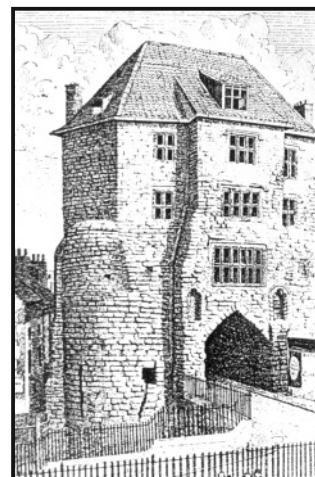


NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.54 JUNE 2013



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne promotes the preservation, study and enjoyment of historical and archaeological heritage in general, and of the North East of England in particular. We have over 750 members, and always welcome new ones. We are the oldest provincial antiquarian society in the country.

We have a full programme of public events, lectures, walks and visits, and social events. We are also guardians of world-class collections of antiquities and archives, and of a library of over 30,000 books and journals. We sponsor and publish research into North East history and archaeology of all periods.

For more information, look at our website www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk, or contact us at Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT, phone 0191 231 2700, e-mail admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk

CONTENTS

Our Bicentenary Year	1
Tales of Antiquarian Adventure	2
Lecture	2
Newcastle Intellectual Heritage Group	3
Looking Forward	3
An Old Acquaintance at the Exhibition	4
Old Newcastle Comes to Life	4
WallQuest	5
Library News	6
Local Societies in the 21st Century	6
Festival of the North East	7
Timewalks	7
Country Meetings	8
Books by Our Members	8
Cumbria County History Trust	9
Monthly Meetings	9
Death; Jim Milligan	12

OUR BICENTENARY YEAR



The Lord Mayor and Lindsay Allason-Jones with the commemorative plaque to be put up close to the site of the old Turk's Head Inn

On January 23rd 1813, seventeen gentlemen met at the Turk's Head Inn in Newcastle's Bigg Market, 'for the purpose of adopting the best measures to promote enquiry into antiquities in general but more especially those of the North of England and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham in particular'. So this is our bicentenary year, and it is packed with events in commemoration.

The festivities began with a New Year walk led by Freda Thompson around sites in the City where antiquaries had made their mark over the last two hundred years, starting at the Castle Keep, which was used by the Society for its first lectures in 1813 and leased by us from 1847.

For the official launch on 23rd January 2013, the original plan had been to unveil a commemorative plaque, on a building close to the site of the original meeting. Fortunately for everyone's health and welfare on a bitterly cold day, arrangements for putting up the plaque had not been finalised and the unveiling took place indoors, at the Old George Inn on Bigg Market. This was once a coaching inn, with parts dating

from the seventeenth century or earlier. Not only the Lord Mayor, but also Karen Wilkinson, great-great-great-granddaughter of John Bell (and now herself a member), attended.

TALES OF ANTIQUARIAN ADVENTURE



The warning of grisly things at the entrance to our exhibition. Children were fascinated. One wrote in the comments book, 'We thought (sic) that the mummy hand was cool but a bit yucky'

Our bicentenary exhibition in the Great North Museum was launched on 15th February by Chris Mullin, Chair of the North East Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, which had generously supported the project.

Its undoubted success owed much to the work of the volunteers who helped with preparing for the exhibition, staffing it on a rota over ten weeks, and taking it down at the beginning of May. All those involved worked hard, had a great time and often discovered skills they didn't know they had! Many thanks also to the organisations which allowed us to disrupt their lives by borrowing material back, and to the staff of Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives, particularly our member Gill Scott, for hosting the exhibition. We have a full 'roll of honour' on the website.

Although we don't yet have final figures for visitor numbers, we know that it was popular with visitors of all ages. Over 20,000 visitors were welcomed by the Museum over the half-term week alone, despite the weather, and our two events for children that week each

attracted over 400 participants.

The six lectures associated with the exhibition attracted a total audience of nearly 300. Thanks to Rob Collins, Jenny Proctor, Paul Bidwell, Dave Heslop, Andrew Parkin for their excellent and well-judged talks. Our celebration picnic was on 28th May, and librarian Ian Bower has been running monthly tours of our library. The two summer trips for members of the public to Hadrian's Wall, and Freda Thompson's repeat walk around the City Centre, are all now fully booked.

