

# NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.51 DECEMBER 2011



*The Castle Keep, Black Gate and Cathedral: pictures courtesy Newcastle City Council*

## THE BLACK GATE LIVES AGAIN!

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There was delight in early October when it was announced that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had awarded a grant of £1.44m towards the £1.67m Old Newcastle Project. The Heart of the City Partnership and Newcastle City Council had been given development funding of £43,400 in July 2010, and the successful application this June was the result of much intensive work by the three Partners – the City Council, the Cathedral authorities, and Newcastle Antiquaries.

Since the Antiquaries moved their library and office to the Great North Museum, the 13th-century Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade I listed Black Gate has been standing empty, but the HLF's investment will completely revitalise it. The Project will bring this striking building back into public use as a fully accessible heritage, education and community resource, and reconnect it with its medieval neighbours, the Castle Keep and Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, creating a

## 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 for administration; 0191 222 3555 for the library, or e-mail [admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk)*

heritage hub in the heart of the city.

The works will include physical changes to the Black Gate, including the introduction of an external access deck around the eastern elevation and lift on the northern elevation to allow full access to all floors, the creation of access ramps to the building from the road and the refurbishment of the interior to provide flexible spaces for receiving visitors, interpretation and learning. There will also be changes to the Castle Keep to improve disabled access into the building at ground floor level via the Garrison Room.

A Project Manager and Learning Officer will be appointed for the four-year lifetime of the Project to oversee the delivery of the Project's approved Activity Plan, including a Learning Programme aligned with the National Curriculum, and an Interpretation Strategy that incorporates the use of both traditional and innovative digital media.

Newcastle City Council's Cabinet Member for Quality of Life, Councillor Henri Murison said: "This is fantastic news for the city and the Old Newcastle Partnership, and means not just preservation of our heritage, but real benefits for the city's economy and jobs. Opening up these treasures will bring even more people to our city."

*Fiona Cullen*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Our visit to Roman quarries in Northumberland in September: picture Lindsay Allason-Jones*

This has been an exciting few months for the Society as the Old Newcastle bid was prepared and delivered to the Heritage Lottery Fund in association with the City and the Cathedral. We were extremely pleased to learn that the bid had been successful. Many thanks to all who were involved in this complicated and time-consuming effort, particularly David Hide, Sue Ward, Grace McCombie, Tony Ball and Beryl Charlton. This, of course, is just the beginning and a great deal of work faces us in the future as the Project gets under way.

The work of clearing our old premises in the Black Gate has now reached its end, in good time for the new project. Many of the objects have gone on loan to local museums, and others to the Castle Keep. The rest were sold at auction, netting a total of £5,000 which went a long way to meeting the costs of the move. A complete list, setting out where each object has gone will soon be available on our website.

I have made a point of attending as many committee meetings, outings and events as I can and have been much encouraged by the high level of activity. Our monthly meetings continue to cover a wide range of topics by excellent speakers and attract good audiences. Our membership drives and new leaflets have had good results and our membership figures are as strong as they have ever been.

On the Country Meetings and the Walks one meets a completely different set of people from those who attend the Monthly Meetings or the social events. This is all to the good and reveals the wide spread of interests held by our

members as well as our ability to cater for those interests. A good number of people have attended the Walks and special Country Meetings such as the enthralling visit to Spadeadam, but we could do with better attendance at the usual Country Meetings. Please do come along, and bring guests as well. As the cost of petrol rises, members may find these outings increasingly cost effective as a way of exploring areas further afield.

As we move into 2012, we must start to build a sense of excitement about 2013, our Bicentenary Year. Plans are well advanced as to how we will celebrate this. We want to use the year to raise the profile of the Society and attract new members. SANT has always played a major part in the protection and study of the heritage of the North of England and our 200th year is not the time to be modest about our achievements.

*Lindsay Allason-Jones*

## NEW YEAR SOCIAL EVENING

As usual, there will be a social evening after the January 2012 lecture, in the Wood Memorial Hall on the first floor of the Mining Institute. We would be grateful if members would donate food for the buffet; please contact me on 0191 285 5303 to say what you are bringing. We will also be asking for a small donation, around £1, for each glass of wine.

