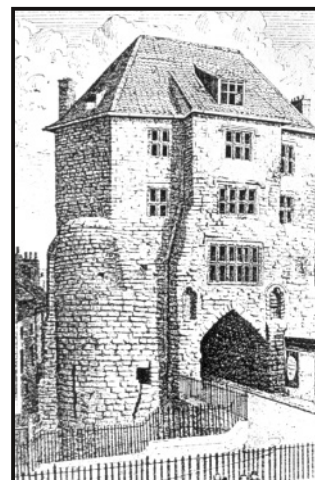


# NEWS BULLETIN

## THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.50 JUNE 2011



### 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, our main collection and our offices 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](http://www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk), or contact the Membership Secretary at Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT. Phone 0191 231 2700 (admin), 0191 222 3555 (library). E-mail [admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk)*

### CONTENTS

<b>From the President</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>50th birthday issue!</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Summer delights</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Our new Treasurer writes...</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Googling the Past?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bicentenary volume</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Membership Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>'Mr Chansfeld's letell monument'</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Heritage Lottery Fund Bid</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>St James' Church Benwell</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>News from the Library</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Rothbury football finds a new home</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>New books from our members</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Filming Siege and Storm</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Note from the Editor</b>	<b>12</b>

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Our new President Lindsay Allason-Jones addressing the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference, held in Newcastle this April. Picture courtesy Frances McIntosh*

Being asked to be President of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne is a very humbling experience, as one thinks back to all one's very distinguished predecessors. For me, this sense of history is particularly marked as I take over in the run-up to our Bicentenary in 2013.

In the past 200 years the Society has seen many changes, both in the region and in our fields of interest. We have outlived many other august institutions, indeed a number of political parties, and our commitment to the history, archaeology and heritage of the North of England remains as strong as ever. For this we are grateful not only to all the members who contribute so much to our events, but particularly to those who serve on the Council and Committees and strive behind the scenes to ensure the work of the Society goes on.

We have been extremely lucky in recent years to have had David Hide as our Treasurer; his wise counsel and shrewd financial acumen have done much to provide the Society with a sound basis for its next 200 years. We wish him well in his retirement and warmly welcome Simon Pallett as his successor.

The Society's life has, for many years, been bound up with the Keep and the Black Gate. The clearance of the Black Gate is now almost complete. Those items that haven't found a roost in another institution will be going to auction in May. Check the Society's website for notice of when the sale is to be held. A full list of the loans is in preparation and will be accessible on the website in due course.

It is very pleasing to see how many young people are now joining the Society. To encourage this, a number of individual members have each agreed to sponsor a student's membership for a year. If anyone else would like to join in this bursary scheme and encourage the next generation of Society members, please let me know. It would be good to be able to extend the scheme.

The Bicentenary Committee is currently working with the Society's other Committees to devise an exciting programme for 2013, including concerts, special lectures, an exhibition and a commemorative publication. If any member has any other ideas, please do contact me.

*Lindsay Allason-Jones,  
President*

## 50TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE!

As you will have seen from the masthead, this edition of the *News Bulletin* is the 50th, so the time seemed right for a little retrospection. There is a neatly-bound file of all the issues up to the year 2000 in our library (another one for later years is in preparation). *Newsbulletin* – one word – No. 1, issued in November 1986, was just two typed pages, edited by Barbara Harbottle. The President of the time, Enid Hart, wrote that it was intended to complement *Archaeologia Aeliana* and 'be a forum for discussion, provide information about current events, local research, other related topics, and forthcoming activities'.

The next issue announced the opening by

Princess Margaret of the Chantry Museum at Morpeth, a new home for the Bagpipe Collection which until then had been housed in the Black Gate. This, it was also explained, meant new arrangements for opening the Library, with a request for volunteers to fill a rota. The following issue announced that the request had been successful.

Once she had relinquished her presidency, Enid Hart became editor of the *Newsbulletin* from the following issue, in June 1988. The next one, in December, reported on events around the 175th Anniversary, including a dinner at the University. The 11th Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall, in 1989, was commemorated with several extra pages of narrative in the style of Mr Pooter. Issue 9, in 1990, reported on a 'Maid of Norway tour' organised by the society, with members travelling to Orkney, Shetland and Bergen in Norway.