There will be spin-offs too; the short podcasts recorded by a dozen members about their favourite objects will soon be on the Internet, as will the digitised documents included in the displays. Researchers have also shown a great interest in following up some of the archive items.

Our Artist in Residence

Our Artist in Residence this year is Dawn Felicia Knox. Her artwork is a distillation of found and constructed narratives using ephemera, found objects, photography and sculpture to create art objects and environments.

American by birth, she forged an artistic presence in her native New Mexico through creating and exhibiting works in galleries and, more intriguingly to her, in non-traditional environments such as public spaces, performance halls and community rooms. She was driven to create encounters with her art that were unexpected and engaging.

She is now at home in North East England. She has shown her work in a wide range of traditional and non-traditional environments such as the Great North Museum, The Mining Institute, projected across a derelict mine and hidden in shelves of the Lit and Phil Library. For the last few years her work has been concerned with the reinterpretation of artefacts and historical narratives, bringing them into a wider discussion about art, science, myth and identity.

LECTURE AT SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

On 21st February Lindsay Allason-Jones gave a lecture about 'Two hundred years of northern antiquarian endeavour' to the Society of Antiquaries of London in their rooms at Burlington House in London. SAL are a much

larger and grander organisation than us and celebrated their Tercentenary in 2007. They have nearly 3,000 fellows, who are permitted to put FSA after their names. Nonetheless, there was a good turn-out, including a number of people who are members of both Societies, to hear Lindsay. Their president, Maurice Howard, said he was impressed with all that we had achieved in our mere 200 years!

NEWCASTLE INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE GROUP



The Intellectual Heritage Group at the launch reception

A new Intellectual Heritage Group, launched at the GNM during the exhibition, is another spin-off from our bicentenary celebrations. The idea came from a conversation between the Lord Mayor, the Master of Trinity House, Lindsay Allason-Jones and Grace McCombie at Trinity House back in 2011. Newcastle is privileged to have a number of organisations that have existed for centuries; Trinity House can document their start from the earliest years of the 16th century!

Although different organisations often have members in common, they never meet formally. So SANT, with the generous assistance of the Heritage Lottery Fund, sent out invitations to a reception in March. Seventeen people, representing ten different organisations, attended. We agreed to set up an informal organisation of ancient societies, to meet once a year and discuss matters of mutual interest. Trinity House has offered to host the next gathering in March 2014. Meanwhile, e-mails have been flowing between participating organisations about other possible events.

Lindsay Allason-Jones

LOOKING FORWARD

Photography exhibitions



One of the Victorian photographs from our collection, showing the arch through the Black Gate before the buildings were cleared

We have two separate exhibitions of Victorian photographs from our archives, one at the Mining Institute, running to the end of June, and the other at the Side Gallery in August and September. Our nineteenth-century members were keen photographers and we have a considerable collection of photos of buildings and street scenes, though many were badly in need of cleaning after their sojourn in storage in the Black Gate.

Social events

The President's Evening is on Friday June 21st at 7.30pm in the Lit and Phil, our 'parent' society founded twenty years before us. There will be a buffet with wine following a short talk. Cost is £14 per person, and non-members are welcome.

Friday 15th November will see our Grand Dinner in the Banqueting Hall at the Civic Centre. There will be no roast swan, as in Grand Dinners of the past, but it will be a chance for all our members and their guests to celebrate the end of our busy bicentenary year. We hope that members who don't live locally will also take the opportunity to join us, to commemorate our two hundred years of researching, campaigning and publishing. Please spread the word that all

are welcome, friends old and new, members and non-members.

We shall begin with a glass of Prosecco at 7pm and then sit down to a three-course meal with a glass of wine. After dinner speakers will include Lindsay Allason-Jones and the inimitable John Grundy. The price is £35 per person.

Tickets for both events can be obtained from Pauline Allen 45 Laburnum Avenue, Newcastle, NE6 4PP, Tel: 0191 263 5947.

Pauline Allen

Concert at the Sage Gateshead

On Sunday June 23rd the musical heritage of the Society will be celebrated with concert at the Sage Gateshead. Leading local musicians, including Alastair Anderson and Johnny Handle will be celebrating two hundred years of SANT's work collecting and publishing North Eastern folk music.

