

NEWS BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.58 June 2015

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 nearly 800 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 activities. 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 SANT, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT, phone 0191 231 2700, e-mail admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The programme for 2015 is well under way and is as interesting and varied as ever. Thanks to the officers and committee members who, by dint of ingenuity and dogged persistence, have put it together and work so hard to make it run smoothly. There is, I hope, something for everyone in the monthly lectures, walks and meetings, pages of *Archaeologia Aeliana* and the newly established Eighteenth Century Study Group. The website is a mine of information and I have recently found the free access to journals invaluable. Even so, I have had recourse to the Library and its wonderful resources.

I know that members join for different reasons, but I would encourage everyone to consider trying elements of the programme they have not tried before, or not for some time. In particular, I recommend the walks and country meetings which take place during the summer months. Some take members into places they could not otherwise visit, while others are to sites which you could visit for yourself, but with the additional benefits of expert guidance, stimulating and varied discussion and excellent company.

Thanks to the members who pay their subscriptions promptly. This helps us to plan our finances with confidence. This year's subscription increase was made with great reluctance, but seems to have been acceptable to members: resignations have not increased and a good number of new members have joined. (The annual report shows a fall in numbers, but this is due to a thorough spring clean of the database rather than real losses.)

Life in the office has been more hectic than usual. A virus, lurking in what purported to be a student enquiry, caused so much damage to our IT systems that we had to abandon attempts at repair and start again from backups. The inevitable cost of this is a timely reminder of the importance of maintaining our reserves. As

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the event happened at the time when subscriptions were coming in, there was a great deal of dislocation. Apologies to members for any delays in communication or any confusion which has arisen. Things are now back to normal. If you haven't had a reply to an enquiry, please be in touch again: it may have fallen victim to the virus. Brendan Derham in the office is always happy to help callers, in person, by email, on the telephone or by post.

I look forward to meeting members at the many remaining events of the year. I do hope that as many of you as possible will come along. I am sure you will find them enjoyable and interesting.

Derek Cutts

OUR SUMMER PROGRAMME

President's Evening

The President's Evening on 19 June will be in the recently restored and re-opened Old Low Light, North Shields. The evening will begin with an introduction to the seventeenth-century Clifford's Fort and the eighteenth-century Low Lights by an expert who knows the site well. You will then be able to view the new displays, including pottery discovered when the fort gun embrasures were cleared, which was made in Carr's Low Light Pottery, founded in 1814. You will also be able to inspect the Society's fifteenth- or sixteenth-century breech loaded naval swivel gun, formerly in the Lower Hall of the Keep but now on permanent loan to the Low Lights. There will be a buffet, glass of wine and a superb view of the river mouth from the viewing platform. Contact the office if you have not yet booked.

June monthly meeting

The 24 June Monthly Meeting, at which Rebecca Jones will be talking about *Roman campaigns in Scotland*, is being sponsored by the Roman Society, in conjunction with the major exhibition at Segedunum Roman Fort, *Roman Empire: Power & People*, which features over a hundred objects from the British Museum.

Summer Walks



The British Gas Research Centre at Killingworth, picture John Griffiths

This year's summer walks programme involves visits to three very different areas of North and South Tyneside. On Monday 29 June Geoff Woodward will be guiding us around locations mentioned in the *Boldon Book* of 1183, including the eponymous hilltop village and its surroundings. Meet 7pm at Brockley Whins metro; walk ends at East Boldon metro. On 6 July Derek Cutts will lead us round the area of Rising Sun country park. Although now a haven for nature, the district has a long industrial history. The name was taken from the Rising Sun pit, in operation until 1969, and we will see reminders of the mining industry, of waggonways, mills and other enterprises. Meet 7pm at west side of car park at Asda, Whitley Road.

Finally, on Monday 20 July we will be visiting Killingworth with John Griffiths. Killingworth's planning in the utopian post-war years was inspired by medieval Italian hill-top towns. This circular walk will seek out remnants of that vision and of the once-dominant pure modernist architecture of Ryder and Yates, a few examples of which have been spared. Oh, and we will look for hippos.