Colm O'Brien took over with the December 1991 edition, which was also the first to be printed. Mike Bishop did the layout and saw it through the printer – as he still does. By this time it had risen to four pages, though some subsequent editions were only two. I took over in December 1999. Since then we have acquired spot colour, twelve pages, and a different layout. What the *News Bulletin* – as it now is – will look like after fifty more editions, and whether it will exist at all on paper by then, who knows?

*Sue Ward*

## SUMMER DELIGHTS

Our Summer programme has already begun, but there are plenty of further delights ahead of us.

On 19th June, Louisa Giddens will lead a Time Walk on a trip round Stanhope Common looking at early medieval agriculture. She promises spectacular views, some long perspectives on the area round us and a chance to enjoy the pleasures of the local tea rooms.

July is busy. On the 4th there is an evening Summer Walk, led by John Griffiths and Bridget Gubbins, round the Curious Yards and Alleyways of Morpeth. Meet at the Clock Tower (Oldgate) at 7 pm. The 10th brings Time Walk from Old Bewick to Blawhearie,



*The towering concrete gantry on which Blue Streak was tested in the 1950s at RAF Spadeadam, the venue for our first Time Walk of the summer season. Picture Sue Ward*

led by John Sadler. Steep climbs, but a pleasant and interesting ramble as we explore our region from the prehistoric to the modern era. On the 18th, there is another evening walk, led by John Griffiths round Medical Newcastle. Meet at the Central Station entrance at 7 p.m. On the 23rd there is a Country Meeting, going to Pately Bridge and Nidderdale.

In September, on the 4th there is a Time Walk to Roman Quarries by Hadrian's Wall led by David Breeze, meeting at Fallowfield Fell. The final Country Meeting of the season is to Blackwell Arts and Crafts House, overlooking Lake Windermere, on 17th Sept. Blackwell is the largest and most important surviving example of work by the architect Hugh Mackay Baillie Scott.

Details of all these trips have been circulated on the programme card and in the mailings, and are also on our website, together with application forms for the Country Meetings.

### **OUR NEW TREASURER WRITES...**

I am delighted to have become Treasurer of such a historic and august society, although daunted at taking over from such an experienced Treasurer as David Hide.

Just to introduce myself, I hail from Stafford, but have lived in Newcastle for over 30 years. As a child I always wanted to become an archaeologist or a historian, and did take part in some excavations, notably at Wroxeter.



*Simon Pallett, our new Treasurer*

I read Modern History at Merton College, Oxford. On graduation, not wishing to become a teacher like almost everyone else in my family, I trained to be a Chartered Accountant in Manchester. In 1980 I came to Newcastle to work as Finance Officer for Northern Arts, in due course becoming Assistant Director (Finance and Administration). In 1988 I made a major career change and joined the family business of teaching, becoming a lecturer in Financial Management at what was then Newcastle Polytechnic. Since 1993 I have worked at Newcastle University, and since 2005 I have been Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. To say that working as a manager in higher education is very challenging would be something of an understatement at the moment.

I enjoy music, go to the Sage Gateshead regularly and sing in the Newcastle Bach Choir. I read a great deal, both fiction and non-fiction, including a fair amount of history, enjoy travelling and visiting historic sites. I have for a long time been involved in the voluntary sector and am a non-executive director of a health charity and an arts organisation, both based in Newcastle.

*Simon Pallett*



Saudi desert sites: 'Super Pendant' with a T-Barred Pendant (A), long continuous tail (B), overlain by a Pendant with two tails running south-west (C) and a further Pendant (D) (Google Earth).