Even before our foundation, John Bell had published in 1812 a book *Rhymes of Northern Bards*. The 1882 collection of ballads, songs and pipe tunes, *Northumbrian Minstrelsy*, was brought together over a generation by SANT's splendidly-named Ancient Melodies Committee, and remains a 'bible' for all those interested in the subject. You can see it today on the Internet, on the FARNE (Folk Archive of the North East) website, www.folknortheast.com.

Kim Bibby-Wilson

AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE AT THE EXHIBITION

It was a particular pleasure to see again, after a forty-year gap, the collared urn from Hepple Kirkhill. It looked austere grand in its case at the exhibition. Visitors' thoughts probably took them to its remote Bronze Age past. It took mine to a Coquetdale mole.

I was working with Roger Miket on excavating the mediaeval chapel site there in July and August 1972. We camped out in West Hepple farmhouse, until 1968 the home of famous Northumbrian piper Billy Pigg. It had not been occupied since his death and lacked basic comforts, but the views across Coquetdale towards Witchy Neuk were unforgettable.

The urn made its appearance at the very end of the dig (when else?) in an extension to the main excavation. It was an unexpected find on a mediaeval chapel site. Very little time was



The Bronze Age urn from Hepple Kirkhill. Derek Cutts on the left, Adam Welfare on the right, and Chris Leblique in the middle holding the pot

available, but the trench was cleaned painstakingly for photographs. As I admired my handiwork, a part of the section above the urn began to heave and the snout of a mole appeared as the source of a small avalanche of soil. It soon disappeared, probably in response to my comments to its intrusion, and failed to return during the re-cleaning and the delicate process of removal.

Derek Cutts

OLD NEWCASTLE COMES TO LIFE



One of the installations in the Castle Keep during the postgraduate exhibition

The Old Newcastle Project has now entered its next exciting phase, with work starting on the conversion of the Black Gate to a visitor centre in mid-May. After a lengthy and detailed tender process, local firm Northern Construction Services (NCS), was appointed for the main fit-

out, on a 30-week contract. Work on the interior of the building, includes changes to the heating, lighting, flooring, and toilets, has started.

However, the biggest and most complicated element of the scheme is external, with the installation of the lift and lift-shaft. The Black Gate will need to be fenced off, and the pedestrian route through the arch temporarily stopped up. Work excavating the footings will start very soon, with an archaeological watching brief throughout. Although much of the area has already been excavated, this will nevertheless be an opportunity to find out more of Newcastle Castle's story. The Keep will get a new wooden floor in the Garrison Room later in the process, but the building should remain open for business as usual throughout.

Building work is due to finish before Christmas, and the next stage will be installing new interpretation materials and getting the Castle ready for visitors to come flocking.

Meanwhile, staff from the Project are working closely with the Castle Keep team and St Nicholas Cathedral to put on events which demonstrate the history, people and buildings of this amazing area. We were very pleased to co-host a show in the Cathedral and Keep, displaying a range of multi-media installations devised by Newcastle University's Fine Arts MA students. The Great Hall also saw a wonderful dance and early music event put on by graduate performing arts students. We even had a sung Compline service in the Keep chapel on Shrove Tuesday (followed by the obligatory pancakes, of course!)

Our energetic Learning Officer, Steph Carter, continues to shepherd vast numbers of schoolchildren round the Old Newcastle area. There have been over 3,000 since the start of the year with the summer term promising to be even busier. The Easter break saw some nifty holiday activities, including an archery event and a trail complete with baby dragons to find and Easter egg prizes for every child.

Watch out for news of the Heritage Open Days in September!

Kate Sussams, Project Manager

WALLQUEST: HADRIAN'S WALL AND ITS LEGACY ON TYNESIDE

Many people on Tyneside do not realise that part of a World Heritage Site is buried beneath



Community Archaeology on Tyneside, with an interested and youthful audience; Picture courtesy Nick Hodgson

their streets. Many others are well aware of Hadrian's Wall and would like to participate in research, but have been unable to find a way of doing so.

Now the Heritage Lottery Fund has provided the money for a two-year community archaeology project, *WallQuest*. This will run until late 2015 and will help local people to get involved in research in the thirty-mile eastern stretch of the Roman frontier between South Shields and the North Tyne.