More details on our website, and for further information contact John Griffiths at johnfrancisgriffiths@hotmail.com (mobile: 07729 827244)

Summer Picnic

Our annual picnic will be at the Great North Museum: Hancock on Saturday 18 July between 11am and 3pm. There will be lots of things to do for children from the age of 2 to 92. Just bring your friends and relatives and a picnic and get involved. In particular, we need

six volunteers to help with the quizzes and craft activities. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lindsay Allason-Jones at Allason.Jones@btinternet.com.

Autumn Country Meeting

On 5 September we go to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, Yorkshire, where the assistant curator will be welcoming us with a brief talk on the history before we explore the house and gardens. Built as a family home in 1860, the Hall is a fine example of Italianate Style architecture. The gardens have been magnificently restored, but the house has been preserved as the last resident left it in 1988, giving a rare glimpse into the life of a large country house that was a home until relatively recently.

A picnic lunch is recommended, but a cream tea is included in the overall cost of £23. Bookings for this trip have been good but we have some spaces left. To book, please send a deposit (£10) to Denise Heslop, 15 Windsor Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE26 3BG, with your name and contact details. Alternatively send an e-mail to denise.heslop@ncl.ac.uk or phone 0191 280 2665.

LIBRARY REPORT



One of the bookplates in our collection. Picture courtesy Denis Peel

When visiting our great country houses I delight in seeing their libraries, cases of leather tomes carefully arranged for height and colour, and often with obscure titles. The SANT

library is different. The books are used, not always replaced in the correct place and even borrowed. Some become damaged and are identified as in need of repair with a white band. New books are added by donation or purchase and are of different sizes and colours.

Our rare and valuable books on the other hand are hidden from the sight of members of the public, in the dim recesses of the moveable shelves or the rare book store. This has now been renamed the David Gardner-Medwin Rare Book Store, to commemorate David, who sadly died last year, for his long service to the Natural History Society with whom we share the library, and more recently to SANT. His extensive collection of rare and early books on Natural History was bequeathed to NHSN. Under its new name the bookstore was formally opened by Alisoun Gardner-Medwin in March.

Since our move to the Great North Museum, we have been short of library space to allow for additions, but we have some space in the Library store at Discovery. Over the summer months, we plan to remove some surplus duplicate journals and transfer our stock of Scandinavian exchange journals to Discovery where they will still be available for use. The 30 metres of shelving released at the GNM should be sufficient for the foreseeable future.

We have an ongoing project of making a separate record of additional material in the books, including the bookplates pasted in the front of many of the older ones. These give a fascinating insight into who our donors were, and their positions (or pretensions) in life.

We are also accumulating additional material in digital form. This will be stored on hard disks and be available to consult on a suitable computer in the library.

Denis Peel

ASSOCIATION OF NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

Anyone involved in local history research in Northumberland probably knows already about the ANHLS. For those who do not, our recently relaunched website at www.anlhs.org.uk gives all the details. We publish an annual journal, *Tyne and Tweed* and we have an annual Study Day in a different location each year, and with a local theme; a Round the County Day, hosted

by a different affiliated society each year; and an AGM and a Members' Meeting. Affiliated and Individual Members also have access to a regularly updated Speakers' List.

We are looking urgently for more volunteers to support our work of promoting interest in local history in Northumberland, encouraging research and recording, offering support and guidance to affiliated societies and encouraging the formation of new ones. At present the Executive Committee is lacking a Secretary and a Programme Secretary, and the Editor of *Tyne and Tweed*, Jane Bowen, will be retiring from the post at the 2016 AGM. Ideally we need to recruit a successor as soon as possible so that he or she can 'shadow' Jane through the twelve month publication procedure.

