

NEWS BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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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

We have had a wide range of activities in the last few months, with more to come. As ever, the Society depends upon the willingness of its members to volunteer their time, expertise and hard work to plan, communicate and deliver such a wide range of activities. Thank you to everyone who contributes and supports the Society.

The latest volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* was published in March, and has articles to meet every interest. Once again it represents the high standards of research that our Society attracts, brought together by the expertise of our editors, peer reviewers and production colleagues. Work is already underway for the 2017 volume.

Our Activities Committee have excelled again: the lecture programme and country meetings range far in time and location, from Roman Britain, to the Edwardian country house, the training



The President finding army pottery at Cocken Hall, site of the DLI training camp and the subject of both a lecture and a talk this spring

of the Durham Light Infantry in the First World War, and the latest scientific analysis of medieval manuscripts. The Summer Social evening on 16 June will feature the industrial heritage and modern creative activities of the Ouseburn. I hope to see you there.

The Society's collections, in the Great North Museum: Hancock and at Woodhorn, bring enjoyment, educate, and stimulate new research. Denis Peel and Howard Cleeve report in this edition on their success bringing back a volume of our early publications into our possession. We thank our friends in the Sunderland Antiquarian Society for looking after this precious item in our Society's history and their willingness to sell it to us.

As part of the *Unlocking the Archives* project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, we ran a palaeography class in the spring in collaboration with the Explore Lifelong Learning programme, with a tutor from Durham Archives. So many people signed up that the Society decided to fund a second course. Congratulations to Sue Ward for her success in the HLF application and leadership of this developing strand of research by Society members.

Looking to the future, the Society has set up a new Digital Committee, led by Dr Rob Collins. It will look at the Society's activities, communications and publicity (website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) and publications, and will make recommendations for future projects. Roger Fern and I are continuing work on the digitisation of *Archaeologia Aeliana* and the *Proceedings of the Society*. You can now see the scanned volumes via the Publications area of our website, and as Roger Fern reports, people have clicked on them from as far afield

as Russia and the Bahamas!

One area where what we provide has recently been restricted is on-line journal access. This has been available to members for some time (at newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk/index.php?pageld=600) for a number of journals previously published by Maney. However, since Maney's acquisition by Taylor and Francis, access has been limited to the years 1997 to the present. It is unclear if Taylor and Francis intend to provide access to the earlier years available during Maney's tenure, or more likely sell this access as a separate collection. We will keep you informed!

*Richard Pears
President*

COUNTRY MEETINGS

We had a successful 'free-flowing' day out in Whitby in mid-May, with a coachload of members and guests taking the opportunity to visit this historic seaport, famous for the unlikely combination of St Hild and Dracula.

There are still some places left on the Sion Hill Hall visit on 2 September. The hall is one of the last Edwardian stately homes in Yorkshire to be built prior to the Great War. Designed in the Arts and Crafts period, it has beautifully furnished rooms and a charming garden. Our visit will include a tour by the owner, Michael Mallaby. After the tour we will be able to enjoy a picnic lunch on the terrace before a tour of the gardens.

Suggestions for Country Meetings in 2018 are very welcome. Ideas so far are Ampleforth



A ship in a light bulb! Created by Graham Leach, and on view at the Whitby Museum when the Antiquaries visited in May. Picture courtesy Sue Ward

College, who are now giving guided tours of their lovely buildings and Abbey, a behind the scenes tour of the Georgian Theatre in Richmond, which could be combined with a visit to the castle, and Kiplin Hall. I am also considering an extra trip to Tocketts Mill near Guisborough. This would be on a make your own way basis but I would be happy to arrange a private tour if there was interest.

To book a place on the Sion Hall trip, or to make suggestions for 2018, please contact me on Denise2331@virginmedia.com or on 0191 280 2665.