New members who have joined in the last year will be especially welcome. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourselves to fellow-members; we all have shared interests.

*Freda Thompson*

## OUR PRESIDENT RETIRES...FROM THE UNIVERSITY!

October's celebration in the Great North Museum to mark Lindsay's retirement wasn't the usual type of University farewell occasion. There were her colleagues of course, but also fellow archaeologists and museum directors from across the country, students (past and present), writers, artists, teachers, journalists, regional council officials, members of our



*The 'Roman Tombstone' baked by staff from Lindsay's department for her retirement party*

Society and the Royal Archaeological Institute – and museum visitors who had once come to see an exhibition and somehow found themselves enthused into volunteering to help.

It was an evening to recall the significant achievements of Lindsay's career, from the time she arrived in 1978 as a junior technician in the Joint Museum and particularly after 1987 when, on David Smith's retirement, she became archaeological museums officer. We recalled the extraordinary sequence of groundbreaking exhibitions and projects which kept our small museum in the national headlines: the pioneering use of the Web to mount exhibitions reaching out annually to over two and a half million visitors; displays infiltrated into hospital waiting rooms and workplace canteens; the timely Valentine Day suggestion, picked up by 196,000 web sites, that Cleopatra (to judge by our Society's coin collection) was very far from the beauty of Elizabeth Taylor's depiction. The museum was responsible for huge, and award-winning, education projects with local schools and encouraged artists and writers to exploit its rich resources.

Lindsay established the museum as a major University research and teaching centre. It was hailed by the Higher Education Funding Council as a model operation – and given the same A+ rating as the Ashmolean and the Fitzwilliam. She also ensured that our collection was more fully catalogued than most others in the country, and in a stream of books and papers she published artefacts from excavations and collections along the Wall and across the country. Abroad, her contributions

have been highly valued by hard-pressed colleagues in Libya and the Sudan. Her farewell party gave so many a chance to thank her for her friendship, her encouragement and her inspiration.

*Richard Bailey*

## TEN MONTHS IN – THE NEW HON. TREASURER REPORTS...

Ten months after taking office, I am starting to get the hang of things. There is quite a lot one needs to know to be effective in the role and I am starting to get there. It's been a difficult ten



*Simon dwarfed by the standing stones at Callanish, in the Hebrides*

months, with extra one-off expenditure linked to the Keep and the move to the GNM which has severely depleted our cash balances. There is no need to panic, as we have a large amount of investments we can fall back on, but I have been trying to avoid doing this, as spending the Capital Fund will affect our future income.

Furthermore many things have become more expensive, especially for charities which can't reclaim VAT. So finances are tight, and I plan to take a critical look at our annual pattern of "normal" expenditure after the end of this financial year with Executive and Council, to ensure that we are spending limited funds efficiently.

I'd like to recall one recent pleasurable incident. In completing a request for the Library to be able to buy books from Blackwells on credit, there was a question which asked when the business was established. Imagine my pleasure in being able to write in "1813", considerably longer than Blackwells has been around. It is quite something to feel that you're part of a (nearly) two hundred year old tradition.

Being Hon. Treasurer certainly involves considerable correspondence, most of it related to paying bills. My wife often jokingly complains that we get more post for SANT than we get for ourselves!

I'd be particularly grateful if members could pay their subs on time, if not paying by direct debit, and sign a gift aid declaration, if they are taxpayers who haven't already done so. Direct Debit and Gift Aid forms are available on the website, or from Sarah in the office.

*Simon Pallett*

## LIBRARY NEWS

The whole of the Society's library is now included on Newcastle University Library's electronic catalogue, thanks to a generous grant from the Marc Fitch Fund. You can look at it on [www.ncl.ac.uk/library](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library), without needing to log in. Just click 'library catalogue' on the right side of the page, and then either the Keywords or the A-Z search system. If you find the book you want, click on 'location details', and you can see whether it is one of our books. Click 'expand' and you'll find the shelfmark in our library. However, this catalogue is only for the books in the GNM Hancock library. We also own books held at the Bagpipe Museum, Morpeth and at the County Record Office at Woodhorn. In the fullness of time a complete browseable shelf list of all our books in these categories will be available.

