

# NEWS BULLETIN



## THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.64 June 2018

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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](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)*

### IMPORTANT NOTE; CHANGE OF VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS



*The entrance to the Black Swan Courtyard for the Arts Centre.*

Please note that due to the renovation of the Mining Institute, the summer monthly meetings will be held in the Newcastle Arts Centre, starting with the meeting on 27 June. The October and November meetings will be at Newcastle University, as in the programme card. We will be letting you know in due course about the 2019 meetings!

The Arts Centre is on Westgate Road, NE1 1SG (just up the road from the statue of Joseph Cowen). Go in through the Black Swan Courtyard; there will be people in the courtyard to guide you to the right room.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you are enjoying the 2017 volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, which has had a long journey to publication. Its high quality research, ranging from Roman Britain to industrial archaeology, is a snapshot of the tremendous range of expertise, knowledge and interests within the Society and one of the great attractions of membership. Individual members have access to the online version through the members' area of our website. Steering this volume from drafts of articles to the finely finished volume on your shelves were our team of editors and reviewers, led by the Editor Jenny Proctor and Production Editor Roger Fern. They have worked with Derek Brown of Oblong and staff at Titus Wilson. Many thanks to them all for their expertise and dedication. Due to work commitments, Jenny Proctor has been obliged to stand down as Editor. We wish her every success in her professional work and look forward to seeing new publications bearing her stamp of quality. Work on the 2018 volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* is progressing, with an exciting breadth of articles submitted. Welcome to Dan O'Meara, the new editor, who introduces himself later in this *News Bulletin*.

This year's lecture programme has delivered treats already with more to come. There have been more upheavals than usual (and than we might have hoped), given adverse weather in February and a change of topic in May. Thanks to the Programme Secretary Frances McIntosh for finding such interesting speakers, and for dealing with the various crises with aplomb. Many thanks also to the Mining Institute's General Manager Simon Brooks, who has for so long ensured that the lecture theatre was prepared for our monthly meetings. Simon is leaving for pastures new and we wish him well for the future.

I hope that you will enjoy our summer programme, in particular the Summer Social on 15 June at St Ann's Church, which is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. There are many other events during the Great Exhibition of the North, running from 22 June to 9 September, including Stephenson's Rocket at the Discovery Museum. Please see the regular e-circulars for details, and thanks to Sue Ward for her dedication in keeping us informed.

Much of this *News Bulletin* is given over to material about archives and acquisitions – ours and other people's. The *Unlocking the Archives Project*, Stafford Linsley's generous gift of maps, and the Briggs and Thornborrow bequests are all keeping volunteers busy, and there are more ideas for the future. As always, the Society relies heavily on the time and expertise of its members, and we can always use more help!

*Richard Pears*

## NEW EDITOR FOR ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA



*Don O'Meara, our new Editor*

As the new editor of *Archaeologia Aeliana*, I hope I can live up to the standards set by my predecessor Jenny Proctor, and the work of previous AA editors. I have been based in the North East and Cumbria for over ten years, working first in the commercial archaeology sector, and now as Historic England Science Advisor for the North East and Hadrian's Wall. After studying History and Archaeology at University College Cork I undertook further postgrad research at Durham University where I devoted my time to researching the cesspits of Northern England (the archaeology of urban sanitation is still one of my great interests). My current research at Durham focuses on archaeobotanical work in the North East and Cumbria from the 1980s to the present.

Being able to travel across the region and meet archaeologists in the private, public, community, and academic sectors is one of the great benefits of my current role with Historic England. This, along with the time I spent working in the commercial archaeology sector, has helped me develop a broad interest in the archaeology, heritage, and history of the region which I hope to bring to the editorship of AA. In preparing for future AA volumes I look forward to working further with

our editorial committee, SANT members, and our many expert reviewers who are so crucial to the success of the journal.

*Don O'Meara*

## OUR WALKS PROGRAMME

It seems a long time since we blew away the cobwebs with a post-Christmas urban walk led by Ken Hutchinson round *Roman & Riverside Wallsend*. Ken took us over 2000 years of local history with an international flavour and a host of characters from Hadrian to Sting. What felt like the coldest day of the year did not deter us from making discoveries such as a 1980s 'mural' covering the side of an electricity supply station. Essentially a plasticised poster which had been glued on, and in need of some conservation, it was a surprising and lovely bit of work.