Denise Heslop



Pilgrims inspecting Brunton Turret in 2009

Since the late nineteenth century (with a couple of interruptions for world wars), the Society has run 'pilgrimages' along Hadrian's Wall every ten years. In effect these are conferences on the move, with four coachloads of participants visiting sites on the wall and attending lectures and exhibitions. The next one will be in 2019, which may seem a long way off, but plans are already well advanced.

It will start with a reception in the Civic Centre in Newcastle on the evening of Saturday 20 July and end with the traditional final dinner in the Crown and Mitre Hotel in Carlisle on Sunday 28 July. For the first half of the Pilgrimage, accommodation will be in the Royal Station Hotel in Newcastle, but on the Wednesday we move across to the County Hotel in Carlisle.

We will be exploring two main themes during the seven days: the building of the Wall, and its history in the third and fourth centuries. We will start by looking at the Wall and its features from Benwell to Housesteads. We will then turn east to explore Wallsend and South Shields. The central day – the 'changeover' day – will be spent mainly at Vindolanda. Following this, we will journey to the west end of the Wall and the Cumbrian coast, before returning eastwards to explore the Birdoswald area, and finally Cawfields and Walltown with the Roman Army Museum. There will also be visits to museums, including the Great North Museum and Tullie House. Eight guides, well experienced in Wall studies, have been appointed, two for each coach.

There will be several receptions during the course of the Pilgrimage, including evenings hosted by ourselves and by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. At both of these there will be book stalls.

Booking forms will be issued in March 2018. To judge by past pilgrimages, places are snapped up as soon as they become available, so keep an eye out. Priority is given to members of the two sponsoring societies.

David Breeze
Chair, Pilgrimage Committee

A NEW PIECE OF OUR HISTORY

Transactions of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries is the title on the spine of a volume we have recently bought from the Sunderland Antiquarian Society, a veritable treasure trove for those keen to study the early years of the Newcastle Antiquaries. It incorporates three of our earliest publications, and a collection of letters and ephemera such as printed invitations to meetings dating from 1813 onwards.



Douglas Smith from the Sunderland Antiquarian Society, handing over the volume to our Assistant Librarian Howard Cleeve

Douglas Smith, President of the Sunderland Society, found it by chance several years ago at a book sale, recognised its importance and bought it on behalf of his Society. Our Librarian Denis Peel, Sally Bird and I have made several visits there to see it and take photographs, and I have also made use of it for a forthcoming article on the early history of AA. In autumn 2016, it was agreed by Council that we should approach the Sunderland Society about a possible sale. The price was set by professional valuation, with a reduction for goodwill, and the volume finally came into our hands in April 2017.

To judge by its bookplate, the volume belonged originally to Thomas Davidson, one of the founders and initial Council members of the Society. Perhaps more important, he was almost certainly the Duke of Northumberland's agent in Newcastle. From the outside, it is very unprepossessing, its tooled leather covers displaying much wear and tear. Indeed, they have come adrift from the book, which has to be held together by cotton tape. However, the pages themselves are still held together firmly and are in good condition, although some of the 'tipped in' letters are loose.

These include correspondence between John Bell, John Hodgson, Thomas Davidson and the Duke of Northumberland, about the founding of the Society itself. There is a letter from the Duke about his donation in 1813 of the then princely sum of 50 guineas. 'I have taken the liberty' his letter says, 'of transmitting to you a Draft on the Northumberland Bank for 54..12..0 [52 guineas] and shall feel myself particularly obliged if you pay 2..2..0 [2 guineas] of it, my admission fee, into the hands of the Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, of which I have had the honor [sic] to be elected Patron, and you will be pleased to pay the remaining 50 guineas likewise into his hands, as a Donation from me to the Funds of the Society.'

The three publications bound into the book are the Society's Statutes, as agreed in 1813, the Society's First Annual Report published in 1814, and Part I of Volume I of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. This last is a rare object indeed. Part II appeared in 1822, and SANT members would have had the two parts bound together at that time to create Volume I. Some pages would have been lost during the amalgamation, such as the title pages of the first Part, while new text would have been inserted, including contents pages which were missing when Part I was first printed.