Activities will include excavation but also geophysical survey and fieldwalking, as well as indoor work with finds and excavation archives. There will also be exhibitions, day schools and publications, and markers and information panels on the ground.

Fieldwork is already taking place around the Wall fort of Benwell, in the West End of Newcastle, and at Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields. Over the next three years other projects will come on stream in Wallsend and eastern Newcastle, central Newcastle and Gateshead. In the Corbridge and Hexham area, there will be a search for the lost line of the Stanegate, the Roman road which ran between the forts at Corstopitum and Luguvalium (Carlisle), in the five miles west of Corbridge.

We want to hear from local people about the questions and research activities that interest them the most. The idea is that the project is led by the participants themselves, not just by professional archaeologists.

Nick Hodgson

To find out more about the project, see www.hadrianswallquest.co.uk or contact Nick

LIBRARY NEWS



*The frontispiece of Camden's Britannia.
Picture courtesy Jim Hedley*

We have had a very generous donation of a copy of Camden's *Britannia* by Mark Hassall. This is no ordinary volume; it was printed in 1610, and was previously owned by R. G. Collingwood and Richard Wright. We already have a copy from the later edition of 1637, but it was damaged in the 1970s by an infamous 'American student' who ransacked the region's libraries. He removed most of the county maps from our copy; unfortunately, our new donated volume is also completely devoid of maps.

The frontispieces of the two volumes, printed 27 years apart and by different printers, are from the same plate, but the text has been reset and the later volume has additions. One quirk of the later volume is a shortage of capital Ws and instead VVs are used.

The Library will be closed over part of the summer, probably from 28th June, to allow maintenance and remedial work to take place

in the controlled-circulation areas; books from those areas will need to be moved into the main library for the duration. We will keep members informed via the website about progress. If anyone urgently needs a book during the closure period, I may be able to retrieve it for them, given enough notice!

Denis Peel, Librarian

THE ROLE OF LOCAL SOCIETIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Council of British Archaeology held its conference in York in March, considering today's role for the many regional and local community archaeology groups. The sector seems to be showing rude health, at a time when other areas of heritage activity are suffering as a result of government cuts.

However, three case studies of different types of group, a county society (Leicestershire Historical Society), a fieldwork group (Ulster Archaeological Society) and a new, local community group (Bingham Heritage Group) raised common themes included an ageing membership and the rising costs of publication. These were echoed across the weekend.

Our distinguished member Dame Rosemary Cramp, in her keynote address, provided a magisterial survey of the past half-century of local endeavour. In the early days, some archaeology societies focused on producing record series, like the Cumberland and Westmorland Society). Others, like SANT and the Durham Arch and Arch, took on a more active role of advocacy for conservation, and had a programme of publication and regular meetings. Attendance was predominantly by clerics, lawyers and doctors. A quick poll of the audience revealed none of any of these at York that weekend! Widely-based groups fulfilled other roles; for example, the Berwick Naturalists were central to botanical and ecological research in the region.

Fieldwork was often a major activity; when Dame Rosemary started work at St Peter's, Wearmouth, with a £30 grant and two council workmen, local societies provided the bulk of the labour force. Local children were recruited, primarily to stop them trashing the trenches, but eventually they made a real contribution.

For the future, Dame Rosemary stressed

that societies, now more than ever, must be broad churches embracing many shades of interest, and with a continuing contribution from universities. SANT scores well in this respect. New means of communication are making information-sharing more efficient and allow the full expression of local issues. Local societies show every sign of quietly surviving changing fashions in conservation. Our values are now seen as the best kind of common sense and the volunteering spirit, which underscores everything we do, is being given proper recognition and importance.

David Heslop, CBA Representative

FESTIVAL OF THE NORTH EAST



FESTIVALNE.COM

JUNE 2013

Festival logo

For the whole of June 2013, an incredible festival is celebrating the creativity and innovation of the North East, from the formation of the kingdom of Northumbria to the present day. The packed programme includes exhibitions, plays, lectures, debates, art installations and more. Highlights include an exhibition about local artist Ralph Hedley

at the Shipley Art Gallery, SANT's bicentenary concert at the Sage Gateshead on 23rd June, an exploration of early railways at Locomotion in County Durham, and Grayson Perry tapestries on display in Sunderland. There will be performances from Kathryn Tickell (who came up with the idea of the festival) and the Unthanks, and a *Foghorn Requiem* at Souter Lighthouse. And don't miss the Heritage Skills Festival at Tynemouth station on 28th to 30th June.