If you would like to get involved, please contact me on mail@anlhs.org.uk, by post at Lion House, Main Street, Felton, Northumberland NE65 9PT or by phone at 01670 783612

Eleanor George, Acting Secretary

GOLDEN ORNAMENTS RE-UNITED



The basket-shaped gold ornament found by Herbert Maryon in 1935. Picture courtesy Great North Museum

On their first day of an archaeological dig at Kirkhaugh, near Alston, four schoolboys found a gold ornament, probably a tress ring for wearing in the hair, which is an exact match for one found on the same site in 1935 and now in the Great North Museum.

The original ornament, dating to c.2300–2200 BC, was found by Herbert

Maryon along with other grave goods. It is the earliest gold object found in Northumberland, and at the time he could not have known it was likely to have a pair.

In the summer of 2014 *Altogether Archaeology*, the HLF-funded community project in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty went back to Kirkhaugh to try to find a grave or burial. Sadly, no body could be detected even though the grave was found, along with more grave goods including two buttons made of Whitby jet. This type of button became very popular in the Bronze Age but the Kirkhaugh examples may be the earliest yet found. They could be from a small pouch for carrying a fire-making set.

Another object from the barrow is a stone tool used in metalworking. Kirkhaugh lies on the edge of Alston Moor, which in the 18th and 19th centuries was the most important lead ore-field in Britain, and copper was also mined on a small scale. Was the metal worker buried at Kirkhaugh also a prehistoric metal prospector? If a skeleton or teeth had been found, it might have been possible to date him and discover where he was brought up.

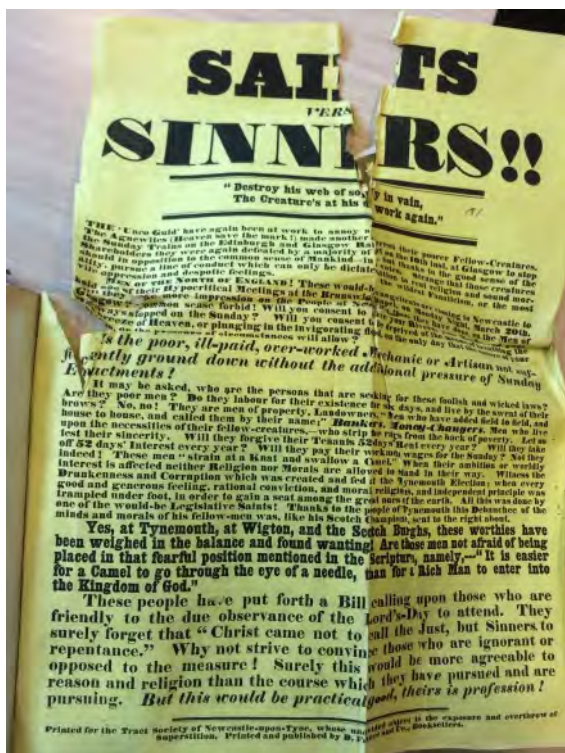
With true beginners' luck, the first of the jet buttons was found by the four boys, aged between 7 and 10, just minutes after they had uncovered the gold ornament. To stretch coincidence even further, two of the boys were great-great-grandsons of Joseph William Alderson, who helped Herbert Maryon on the excavation in 1935.

The finds from the excavation are currently being assessed under the Treasure Act but it is planned that they will join the 1935 ones on display in the Great North Museum. Many thanks to SANT, who gave a grant to the project to help with preparing the publication report.

Andrew Fitzpatrick, University of Leicester

THOMAS WILSON COLLECTION

Thomas Wilson (1773–1858), citizen of Gateshead and a self-made man from the poorest of backgrounds, built up a vast collection of political posters and flyers, adverts, newspaper cuttings, theatre flyers, song-sheets, business prospectuses and other items over a fifty-year period. After his death, they were collated into many volumes by his daughter, Jane Salter, and eventually found their way to the public archives.