Members can borrow both books and periodicals, for up to 3 months at a time – and I would be glad if more did so. We do not record visits by members, but we know that the number of items borrowed has fallen to 145 this year – perhaps because people are coming

in to consult the books rather than taking them away, now we have longer opening hours or perhaps because more material is available via the Internet.

We do have a number of books on the catalogue marked 'missing'. This can happen when members "borrow" them and fail to return them. At some later date the librarian changes and they are never chased up. Some of the missing books were recorded as far back as 1947. We never sell our books, so any you find anywhere with our embossed stamp are ours.

### Getting Them Back

Getting them back is another story, but do not despair. Just after the end of World War Two a handsome young National Service man called in at the Black Gate to look at some of his family wills stored there. As time was short and they were difficult to read he was allowed to take them away.

A few months ago his niece called me about returning them! As they were fragile I arranged to meet her in Devon where we were holidaying, and at a certain NT establishment under the guise of tourists the handover was made while the rest of our party created a diversion scrabbling round for walnuts which were dripping from the trees. Mr Ian Lilburne, now in his eighties, has recovered from the initial shock of the £1 a week fine, multiplied by 66 years. As he was penitent, his niece charming and the weather unbelievable I let



*The Missing Wills are handed over to the Librarian: picture courtesy Georgina Peel*

him off – but beware ye other sinners.

The wills were from the Lilburne family and will be added to our collection at Woodhorn. I have transcribed one of them (the easiest) which made interesting reading. Ian's brother Alistair was elected to the Society in 1947. He was active in researching the family history, and our Proceedings in the late 1940s have a number of articles from him on the Lilburne family.

### New Books in the Library

In past years, we have included a complete list of new books added to the library in the year in the December edition of the *News Bulletin*. However, this has been discontinued, and instead we are putting updated lists on the website every few months, and giving you just the edited highlights here.

In addition to the usual periodicals sixty items were added, of which thirty-three were donations. Many thanks to the donors, including Lindsay Allason-Jones, David Breeze, Peter Clarke, Peter Davis, Brian Dobson, Barbara Harbottle, Paul Frodsham, David Gardner-Medwin, Rev. Terry Hurst, Grace McCombie, Norman Moore, Richard Pears, Denis Peel, Mavis Robinson and Peter Ryder.

Notable additions include *Artefacts in Roman Britain*, by our President Lindsay Allason-Jones, *Frontiers of the Roman Empire; Hadrian's Wall* by past president David Breeze, *From Stonehenge to Santa Claus* by Paul Frodsham and *The Armstrong Effect* by Geraldine Hunwick.

*Denis Peel, Librarian*

## RECORDS BROKEN AT THE CASTLE KEEP

The Castle Keep has broken its revenue record for the fourth consecutive year. At the end of October revenue for 10 months stood at nearly £69,000, more than the total for the 12 months of 2010. We will be setting a new revenue record every day for the rest of 2011. October was our third best month, with revenue one-third up on October last year. There were eight venue hires in the month, all ghost related, and more to come in the rest of the year.

Local schools and universities continue to

make good use of the Keep as an educational resource. Additionally, we have hosted school groups from Germany, Spain, Thailand and Ukraine, and two separate groups from each of Holland and Italy.

Over two thousand visitors came to see us during the Late Show in May and Heritage Open Days in September. We had to close our doors on several occasions as we had reached our safe operating limit. Visitors had to queue down the forebuilding stairs to the street. There were many positive comments about the building, the models, the re-enactors (York City Levy and Time Bandits), and the view.

Retail sales were up by nearly 50%. Much of that is down to the new guidebook, of which we have sold 200 in the 18 weeks since publication. The reconstruction drawing is perfect for explaining to school children how the site looked in its heyday, and it has also been used as a postcard and fridge magnet, both of which are selling well. Additionally, it has appeared in the local press and is also used in Dave Heslop's excellent book, *Digging Deeper*.

Tom Hogarth left the team in August, and was replaced in October by Tilly Makemson who worked previously at Beamish Museum. Tilly hails from the Isle of Wight.

