

# NEWS BULLETIN



## THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.63 December 2017

### CONTENTS

Who we are and what we do.....	1
From the President.....	1
2018 Lecture Programme.....	2
Country Meetings.....	2
An Invitation.....	3
Time Walks.....	3
2019 Pilgrimage – Booking Soon.....	4
Treasure Trove!.....	4
More Hidden Treasure – in the Library.....	5
Heritage Open Day in the Library.....	6
Pop-ups at the Great North Museum.....	6
Beyond the Church Door – Strange Practices in Northern England.....	7
The 1939 Register; History in Our (my) Time.....	7
Endangered Archaeology.....	8
Monthly Meetings.....	8
Note from the Editor.....	12

### 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](http://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](mailto:admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk)*

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that you have enjoyed the Society's activities this year. Once again they have shown the tremendous breadth of interests and expertise of our members: the subjects of our monthly meetings in the last six months have included Roman glass bangles, new research into Hadrian's Wall, the treatment of Scottish prisoners of war after the battle of Dunbar, eighteenth-century smuggling and twentieth-century pageants. The President's evening was reborn as a Summer Social and proved very popular; Mike Greatbatch led us around the industrial landscape of the Ouseburn and Victoria Tunnel.

A measure of the significance of our collections was the exhibition at the Great North Museum of artefacts from the Museum of London's Mithraeum alongside the Society's collection from Hadrian's Wall. As you will see from Lindsay Allason-Jones' piece later in this



*Richard speaking at our Summer Social in June, photo Sue Ward*

*Bulletin*, these collections are not static. We have been able to make some valuable acquisitions this year through a generous bequest. The latest item on offer, the Dinnington Hoard, will however need help from you – our members – if we are to buy it.

Under the Heritage Lottery Funded *Unlocking the Archives* project, a team of 20 willing volunteers is working hard on transcribing documents from our archives, with one of the three volumes completed while the other two are well under way. The palaeography class paid for by the HLF was over-subscribed, and so we ran a second one in the summer, in conjunction with Explore and the Durham Record Office; meanwhile local re-enactment group Time Bandits on our behalf took workshops on the 1771 Flood into primary schools – hopefully enthusing a new generation with love of the past.

Work is well under way on the latest volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*. Unfortunately, Jenny Proctor has indicated that due to work commitments she must resign as Editor. Jenny has been a very capable Editor of our journal and we thank her for all of her hard work to ensure that the quality of articles achieved the highest standards during her stewardship. We are looking for a new Editor to continue this vital work. As for past volumes, those for the last 5 years (2011–16) are now on our website, with access restricted to members only. The older volumes of Series 5 (1973 to 2010), which are on open access, have been broken up into separate files for each article thanks to the technical expertise of our Californian member Scott Vanderbilt, to whom much thanks. In due course, every volume going back to the first, published in 1822 and weighing in at an unwieldy 492 pages, will be available in this way.

These diverse activities can only be achieved through the efforts and expertise of dedicated colleagues. The Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary undertake the bulk of this work, with the generous support of volunteers in the Library, administration and the Society's committees, guided by Council and the Executive Committee. If you are able to contribute time and expertise, please contact the office or any committee or Council member.

*Richard Pears*

## 2018 LECTURE PROGRAMME

Your 2018 programme card will be arriving in the same mailing as this News Bulletin, and as you will see, for next year we have an exciting range of talks, covering subjects as diverse as the 1929 Great Exhibition, St Cuthbert, Roman Vindolanda and brewing in sixteenth-century Northumberland. At our AGM in the spring we will hear about crime in the borders, while our public lecture in the autumn will compare Hadrian's Wall with the Great Wall of China. I hope you enjoy the speakers this year, and if you have any suggestions for 2019 or further ahead, please get in touch.

September will be the last time we will meet in the Mining Institute for at least a year. Their major Heritage Lottery Funded project means the building will be closed while extensive building and refurbishment work goes on. You can find out more about their plans on [thegreatnorthinstitute.com](http://thegreatnorthinstitute.com). So from November onwards, we will be in a lecture room at the Herschel Building at Newcastle University, the building in which we hold our public lecture. This also means a change of start time, from 6.00 to 6.15. We will remind you about it nearer the time!