In due course, we will be putting a full set of photographs of each letter, with a transcription, on our website to join other material from our archives.

Howard Cleeve

MORE FROM THE LIBRARY

Every so often a ray of sunshine falls on your long suffering librarians, busy defending their charges from students and pensioners, when books that have long been missing mysteriously turn up. Recently, five such books, certainly missing in 1984 and perhaps well before that, appeared in an anonymous brown envelope on my desk. My thanks to whoever it was that finally returned them! Two date from the seventeenth century. One is a 1655 *Catalogue of Lords, Knights & Gentlemen that have compounded their estates* – that is, a list of people paying for having been on the wrong side during the Civil War. The other is *Angli, pro populo Anglicano Defensio* by John Milton (1651), a hard read, but possibly relevant at the moment.

Antiquitates Vulgares by Henry Bourne (1725) is a deeply religious tome which will cure

The frontispiece of the Milton book of 1651 recently returned to our library, incorporating the coat of arms of the Commonwealth. Picture courtesy Denis Peel

insomnia. The other two are *Beverley Minster* (1898) by Charles Hiatt, and *A list of buildings in Great Britain and Ireland having mural and other painted decorations, of dates prior to the latter part of the sixteenth century* (1883) by C E Keyser.

Meanwhile, we are processing further books from Steve Speak's bequest and also over a thousand slides from that of Geoffrey Briggs. We have yet to tackle an extensive slide collection from John Thornborough. Eventually these will all be available to view on the user laptop in the library.

Denis Peel, Librarian



PROGRESS ON ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA

Getting ready our digitised copies of two centuries' worth of *Archaeologia Aeliana* and the Society's second journal, its *Proceedings*, for full online publication continues, but at a slow pace. One reason for this is the steep learning-curves being negotiated. It often feels as if the curves themselves are moving, as we struggle to keep up with developments in IT. Who had heard of iPads or Dropbox ten years ago? We have also had to adjust what we do to take account of changes in AA's own editing and publication practice in the course of two hundred years. For example, photographs did not exist at all when our first edition came out, and were not successfully introduced into printed books till late in the century. The first ones I have spotted in AA date from 1887. They brought new technical problems and until the 1970s, they were printed separately on glossy paper and inserted into the AA volumes. In the 1980s, microfiches arrived and then (thank goodness) disappeared. Technological change hasn't stopped yet, of course.

One of our necessary tasks is to split the digital files of each volume into individual files for each article, so that people can consult them as needed. For those willing to wade their way through the very large files, however, the material is already available online. In January this year, I decided to load all the digital images of both AA and *Proceedings* on to my personal Dropbox space. Then I thought, "Why not give everyone the links?" So they are now available via our website. At the time of writing, there are around 40 clicks a week, mostly from the UK and the USA, but we have also had them from Russia, France and Germany, with one from Romania, one from Hungary, and one from the Bahamas. Go to www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk/index.php?pageid=286, and follow the links. Once you have downloaded the files, they are fully searchable.

Roger Fern



One of the earliest photographs in AA, illustrating an article on the the Plate and Insignia of the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in Volume 12 of the second series, 1887

MINING INSTITUTE CHANGES

Congratulations to our colleagues at the Mining Institute, where we hold our Monthly Meetings, on securing a major Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for refurbishment and improvement to their building.

Although the main contract will not begin until after The Great Exhibition of the North, work has already started on the improvements to the foyer of Neville Hall, with the aim of restoring the foyer to its original size and shape. The 1970s eyesore lift shaft will be removed as will,

subject to listed building consent, the glazed screen installed in 1910. The current floor tiles will be temporarily carpeted.