We're all looking forward to the implementation phase of the Old Newcastle project following the successful HLF bid.

*Tony Ball*

## TIME WALKS FOR 2012

We have four walks scheduled for next year, starting with the annual post- Christmas reviver. Traditionally, this has been organised for the period between Christmas and New Year – a chance to escape the house and the sales! It has slipped for a couple of years into the New Year, but we are now reverting to the practice. An urban walk will take place on Thursday, 29th December, 2011. I will be leading this one since it gives me an opportunity to explore suffragette activity in the City. Meet at 10am at St Nicholas Cathedral.

Phil Abramson will be taking us on a tour of the Otterburn range, looking at a variety of sites, ancient and modern, Roman through

medieval with a opportunity to look at the remains of World War One training trenches. We will meet outside the Percy Arms in Otterburn for 10.30 am on Saturday 21st April. We will be organising a car pool and will need to provide a list of those attending a month in advance of the trip. Sandwich lunch recommended, though we should finish by mid-afternoon.

Chris Burgess is leading two walks for us. The first, in May, will look at the new archaeology emerging from the Flodden 500 project, particularly with regard to the encampments and routes of march. In September we will return to the theme of training trenches, as Chris takes us to look at a set at Blaeberry Hill near Rothbury.

The dates for the last two walks depend on external events so cannot be confirmed yet. We will put updates on the website and in the monthly e-mail reminders. Alternatively, you can contact me on [rosie.serdiville@gmail.com](mailto:rosie.serdiville@gmail.com) or by telephone on 0191 230 3797.

*Rosie Serdiville*

## LECTURES AND ACTIVITIES

Thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the Society's events, indoors and outdoors, during this year. I would like to give a particular vote of thanks to Freda Thompson, who organised an enjoyable President's Evening in the Guildhall in June. She has organised these occasions for a good number of years, but has now retired from this role and leaves us with memories of some fine summer evenings.

I am happy to say that she will continue to organise the reception which we hold annually in the library of the Mining Institute after the January Anniversary Meeting. This year it will be on January 25th, and our lecturer will be Mike Campbell on 'Creating the Cullercoats Artists' Exhibition'. Details of our other speakers throughout 2012 are in the programme card, and will be on the website.

*Colm O'Brien*

## COUNTRY MEETINGS



*The Antiquaries in the middle of the sculpture at Coldstones Cut: picture Lindsay Allason-Jones*

Our July trip this year was to the ‘Coldstones Cut’, a massive sculpture near Pately Bridge in Yorkshire, big enough for visitors to walk through and explore. It overlooks the huge working Coldstones Quarry and offers spectacular views over the scenery of Nidderdale in the Yorkshire Dales. It’s the work of artist Andrew Sabin, commissioned by local voluntary arts group Nidderdale Visual Arts in conjunction with Hanson Aggregates which operates the quarry, to replace the simple viewing platform that had existed before. Despite its huge size, the quarry, only two miles from Pately Bridge, is hidden from view by its location and by a protective earth bund. Look at [www.thecoldstonescut.org](http://www.thecoldstonescut.org) for some extraordinary pictures.

The September outing was to Blackwell House, the fascinating Arts and Crafts House in Cumbria. The long journey through pouring rain provided extraordinary mist effects in the



*Tea with the WI at Crook after the Blackwell House outing: picture Lindsay Allason-Jones*

Lake District but the dampness of the day was alleviated by the magnificent tea which was provided by Crook Women’s Institute. It has long been a tradition of the Society to ask local WIs to provide afternoon tea for our summer outings but this was voted the best we’d ever had and definitely worth recording - as the picture shows.

Many thanks to Mary Longley for doing the administration of these trips, ensuring they always go smoothly whatever the weather. There will be more in 2012 – watch out for details in the March mailing.

*Lindsay Allason-Jones*

## ROSEMARY CRAMP BECOMES A DAME



*Rosemary Cramp DBE, picture courtesy Durham University*

Many congratulations to our long-standing member Rosemary Cramp, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at Durham University, who became a Dame of the British Empire in the July Honours List this year, following her CBE in 1987.