*Frances McIntosh*  
*Indoor Meetings Secretary*

## COUNTRY MEETINGS

For our second outing of the year, we went to Sion Hill Hall in North Yorkshire, a neo-Georgian house design by Walter H Brierley of York. The house is run by a Charitable Trust, and we were

## AN INVITATION

Everyone who comes to the January Anniversary meeting and lecture is invited to join in our social evening afterwards, upstairs in the Mining Institute's Wood Memorial Hall. and new members who have joined in the last year will be especially welcome. The lecture itself is by local author Max Adams, on St Cuthbert and the Vikings.

As always, this is a do-it-yourself event; we would be grateful if members would bring along finger-food for the buffet (nothing that needs knives and forks, please!). We will also ask for a small donation, around £2, for each glass of wine.

given an excellent tour by Michael Mallaby, who lives in the house as one of the Trustees. The gardens were as magnificent as the house and we enjoyed a picnic lunch in the September sunshine. As antiquarians we felt we also had to fit in the medieval parish church nearby, of course.

The first trip of 2018 will be to Kiplin Hall, near Richmond. The Society has visited before, but there has been much restoration work in both the hall and to the landscaped gardens, so a return visit has been planned in May. Our September trip will be urban, but none the worse for that, taking us to the National Museum of Scotland and the National Portrait Gallery. You'll find more details, and a booking slip, in the same mailing as this *News Bulletin*, and on the website.

I would be very happy to have suggestions for future trips.

*Denise Heslop*  
*Country Meetings Secretary*



*Kiplin Hall in Yorkshire, photo Sue Ward*

## TIME WALKS

It was very fitting that in September we should explore the Town Moor in the year Newcastle celebrated 800 years of Mayoralty and Freeman. 'Newcastle's greatest asset' – a walk around the Town Moor was led by Denis Peel. He took us along the boundary of the City, exploring the outline of the Town Moor as we learnt about its history.

There's still one more event in 2017, with our post-Christmas urban walk. *Roman and Riverside Wallsend*, led by Ken Hutchinson, will take us over 2000 years of local history with an international flavour and a host of characters from Hadrian to Sting. We will be meeting at Wallsend Metro Station at 10.30 on Thursday 28 December. The plan is to finish on Wallsend High Street in time for a pub lunch at the former Ritz cinema, now a Wetherspoons.

As for 2018, we will celebrate (hopefully) warmer weather on the Roman Wall on 19 May with Marta Alberti. *The Roman Circle Line* travels from the Roman Army Museum on to Milecastle 45, passing turret 45a, and back to the museum over the course of an hour or so. We can then go to Vindolanda by car for our lunch and a further guided tour.

For something very different, on 1 September we will be looking at *Newcastle's Ancient Hospitals*, in a walk led by Lawrence Bryson. This will be a chance to consider the sites and/or remains of Newcastle's hospitals as they existed before the building of the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Please let me know if you are going to attend, so we can plan accordingly. Full details of the walks can be found on the website. Anyone who would like more information or who needs (or can offer) transport should contact me on 0774 979 8023 or email [rosie.serdiville@gmail.com](mailto:rosie.serdiville@gmail.com)



*Roman life as seen in the ladies' toilet at the Roman Army Museum. Picture Sue Ward*

And finally, many thanks to all our walk leaders. Their enthusiasm, knowledge and preparation give much pleasure to all who attend.

Rosie Serdiville

## 2019 PILGRIMAGE – BOOKING SOON



*Mucklebank Turret on Hadrian's Wall. Picture courtesy of David Breeze*

If you are interested in going on the Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage in July 2019, make a note in your diary to look out for the booking form in March 2018. Application forms will be sent out that month to all members of the two organising societies, ourselves and the Cumberland and Westmorland, Places go quickly, and there are often very few left by the time registration opens to the rest of the world three months later. You can expect a full week, from 20 to 28 July 2019, packed with chances to re-examine old favourites and explore new ideas about Hadrian's Wall,

especially the evidence for the building of the frontier and its history in the third and fourth centuries. Mike Bishop, Rob Collins, Erik Graafstal, Nick Hodgson, Val Maxfield, Graeme Stobbs, Matt Symonds and Tony Wilmott will be our expert guides.

The cost of the Pilgrimage is expected to be about £400, which will cover the coaches, handbook, entrances, lunches, and so on. The cost of bed, breakfast and dinner in Newcastle and/or Carlisle is additional, and will be about £350 for each person in a double room, with a single occupancy supplement.