The Institute's office is being relocated to the Map Room on the first floor with a daytime coffee facility and lounge provided in the bar for members, researchers and guests. This enables the Oak Room on the ground floor to be brought back into use as a lettable meetings space with its ceiling restored and painted. A new exhibition will be installed in the foyer explaining the history and heritage of the building to visitors and the exciting plans for its future development.

The work also includes introducing a new accessible toilet on the ground floor and providing a temporary ramped access to the front door (as well as improving the ladies toilets). These new access arrangements will be complemented by new arrangements for public tours.

In due course the Institute will be appealing for funds for completion of their work and looking for organisations to book their rooms. Contact Simon.Brooks@mininginstitute.org.uk for more information.

Sue Ward

(edited from their recent newsletter).

NEW GUIDEBOOK FOR THE CASTLE



The cover of the new Castle guidebook

A new and much revamped edition of the Castle Guidebook has just been published. *Newcastle Castle: The Gateway to Old Newcastle* is a 34-page, lavishly illustrated guide to the site. It has been written by the Castle's learning and development team, and designed by Newcastle graphic artist David McClure, who works from a studio in the Biscuit Factory not far away.

The images include dramatic reconstructions produced by archaeological illustrator Kelvin Wilson. The booklet also features archive photographs from Newcastle Libraries' collection, floorplans, and an in-depth timeline of Newcastle's history. It is

available from the shop on the first floor of the Black Gate at Newcastle Castle for £3.95, or £5.00 (including £1.05 postage and transaction fee) online from the Castle's website, www.newcastlecastle.co.uk. Any members who have not visited since the Castle re-opened after its HLF-funded refurbishment (and we know there still are some!) really should take the opportunity to see the changes, and take away the new book.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL.....

We attended the launch of the Unlocking the Archives project in November 2016 in response to a call on SANT's website for volunteers. Before we knew it we had signed up as volunteers to help transcribe three collections of their archived records for publication and registered for a course in Paleography, funded as part of the project and run one evening a week for 7 weeks. We had no experience of transcribing but had a keen interest in social history linked in part to our voluntary roles at Wallington Hall. Under Sue Ward's guidance and with her newly produced manual in place we also worked through a series of her introductory exercises, quickly progressing to transcribing 'for real'.

Of the three collections, namely, the County Durham Flood Committee report, the rebuilding of Hexham Bridge and a volume of Hexhamshire wills, we opted for the wills. Those we have transcribed so far relate mainly to residents of the Allendale area between the 1670s and the end of Queen Anne's reign. It has been interesting to see that family names and place names in the area have changed little over the years. It has been both challenging and rewarding deciphering the handwriting and getting to grips with the software. It is exciting to think that anyone with an interest in social history will soon be able to access them online as they offer a fascinating glimpse into the lives of 'ordinary' people, their religious beliefs, values, occupations

Volunteers Yvonne and Krystyna comparing notes on their transcription of the late seventeenth-century wills included in the Unlocking the Archives project; picture Sue Ward



and their incredibly modest, but to them, treasured possessions.

There is a sense of achievement when a will is completed and a motivation to get started on the next one. With 131 pages to do and at present only 4 volunteers to do them perhaps that's just as well!

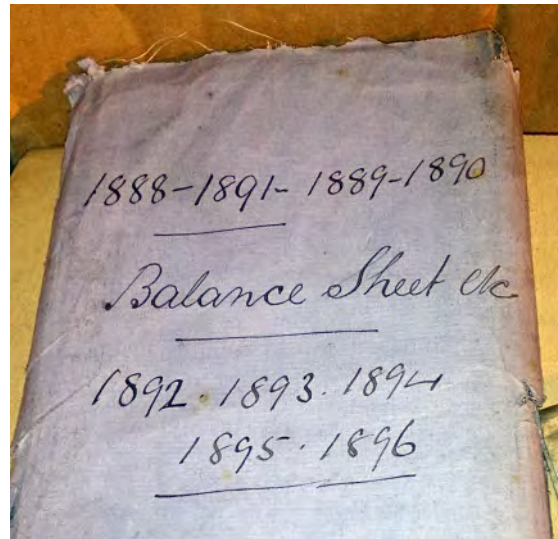
Yvonne Roberts and Krystyna Wojcicka

Editor's note; we would be very glad to have more volunteers working on the transcriptions. Contact Sue Ward on sue.ward@phonecoop.coop if you are interested.