Two specific elements should be of particular interest to antiquaries. Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums are co-ordinating *A History of the North East in 100 Objects* (www.100objectsne.co.uk), while the North East Historic Environment Forum have developed *A History of the North East in 100 Places* (www.100placesne.co.uk). Both tell the story of creativity and innovation across the region and are subdivided into themes such as art, industry, engineering, and society. Some items will be familiar, but some should surprise! Venues will be labelling objects in the list, so that visitors can move across the region seeing them for real.

And when this is done, at the beginning of July the *Lindisfarne Gospels* will go on display in Durham, and will be there until the end of September.

Bill Griffiths

TIMEWALKS



Walkers in March joined by an inquisitive horse; picture courtesy Denis Peel

Walks so far this year have been going very well. In March Denis Peel led a circular walk taking in Ovingham, Horsley and Wylam, looking at landscape and geology and the

structure of the man-made environment in the three villages, as well as the history of three different bridges.

At the end of April, Harry Beamish led a group of twenty-five members on a tour of Wallington, Cambo and their environs. The anticipated stroll round rural Northumberland turned out to include capped mineshafts, three massive rethinks of estate infrastructure, an early example of community re-development and a whole lot of hydrology. Highly unexpected and very good fun.

We have two more trips coming up. Richard Pears will be taking us to Little Harle Tower and Capheaton Hall in June. This is an opportunity to gain an insight into the transformation of local residences from fortified dwellings to country houses in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Little Harle Tower retains a fine tower-house attached to a rebuilt hall. Capheaton Hall, the home of our founding President, Sir John Swinburne, was designed by Robert Trollope, who drew inspiration from Italian renaissance architectural treatises. The house was recast as a Georgian residence by Robert and William Newton in the 1750s and 1780s.

On 22nd September David Breeze will examine the quarries at Cawfields and Walltown and the surrounding sections of Wall. Quarrying for whinstone was formerly one of the main threats to the Wall. In the 1930s the Society helped defeat a major new proposal to destroy the central sector, a campaign which led to the passing of a new Ancient Monuments Act in 1931.

Pre-booking is essential for the June visit. It would also be helpful to know in advance how many people plan to attend the event in September. If you need more information or can offer/need a lift please contact Rosie Serdiville on rosie.serdiville@gmail.com or 0191 230 3797.

COUNTRY MEETINGS

The trip to Dumfries took place on a pouring wet day, but was still wonderful. There are still a few places on the joint trip to Catterick Garrison on 8th July with York Archaeological Society. We will be looking at an Iron Age enclosure at Castlesteads, carved rocks on Feldom Moor and the development of the modern site. Lunch will be provided courtesy of the catering staff at Catterick Barracks.

In homage to the Society's great founders of the Victorian era, on Saturday 3rd August we are recreating one of their expeditions to Holy Island.

There will be an early start, with a Victorian breakfast at 8 am in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle. We can then relax on the train to Berwick and enjoy the wonderful coastal scenery, before a short coach journey to Holy Island. There we will be welcomed, in keeping with the tradition of the 19th century outings, by a member of the higher clergy (the Dean of Chester officiated at the first country meeting), with further hospitality from English Heritage in the Lindisfarne Priory Museum. Weather permitting, we will eat our packed lunches after our guided tour of the priory.

The afternoon's tour of island antiquities will be enlivened by a re-enactment of events during the excursion in 1884, when a wheel on one of the horse-drawn brakes got stuck in the sand during the return crossing to the mainland. Fearful of being swept out to sea, the ladies of the party waved their parasols in the air to attract attention. They were duly rescued with no casualties.

Ladies are therefore requested to bring with them a parasol to wave and gentlemen are requested to offer assistance and be gallant. This will make a great photograph for the Society's scrapbook, especially if members dress in costume of the late Victorian era. Afternoon tea will be taken on the return journey to Newcastle. Booking details are on the website.