A fragile document in the Thomas Wilson collection, picture Michael Greatbatch

Newcastle Local Studies' fourteen volumes of Wilson's *Collections Relating to the History of Newcastle upon Tyne* contain material dating from the mid-1700s to around 1850. Some of the items have been folded many times, and many more are fragile, having been torn or fragmented into pieces. Almost all are difficult to copy. None of the fourteen volumes has a contents listing or index; the only clue to their contents is the years in which the original manuscripts were published.

Seven volunteers from the North East Labour History Society have been working on a long-term project with Newcastle Library staff to list the contents of each volume, painstakingly writing or typing reference details for each individual item. So far two volumes have been dealt with, each containing over 200 items. We meet once a week between October and June.

All the volumes need rebinding, but Newcastle City Library no longer has the funding for this. They have, however, been able to scan large numbers of individual documents. We are currently indexing those volumes where digitisation has begun, so that the public will be able to search for items and staff retrieve the images for viewing. In the long-term, when all fourteen volumes are

eventually rebound, the plan is to have a complete Contents list included in each one.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining our work, at michael.greatbatch@sky.com

Michael Greatbatch

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 2014

Anne French, freelance art historian and curator, spoke on *The Grand Tour and the North East*. The Tate's major 'Grand Tour' exhibition in London in 1996, she pointed out, had contained only one painting and one book from the North East, a surprising omission which inspired her. Soon afterwards, she had begun to research an exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery for the Millennium, with the focus on Grand Tour works of art specifically from the North of England.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, it was the habit of elite families to ship their eldest sons off to the Continent, along with a tutor, often a cleric, as 'bear leader'. The aim was to study classical civilisation through its surviving art and antiquities, but also to acquire manners, and social and linguistic polish. Rome was generally the ultimate goal, but on the way tourists might take in the Netherlands or France, especially Paris and Versailles, and other parts of Italy including Florence, Venice and Naples. Later, Greece became a goal when the Napoleonic wars meant that travel in Italy was closed to most British tourists. Many came home laden with pictures, antiquities and ideas for altering their country houses – as with the great Greek Revival house at Belsay.

For Northern families, 'polite society' and the Grand Tour were fairly late developments. The sons of the first Duke and Duchess of Northumberland spearheaded the movement in the 1760s, and the first Duchess travelled to the Netherlands herself with a large entourage, buying up Dutch genre paintings in bulk. George and Olive Craster went to Italy on their wedding tour during the Seven Years' War (1756–1763), while Henry Swinburne, who wrote some of the most influential travel guides of the era, spent many years abroad with his wife and growing family. Swinburne, unusually, went to Spain, and was one of the

contd. on p.8

NEWCASTLE'S 'NEW' CASTLE

Almost two years after it closed for refurbishment, the Black Gate finally re-opened on 21st March 2015. Together with the Castle Keep, it forms Newcastle Castle, with new displays in both buildings telling the story of its history from medieval stronghold to Victorian slum and beyond. It has been a long and sometimes tough journey getting it all ready, but the feedback from visitors since re-opening had been tremendously positive. We have welcomed over 5000 visitors, young and old, in 6 weeks into the buildings – almost half the total for all of 2014.

We've had some great marketing of the new venue – from features in the Chronicle and Journal to adverts in NE1 magazine, The Crack, Newcastle's pocket guide for the city, the City Sightseeing guide, posters in metro stations, and even a feature in the Guardian travel section! Visitors now buy their ticket from the new reception/shop area on the first floor of the Black Gate and have access to the old library floor with the new 'Castle Garth Story' exhibition (which re-uses much of the old shelving) as well as into the Keep, while the middle floor is an Education Room for the use of the many school groups which are now visiting.