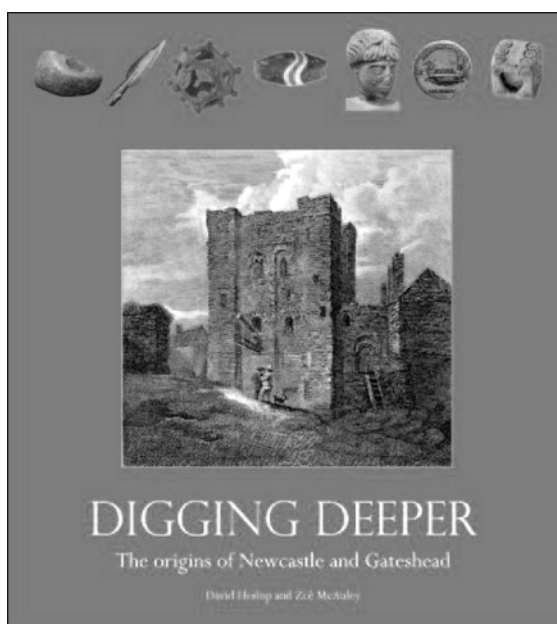
Rosemary grew up on a farm in Leicestershire, and joined the Department of Archaeology at Durham University in 1955. Over the next 35 years, she played a key role in expanding the archaeology department and carried out many major excavations, including those at the twin monasteries of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth. She set up, and is still involved with, the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, a long-term project providing a detailed, authoritative survey of English pre-

Conquest sculpture. Under her guidance, the project has grown to the point where it now involves the work of more than thirty researchers spread throughout the country, including epigraphers and geologists, though it remains based in the Archaeology Department at Durham.

The Rosemary Cramp Fund, set up on her retirement in 1990, has made available numerous small grants to students and staff.

Sue Ward

## NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST



*Digging Deeper*, picture Tyne Bridge Publishing

*Digging Deeper*, published by Tyne Bridge Publishing, is by our member David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist and researcher Zoe McAuley. At £8.50 for 84 pages, it would be an excellent Christmas present. It covers the archaeology of Tyneside, and the origins of the people who have lived here from earliest times. It's available in the City Library, and from Tyne Bridge's website, along with a range of their other publications.

*The Curious Yards and Alleyways of Morpeth* is published by Greater Morpeth Development Trust. The idea for the book emerged from a Newcastle Antiquaries summer walk in Morpeth in 2010, led by John Griffiths. Morpeth resident Bridget Gubbins was so inspired by it that she went away and

researched how the new town of Morpeth was laid out on the open field system by Roger de Merlay III in 1239, and how the yards and alleyways that still exist evolved from the pattern of the agricultural rigs. "The theme is that Morpeth is built on the work of the ploughmen", she says. The book costs £5, and you can buy it at the Tourist Information office in Morpeth Chantry, Appleby's bookshop, and Waterstones in Morpeth, or direct from the Greater Morpeth Development Trust, phone 01670 503866.

*The Hive Of Liberty* is about the life and work of radical pamphleteer and poet Thomas Spence, born on Newcastle's Quayside in 1750. He claimed to have invented the phrase 'The Rights of Man', and in 1775, read a lecture on the right to property in land to the Newcastle Philosophical Society, who voted for his expulsion at their next meeting. The booklet has been edited by Keith Armstrong, and is published by The Thomas Spence Trust at £5 per copy. Orders (add £2 postage per copy) to the Trust at 93 Woodburn Square, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3JD. Tel 0191 252 9531.

## WEBSITE NEWS

Enclosed in this mailing you will find a note about the introduction of new 'private pages' on our website. Information about our meetings and publications will remain in the public domain, but having member-only pages will mean that we can include extra material. This change means that for the first time it's important that you know your Membership Number – printed on the mailing envelope – as it will form part of your log-in. So before you throw the envelope away, check the number and write it on the membership card!

Our monthly e-mailing list is also growing, as a result of a trawl through members' records. The hundredth name was added in mid-November, and others have joined since. It gives the opportunity to find out about not just our events, but those of other organisations which are likely to be of interest. If you would like to join, send an e-mail to us at [events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk). We also have a Facebook page, for anyone who is that technologically savvy – thanks to Rob Collins for setting it up and looking after

it. It would be good to have an account also on one of the photo-sharing sites like Flickr; members could then load up photos of outings and other events, and other members could gain access via our private pages. Any offers?