TREASURE TROVE OF BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Local company Thos. Proctor & Son Ltd has a certificate of incorporation saying that it was officially established in 1798 (although our records suggest that it was already in existence before that) and incorporated in 1919. It was started by Thomas Proctor and is still privately owned by his descendants, with very little dilution from non-family members in the shareholding.

The company was for a long time based at Proctor House, on the Side in Newcastle, and in yards on the banks of the Tyne itself. They were ironmongers and ship merchants, supporting the vibrant industries of the day. The original Proctor House still stands and is now a hotel, but as industry has changed, the company has changed with it. It is now based at Proctor House, Dukesway, Team Valley Trading Estate in Gateshead, and supplies anything from hygiene products for a doctor's surgery right through to welding machinery and consumable to some of the region's biggest companies.



Proctor & Son balance sheets from the 1890s, Picture courtesy Kevin Berry

We have recently come across a cache of historical documents in storage including the Proctor family crest, the original certificate of incorporation, and original share certificates, There are financial records, debentures, newspaper cuttings, and other historic documents from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, various paintings and portraits of board members and company related locations, and probably much more.

What we are hoping now is that someone with an interest in industrial or business history would volunteer to help, initially to catalogue our finds and then perhaps use them to write a historical profile of the company. We may then use the information and documents to create a display within our offices or at an event aimed at the family members that remain involved to this day. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this.

Kevin Berry, kevin.berry@thomasproctor.com

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FRENCHMAN IN NEWCASTLE

French cartographer Albert Jouvin de Rochefort passed through Newcastle during a tour of England in about 1670. His short description of the town was included in the third volume of his travelogue *Le Voyageur d'Europe* in 1672, and has recently been translated by Jane Hughes and Jennifer Norderhaug, members of the 'Dukesfield Documents' volunteer transcription team.

The transcript has just been added to the ever-expanding Dukesfield Documents online archive – available at www.dukesfield.org.uk/documents. I oversee the website, and would love to know whether this source has been used before in histories of Tyneside. I can find no mention of it in the standard texts, although there is a passing reference in Nicholas Crane's recent book *The Making of the British Landscape* (2016).

Interestingly, De Rochefort names the town 'Nieucassel', seemingly a phonetic rendering of how he heard it named during his visit. Place-name specialist Diana Whaley says that this probably reflects a local form: most English writers would not have represented it in this way because they were conditioned to write something like *castle*. But one can't be sure whether the short a would have seemed distinctive to the North East by the 1670s, or was still general pronunciation.

Greg Finch, gregpfinch@hotmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS



De Rochefort in around 1680, artist and engraver unknown, from Austrian National Library in Vienna

November 2016

Eric Cambridge spoke about John Dobson's design for Newcastle Central Station, '*Worthy of the true genius of architecture*'. It was an example of a joint station, where railway companies agreed to pool resources and share a building. Financial scandal in the Hudson railway empire in 1849 led to serious retrenchment and redesign during construction. Essentially it was two stations butting onto each other, with a wide pedestrian concourse between them. Almost all the external perspective views made the station look too large, and as if placed in a wide open area; in fact it was intended to fill even more of Neville Street than the present building and was primarily intended to be seen, and entered, from the ends rather than the front.