The whole project has been a great collaboration between all the partners in the Heart of the City Partnership – St Nicholas Cathedral, SANT and Newcastle City Council – and the Heritage Lottery Fund who grant-aided the project to the tune of £1.4m. We think it's money well spent and judging by the reactions of our visitors, they think so too! For more details, see our new website at www.newcastlecastle.co.uk

Kate Sussams, Project Manager



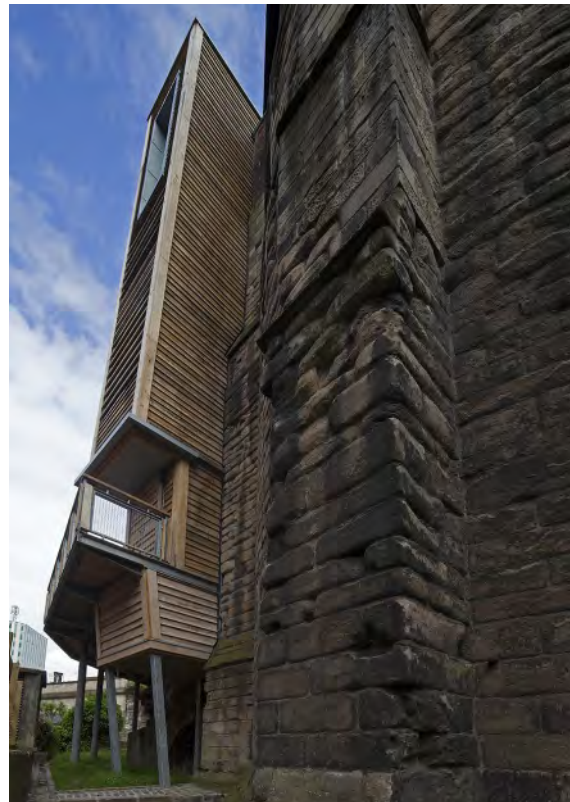
Black Gate under scaffolding.



Education Room in transition



The library store once emptied



New lift, picture courtesy G Peacock



The old Castle model on its way to a new home



Welcome to Newcastle Castle



Twilight view, picture courtesy G Peacock



One of the garrison



Chapel, picture courtesy G Peacock



Hugh, Lord Warkworth, later 2nd Duke of Northumberland, and his tutor in Rome, by Nathaniel Dance (1763). Reproduced by kind permission of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland

first to admire the lightness and elaboration of Moorish architecture. He was a scion of a Catholic family, whose experience was rather different from that of Protestant gentry. Young Catholic boys were generally educated abroad, and then went on the Grand Tour immediately afterwards, often without coming home in between.

The death of the Grand Tour for the gentry and nobility came with the advent of the railways in the early 19th century, which made continental travel affordable for middle-class families. From around 1840, they could participate in the precursor of today's package tours – organised trips to places such as Pompeii arranged by the first major British travel agent, Thomas Cook.

Anne's book, *Art Treasures in the North, Northern Families on the Grand Tour* (2009), based on her exhibition at the Laing in 2000, is still available from Tyne and Wear Museums Shop, price £30 or at half-price (£15) from Anne, who can be contacted on anne@greysteadrectory.com

January 2015



The site before timbers were removed for conservation. Picture courtesy Richard Carlton

Richard Carlton and Les Turnbull spoke on the eighteenth-century Bigges Main Waggonway, of which a stretch was uncovered in 2013 at a development site on the old Neptune Yard in Wallsend. Richard, an archaeologist with Newcastle's Archaeological Practice, explained that there were hopes of finding Roman remains, but nothing had emerged from that period.

Instead, they had found about 35 metres of a waggonway with two parallel lines – a main line and a siding with a washpool in it. Many of the sleepers were re-used ships' timbers, or driftwood from the Tyne. The revetment between main line and siding, and the capping of the leat supplying water to the wash pond, were also made from ships' timbers. Pegs and dowels in the timbers were very well preserved.

Since the excavation, the remaining traces of the waggonway had been grubbed up and the site bulldozed for redevelopment. Some sections of the waggonway, including rails, sleepers and part of a cobbled horse track, had been saved and were now in York for conservation.