## TREASURE TROVE!



*The aureus from the Dinnington Hoard, with Vitellius on the front and his children, unusually, on the reverse. Picture courtesy Portable Antiquities Scheme*

Newcastle Antiquaries is the *only* organisation in our region that is regularly able to buy items which have gone through the Treasure Trove process. A back-log of cases where items were waiting to be declared Treasure suddenly unjammed this year. Normally many of these would have been beyond our reach, but a most generous bequest from our late member Margaret Fleming came at just the right time, and we have been able to buy several important items. However our funds are still limited, and we need members' help for the latest potential acquisition, a hoard of coins from Dinnington.

Chronologically, the earliest of this year's purchases is part of a hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork, the bulk of which we had already acquired in 2011. There are four items, including a rare socketed awl or punch. From the Roman period, a hoard of coins from Whittington includes 19 silver *denarii* and one higher-value *dupondius*, plus part of a copper alloy trumpet brooch. There seem to be two groups of coins, one dating from after AD 114 whilst the other must have been deposited after AD 161; the brooch could date from the late first century to the Antonine period. The coins themselves are not unusual, but the findspot, two kilometres north of Hadrian's Wall, makes this hoard interesting. (The article by the late J. Alan Biggins and Rob Collins in the 2013 edition of *Archaeologia Aeliana* explains about discoveries at the Great Whittington site).

From the time of the early Anglo Saxons, in the first half of the seventh century, there is a pyramidal mount from a sword-scabbard, made from cast silver and inlaid with garnets. The garnets are backed with gold foil and there are indications that the surface was originally gilded. Rather later is a hoard of 12 silver pennies of Edward the Elder (AD 899–924) and Athelstan (AD 924–39), some of them identifiable as coming from the mints at Derby, York and

London. Three of the coins have peck marks on their faces, a sign of the Vikings' method of testing for silver content.

Then there is a hoard of four medieval Scottish groats, found at Stannington, to add to our small collection of Scottish coins. Three of the coins are from the reign of David II (1357–1367) whilst the fourth is from the reign of Robert II (1371–1390). This is a good reminder that coinage was redeemable on both sides of the Border even in times of conflict.

And last but not most excitingly, there is the Dinnington Hoard, for which we are currently trying to raise £20,050. The V & A Purchase Fund is giving us £8,000, and we have applied for a matching grant from the Hedley Museums Archaeological Acquisitions Scheme, but we need help with the balance. The Hoard was found when a pond was being dug on private property at Dinnington, and consists of six silver denarii, the latest dating to AD 91, and one aureus of Vitellius who was emperor for only eight months in AD 69. Roman gold coins are very rare finds in the Military Zone; each one was worth a month's pay for a legionary during Domitian's reign. It's possible that this one was part of the bonus paid to soldiers on the accession of a new emperor, perhaps Domitian in AD 81.

We have set up a MyDonate page on [tinyurl.com/DinningtonHoard](https://www.tinyurl.com/DinningtonHoard), or you can donate by cheque made out to SANT (Dinnington), or via Paypal. See our website for more information.

*Lindsay Allason Jones*  
*Keeper of Collections*

*Editor's note; an obituary of Margaret Fleming, our only centenarian member, appeared in News Bulletin 58 (June 2015), which can be viewed on our website.*

## MORE HIDDEN TREASURE – IN THE LIBRARY

It is not only underground that treasures lurk unseen. A routine check of our shelved books against the catalogue led to the discovery of an eighteenth-century volume which was the personal copy of the nineteenth-century antiquarian and historian Rev John Hodgson, signed by him in 1812, heavily annotated, and with letters and drawings tipped in.

On the face of it, Dr Richard Burn's 1777 *History of Westmorland* was a worthy if rather tedious county history. However, Hodgson's additions and annotations lift it to the status of a unique record of early nineteenth-century northern social history,

and reveal much about one of the region's most important historians. Hodgson was born in 1779 at Swindale in the parish of Shap in Westmorland, but spent most of his working life in Northumberland, as vicar first of Kirkwhelpington and then Hartburn. He was a founder member of SANT, and served alongside John Adamson as co-secretary until 1834. His *History of Northumberland*, according to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, 'for excellence of design and completeness of execution is still a model of what a county history might be'.