BOOKS BY OUR MEMBERS

The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain by Nick Hodgson, Jonathan McKelvey and Warren Muncaster (Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, 2012, available from their online shop)

This book, with our Secretary Nick Hodgson as one of the authors, reports on Iron Age earthwork-enclosure complexes excavated in 2002-8 in advance of surface mining and developments at Newcastle Great Park. All the sites were abandoned by the second century AD, probably not long after the Wall was built. Rather than regulating the economic movements of its northern neighbours, it looks as if here the presence of Hadrian's Wall brought a long-standing agrarian civilisation to an end.

Handbook to Roman Legionary Fortresses,
M.C. Bishop, Pen and Sword Books

Mike Bishop does the layout for this *News Bulletin*, but is also an expert on Roman military archaeology. This is a reference guide to Roman legionary fortresses throughout the former Roman Empire, of which approximately eighty-five have been located and identified.

Breaking down Boundaries: Hadrian's Wall in the Twenty-first Century, edited by Rob Collins and Matthew Symonds, *Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 93*, 2013.

Including contributions from our recent ex-President David Breeze, and current president Lindsay Allason-Jones, this volume looks at Wall communities – before the Wall was built, within and around the forts and at urban centres such as Corbridge and Carlisle, their lives, beliefs and material culture and the environments in which they lived.

Rosie Serdiville and John Sadler are publishing two books this summer (and two more later in the year):

The Battle of Flodden 1513 (History Press) looks at the background to the battle, the men and women involved and the impact it had on Scots social and political thinking over the next five centuries.

Tommy at War, 1914–18 (Robson Press) uses the words of the men and women involved in the Great War to reflect responses to the conflict.

Sue Ward

Note; we now have a 'Reviews' section on the website, incorporating advance copies of book reviews that will appear in the next edition of *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

CUMBRIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

Editor's note; those who have studied our annual accounts with care will have noticed that we make a grant each year to the Trust; this article tells us what our money is being spent on.

At the end of 2012, the first draft parish/township article to be completed by a volunteer was posted to the CCHT website (www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk). Richard Brockington, CCHT Secretary, volunteer and

Renwick resident, has been working hard over the past 18 months researching and writing his draft article on the history of Renwick. It can be found either through the Search facility or the interactive maps.

The article's format is intended to set the standard for all later township articles. The introduction describes the landscape, place-name and settlement history. This is followed by sections on land-ownership, economic history, social history, religious history and the history of local government in the township. It should be a starting point for future researchers, with footnotes pointing the reader in the direction of the sources; every statement will be backed up by reference to an original document. We can see, for example, that this now largely pastoral township was a coal mining area from 1631 to 1865. The thickness and quality of the seams was never very good, so much of the coal would have been used for lime-burning. The industry declined with the opening of railways across the area, and by the 1871 census there were no miners left.

Over the coming years, the Victoria County History of the whole of Cumbria will slowly emerge into the light.

Bill Shannon

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 2012

The public lecture at the end of November was one of our 'Horsley lectures'. In 1932, the Society invited Sir George Macdonald to give a lecture to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of John Horsley, who wrote the first modern scholarly work on Roman Britain, *Britannia Romana*, published in 1732. (We have a copy in the library). Throughout the nineteenth and for much of the twentieth century, Horsley was regarded as the outstanding authority on the Wall and its problems.

Macdonald's lecture was such a success that it was decided to hold further Horsley memorial lectures at intervals, and five years later R.G. Collingwood spoke on John Horsley and Hadrian's Wall. The lectures have been held at intervals ever since, and are an opportunity for distinguished scholars to address contemporary problems in the study of the Roman northern frontier. The paper is usually published in *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

However, the occasion remains an

opportunity to commemorate and study the work of the pioneers of the subject, and in the tenth Horsley lecture, Professor Lawrence Keppie of Glasgow University, focused once more on the details of Horsley's own life and opinions, and the road to publication of *Britannia Romana*.

Professor Keppie explained that Horsley was born in 1685, and educated at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle and at Edinburgh University; by 1709 he was established at Morpeth as a Presbyterian minister. In addition to this and his archaeological work, he lectured on mathematics and physics, and was a theologian, scientist, and Fellow of the Royal Society. He always had money-anxieties, and his much richer correspondent Sir John Clerk of Pennycook, Midlothian, wrote rather pityingly in 1728 that Horsley 'has to write for bread'.