## GOOGLING THE PAST?

*Editor's note: The News Bulletin's production process went global in its last edition. Mike Bishop was in Australia at the time, so copy and proofs whizzed back and forth electronically over 12,000 miles, without a hitch. Mike was there on an interesting project, as he describes below.*

I spent November and part of December 2010 at the University of Western Australia in Perth. My sometime PhD supervisor, Prof. David Kennedy, whose speciality is aerial archaeology in the Middle East, had asked me to work with him on a pilot study financed by a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute. He runs the Aerial Photographic Archive for the Archaeology of the Middle East, which now has 37,000 images available on Flickr (<http://tinyurl.com/6hodd6b>), and conducts annual surveys in Jordan with the aid of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. High-resolution images were becoming available on Google Earth for areas of Saudi Arabia never before covered by aerial surveys, and David had begun to plot monuments that he recognised from his own work in Jordan and others that could be seen in areas such as Syria or Yemen. He had already published a popular article on

the phenomenon (see

<http://tinyurl.com/nmzvs9>) but now he wanted to attempt to quantify what he was seeing.

For the pilot study, we took the basalt desert to the east of Jeddah. I went through the sites he had marked and attempted to classify them, whilst at the same time adding more to give nearly 2,000 sites in an area of 1,240 km<sup>2</sup>. Mostly cairns, many sites had sinuous 'tails' of stones piled against them, some forming quite complex and interesting formations. There were a couple of old roads (possibly trade or pilgrimage routes), and some rather intriguing alignments of long straight tails which shared an identical bearing but were separated by several kilometres. The results of our study have been published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (<http://tinyurl.com/SaudiGE>).

*M. C. Bishop*

## BICENTENARY VOLUME

In 2013, to commemorate our Bicentenary, we will be publishing a booklet on the history of the Society, and its role and influence in the North-East.

The booklet, around 76 pages long, will cover topics such as the history of the society, our collections, events and excursions, famous members, and our support for research in the area, over the last 200 years. We want it to be something that anyone interested in the North-East and its history might want to buy, so it will be a full-colour glossy publication, designed by Linda Kay.

Although the articles will be short, the contributors will be doing considerable research into the history of the Society, and we hope that this research will lead to some much longer articles. The aim is to mark the Bicentenary over the next decade with a series of papers in *Archaeologia Aeliana*. Lindsay Allason-Jones' article on the Museum of Antiquities, in our 2009 volume, set the pattern for these.

We also hope to create a collection of memories of the society and the history of the North-East. Anyone who would like to contribute a memory which might be a verbal statement, written or oral, or a film, slides or photographs of society events should send them to Lindsay Allason-Jones, c/o our office in the Great North Museum.

*David Breeze*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

One of the most satisfying trends in the last few months has been seeing the Society's age profile start to change as more younger people join us. Placing leaflets in the library at GNM has helped to bring our existence to the attention of students using the facility, and the student sponsorship scheme (see the President's article, above), has also helped.

A number of stalls have been run at recent events to display leaflets and books and allow us to talk to potential recruits about our activities. Thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help with these. Your support has been most valuable. Look on the website for current opportunities to volunteer – there is a 'volunteer' button on the left-hand side of the front page.

*Rosie Serdiville*

## 'MR CHANSFELLD'S LETELL MONUMENT'



*St Mary's Church, Gateshead, as illustrated in Descriptive and Historical Account of the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne by Eneas Mackenzie (1827)*

Dr Adam White FSA, author of the Walpole Society's *Biographical Dictionary of London Tomb Sculptors*, is researching Nicholas Stone the Elder (c.1587–1647) the leading sculptor in Britain in the early seventeenth century. Most of the monuments he sent out from his workshop in London all over England are listed in a note book and account book, and have been traced by historians over the years, but a few remain elusive, and Dr White has come to the Society for help over the only monument in Northumberland which Stone mentions. It is described as a 'letell monement for Mr Chansfelld sent in to Northomberland' from Stone's workshop c.1620 for which he was paid the modest sum of £22.

Grace McCombie has suggested that Dr White's 'Chansfelld' could be an ancestor of the 'Cansfield', erroneously given as 'Causfield' in many books, who designed the new tower built for Gateshead St Mary's church in 1739–40. The wrong spelling was given by Eneas Mackenzie in his 1827 History of Newcastle upon Tyne and other authors have repeated it since. The Vestry minutes, however, provide the correct spelling.