Hodgson is evidently treating his copy of Burn's book as a working text, and is critical of much of its content. The very first annotation begins, 'Dr Burn does not seem to have been aware [of theories about the origins of the name Westmorland]'. He adds factual details such as population figures, alongside vignettes on local history which show a somewhat romantic preoccupation and an interest in the mildly scandalous. Four sketches and watercolours are tipped in, all of them apparently from a trip in May 1811. Three have Old Culgarth as their subject, and the fourth is of Kirbythore Church.

In addition there are letters, most of them from Dr John Robinson, vicar of Clifton near Penrith between 1826 and 1839, who was thinking of writing a history of Westmorland (though he never published one). Hodgson was clearly generous in his advice and encouragement to a man lacking in confidence. Robinson's letters give an insight into the life of an incumbent of a rural parish at the time, and reveal much about domestic and financial matters.

This volume came to us, along with many others, in the J. G. Hodgson bequest of 1926. For



*Kirbythore Church, Westmorland, as seen by John Hodgson in 1811. Picture courtesy Michael Barke*

an antiquarian book lover like myself, it is exciting to find that a routine librarianship task can still offer the potential for unearthing an unsuspected historical record.

Michael Barke

## HERITAGE OPEN DAY IN THE LIBRARY



Visitors poring over rare books in the library. Picture courtesy Ian Bower

As one of the Heritage Open Day events in Newcastle, the GNM Library put some of its rare and precious books on display on 8 September, to the evident delight of over 60 visitors. The theme this year was *Travel and Journeys*. Some of the SANT titles on display were Henry Overton's eighteenth-century *A New Mapp of the Whole World*, William Hutton's account of his nineteenth-century journey along Hadrian's Wall and the Reverend James Murray's *Travels of the Imagination*, a report of a trip from Newcastle to London

in a stagecoach in 1773.

The event was ably supported by library volunteers and Denis Peel and Howard Cleeve from SANT were also on hand to meet the visitors and expertly answer their queries. All in all it was a very successful event that introduced a number of new people to the library and its impressive and diverse collections, and there were many enthusiastic comments about the collection and how much people had learnt.

All we need now is a theme for next year – let me know if you have any suggestions!

Ian Bower  
Librarian

## POP-UPS AT THE GREAT NORTH MUSEUM



The Carvoran Head on show; picture courtesy Wade Jones

The Great North Museum now has a special place for 'pop-ups', small temporary exhibitions, in the space just behind the Roman altars on the ground floor, where the Mithraeum used to be. So far, it has been used by Museum Studies students and for loans from the Museum of London, and currently to show Roman glass bangles.

*Set in Stone: an Exploration of Romano-Celtic Religion*, was curated by a group of 15 Museum Studies Newcastle University students. It featured SANT's Carvoran head. SANT Member Wade Jones was in charge of the research about the Stone Heads. As he explained on the students' temporary website, 'It was one of the first objects donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, just two months after it was founded in 1813. This was the beginning of the British archaeological collection in the Great North Museum that you see today'.

*Mithras: Roman Religion from Thames to Tyne* followed, bringing together finds from Carrawburgh on Hadrian's Wall and from Walbrook in London. On display now until 3 January 2018, is *Frontier Fashion: Glass*

*Bangles of the Roman North*. This focuses on Newcastle University archaeologist Tatiana Ivleva's research on Roman glass bangles in Britain. (See the report of Tatiana's lecture at our June meeting, below).

Groups interested in displaying work linked to a particular project are being encouraged to put forward proposals, perhaps making use of artefacts currently in storage at the Museum that

could be displayed in a small number of cases. The Museum is aiming to show at least three different mini-exhibitions each year.

*Howard Cleeve*

## BEYOND THE CHURCH DOOR – STRANGE PRACTICES IN NORTHERN ENGLAND

I am researching medieval and post-medieval ritual and apotropaic practices in Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmoreland for my undergraduate dissertation in Archaeology at Durham University.

Religion and belief were by no means confined to the church or to doctrinal Christianity during the medieval or post-medieval periods. The belief that supernatural powers were constantly at work, but could be influenced and to some degree controlled by the actions of the individual, appears to have pervaded all areas of life. With this ideology, and living in a world where many natural phenomena such as illness and premature death were not understood, it is understandable that many people sought not only solutions to their misfortunes, but also preventive measures to avert bad luck and evil influence, and charms to attract good fortune. The souls and corporeal remains of the dead seem to have been considered particularly vulnerable to malign forces.