And then there are blogs. Twitter, and all the other new technologies coming along....

Meanwhile, we have a far-flung member in Los Angeles, Scott Vanderbilt, who has been doing sterling voluntary work checking and editing the contents pages of all the editions of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, right back to Series 1 Volume 1 published in 1822. Scott is also now working on a searchable database of all AA contents pages, so that researchers will be able to find out easily what has been written about, for example, Northumbrian castles over the years and by whom. This will also be searchable by author's surname and by volume, and will have feature to make it easy to find an item even when one is not sure of the exact name or spelling. This database should be ready in the New Year – check the website for more information. It's being tested out by helpers recruited via the e-mailing list, who haven't been able to make it fall over yet!

Scott's a freelance software developer with, he says, "a passion for Roman Britain". Alongside with the work he's so kindly doing for us, he's developing a website covering all the Roman inscriptions in Britain. It will also be launched some time in the New Year, so keep an eye out for that too.

Nearer home, Richard Rook has done much research on our Links pages, to bring our list of addresses for local history societies all over the country up to date, and Jennifer Carey is in the process of scanning in our past Annual Reports. Our thanks to both.

*Sue Ward*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### May 2011

The May lecture was given by Sue Ward, about Alcuin of York. This eighth-century figure was not now much remembered, she said, but in his time he was an important scholar and teacher with an international reputation. He was born around 735 in what is now East Yorkshire, spent the first part of his life in York, moved in middle age to Charlemagne's court and circle,



*Alcuin in a ninth-century manuscript illumination: picture courtesy Wikipedia Commons*

and died in 804 as Abbot of St Martin of Tours.

Alcuin was a prolific writer in both prose and poetry, and his longest poetic work, the 1658-line 'Bishops, Kings and Saints of York' is an ecclesiastical history of York, covering the period from its Roman foundation up to the year 780, with Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica* as a major source.

Internal evidence showed that it was written at some time between 780 and 796, but Sue argued that it could be dated more specifically to an important ecclesiastical event, the Legatine Council in England in 786, at which Alcuin took a major part. Some of the information in the poem appeared almost nowhere else, in particular about the building of *Alma Sophia*, York's second major church after the Minster. It might have been centrally-planned, and possibly stood on the site now occupied by the Minster's polygonal chapter-house.

Alcuin wrote disappointingly little about York's appearance or how far it functioned as an urban settlement, but he did show that in his contemporary perception, it was an *urbs*, and was dominated by its archbishop. It was perhaps comparable in this to the old Imperial capital of Trier. Excavations at Fishergate in the last few years had shown that it was at least as much of an 'emporium' as Hamwic or Ipswich during the period.

Sue can be contacted on [sue.ward@phoncoop.coop](mailto:sue.ward@phoncoop.coop)

## June 2011

The June lecture was given by Dr Marilyn Lewis, and was about Henry Atherton MD, who was born in Somerset in 1649 and was Town's Physician of Newcastle from 1682 to 1700. For a seventeenth-century medic, she explained, he was relatively experimental, but even so probably did very little hands-on medicine. The school of medical thought to which he belonged concentrated on listening to their patients describing symptoms and taking a careful medical history. His home was in Pilgrim Street, and as one of the medical élite he would have known everyone worth knowing in Newcastle at the time. He lived through turbulent times in Newcastle, since in 1684 James II removed the town's charter, so that in 1688 the Corporation were happy to support the Glorious Revolution. Atherton, who advocated submission to the authorities, had a pamphlet quarrel during this time with Thomas Naggs, who advocated active resistance.

Alongside his medical duties, Atherton was also linked closely to the Cambridge Platonists, a group of 17th-century philosophers at Cambridge University. From them he took the idea that one could use supernatural phenomena to prove the existence of God. In 1680 he published a broadsheet about his sister, who was in a coma for 6 days and then revived. He proclaimed she had been brought back from heaven by an angel, but had met several recently dead acquaintances during her time there, including one whom no-one knew at the time was dead.