Professor Keppie quoted from the unpublished correspondence with Clerk, currently held on loan by the National Records of Scotland, alongside his better known correspondence with Robert Cay in Newcastle and William Stukeley in Lincolnshire. This provided a lively picture of Horsley's preoccupations and anxieties in the years leading up to the publication of *Britannia Romana*. The book was a long time in the press, because Horsley kept learning of more inscribed stones, and made additions and updates even while the manuscript was in the printer's hands. Some of the engravings were lost and had to be re-done.

Horsley was not alone in the field; a particular rival was the antiquary Alexander Gordon. The two never met, and Sir John Clerk – whom Horsley met only once – acted as intermediary, receiving some barbed correspondence from Gordon about Horsley. Indeed, Gordon appears to have been deliberately obstructive, particularly in relation to letting Horsley have the use of his published maps.

Horsley's death was sudden, and might well have been hastened by his journeys and outdoor activities. His widow, with the help of others, had to make considerable efforts to tidy up his affairs after his death. John Ward in London and Robert Cay in Newcastle saw the book through to publication. There had been no subscribers, so sales were important to recoup some of the costs involved.

Professor Keppie can be contacted at lawrence.keppie@glasgow.ac.uk

January 2013

In January we had a miscellany of speakers, starting with Andrew Parkin from the Great North Museum, talking about their Ke-Emu software system, which was enabling them to create images of everything in the collection, organise their cataloguing and in due course also make them publicly accessible. There were, though, still issues about how to make public information about such topics as the donors, without accidentally affecting people's privacy.

Andrew pointed out that the items on display in the GNM was only a small fraction of SANT's total collection, with the vast majority of it still on a card catalogue. It would be a big challenge to transfer it across to the new system, and would need volunteer help; in return he could offer a behind-the-scenes view at the Museum, and training in sorting out and entering data.

Denise Heslop described the expeditions that the Society had taken to Lindisfarne in the nineteenth century. In 1857, in only the third 'country meeting' it had organised since its foundation, a group of members – all men – had gone on a rainy day, breakfasting at Beal and taking a carriage across the causeway. Participants included industrialists, several of them with connections with local railway companies, John Clayton of Chesters, and local historian Mr Hindson Hide.

By the time of the second trip to Lindisfarne, 27 years later, the Society was organising three or four country meetings each year. The weather this time was good, and a mixed party of men and women took a special train from Newcastle, with 20 carriages waiting to take them across to Lindisfarne. Much of the time there seemed to have been spent eating and drinking, and they came close to being caught by the tide. On the way back, one of the carriages containing female members of the party got stuck in the sand, and the passengers pathetically waved their handkerchieves tied to their parasols, until some of the male members came to their rescue.

Finally, Grace McCombie introduced the Society's latest acquisition, a deed dated 1671, dealing with the sale of two adjacent properties on the Quayside, given to us by the local history society in Deal in Kent. It is beautifully framed and in very good condition, and was displayed in the 200 Years exhibition at the Great North Museum.

The properties are described very carefully, and the deed includes a comprehensive list of outbuildings, very useful for anyone



The 1671 title deed

researching the history of the Quayside.

February 2013

This was one of three public lectures we are holding in our bicentenary year. Bill Purdue, formerly at the Open University and now Visiting Professor in History at Northumbria University, described Newcastle in the year that the Antiquaries were founded; the basic structure of its society showed considerable continuity with the town in the eighteenth century, but the social élite was widening, enough to create a 'polite society'.

The dominant social group was a mix of gentry and established merchant families, along with professionals who could participate in the vibrant cultural life of the town. They read its newspapers, patronised its fashionable shops and frequented the theatres, concerts and Assembly Rooms. The cultured, well-read and intellectually curious people among them created new clubs and societies, among them both the Lit and Phil at the end of the eighteenth century and SANT in the early nineteenth. As the nineteenth century went on, however, this *ancien régime* was replaced by a Victorian urban élite that was more philistine, and 'polite society' disintegrated.

Professor Purdue can be contacted on awpurdue55@yahoo.co.uk. His lecture was part of Newcastle University's Insight series, and a recording can be found on <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures/archive>.