The material remains of these activities have been identified and studied elsewhere in the country, but as yet very little work has been done on the topic in northern England. On the basis of what has been found further south, we may expect to find items such as shoes, cats, bent pins, bent or pierced coins, holed stones, skulls, bottles, or 'witch-marks'. These could be concealed or deposited in wells, wetland, or in or under the walls, roofs or chimneys of buildings. Any unusual burial practices or grave inclusions may also be of interest.

If you are aware of any occurrences of things like this, I would be very grateful if you would please email me at [lucy.c.godridge@durham.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.c.godridge@durham.ac.uk), as I would like to discuss this with you and carry out research into these instances.

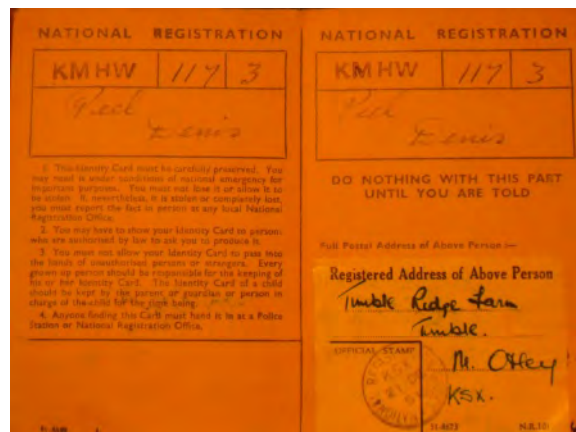
*Lucy Godridge, Durham University*

## THE 1939 REGISTER; HISTORY IN OUR (MY) TIME

A whole new resource, the 1939 national identity register for Britain, is now publicly accessible online, filling a major gap for researchers. On Friday 1 September 1939, secondary school children were evacuated from Newcastle. On the Saturday, it was decided to set up a National Register of every person in the country, and on Sunday 3 September war was declared.

On 29 September, 65,000 officials visited every house in the country leaving a form to be filled in listing every occupant of that house. A few days later the forms were collected in and identity cards issued. The buff coloured cards had a unique four letter district code, followed by a house number and a number for each person in the house. In my case the area code was KMHW relating to Bingley (Yorkshire) Urban District Council; 117, the sequential house number, not the address, and 3 as I was the third person in the house, so my number was KMHW1173. My card for some reason is dated 1 May 1940.

These cards had to be carried by all adults as identification, and were used for the issue of ration books. When my family moved in 1951, our registered new address was added by the use of a sticker over the original. When the National Health Service was formed in 1948 the number also became the NHS number and this was still in use when I changed GPs in 1979, but has since been replaced by a 10 digit number.



*A 1939 identity card; picture courtesy Denis Peel*

The register has now been transcribed and is available to consult on the Findmypast subscription website and free in some libraries. It will fill a large gap in census returns for historians, as there is a break of thirty years between the 1921 census and the 1951. The 1931 census records were destroyed during the war, and no census was undertaken in 1941. For social historians it is of great interest as it lists occupations. In addition to a main occupation, both men and women were involved in Air Raid Precaution duties. At that time, before the advent of labour saving devices and the growth of women's employment during the war, the majority of wives were occupied full-time in keeping the household going and their role was classed as Unpaid Domestic Duties.

Denis Peel

## ENDANGERED ARCHAEOLOGY



*The Roman legionary exercise ground (left) outside the legionary fortress of Lambaesis. Note the new housing development (bottom right) (images: Google Earth; top June 2010, bottom July 2012).*

Back in 2010, I went out to Australia to take part in a pilot project using *Google Earth* to examine satellite photos of the archaeology of Saudi Arabia. Then, in 2015, I started working part-time for the Endangered Archaeology project at the University of Oxford. Now the same methodology was to be used to catalogue and, in addition, assess the risks to archaeological sites in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Directed by Dr Robert Bewley, a team of image interpreters and geographical information systems (GIS) specialists was assembled, funded by the Arcadia Foundation, in a partnership between the Universities of Oxford, Leicester, and later Durham.

I began where I had left off in 2010: in the seemingly barren lava fields of the deserts of Saudi Arabia, which yielded thousands of prehistoric sites, most of them never before recorded. There and elsewhere throughout the MENA region, we recorded damage from development, infrastructure construction, agriculture,

erosion, as well as the one that is probably uppermost in the mind of most people: conflict.

