridge and Padua, but was always more interested in praxis than in theory. When he was growing up in Northumberland, most

people would never have seen a university-trained physician. Even the upper classes called on a wide range of medical practitioners, many of them women, though we know very little about how medical practice was financed and organised.

Turner probably came from an artisan background, so that his choice of physic was a career-move up the social ladder. Even so, he may have been little more than a servant in the household of Protector Somerset, and it is not clear what his status was when he practised medicine in exile on the Continent during Queen Mary's reign. In between those two periods he also held office as a clergyman, and was Dean of Wells for many years. His 'New Herball' was the first book to give reliable records of plants in English, with painstaking descriptions of the plants themselves and the places where they grew.

Dr Addyman's book *William Turner; the Father of English Botany* is available from www.focpmorpeth.org.

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 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 sue.ward@btinternet.com. Deadline for the next edition will be Nov 6th. The mailing date will be Dec 16th. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Secretary by Dec 9th.

Anyone who wants an insert included in the mailing should contact the Membership Secretary in good time before these dates, for details of the requirements.