Most other contemporary stations were small and often proved ephemeral. Newcastle's was unusual in being designed by an established architect. Some design details reflect Dobson's long experience in his craft and its layout incorporated the results of his observations of the difficulties in handling crowds encountered at other early junction stations – a precocious form of time and motion study. The intended systematic separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and the provision for arrival and departure entirely under cover, were just as innovative as its well-known curved and arched iron roofs. Its unusually large scale reflected the ambition not just of the railway companies but also of the

town, itself only recently transformed by the building of Grainger's grand new centre which reflected the latest trends in London architecture. Dobson had close personal links to the capital and his Royal Arcade perhaps initiated that Newcastle fashion for adopting recent, specifically metropolitan precedents. His station design would arguably have been its climax; the unbuilt entrance arches, probably intended as Roman triumphal arch versions of the famous Greek revival Euston Arch, would have had a comparably dramatic impact on the Newcastle townscape.

January 2017

Phil Bowyer of Tynedale Archaeology Group (TAG), spoke about their archaeological activities *Beyond the Wall*. There was, he suggested, an imbalance in the way resources were allocated, with much going to the Wall itself and very little to anything in its vicinity. Tim Gates in his 2009 aerial survey had identified over four hundred potential sites, and had subsequently visited forty, amplifying or radically altering his earlier interpretations. TAG had received funding to be the 'boots on the ground' doing more intensive follow-up.

They had put together a list covering 30 square hectares near Sewingshields Crag, with the potential for piecing together individual elements in an integrated whole, considering patterns of continuity and change. At Ravensheugh Crag they had investigated cairn fields and enclosed and unenclosed settlements, which could be dated by their typography as Romano-British or Iron Age. The Romans represented only the final stages of habitation.

In 2013 TAG had worked together with Northumberland National Parks and Altogether Archaeology, led by professionals from Oxford Archaeology North. They had flagged and identified cairns and linchets very quickly, including some that had not been identified from aerial photos, and a large number of cup-marked stones. Some surrounded what was probably a funerary cairn, though it had unfortunately been dug through and destroyed in a Victorian 'excavation'. They had also found at least one burnt mound accompanying a pit, close to the most highly decorated stone on site.



Another interesting item was a stone row *Volunteers hard at work, picture courtesy Phil Bowyer* on Standingstone Rigg, the only one known in Northumberland though others existed elsewhere. It was aligned with a robbed-out stone circle found through the aerial photography, but might pre-date it.

Phil's conclusion was that the TAG's work demonstrated how professionals and community archaeology could be successfully integrated together. Plans for the future included a number of workshops for their members, including one on geology. The project was ongoing, but had provided reports on what they had done so far, and these could be read on <http://tynedalearchaeologygroup.btck.co.uk/>. The group can also be contacted on tynedalearchaeology@gmail.com

February 2017

In a lecture held jointly with the Institute of Physics, Professor Andrew Beeby of the University of Durham spoke about *Shining Light on Medieval Manuscripts*, explaining his work with colleagues on researching the pigments used in medieval manuscripts through the use of high-tech spectrometry.

Andrew explained that the exhibition including the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham in 2013 had been a unique opportunity for researchers to study them and other early medieval manuscripts under one roof. Team-Pigment, a multidisciplinary team of chemists, historians and conservators, had developed ways of analysing pigments on the pages in a non-damaging way. They used optical reflectance spectroscopy and multi-spectral imaging, with



High-tech examination of a manuscript, courtesy Andrew Beeby

more precise analysis through Raman spectroscopy, in which a laser is shone on the page. The Gospels book was far too valuable to be moved out of the exhibition space. Instead, the Chemistry Department's mass spectrometer had to go to them, despite being a heavy and awkward piece of equipment, and it lived in a cellar at Palace Green for six months. As a result, when the Team decided to offer their research expertise to other libraries, they developed a spectrometer that could be carried in two suitcases and set up anywhere within half an hour.

Their analysis of the Gospels had shown that there was much use of the pigment orpiment, an expensive product which must have been imported from Italy, but others were local, such as indigo made from woad. Purple, in the early eighth century Durham Gospels, was not Tyrian purple made from shellfish, but a more ordinary one from lichen. Lapiz lazuli from Afghanistan was being used for blue from the tenth century onwards, but at least one consignment was adulterated with 'Egyptian blue' – ground up faience from ancient Egypt.