Delaval documents at Woodhorn also mention a Seaton Delaval family of stone masons called 'Cansfield' in the 1700s. They occur frequently, being paid for work at Seaton Delaval. Dr White's 'Chansfelld' might be an ancestor of or a relation of this 'Cansfield'. The name also occurs in late eighteenth-century references at Berwick – could the family have been working in Berwick in the

1620s? Richard Pears has added, from his researches, that Cansfield made designs for the east front of Seaton Delaval Hall and designs for Gibside buildings, in around 1720, and may have been involved in the design of the east front added to Blagdon Hall in the 1720s.

Grace is still researching this point, but information from anyone else would be gratefully received.

*Sue Ward*

## HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID

Work on the Development Phase of this Project, encompassing the Castle Keep, Black Gate and Cathedral, is progressing well. It is intended that it will all be pulled together and included within a Stage 2 Heritage Grant application, to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in June 2011.

With the support of the three partners and in consultation with English Heritage, the architects, Purcell Miller Tritton LLP, are continuing to develop exciting proposals for the refurbishment and reuse of the Black Gate for learning and interpretation purposes, including the installation of an external lift to allow full access to all floors. In addition, they are preparing detailed proposals to improve the access into and within the Castle Keep, including ramped access into the Garrison Room.

They are also preparing a Conservation Management Plan for the Black Gate, which will include a ten-year maintenance plan to ensure the long term sustainability of the building. Consultants Costain Heritage have now been appointed to produce an Activity Plan in line with guidance provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, setting out the various activities proposed to take place within the three principal buildings within the area (the Black Gate, the Keep, and the Cathedral). Finally, work is progressing on the Interpretation Strategy which will include traditional methods such as panels and leaflets but also cutting-edge digital media which are being developed in conjunction with Newcastle University.

In addition to the HLF-funded work, the refurbishment of St Nicholas' Square, outside



*Lord Mayor Brenda Hindmarsh, with Assistant Bishop of Newcastle Frank White, cutting the ribbon at the new 'Cathedral Square' after a service at St. Nicholas Cathedral on 12 May. Picture credit Stuart Outterside / NNP*

the Cathedral's north door, is now complete and was dedicated on 12th May. New interpretation panels have recently been installed by the City Council within the area and a leaflet on 'Old Newcastle' is available in the city's Tourist Information Centre or to download from <http://www.oldnewcastle.org.uk/>

*Fiona Cullen*

*Editor's Note: Councillor Pauline Allen, who sat on the Heart of the City Partnership Board overseeing the Project, lost her seat in the May council elections and sadly has had to resign from the Board. We wish her well for the future, and look forward to welcoming her successor.*

*Members might also like to know that a new guidebook to the Castle Keep is at proof stage. It should be available by the end of June, and the price will be £3.*

## ST JAMES' CHURCH BENWELL

St James' Church in Benwell is one of the few heritage buildings to survive successive waves of clearance and re-building in the west end of Newcastle. It is the oldest church in Newcastle outside the city centre, opening for worship in 1833. The building, and elements of the churchyard, are Grade 2 listed. The church was designed by John Dobson, and still possesses Dobson's wooden ceiling with its elaborate joinery work and use of decorative colours and shapes. It also contains examples of work by eminent craftsmen and artists such as Ralph Hedley, William Wailes and Eric Gill.

The church was originally built mainly to serve the needs of wealthy families who occupied the large houses and estates that dominated the area in the early part of the nineteenth century. They continue to have a visible presence in the form of memorials and graves. Among those buried at St James' are the builder and developer Richard Grainger, and John Buddle, called by his contemporaries "King of the Coal Trade".

It was also the local church for pitmen and other workers and their families who lived in poor cottages scattered across the area, as well as the inhabitants of the parish workhouse. The huge increase in population during the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, drawn in to serve the burgeoning industries along the riverside and the commercial expansion of the city, transformed the worshipping congregation into one comprising mainly industrial and white collar workers and local tradespeople and their families. Subsequent industrial decline, urban decay and successive urban regeneration programmes during the last fifty years or so have led to further major transformations in the local community.