Les Turnbull, local railway and industrial history expert, explained that the first waggonway in the North-East was built between Bebside and Hetton in 1605. In the late eighteenth century, colliery viewer William Brown of Throckley was renowned as a builder of pumping engines and a waggonway designer. He was effectively the conqueror of the deeper coal strata of the Tyne Basin.

The waggonway's main line had double rails. Historic texts suggest that the top one was usually of beech, which could be supplied in long lengths and tended to wear smoothly, so reducing friction. The whole structure was

just as had been illustrated in one of John Buddle's notebooks. The washpool was intended to wet wheels dried out by the operation of the braking lever. A line of pits on the side of the main line could have contained water to dampen the wheels of the waggons, which might even have become hot enough to burst into flame. Throwing the water on them might have been a job for young child-labourers.

In 1797 wooden wheels were replaced by metal, and in 1813 Blenkinsop's locomotive began to run on the Coxlodge railway, by which time the original Bigges Main waggonway was out of use and buried, explaining its survival. The excavation uncovered the earliest example of the 'standard gauge' track (4ft 8in) still used by 60% of the world's railways. A cardinal principle of mining was the recycling of existing material, so the origin of the standard gauge can be traced from Killingworth, to the Grand Allies' other collieries in West Longbenton and Heaton. Perhaps it was the size of the backsides of horses grazing near Hadrian's Wall which determined this crucial measurement!

Richard and Les can be contacted via richard.carlton@newcastle.ac.uk

February 2015

Professor Helen Berry of Newcastle University spoke about *New Perspectives on The Great Tyne Flood of 1771*, drawing on research into the Antiquaries' previously unexplored book of documents and claims relating to the compensation for flood victims.

There had been many complaints of silting upstream of the medieval Tyne Bridge, she explained. Eminent engineer John Smeaton had been called in by the Corporation to survey the bridge in 1770, and estimated that it needed £150–£200 for urgent repairs, but nothing had been done.

After several weeks of incessant rains and north-east winds, by 16 November the Tyne turned into a raging torrent, and in the small hours of 17 November, the bridge broke. The river rose 8 feet above the high-water mark of an average spring tide, and houses along Sandhill were inundated and swept away. There were 25 recorded fatalities, and hundreds of families displaced, including formerly affluent families. About fifteen parishes were affected, upstream as well as in Newcastle. There was also flooding on other river systems, in County Durham, North Yorkshire, and Westmoreland.

A charitable subscription was set up, with the first meeting of the disaster relief committee in Hexham on 19 December. The documents showed a stress on bureaucratic probity, account keeping, and respect for the exercise of trust. Press reporting helped keep the process transparent.

Big subscriptions came in from Berwick, Alnwick, Wooler, Belford, but nothing from Dilston 'though they are rich'. Alderman William Fenwick of Bywell donated but then asked for his money back so he could give it to specific families. Petitions for help emphasised the 'deserving' character of the applicants, and gave many details about the property and contents of the households. Clergy acted as loss assessors, certifying that they had received 'regular and just' estimates of specific household losses.

A dispute soon began over whether the money was being distributed disproportionately to Newcastle, with a meeting advertised in the local press, suggesting tensions between local élites. However, soon afterwards, a published *Narrative of the Flood* said that whatever the divisions, 'all seemed to unite in that spirit of charity and benevolence which so remarkably characterises the English nation'.

Helen can be contacted on helen.berry@ncl.ac.uk.

Editor's Note

The digitised copy of the Flood Papers was originally prepared by Dr Ria Snowdon, with financial assistance from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, at Newcastle University, and it can now be seen on our website, along with the 1784 *Poll Book*. Both need indexing and transcribing, and further research done around them. We have therefore set up a joint project with Explore Lifelong Learning Programme to create an Eighteenth Century Study Group. Participation is free for members of either organisation. Several members are already busy with transcription, and each transcribed document will be put up on our website as it is finished. If you would like to join the group, please e-mail Sue Ward

March 2015

Clive Waddington, of Archaeological Research Services, spoke on *Low Hauxley in context: rescue excavation of a multi-period coastal site*. He explained that there had been discoveries at the site since 1982, when a stone cist with a skeleton inside was uncovered by a



Aerial View of Low Hauxley excavations – picture courtesy of Time Team

storm, but there had also been continued losses as the shore was eroded by the sea. There had been rescue excavations in both 2013 and 2014. A monograph covering the whole history was nearing publication.