He was an early admirer of Descartes, and in 1683 he wrote an influential but now forgotten book called *The Christian Physician*, with the aim of combating atheism through the use of Descartes' methods. His views were largely a reaction to the Calvinist doctrine of predestination, emphasising instead the Arminian doctrine that everyone could be saved, if they lived a holy life and co-operated with the grace of God.

Marilyn Lewis can be contacted at MarilynALewis@aol.com

## July 2011

Under the intriguing title of *Sing Tantararara, Rogues all*, Derek Cutts explained his research on the mid eighteenth-century electorate of Northumberland. Corruption in eighteenth-

century borough elections was well known, he said, but county electorates, being larger, are sometimes considered to be more difficult to influence.

Derek's starting point was a hitherto unnoticed and unpublished manuscript (GY127/9) bound into a volume of tracts in the Society's library. This is a detailed description of freeholds in Tynedale Ward and an analysis of disputed freeholds, made in preparation of an appeal against the result of the 1748 by-election.

The networks of loyalties in Northumberland and the way in which elections during this period were conducted meant that contests were ruinously expensive for the candidates and their supporters. Most contests were avoided by compromise between the leading landowners and 1748 was the only contested election between 1734 and 1774.

Analysis of the poll book, canvass papers, land tax returns and the unpublished manuscript allowed Derek to see the structure of the electorate, including the considerable variation between wards. Estate papers, correspondence and contemporary printed material showed how the numbers of freeholders in particular localities could be manipulated through building leases and annuities. Through the operation of "interest", a small number of major landowners were able to exercise considerable control over voting. Contemporary allegations that the Earl of Tankerville was able to secure a near majority for his son, Lord Ossulstone by enfranchising some of the poorest of his tenants, "the cotters of Glendale", were confirmed. The appointment of a "pocket sheriff", who disqualified a number of valid votes cast for Ossulstone's opponent Lancelot Allgood completed the catalogue of corruption which secured the result. Allgood gained the seat on appeal.

Derek can be contacted at derek@cuttsd.fsnet.co.uk

## August 2011

In August we heard from Christopher Hunwick, Archivist to the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle, about Harry Percy – the Hotspur of Shakespeare's history plays.

Very few authentic artefacts linked with Hotspur survived, he explained, nor was there



*An 18th century roundel portrait (or artist's impression) of Hotspur from the Long Gallery at Syon House. Image courtesy of The Collections of the Duke of Northumberland at Syon House.*

a contemporary image. Petworth House had a sword that was claimed to be his, carried to Petworth by his widow after his death. In fact it was seventeenth-century, and the number '1392' engraved on its blade was a serial number, not a date.

Hotspur was involved in war from an early age, and jousting when he could not find real fighting to do. During a Scottish attack on Newcastle in 1388, Hotspur jousting with the Earl of Douglas before the city walls and lost his pennon, the attempted recovery of which led to the famous night battle of Otterburn. Here Douglas was slain, but Hotspur was captured and later ransomed. This battle inspired the ballad of Chevy Chase.

Hotspur took a leading part in the deposition of Richard II and the accession of Henry IV, and went on to serve Henry in Wales against Owain Glyndwr and in Scotland. The British Library holds a series of letters from Hotspur to the king, each more pressing for money to repay his expenses for these activities. He received nothing, however, and the king demanded Hotspur's prisoners after his victory over the Scots at Humbledon Hill in 1402.

In 1403, Hotspur revolted, but was defeated and killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury. The king ordered his body to be quartered, and each quarter displayed in a different town, while his head went to York. Later he rescinded this decree and allowed Hotspur's

widow to collect together the pieces and bury them.

Hitherto, there has been great confusion over where Hotspur was actually buried but the Duke's archives contain two pedigrees from the 15th century that give almost certain evidence that this final resting place was in the Percy tomb close to the high altar in York Minster. In 1736, when a new pavement was put in, the gravestone was destroyed and all trace of him lost.

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### **September 2011**

The September lecture was given by Dr Adrian Green, of Durham University, about the seventeenth-century Bishop of Durham John Cosin, and his architectural patronage.