St James' current condition is a cause for concern, and it is on English Heritage's register of heritage buildings at risk. Significant investment is required to bring the building up to current standards and while it is structurally sound, there are major problems that require remedial work. Together with local partner organisations who share its commitment to preserving and celebrating local heritage, St James' has developed ambitious plans to create a Centre for Heritage and Culture within the church building. This



*St James' Church and its churchyard*

vision is now well on the way to being realised, with a programme of events and projects aimed at enabling local residents of all ages to explore local history. Recently English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant for repairs, including re-roofing. Anyone interested in viewing the church or finding out more about the plans is welcome to visit on a Tuesday between 11.30–3.30. Or you could contact St James' Heritage and Environment Group on 0191 252 8675 email [judith.green@unn.ac.uk](mailto:judith.green@unn.ac.uk).

*Judith Green*

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

It's been a busy time in the library at the Great North Museum: Hancock. University archaeology students are currently the most frequent library visitors, using both the Cowen Library and the Society of Antiquaries' library. It would be lovely to see more Society members in the library so if you haven't been to visit yet then please call in (current opening times are Monday-Friday 10am-4pm). New

books and journals are being added to all three library collections regularly and you can see a selection of these on the Society's website (<http://tinyurl.com/libnewbooksa>) and the library blog (<http://tinyurl.com/libnewbooksb>).

I am delighted to report that, thanks to funding from Newcastle University, we have resumed the process of cataloguing the Society's library collection on to Newcastle University's library catalogue. Two part-time cataloguers, based at the Robinson Library, are working on the Society of Antiquaries' journals and the remaining uncatalogued books and tracts. I am particularly looking forward to being able to see new online records for all the Society's journal holdings and I hope that members will find this really useful too. Thanks again to Denis Peel and all the library volunteers who have helped prepare lists of books and journal holdings in preparation for cataloguing.

To search the Great North Museum: Hancock library collections on Newcastle University's library catalogue go to <http://sparky.ncl.ac.uk/F> and then click on the Local Collections tab at the top of the catalogue search page and select Great North Museum.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the library and use of the University catalogue. You can phone me on 0191 2223555 or email [gnmlibrary@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:gnmlibrary@twmuseums.org.uk)

*Nicky Clarke*

## ROTHBURY FOOTBALL FINDS A NEW HOME



*Lindsay Allason-Jones handing over the Shrove Tuesday football to Tom Pattinson at Bailiffgate Museum. Picture courtesy Tom Pattinson*

One of the objects in the Black Gate collections was a small nineteenth-century football from Rothbury, used in the annual Shrove Tuesday game. Bailiffgate Museum, Alnwick have now taken it on loan, initially for 5 years with a rolling loan from then on. Lindsay delivered the football in person in early March, to much local interest.

According to Tom Pattinson, Chair of the Museum's trustees, each year the most recently married couple in Rothbury parish presented the ball for the Shrove football match. After the game it was presented to the most recently bound apprentice in the parish.

## NEW MEMBERS FOR 2010

Welcome to all those who joined in 2010.

Andrew Agate  
Archaeological Research Service  
Ltd  
Georgina Ascroft  
Jeremy Ashbee  
Tony Barrow  
Lynn Bridgett  
Richard Brigstock  
Cynthia Campbell  
Eric Carter  
Peter Carter  
Kate Clarke  
Alan Coates

Andrew Cox  
Gemma Dyer  
Michael Elder  
Robert Fuller  
Patricia Gillespie  
Marie Griffiths  
Richard Haycock  
Suzanne Howie  
Margaret Hudgson  
John Morgan  
Harold Johnson  
Katie Jones  
Helen and Bruce MacFarlane

Frances McIntosh  
Alan Newham  
D. Oxley  
Simon Pallett  
Nigel Porter  
Sandra Richardson  
Lucien Roach  
David Robson  
Marie-Claire Robson  
Joy Rutter  
Ruth Small  
John Thompson  
Astrid Zippel

The Shrove-tide football tradition continues in Alnwick, where the game is thought to date from 1762. However, the Alnwick Improvement Act of 1822, banned street games including football. Five years later the Duke of Northumberland, who had paid for damage caused by the footballers, consented to the use of pasture land for the game.

The football came to our Society through the Cocks bequest. There must have been a number of households with a football in their possession, so presumably Cocks either bought it or was given it. "More than that I can't surmise; I'm just thrilled we found a home for it," Lindsay Allason-Jones said.

You can read more about the football on [www.journalife.co.uk](http://www.journalife.co.uk).