Our first summer walk, in warmer weather, was on the Roman Wall with Marta Alberti on 19th May. *The Roman Circle Line* travelled from the Roman Army Museum on to Milecastle 45 and back, with lunch afterwards at Vindolanda.

July will see a series of early evening Summer Walks on Tyneside, organised by John Griffiths, while on 1 September we will also be in Newcastle, looking at *Newcastle's Ancient Hospitals*. The walk will be led by Lawrence Bryson, and we are due to meet at Haymarket South African War Memorial at 10.30. See our website for more details.

*Rosie Serdiville*



*The 1980s 'mural' in Wallsend, picture courtesy Rosie Serdiville*

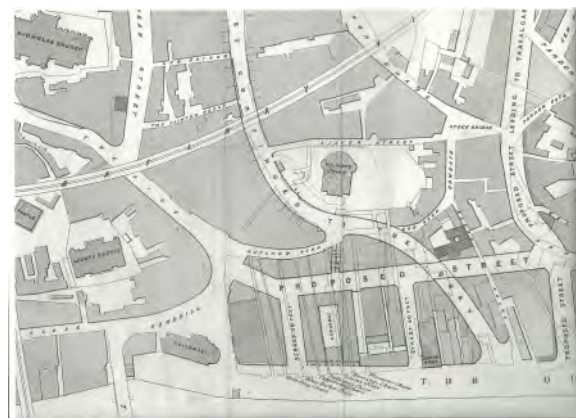
## FOCUS ON OUR COLLECTIONS

Did you know that the SANT collection held at Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn includes 76 different deposits, stored in 580 boxes? Our cataloguing project a few years ago under Sally Bird listed nearly 67,000 items in the Woodhorn catalogue. If we counted up every object in the Great North Museum, the Bagpipe Museum at Morpeth, and on loan around the region, it could be approaching half a million. We're still adding to our collections, and finding new ways of making them accessible and useful to the public, as the stories below show.

### **The Stafford Linsley Map Collection**

The name of Stafford Linsley will be familiar to many members of the Society. Stafford was for many years a tutor in Newcastle University's adult education department, specialising in industrial archaeology. He has most generously donated his collection of maps to the Society, along with a map-chest. The enormous collection – over a thousand maps in total – is in now being catalogued.

About three quarters of them are Ordnance Survey maps of various editions and locations in the north of England. They include complete coverage of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland at the detailed six miles to one inch scale for both the first edition (around 1860s) and second edition (around



*John Dobson's 1864 suggested reconstruction of the Quayside after the Great Fire of Newcastle, picture courtesy Mike Darke*

1890s), plus many town plans at both the 25 miles to one inch and 50 miles to one inch scales. Around two hundred of the maps are thematic – collieries, railway proposals, urban improvements and so on. The majority of this group were, famously, rescued from a skip by Stafford when the old Newcastle Town Hall was being demolished!

*Mike Barke*

### **Slides and Photos**

The complete slide collections bequeathed to us from Geoffrey Briggs, Barbara Harbottle, and John Thornborrow are now available in digital format, having been scanned by our volunteer Eric. Some are of unidentified places, and we are also thinking about how to deal with that. A number of glass plate photographs from the 1950s, found within the collections, are also being digitised by our volunteer Irwin Thompson. For access to the laptop on which they are being kept, please ask the librarian.

For his very detailed article in the current volume of *Archaeologia Aeliana* about Part 1 of Volume 1 Howard Cleeve took many photographs to allow him to transcribe various documents at home. The photos and the transcriptions are also now on the laptop. This will avoid the need for other researchers to take similar photographs of the same items – particularly as some of the documents are fragile.

Meanwhile, our collection of photos from the Victorian photographer Edgar Lee is safely in store at the Mining Institute, having been beautifully restored by their volunteer Aaron Guy. Social historian Bill Lancaster gave a presentation at the Institute at the end of March, summarised below.

### **Edgar Lee's Street Scenes**

Edgar Lee had a photographic studio in Eldon Square during the 1890s, and was able to make use of pioneering developments in photographic glass and printing by Joseph Swan. Many of his surviving images are magic lantern slides for public screening. Lee had a strong interest in the lives and conditions of the urban poor. His slides illustrate the filth and dereliction of the 'Chares' in the Sandgate area of the Quayside, which were largely unchanged since the cholera epidemic of the early 1850s. Children are poorly dressed and usually barefoot. Liquid drains from Chare entrances and fish waste is apparent on the pavements. Water comes from single taps at the entrances and squalor appears to be everywhere.