The site appeared to have been occupied for 700 years or more in the 8th millennium BC. During excavations, they had found thousands of flints, most of them made from the local beach flint and resembling those at other coastal sites. Some were needle-like, useful for sewing leather. There were also bevelled pebble tools, which had been found in other places close to seal basking-grounds, and also lumps of ochre. All this suggested that the inhabitants were making sealskin boats, in much the same way as the Inuit do today.

At the time, he pointed out, Britain was still connected to the rest of Europe, though the inlets that now formed the Channel and the North Sea were gradually growing. The settlers on Northumberland's East Coast might have been refugees from Doggerland. If the land bridge had not already been breached, a huge tsunami in around 6175 BC, would certainly have finished off this process. This was likely to have led to a collapse in the coastal populations of northern Britain, and it could have taken a millennium for people to return to this coastal site, as indicated by the presence of human and animal footprints dated to around 5000 BC. By then, flint types had developed differently on the two sides of the North Sea, suggesting an increasing cultural divergence.

Other highlights from the site included the three-phase Beaker period burial cist with one of the earliest dated Beaker burials in the north with a cup-marked rock above it, and a long slender whetstone. After being covered by windblown sand, settlement resumed in the late Bronze or early Iron Age. A middle Iron Age to Roman phase of settlement was also

excavated, with multiple phases of a house with stone-lined hearths and a paved forecourt. Mysterious rock-cut pits on the modern foreshore turned out to be old coal-extraction pits.

April 2015

The April lecture was given by Phil Abramson, Ministry of Defence archaeologist, on *From Farms to Arms: The History of Military Training at Catterick*. 1% of the whole of the UK's land surface belonged to the Ministry of Defence, Phil explained, and on this there were over 1,000 listed buildings and 750 Scheduled Monuments including hillforts, Barrows and Roman roads. Being in a military training area often meant that sites were very well preserved, he said, because there was low-intensity agriculture, few vehicles and relatively small areas of forestry plantation. In the impact zones however, archaeological sites could be threatened by artillery shells. Many of the historic military properties owned by the MOD were kept in use to ensure that they were maintained in good order.

As for Catterick, 2014 was the centenary of its foundation at the beginning of World War I. There had been a military presence in the area from the 19th century, but with the opening of hostilities, Baden-Powell, the general officer commanding in the region, had had to find somewhere quickly to act as 'the Aldershot of the North'. He approached the landowning families in the area with the request that they loan the land 'for the duration', Buildings were quickly constructed to house 40,000 men – and a handful of women, mainly involved in nursing in what became a very busy hospital. At first it was called Richmond Camp, but the name was quickly changed to 'Catterick', after incidents in which troops had been sent to Richmond in Surrey. In 1918, instead of returning the site to its original owners, the War Office decided to retain it permanently.

Only a few of the early buildings now survive, including a WWI sick bay for horses – still used as a stables – and the much-altered row of White Shops. The Officers' Club, built by German PoWs, was demolished to make way eventually for a Tesco's. The seven very large 'Sandhurst' barrack blocks, built in the 1930s and seen at the time as both a revolutionary design and very comfortable quarters, had, by the early 21st century, deteriorated and were considered a bar to recruitment as living standards rose. After

some discussion English Heritage listed just one block, with its attached parade ground, thus giving the green light for buildings of a similar standard to university student accommodation to be constructed.