Later azurite, a basic copper carbonate from Spain, had taken over, since it was much cheaper and easier to deal with. Hereford Cathedral's Mappa Mundi, for example, had the rivers in azurite. On older manuscripts, the presence of azurite could demonstrate what work had been done by later restorers.

Andrew can be contacted on andrew.beeby@durham.ac.uk

March 2017



The west mural tower at Auckland Castle from above; picture courtesy Peter Ryder

Dr Chris Ferguson spoke about recent archaeological work at Auckland Castle. Since 2012, he explained, it had been in the care of the Auckland Castle Trust, with the aims of restoring the Bishop's Palace, creating a vibrant tourist destination including three museums and galleries of Faith, Spanish, and Mining Art, and regenerating Bishop Auckland.

There had been little previous archaeological work on the site, and the Castle had been thought to have originated as a hunting lodge for the Prince Bishop of Durham. Recent work by Archaeological Services Durham University and volunteers on the site of the new Faith Museum had reassessed

Auckland as a significant medieval castle and palace, partly dating to the thirteenth century. It has major Tudor remains, a Restoration period Chapel and very innovative eighteenth-century gardens complementing James Wyatt's Georgian Gothic interiors.

The excavations have identified the medieval curtain wall, and the remains of a substantial fourteenth century round tower, with another likely on the opposite corner. There would also have been an impressive gatehouse, attributed to Bishop Bek (c.1290-1300), facing towards the market place, built as a display of wealth and power. Archive evidence shows Bek constructing a two-storey chapel to compete with the royal St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. During the Civil War, Arthur Haselrig demolished up to half the complex, including this chapel, and began his own mansion house. The whereabouts of the chapel is still unknown, but geophysical survey hints at a possible location. A second wing has been found opposite the surviving Scotland wing, containing a number of late medieval or Tudor fireplaces.

After the Restoration, Bishop Cosin demolished Haselrig's unfinished manor house in its turn, and converted the Great Hall to a new Chapel. In the eighteenth century, Bishop Trevor bought the Zurbarán paintings of *Jacob and his Twelve Sons* as a sign of tolerance to the Jews and he substantially expanded the palace and walled gardens, commissioning John Carr of York to make designs for new South Apartments. Excavations in the walled garden have revealed technologically advanced pineries dating from Trevor's episcopate. In the 1790s Bishop Shute Barrington employed James Wyatt to create some of the finest surviving Georgian Gothic interiors in the British Isles.

There are plans for a training and volunteer excavation in partnership with Durham University over the next three years on the front lawns. These are based on the research framework for the Palace to explore the garden archaeology and seventeenth century changes, and to further identify the medieval palace of Bishop Bek, including the lost chapel.

Chris can be contacted on Christopher.ferguson@aucklandcastle.org

April 2017

Alastair Fraser spoke about the 18 Durham Light Infantry battalion in training and war. He described a joint project combining archaeology and documentary research run by No-Man's Land (the International Group for Great War Archaeology), with Durham University Library's Archives and Special Collections, Durham County Record Office and the Northumbria Gardens Trust. The project has been examining one battalion, the 18 Durham Light Infantry, formed as part of Kitchener's massive expansion of the army in September 1914 and looks at how it progressed on what historians of the British Army call the "learning curve" which resulted in the victory of 1918. One element has been an excavation involving local people on the site of 18 DLI's training camp at the now demolished house of Cocken Hall between Durham and Chester-le-Street. Understanding of the layout of the camp has been greatly advanced and such features as the bath house have been identified and dated. One entirely unsuspected structure was the camp power station, built to the exact dimensions set out in War Office plans. Geophysics, 3D laser scanning and field walking have all been employed and a survey for arboglyphs (tree graffiti) has found several carvings attributable to soldiers. It is also hoped to combine the survey data, archaeological drawings and photographs to produce a 3D model of the site in 1914.