At the time, the condition of the urban poor was gaining national political notoriety. Lee's work complements the research on Newcastle by Sidney and Beatrice Webb for their major survey on English local government. The Webbs were shocked by Newcastle's conditions, and considered the local council one of the most incompetent in the country. Hexham photographer John Pattison Gibson advertised Lee's lantern slides for sale as CHILD LIFE IN THE SLUMS and STREET LIFE. The early Independent Labour Party had a number of photographer-members, including Tom Maguire in Bradford and Arthur Field in Leicester. However, it seems unlikely that someone with premises in Newcastle's grandest area was formally affiliated to socialist organisations.



*Edgar Lee's 'Newsboy', digitised image cropped from his original, courtesy Jennifer Hillyard*

At the time, Tyneside painters such as Hedley, the Joplings and the Cullercoats artists were renowned for their realist depictions of local working people. Many of Hedley's works such as Quayside scenes, the domestic cat and coastal fishing communities appear to have been 'copied' by Lee, perhaps anxious to show the artistic potential of photography. But he also provides clear sharp images of a rugby match in Jesmond, the fruit of Swan's work, and a valuable record of the Town Moor Temperance Festival.

One memorable slide is of a large crowd outside the Station Hotel, gathered for some form of event, perhaps a Punch and Judy show. In their midst are two young black boys. Both are barefoot and one is

selling newspapers, an echo of Hedley's famous painting *The Newsboy*. These two figures in a crowd demonstrate the multifaceted potential of photography, especially in the hands of someone with the skills of Edgar Lee.

Bill Lancaster

### More Hoarded Coins

There has been a glut of artefacts being released from the Treasure process in recent months, a number of which the Society has acquired. After a successful fund raising effort, the Dinnington Hoard of Roman coins is now safely in the GNM: Hancock. It has just been joined by a small hoard of early medieval coins from Matfen, which was found in 2015.

The Matfen coins are all pennies of either Athelstan or Edward the Elder. Sadly, only one can be assigned to a mint, the moneyer being named as Regnald of York. The deposition of the hoard can be dated to around 930 as one of the coins has a particular motif, known as Athelstan's National Circumscription Cross, thought to have been introduced in July 927.

Although the hoard does not include any of the Anglo-Viking coins of the late ninth- or early tenth-century AD, the appearance of pecking on the surface of three of the coins may suggest a Viking link, as pecking was how the Vikings tested for silver content. The early tenth century was a period when a purely coin-based economy replaced a bullion economy in the North of England, so numismatists can rarely draw a clear distinction between Anglo-Saxon and Viking coins in Northumbria. Given the lack of material in the SANT collection of this date, other than stone sculpture, the hoard is a welcome addition to our archaeological collection.

Lindsay Allason-Jones

## MAKING OUR COLLECTIONS ACCESSIBLE

### Unlocking the Archives

Our *Unlocking the Archives Project*, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was completed at the end of April. We ran two palaeography courses with a tutor from Durham Record Office, and the trained volunteers then transcribed five hundred pages from three volumes in the archives. These can all be viewed on [www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk/uta](http://www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk/uta). Several thousand hours of work went into the project over its eighteen-month life, but feedback from the participants suggest that they enjoyed themselves as well. 'To have the opportunity to access a course like this is really quite amazing', one participant in the courses said. 'I liked the fact that the tutor let you get on with working things out yourself, helping when help was wanted.' Another spoke of 'rediscovering the power of history to illuminate the nature of life today' and the 'personal sense of controlling one's environment that comes from being able to "work" in one's own home' since all the transcribing was done via the web.

### Schools Workshops

A further element of the Unlocking project was a series of workshops in schools run by living history group Time Bandits. We used the Flood Papers, transcribed on SANT's website, and *An account of the great floods in the rivers Tyne, Tees, Wear, Eden, &c. in 1771 and 1815*, published in 1815 by William Garrett, plus images of recent floods to compare life in this area in the eighteenth century with the children's own experiences. The outcome was a collection of written and graphic materials that formed the basis of an exhibition currently staged in Time



One of the Hexhamshire Wills transcribed during the project



Bandits shopfront unit in Eldon Gardens, Newcastle.