The book *From Farms to Arms*, co-authored by Phil and Nancy Tanner, can be obtained from the Garrison Tesco, price £10, or at phil.abramson789@mod.uk

DEATHS

Colin Burgess



Colin at his 70th birthday party

Colin Burgess died on 18 November 2014. He was a SANT member for many years, and served on Council in 1972 and 1973. A Londoner, Colin studied in Cardiff where his undergraduate dissertation on Bronze Age metalwork from the Thames formed the basis for the corpus of bronze swords in Britain he published in 1988 with the late Ian Colquhoun. Colin then spent most of his career in Newcastle, working in the extra-mural department of Newcastle University, where he inspired many people to take up archaeology. In 1973 he formed the Northumberland Archaeological Group, and in 1976 the Bronze Age Studies Group, which met first at Alnwick but soon became international and looks forward to its fortieth anniversary.

Disillusioned with various aspects of British archaeology from the 1980s (expressed most trenchantly in an introductory note to the

2001 reissue of his textbook *The Age of Stonehenge*), Colin then chose to work in the Mediterranean with a particular affection for Sardinia. On taking early retirement he moved to France where he lived until he returned to the North-East for medical treatment.

Turns in the wheel of academic fashion, buttressed by the need to identify Bronze Age metalwork recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, mean that Colin's kind of archaeology is now becoming more acceptable again. His last publication, in the *Archaeological Journal* for 2012, revisited aspects of Late Bronze Age chronology which might have been considered settled, especially since Colin himself had introduced in the 1960s the scheme we continue to use today.

Editor's note; edited from the tribute by his friend Brendan O'Connor in *Salon*, the online newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries of London, no 331, 1 Dec 2014.

Margaret Fleming



Margaret with John Fleming on an Antiquaries outing. Picture courtesy Charles Fleming

Our oldest member, Dr Margaret Fleming, died on 4 April 2015 at the age of 101.

Margaret was a great stalwart of the Society from the moment she joined, together with her husband John, at the meeting held in November 1947. John took over the running of the country meetings, planning each one meticulously, and he, Margaret, and their son Charles researched the sites to be visited and went on trial runs to ensure that the timings were perfect and that there were no low bridges to catch out an unwary coach driver. A suitable venue for tea was of prime importance. When John became President of

the Society, Margaret was a tremendous support and ever-present help.

Margaret was born into a medical family in Edinburgh, her father being both a doctor and a dentist. However, he did not wish her to go straight into medicine so her first degree was in the arts. On graduating she transferred to medicine and graduated in 1941. After serving in a number of medical roles during the Second World War, Margaret married John, who she had first met at the age of 8, and they moved to Gosforth, with Margaret initially joining the staff of Marks and Spencer to work with retired miners, assessing them for compensation. From the late 1950s until her retirement in 1978, she worked as a GP in Gosforth and High Heaton. Her medical skills were often brought into play on Antiquaries' outings and she was the official doctor for the 1969 Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall.

Her last SANT event was the opening of the Bicentenary exhibition at the Great North Museum: Hancock, when she was one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave! All those of us who knew her well were delighted to see her and much appreciated her wit and anecdotes on a day when she neatly spanned a

hundred years between the Society's first meeting in 1813 and our 200th year.

Lindsay Allason-Jones

Margaret Wills

Margaret Wills died on 3 January 2015, at the age of eighty-seven. She joined the Society in 1980, and was for many years the highly-respected Librarian in the School of Architecture at Newcastle University. Here, she not only oversaw the needs of students engaged in design projects, but also provided friendly help to those preparing written theses.

With admirable tenacity, Margaret herself completed an M Litt and then a PhD thesis on the history of the Gibside Estate (supervised by Constance Fraser). A revised version of this was published by SANT in 1995 as *Gibside and the Bowes Family*, to Margaret's delight.

Margaret was also an active supporter of the Northern Architectural History Society, and for some time a member of the Northumbrian Mountaineering Club.

Peter Willis

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 13 November 2015. The mailing date will be 17 December. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 10 December. If you want an insert included, contact the Membership Administrator in good time for details of the requirements. An electronic copy of any insert must also be provided (as a Word or pdf document) so that it can be included on the website.