March 2013

Roz Southey, of Newcastle University, talked about making a living as a musician in eighteenth-century Newcastle. She concentrated on William Herschel, later a leading astronomer, but in the 1750s a musician and composer struggling to survive.

Eighteenth-century musicians in provincial towns, she pointed out, had a precarious social position. At the bottom of the social scale were street musicians, regarded as little better than vagabonds. The next level up were the town waits, poorly paid and often with another occupation, who had duties providing music for the Mayor and the Sheriff. At the top of the social scale were visiting international and national stars, who were fêted by gentry and nobility. In between were people such as Herschel, John Garth and Charles Avison, who were considered respectable middle-class tradesmen and treated with some condescension even by music-lovers of higher status. Avison was invited to dinner by the Bowes family, but others might have to bow and scrape to have their bills paid.

The mainstay of musicians' lives was teaching in their own homes or at the houses of their more affluent pupils. Herschel, though, was keen to get his own music published and for this he needed to play in subscription concerts, such as those promoted by Avison and at Spring Gardens. He and his fellow-musicians would also meet constantly while playing in the theatre or for dances. There were probably no more than eight or ten professional musicians in Newcastle, and perhaps the same number in Durham, where the singing men of the Cathedral Choir would provide music for other churches and for social occasions as well.

Roz can be contacted at rosemary.southey@newcastle.ac.uk

April 2013

Archaeologist Tony Wilmott spoke on the latest discoveries at Whitby Abbey. He explained that over the twenty years since English Heritage had started work on the headland at Whitby, the project had developed in a rather ad hoc way as demands arose, but had produced some incredible evidence.

There had been previous excavations in the 1920s and again in 1976, with considerable reinterpretation by Philip Rahtz. In 1992 work in advance of planned improvements to the visitor facilities had begun, and from 2000 onwards landslides on the seaward side led to some heroic salvage archaeology. The historic rate of cliff erosion had also been recalculated, and it was now estimated that it had lost more than half a kilometre, in the last two millenia.

As a result of all this, the first evidence of prehistoric occupation of the headland had been

recovered, and it appeared there was more under the cemetery. Scatterings of Roman finds suggested that the common assumption that there had been a signal station there which had long ago disappeared was correct.

The Anglian finds and buildings now covered a much larger area than previously thought. They included a hall-type building, and evidence of glassworking and other high-quality craftsmanship. In the cemetery there were funerary crosses, one with an inscription, 'Orate pro...'. The few dateable finds put the cemetery squarely in the Anglo-Saxon period. All this suggested a very big lay and monastic settlement with much industrial activity. Far from what survived being the centre of the settlement, he now believed it was the outer edge of a settlement much of which had gone over the cliff.

Tony can be contacted at t.wilmott@mail.com

DEATH; JIM MILLIGAN

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of our long-standing member Jim Milligan, elected in 1968. Jim was born in Ashington in 1930, attended Morpeth Grammar School, and worked as an assistant in a local pharmacy after leaving school at age 16. He eventually became the head of the Prescriptions Pricing Authority, retiring in 1990.

Jim joined one of Constance Fraser's local history classes in the 1960s and remained a regular student for many years. In 1987, the removal of the Bagpipe Museum from the Black Gate to Morpeth meant that there was no longer a museum attendant to open the library to members, and Jim organised a rota of volunteers for this purpose. Following his



Jim Milligan in later years

retirement he was able to undertake a much more active role.

He had a vast knowledge and collection of books, ranging from rare leather-bound tomes of Natural History, Medicine and Antiquities to pamphlets and bus timetables. He was a founder member of the Lit and Phil bookbinding group back in 1995, and set up a bindery in the Black Gate flat for the repair of SANT books.

He belonged to many other local organisations including the Natural History Society and the Lit and Phil. He volunteered for the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Northumberland National Park, and was involved with Yearning Saddle Shelter near Alwinton on the Pennine Way.

Jim's deteriorating health led to him becoming a resident at Bridge View Care Home in late 2010, and he died there on 1 Mar 2013.

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

Deadline for the next edition will be 8th Nov 2012. The mailing date will be 11th Dec. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Secretary by 4th Dec. Anyone who wants an insert included 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.