Cosin, Adrian explained, was born into a merchant family at Norwich in 1594, and was educated at Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, the college with the most sophisticated architecture in Cambridge. When he became domestic chaplain to Richard Neile, Bishop of Durham, he would have been working for one of the great builder-bishops, who rebuilt Durham and Auckland Castles in the 1620s and 1630s. He became Master of Peterhouse in 1635, but spent the years of the Interregnum, impoverished and persecuted, at the court of Henrietta Maria in France. In 1660, after the Restoration, he became Bishop of Durham.

Adrian described Cosin by this stage as an 'old man in a hurry', very energetic and interventionist. He contributed to the rebuilding of the County Court in Durham, refounded the almshouses and the schools on Palace Green, and was involved in the rebuilding of the Guildhall in Market Square. In the Cathedral, he created the magnificent choir stalls and the chancel screen, and did much work on both Durham and Auckland Castles. His crowning glory was perhaps the woodwork in Brancepeth church, sadly destroyed in the recent fire. His architect for much of the work was John Longstaff, whose Quaker faith Cosin was prepared to overlook.

As a High Church Laudian, Cosin's concern was for the 'beauty of holiness', and many of his writings explained how parish churches should work, as a sacred temple calling in God's presence. This was in contradiction to the Calvinist belief that the building was

immaterial, the preaching all-important.

Adrian can be contacted on a.g.green@durham.ac.uk. Durham Heritage Centre will have an exhibition on John Cosin's life and architecture when it reopens in spring 2012; see [www.durhamheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.durhamheritagecentre.org.uk) for details.

### October 2011

At short notice, our speaker John Griffiths unfortunately could not attend, but Colm O'Brien did an admirable job reading from John's text, on *T. Dan Smith and the Brasilia of the North*.

The story of the rise and fall of politician T. Dan Smith, he said, had been obscured by myths, half-truths and the rising myths of folk history. He concentrated instead on the six-year period from 1959 to 1965 when Smith was leader of Newcastle City Council and bringing forward plans for the redevelopment of the City Centre. In popular use of the tag 'the Brasilia of the North' what was often overlooked was Newcastle's very real connection with Brazil's new capital. Though distinguished architect Oscar Niemeyer designed many of Brasilia's finest buildings, the *planner* was an old boy of the Royal Grammar School, Lucio Costa, who died only in 1998.

Smith's pioneering redevelopment plan, John's text went on, was the first of a 'new wave' of city centre plans in the UK. He saw his plans for the city as a catalyst for regional development and attracting new industries, and he created one of the first independent town planning departments in any British town or city, with Wilfred Burns as chief officer. A significant influence on the

Newcastle plan was the blueprint for Fort Worth, in Texas, by Victor Gruen, which segregated pedestrians and vehicles through a network of underground roads and above-ground walkways.

While the Fort Worth plan was never implemented, in Newcastle Dan Smith was able to identify, capture and wield power with panache. He appointed the country's first 'city manager' – chief executive in modern parlance – and instituted a council policy of purchasing land in the city centre as it became available. Although he resigned as leader of the Council in 1965 and Labour lost control two years later, the Conservatives carried through his development proposals with relatively little change – and what there was, was for the worse. This was, John argued, because in six years of leadership he had completely transformed the political and administrative environment of the city, taking advantage of renewed government interest from about 1963 onwards in regional policy.

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### TWEETING AND BLOGGING THE WALL

Mike Bishop, not content with typesetting the *News Bulletin* and walking Hadrian's Wall far too often, is tweeting the entire Wall (<http://bit.ly/stu3Am>) and describing a walk west to east in a blog (<http://bit.ly/uoewqt>). He has also written a new ebook *An Introduction to Hadrian's Wall*, costing a mere £1.84 (<http://amzn.to/sEqXFM>).

### 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@phoncoop.coop](mailto:sue.ward@phoncoop.coop)*

*Deadline for the next edition will be 4th May 2012. The mailing date will be 13th June. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Secretary by 6th June. The Spring Mailing will be on 14th March, and inserts must be with the membership secretary by 7th March. 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.*