## NEW BOOKS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The last few months have seen several publications from our busy membership. Cambridge University Press has published *Artefacts in Roman Britain*, edited by our President, Lindsay Allason-Jones. It is intended as an introduction to Roman Britain's material culture, aimed primarily at students and general readers. The paperback edition of the book is available at £18.99, and it is also in our library at GNM.

History Press have produced *The Great Siege of Newcastle, 1644*, by Rosie Serdiville and John Sadler (price £12.99). Their account draws on contemporary source material to tell the story of the people who fought, what motivated them, and who led them.

Finally, our former President David Breeze, Sonja Jilek, and Andreas Thiel have written *Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall*, for English Heritage. This is the latest in a series of multi-language booklets on the frontiers of the Roman empire. With plenty of illustrations, and written in English, French and German, it deals with all the Roman frontiers, while looking especially at Hadrian's Wall. Price is £9.99 from the Hadrian's Wall Country website at [www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org), and also in our library.

## FILMING SIEGE AND STORM



*Re-enactors studying a Civil War gun. Picture, Bill Pickard*

The Discovery Museum exhibition on the Siege continues until 30 October this year, and they have produced a short (free) strip-cartoon book, *Siege and Storm*, by Simon Grennan and Christopher Sperando for children. Segedunum Fort at Wallsend has also got in on the act, with an exhibition of images of Charles I from the National Portrait Gallery, giving the story of the captive king on Tyneside. This runs until 11 September 2011.

Tyne and Wear Museums commissioned a short film, *Siege and Storm*, to tie in with the Discovery Museum exhibition, from Arpeggio Films. It focuses on the last few days of the siege, and the personalities of the Royalist mayor Sir John Marley and the Scots army's commander Alexander Leslie. The dialogue is based on letters and accounts of the time.

The coldest January for years saw some Society members out of doors recreating the 1644 siege of Newcastle. Actors and crew froze but the sun beat resolutely against the walls of Aydon Castle (standing in for Newcastle) and filming was actually completed in two days.

Two tents and two men, with a party of five extras frantically changing costumes as they swapped sides for each shot, comprised the entire Scots army. They were better off than those filming inside the Castle, since they had a little sun to warm them. Indoors, with no heating, faces rapidly came to reflect an authentic look of privation.

Between shots, anyone who could make it back to the sole source of heat (a calor gas stove in the canteen/waiting room) counted themselves fortunate – so long as they could

avoid the costume advisor. I became notorious for removing any visible thermal underwear, fleecy gloves and warming cups of tea. The two women in the film fared best – long voluminous skirts and shawls provide a reasonable degree of warmth, especially with the requisite three petticoats.

Enactors across the region had lent costumes, which meant that extras sometimes tried to claim their own clothes back from the professional actors while filming went on! Society member Bill Griffiths, in particular, just happened to have a magnificent set of seventeenth-century clothing to lend. In his role as a manager at Tyne and Wear Museums, he had commissioned the film, and later said that he had wondered, as he signed off on the project, where the costumes would come from.

*Rosie Serdiville*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### November 2011 Public Lecture

For the November public lecture, the Society joined forces with Newcastle University to support the Inaugural Lecture given by our member Ian Haynes, Professor of Archaeology at the University. Drawing on recent archaeological research from across the Roman Empire, Ian examined the mechanisms by which Rome successfully incorporated potential enemies into the ranks of her own armies.

He took as his starting point a quotation from Julius Civilis in Tacitus' spirited account of Rome's bloodstained year of four emperors, AD 69. 'The Provinces are won by the blood of the provinces', Civilis said. Tacitus' report was no more than a literary fiction, but the argument he voices reflected a defining feature of the Roman Empire – its capacity to pursue its interests through the extensive exploitation of non-citizen soldiers. More than half of Rome's army was made up of auxiliaries, drawn from across the Empire.