Another excavation at Cocken Hall is tentatively planned for September 2017 and it also hoped to investigate a farmhouse in Northern France which was occupied by A Company of 18 DLI in June 1918. Documentary research has produced a database of over 900 men who served with the battalion and we plan to extend this to the conscripts from the 1918 period who were integrated into the battalion. Important material survives in Durham in the papers of William Douglas Lowe, the adjutant and later commanding officer.

A MULBERRY TREE FOR HUMPHREY

Humphrey Welfare's retirement as editor of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, after so many years, was commemorated with a present from the Antiquaries. He chose a mulberry tree, which is now flourishing (though not yet flowering) in his garden in Cumbria. In an appreciative letter, he says that

'their heart-shaped leaves are very distinctive, and the flavour of their fruit transcends description. In these latitudes we will not achieve the cropping that, for instance, William Morris's wonderful specimen at Kelmscott still provides, but even in Scotland some fruit is produced. The site we have chosen should give it the best chance; sheltered from the prevailing wind on the south side of a high brick garden wall, where it will get light and warmth.

'We did indeed have a mulberry tree in the garden of the house where I was born; in my memory it was huge, but I was very small at the time. We had another in Wiltshire, two houses ago, and I was sad to leave it when we moved to York. Now that we have one once more I feel reconnected.'

It was an honour, he concludes 'to be the editor of AA, which, in its field, is one of the great journals of Europe'.



Mulberry leaves with berries, picture courtesy Wikipedia Commons

DEATHS

J Alan Biggins

Alan Biggins died on 9 February 2017 aged 66. He had been a member of Newcastle Antiquaries since January 1998.

It is not given to many of us to revolutionise any aspect of our discipline, but Alan did. He founded TimeScape Surveys in 1998, at first with Julia Robinson, and then with **David Taylor** as his consultant. He bought his first equipment with a compensation payment he received after taking voluntary redundancy from the Medical Research Council (MRC). He had been a Research Scientist with the MRC and a Research Associate at the Wolfson Unit of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Newcastle, during which time he published extensively in medical journals. He was also trained in ecology and analytical chemistry. He took an MA in Archaeological Survey at Durham University, and studied for a part-time MA/OS in prehistory at Newcastle University. The Hadrianic Frontier was the study area for a PhD thesis, at Durham and Newcastle.

TimeScape concentrated on undertaking geophysical surveys along Hadrian's Wall and its outpost forts. Their main focus of interest was what was happening outside the forts, where extra-mural settlements proved to be far larger than hitherto appreciated. At Birdoswald, for example, the buildings stretched both to the east and to the west of the fort. At Maryport, the survey extended well beyond the fort and its extra-mural settlement, in order to place both in their wider setting, creating one of the largest geophysical surveys undertaken on any Roman frontier. Surrounding boundary ditches were plotted and in the process a typical rural



Alan Biggins at work, picture courtesy David Taylor

settlement was found just metres from the Romanised buildings. Alan's final report, on Carvoran, is in press.

Alan and David published their surveys together with interpretation of the layout of the settlements, noting the different plans of buildings and identifying such as possible market places. Their work could not of course date the settlements, but that task has been taken up by archaeological excavations, for example at Maryport where the temple complex, a building plot with its house and the rural settlement have been examined; together forming a worthy memorial to Alan.

David Breeze

With thanks to Salon, the online newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries of London, for permission to print an edited version of their obituary notice

David Smith

David Smith, who died in November 2016 aged 93, was Keeper of the Museum of Antiquities for many years. A full obituary of him, written by Lindsay Allason-Jones, is to be found in the latest volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, pages 257–59.

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 is 17 November 2017. The mailing date will be 13 December. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 30 November. 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 in the electronic mailing.