In 2017, the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's accession, one example will suffice to highlight just what is meant by endangered archaeology. Hadrian's famous address (*adlocutio*) to the Roman army in North Africa was inscribed on the base of a column set up in the exercise ground outside the legionary fortress at Lambaesis (modern Tazoult-Lambèse in Algeria). Comparing images of the site in *Google Earth*, it is possible to see both how the exercise ground is affected by agriculture and how housing development is gradually spreading towards it.

For more information about the work of EAMENA (including links to our database), visit the website at [eamena.org](http://eamena.org).

Mike Bishop

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### May 2017

Andrew Breeze, of the University of Navarra in Spain, spoke about *The Battle of Brunanburh*, which he described as one of the decisive engagements of British history. In the late summer of 937, the West Saxon king Athelstan crushed an invading army of Scots, Strathclyders, and Dublin Norse, thereby helping bring about the unification of England a generation later. The site of the battle has been unknown, despite many suggestions. Andrew suggested that it was in

the North-East, by the Roman fortress at Lanchester overlooking the River Browney in Co. Durham, and that the meaning of 'Brunanburh' was 'stronghold of the Browney'. It lay by a Roman road which would have been used by the invaders on their return home, laden with loot.

One facet of our new knowledge, he suggested, concerned a manuscript held in Cambridge's Corpus Christi College, CCC MS 183, a copy of Bede's lives of St Cuthbert, written in Wessex in the mid-930s. It was formerly in the possession of the monastic community of Chester-le-Street, and later in the library at Durham. It includes an illustration of Athelstan bowing as he presents a book to St Cuthbert. Location of Brunanburh within eight miles of Chester-le-Street, however, offers a new focus on its history. The book would have been one of the lavish donations made by Athelstan to the monks there. He gave these both out of piety a shrewd attempt to win the loyalty of the Church in Northumbria, where West Saxon rule was not popular. It was likely, Andrew thought that the manuscript was commissioned for this very purpose as the events of 937 unfolded, and that it was presented to the community at a victory mass in the aftermath of the battle. Like the Lindisfarne Gospels or Codex Amiatinus, MS 183 in the Corpus Library can thus now be seen as a precious – and dramatic – relic of the North-East's early history.

Andrew can be contacted on [abreeze@unav.es](mailto:abreeze@unav.es)



*Athelstan presenting the book to St Cuthbert*

### June 2017

The speaker in June was Tatiana Ivleva, on Romano-British glass bangles: a reappraisal. She explained that the bangles were made of coloured glass, and used for female adornment. Fragments of several hundred were known. There were two common beliefs about them; that they were invented in Scotland, and that they were not found anywhere else in the Roman empire. She wanted to examine both beliefs.

Around 200 fragments had been discovered during the excavation of Traprain Law. Howard Kilbride Jones, who published them in 1938, had suggested that Traprain Law was a manufacturing centre, and had created a typology for them which is still in use. Broadly, the earliest ones, Type 1, were pre-Roman, while Type 2 were first-century AD and Type 3 second-century.

Research in the 1980s by Jennifer Price had shown that they were distributed all over Britain, but mainly in Yorkshire, Northumberland and south-east Scotland. Tatiana's own more recent research has largely confirmed this. The earliest examples of Type 2 appeared on pre-Flavian military sites in southern Britain. From there they appeared to have travelled up north, but then died out in the late second century. Corbridge or Vindolanda might have been manufacturing centres, but no examples of kilns had been found.

Tatiana explained that experimental archaeologists had worked out how they were made, using a block of third-century glass found in a shipwreck off Corsica. She showed a video of this, and another of a glassmaker in Bida, in Nigeria, who could turn out plain undecorated bangles in a few minutes. Modern glass available at the National Glass Centre in Sunderland did not have the right properties, but she had some facsimiles from elsewhere which she passed around. They were surprisingly strong, she pointed out, but could be broken by prolonged friction on the inside curve.

Tatiana can be contacted on [Tatiana.ivleva@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Tatiana.ivleva@ncl.ac.uk). As noted above, a group of Roman glass bangles is on display at the Great North Museum until 3 January 2018.



*A complete glass bangle from York; picture courtesy Tatiana Ivleva*

### July 2017

The July lecturer was John Malden, speaking about the aftermath of the 1650 Battle of Dunbar between Parliamentary and Royalist forces.