Ian examined the ways in which these soldiers were incorporated into the imperial system. While cash and cane played a crucial role in harnessing the manpower of provincial populations, more subtle processes were at play. Recruitment, dress, military routine, distinct cultures of consumption and cult

practice all contributed to the absorption of these disparate peoples – and all helped generate a new style of imperial society in turn. For example, exotic styles of dress and equipment were absorbed into a shared whole, creating a new warrior image. The Roman army provided a kind of 'imagined community' in which individuals could find a sense of shared identity across the empire despite the vast distances involved. The evolution of similar styles of dress exemplified the interplay between local action and official sanction that generated this association. Army life was for the most part a species of urban life, and soldiers were stationed either in towns or in installations which adhered to classic Roman ideas of urban structures, with for example fort headquarters mirroring the forum. Baths were built even in places where the supply of water had to be engineered with considerable difficulty, ensuring that from Northern Britain to the Euphrates, the humblest of soldiers could enjoy one of the great daily rituals of Rome itself.

Ian can be contacted on [ian.haynes@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:ian.haynes@ncl.ac.uk). A recording of his lecture is available on the archive section of [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures).

### January 2011

In January we had an innovation – presentations by two artists-in-residence, with examples of their work.

Ruth Barker has had a 10-month Leverhulme Residency, entitled *Low Metamorphosis*, at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies at Newcastle University, run by Lindsay Allason-Jones. She explained that she was a performance artist, whose work involved retelling myths, stories without a single author or point of origin, but many different versions. The shared stories we tell give us the vocabulary to talk about who we are, and retelling them gives us back links to ancient times.

Ruth showed clips of her performance *To Mithras*, on Hadrian's Wall in summer 2010, when she sang a retelling of the story of the bull-slaying that was part of the *Mithras* rite.

Ruth can be contacted on [ruthjbarker@gmail.com](mailto:ruthjbarker@gmail.com) and there are stills from *To Mithras* on her website, [www.ruthbarker.com](http://www.ruthbarker.com)

Penny Grennan, our second speaker, was artist in residence with the Society itself for

the second half of 2010. She explained that her current work was concerned with the nature of objects, particularly souvenirs, what they signify, their narrative qualities and their importance. Quoting writer Susan Stewart, she asked ‘What is the narrative of origins?’ responding ‘It is the narrative of interiority and authenticity. It is not a narrative of the object; it is a narrative of the possessor.’

Penny showed pictures of her fine collection of souvenirs, and said that she used paint to highlight the confusion between what was an artefact, and therefore potentially highly prized, and what was tat, kitsch, or personal. She used the materiality of the paint to express her own and the objects’ feelings, all of which contributed to the sense of the past being fixed in the present.

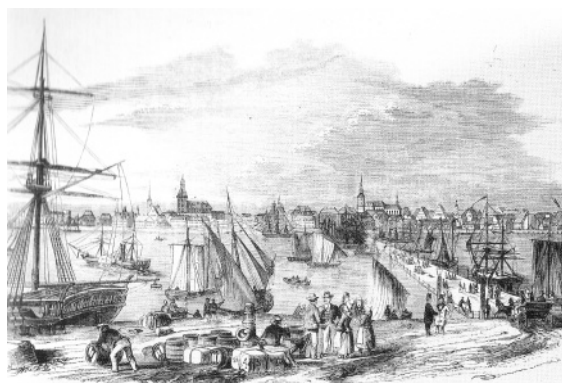
Penny had brought along examples of her works on canvas for us to view, and smaller images of these and other works can be viewed on [www.theartspace.org.uk](http://www.theartspace.org.uk). Penny herself can be contacted on [pennygrennan@hotmail.com](mailto:pennygrennan@hotmail.com)

## February 2011

Mark Simmons, of Hartlepool Museums & Heritage Service, reported on the discovery of a seventh-century royal cemetery at Street House, near Saltburn in North Yorkshire. Excavations had begun in 2004 with a small project to examine crop marks in a field adjacent to a Neolithic long cairn, part of a programme of research into Iron Age settlement in the Tees Valley. Early results suggested that one of the sites was an Iron Age enclosure, while the other was a Romano-British enclosure. The discovery of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was a complete surprise. The first thirty graves discovered, in a linear pattern, turned out to be the western side of a complex of 109 graves in a unique square-shaped layout around a central mound, a bed burial, and possibly also a mortuary building.

Preservation in the acidic soil was poor, and no human remains were recovered. However, sixty-four individual graves contained artefacts, including a number of very high-status burials with gold and silver jewellery.