The parliamentary leader Oliver Cromwell, he explained, had thought he would lose, and was



*Palace Green, Durham, the site of at least one charnel pit. Picture courtesy Uli Harder*

set to retreat into England. Instead, after the battle Cromwell found himself with 10,000 prisoners. The camp followers and wounded soldiers were released, bringing the numbers down to around 5,000. Cromwell then sent these off under an escort of only 25 cavalry, to be held in Durham.

Presbyterian ministers accompanying the Scots army had insisted they fast on the day before the battle. No adequate arrangements for feeding the prisoners on the march were made, so that by the time they reached Morpeth, they were hungry and exhausted. It was reported that they consumed an entire field of raw cabbages, roots and all, and John speculated that they would also have ingested the nightsoil used as manure. Many

became very ill, and although once they reached Durham they were properly fed and sheltered, typhus had taken hold. Overall, John estimated that around 1700 men died on the march and while imprisoned in Durham cathedral.

Recent archaeological excavations had found a charnel pit on Palace Green, close to the library, and there were probably others underneath the University buildings there. The skeletons would be re-interred in a local churchyard in due course. There was a lobby for treating them as the 'Martyrs of Dunbar', but very few of the Royalist soldiers would have actually come from Dunbar in the first place.

Of those who survived, a number were shipped off to Massachusetts, while others were sent to the Fens to work on the drainage project there. Interestingly, while there were suggestions that prisoners should be offered the opportunity to enlist for service in Ireland, this was not to be offered to the Highlanders, who had Gaelic as a native tongue and were thought to sympathise with the Irish.

John can be contacted on [john.malden301@btinternet.com](mailto:john.malden301@btinternet.com)

## August 2017



*The angels on the Grey tomb, picture courtesy Derek Cutts*

The August lecture was given by our past President Derek Cutts, on the family, social, and religious contexts of the Grey Tomb at Chillingham.

The family was more prominent and better connected than had often been suggested. There were links to the Dukes of Norfolk and to the Nevilles by both marriage and descent, and one of the sons was in the household of Margaret of Anjou. On the other hand, the older Thomas Grey had lost his head in the failed revolt against Henry V in 1415. The

second Sir Ralph, who was probably responsible for the tomb-chest, changed sides more than once during the Wars of the Roses, but was captured and executed by Edward IV at Doncaster in 1464.

As a family, the Greys owed their wealth to service, with the first Sir Ralph holding posts such as Keeper of Roxburgh and Warden of the East March. They did own substantial estates in Northumberland, but these were not worth much because of the devastation of constant warfare. Chillingham itself was not part of the ancestral holdings, and it was not clear how they had obtained it. The placing of such an ostentatious tomb in the chapel could be seen as an assertion of ownership. It might have been paid for by Sir Ralph's brother William, who had a very distinguished career as a scholar and diplomat on the Continent and as Henry VI's proctor in the Roman curia, before returning in 1455 to become Bishop of Ely and a mediator during the civil war.

Unusually, the tomb and effigies were made of different materials – local sandstone for the tomb, Derbyshire alabaster for the effigies – and might well be of different dates. The iconography of the alabaster part could be linked to Bishop William in several ways. He very

much favoured the Bridgettine Order, and there was a common concern for the pains of purgatory. Saints on the upper part included St Ethelreda, patron saint of Ely, St Cuthbert, and the very minor saints Zita of Lucca and St Leonard of Noblac, with connecting themes of good service, and of incorruption.

The tomb and effigies, Derek concluded, were probably brightly painted, though only traces remained today.

Derek can be contacted on [derekcutt914@gmail.com](mailto:derekcutt914@gmail.com).

### September 2017

Professor Ian Haynes spoke about *Recent work by Newcastle University on Hadrian's Wall*. He began by reporting the good news that his colleagues in the University's Department of Archaeology had succeeded in a major Lottery bid for the *Hadrian's Wall Landscape Archaeology Community Project*. [See [www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news/2017/08/hadrianswall/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news/2017/08/hadrianswall/) for details of this – Ed.]

He gave us an update on the project at Camp Farm, Maryport, made possible by Senhouse Museum Trust. As director, with Tony Wilmott as field director, he had organised a combined team including over four hundred community volunteers to illuminate the story of the famous Maryport altars. Analysis of the results was still underway, but he showed us a visualisation of the temple complex as it might have appeared around AD 200.