There were also beads, girdle hangers, knives, boxes and a sword. All the datable artefacts appeared to be seventh-century, and many had a Kentish origin or inspiration. The most beautiful was a shield-shaped pendant with cloisonné garnets found with the bed



*A nineteenth-century engraving of the Baltic port of Riga, from the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation*

burial; the stone in the middle of this may be re-used Roman. There was also a strange jet object, doughnut shaped but with protuberances, and fragments of what seemed to be a very fine chain, made of ivory.

All the finds are being exhibited at Kirkleatham museum from the end of May 2011, with a full publication also scheduled for this year. Mark can be contacted at [mark.simmons@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:mark.simmons@hartlepool.gov.uk).

## March 2011

Dr Adrian Osler talked about Newcastle’s Baltic Trade in the years 1860–1880, and in particular about Robert Coltman Clephan, a merchant on the Quayside.

The Baltic trade, Adrian suggested, helped shape the sea-transport provisions of the Port of Tyne during an unprecedented period of technological change and export growth. A key commodity was coal – steam-coal from Northumberland, gas-coals from County Durham. In the early 1860s, the Port of Tyne originated 60% of the trade in these items going to the Baltic. By 1881, trade with the area had quadrupled, growing much faster than Newcastle’s trade in coal as a whole. The Moscow Gas Company alone placed an annual order for 80,000 tons of Durham gas coal in 1880. There was also financial innovation, including the creation of a coal futures market.

Over this period, steam ships came to play a steadily more dominant role. However, they did not drive out sail so much as complement it and take up the growth in demand. Only in 1874 did the tonnage of steam shipping begin to outstrip that of sail.

Clephan’s firm, Clephan and Wiencke, became sole agents for pig-iron from Lord

Armstrong's enterprises, and it was possible that the contact was made through the Lit and Phil, of which both men were keen members. Clephan was for many years a vice-president of the Society of Antiquaries. He was a recognised expert on medieval armour, built up a fine collection of his own, and wrote extensively on topics such as tournaments.

Adrian Osler can be contacted on [ago@osler.demon.co.uk](mailto:ago@osler.demon.co.uk)

#### **April 2011**

The AGM in April saw another variation on our normal lectures, with Rosie Serdiville leading a session on Saints, Sinners and Soldiers: the Art of Historical Interpretation. This was about finding ways to present history that made it understandable and accessible for the public, she suggested. Historical re-enactment, interpretation, or 'living history' were three different ways of doing this.

Interpretation often meant considerable research into primary sources, and could raise some very pertinent questions. Often interpreters were looking for characters who could tell a story in their own words. With earlier periods of history, this might involve taking an oral tradition that had been written

down a very long time afterwards, or material that was subject to its own conventions such as saints' lives, and adapting it as necessary.

It was important to think oneself back into the past, not base one's ideas on modern conditions. Some military re-enactors, for example, had concluded that Roman soldiers would have been exhausted carrying the amount of equipment reported in the sources. In reality the average Roman soldier would have been a great deal fitter than the average re-enactor, and more muscular!

Rosie then moved to a practical demonstration, concentrating on the history of the Irish in Northern England. She asked Colm O'Brien to read a poem by his namesake St Columba, and then brought in an Irish princess, Fin, played by Hilary Bronksi, a genuine nineteenth-century Sunderland doctor, Reid Clanny, played by John Sadler, and a fictional local policeman in 1921 played by Bill Pickard.

Rosie can be contacted on [rosie.serdiville@talktalk.net](mailto:rosie.serdiville@talktalk.net), and information about Time Bandits, the historical interpretation group she works with, is on [www.johnsadler.net](http://www.johnsadler.net).

#### **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 1NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, or e-mail me at [sue.ward@phonecoop.coop](mailto:sue.ward@phonecoop.coop)*

*Deadline for the next edition will be 4th Nov 2011. The mailing date will be 14th Dec. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Secretary by 7th Dec. Anyone who wants an insert included in either mailing should contact the Membership Secretary in good time for details of the requirements. An electronic copy of any insert should also be provided (as a Word or pdf document) so that it can be included on the website.*