*A visualisation of Maryport Roman Temples c. AD 200, picture courtesy Newcastle University and Take27*

Further up the Cumbrian coast, the university had conducted a major survey of the important site at Beckfoot, working with local volunteers, and following on from some superb work by colleagues at Wardell Armstrong. Still in Cumbria, English Heritage's 2009 excavations at Birdoswald Roman fort cemetery under Tony Wilmott were still bearing fruit. Rob Collins was working on the analysis of the material found, while Frances McIntosh was putting together the display to present its results to a larger public. (Both of them are leading SANT members, of course, as well as University colleagues of Ian's). In Northumberland, thanks to the generosity of Mr Aidan Cuthbert, Newcastle University had been able to conduct a major geophysical survey of the Roman town and environs at Corbridge.

All three projects had been included in a case-study for the University's Cultural Heritage Through Time project, funded by the UK Research Councils, in partnership with English Heritage and Historic England. Closer to home, the University was collaborating with David Heslop and Iwan Peverett, on the creation of Exploring Hadrian's Wall, an app which allowed users to navigate through a 3D visualisation of Roman Newcastle and its environs.

Finally, Ian stressed the importance of the Antiquaries' own support, especially for two initiatives that allowed material from the Wall to reach a larger audience, NU Digital Heritage and the Futurelearn Online Course on the Wall itself.

Ian can be contacted on [ian.haynes@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:ian.haynes@ncl.ac.uk).

### October 2017

Our Public Lecture this year was given by Alexander Hutton, on *People's History in Historical Pageants, 1905–2016*. Every summer in the early twentieth century, he explained, Anglo-Saxons and Romans camped on village greens all over the country, while Boudicca and Elizabeth paraded in open-topped cars. Over a million people had participated in pageants at their peak, with perhaps 15 million witnessing them.

Mostly, Alexander went on, these Edwardian pageants were an invocation of Merrie England, the result of conservative nostalgia for the pre-industrial past. However, they were a contested space, vulnerable to protests about the type of history portrayed. So they tended to avoid depictions of social conflict, such as the Civil War, for fear of arousing passions. Few covered anything later than the eighteenth century, and the local elite usually took the main roles, often playing their own illustrious ancestors.

After the end of World War One, the Women's Institutes began to hold its own pageants around the country, benignly inserting women into history. Civic pageants were held to boost

the local economy, often in conjunction with a local trade fair. The Newcastle pageant of 1931, for instance, was held alongside an Empire Fair held in the Palace of Arts. But there was less success at papering over the cracks; in Bradford in 1931 the employers were unwilling to allow performers time off, and the WEA-written script on the Industrial Revolution was rejected as divisive. The Communist-dominated Bradford Charter Committee published a pamphlet, *Workers and Wool*, attacking it.

In the run-up to the Second World War, there was also a move towards 'Popular Front pageantry', with for example the Left Book Theatre Guild staging a pageant in Newcastle. The pinnacle was Music for the People, in the Royal Albert Hall in April 1939, with Paul Robeson singing Chartist songs to an audience of 10,000. It was vilified by the press, even the *Manchester Guardian*. After the War, the 1951 Festival of Britain saw several hundred pageants, not always popular with the local elites who saw themselves as being pushed aside. They then went into steep decline, but perhaps what came closest to a historical pageant in recent days was the Olympic Opening Ceremony in 2012. Many of its scenes were reminiscent of a 1938 Labour Pageant.

Alexander can be contacted on [historicalpageants@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:historicalpageants@kcl.ac.uk) and the database he and colleagues are creating is at [www.historicalpageants.ac.uk](http://www.historicalpageants.ac.uk).

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*I am always glad to have readers' comments or suggestions for the content of the Bulletin. I am also happy to receive contributions from members, but pressure of space means that articles frequently have to be drastically cut, deferred, or dropped altogether. My address is 5 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, or e-mail me at [sue.ward@phonecoop.coop](mailto:sue.ward@phonecoop.coop).*

*Copy deadline for the next edition is 2 May 2018. The mailing date will be 6 June. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 31 May. The Spring Mailing will be on 14 March, with inserts required by 30 February (two weeks before). In both cases, if you want an insert included, please 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.*

Printed in England by yourPrintDepartment