We were keen to get children thinking about verifying information, and how we can distinguish fact from fiction. Garrett is wonderful as a source, vivid and full of detail. But it would be reasonable to question some of the stories he tells – he had an eye for the dramatic. We looked at his description of the flooded Bywell Church with wooden coffins floating free. The rats of the area, spotting an option for survival clustered on the top, he claimed.

*A Chinese rat riding to safety on a sandal*

We posed a series of questions to the children. Do rats behave like that? Where do we first find the story recounted – could it be a misinterpretation of

original material? Is the source reliable in other contexts? Do we find the story elsewhere and who tells it? Has anyone refuted it? Is there a primary source? How do you research a subject like this? *Most important, what do you think?*

A child at Cambo school who came up with our favourite rejoinder, discovered as they looked at the results of floods elsewhere – a rat hitching a ride on a sandal, in a flood in China.

We have published a pamphlet, available on SANT's website, showing some of the children's drawings, and will be displaying some of them at the Georgian Festival in Sunderland over the weekend 11–13 July (during the Tall Ships' visit). SANT will be running a bookstall there – volunteer helpers and books both very welcome.

*Rosie Serdiville*

## WHAT NEXT? THE MANORIAL DOCUMENTS REGISTER



*The 1580 Hexham Court Roll, from SANT's archives at Woodhorn. Picture courtesy Andrea Cameron*

The manorial system provided the basic framework governing the lives of ordinary people in rural England, from the eleventh century right up until modern times. The Manorial Documents Register (MDR), set up and run by the National Archives, is an index to English and Welsh manorial records. It provides brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands. At Northumberland Archives, we ran a project between 2014 and 2017 to update Northumberland's section of the Register, funded by The National Archives and The Federation of Family History Societies. Now we are asking the Heritage Lottery Fund for money for an outreach project.

Northumberland had 396 manors and 39 baronies; we have documented records for 274 of these. Each lord of the manor had the right to hold a court for his local tenants as part of the management of the manor as a social and economic unit. Court business was recorded on the 'court roll', and in early days this was literally pieces of parchment stitched together to form a roll. A wealth of other records also survive from these courts from the 13th century onwards and can tell us about family and social change, industrial and agricultural development, local government, land

ownership, crime, housing and property, and simply about everyday life.

Manorial documents can identify individuals and look at what 'customs' (rules) they were required to live by, how they bent or broke the rules and what the consequences were when this happened. You could be 'presented' before the manor to be amerced (fined) for cheating buyers at your market stall, to not having your chimney in correct repair or cutting back a tree hanging into a neighbour's garden. So far, the project has revealed many previously undiscovered records within collections held by Northumberland Archives and elsewhere.

The Register remains open for us to add newly discovered documents, and will be launched

in 2018 and accessible via the National Archives at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). We are very keen to promote these collections and increase awareness of the value of manorial records as an important resource for the history of the people and communities of Northumberland. We are therefore submitting a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund [HLF] to support an outreach project that would involve workshops, volunteer transcription, social media, a travelling exhibition and school activities. If we succeed, there will be many opportunities to volunteer for more work on the old documents that can tell us so much.

*Andrea Cameron, Project Archivist  
Northumberland Archives*

## JOHN BRAND, HISTORIAN AND ARTIST

In 1789 John Brand (1744–1806) published *The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*. He had begun his career apprenticed as a Cordwainer in Newcastle, before taking a degree at Lincoln College Oxford. Shortly afterwards, he was ordained and appointed curate at Cramlington and rector of St Mary-at-Hill, Northumberland, and became personal secretary to the Dukes of Northumberland. He accompanied Hugh Percy, 2nd Duke of Northumberland, to London. There Brand became a member of, and then Secretary in Residence to, the Society of Antiquaries of London (SAL). After publishing his history, he dedicated his time to the development of his print collection, expanded by his own facsimile copies.

I first came across one of Brand's copies while working with the Royal Collection's Engraved Royal Portrait series housed at Windsor Castle. It was a small pen and ink copy of Albert Clouwet's engraving of Saint Margaret, Queen of Scotland, inscribed on the back 'From the very rare original on satten in the collection of Sir John St Aubyn Bt. by John Brand at North House March 1792.' Intrigued by the meticulous detail, I searched the collection for other drawings. I soon managed to identify the artist as Brand, and found out from an annotated copy of his print sale catalogue that Brand had created no less than 400 copies of portrait prints which were sold at his death.

In order to learn more about his practices and print collecting I applied for, and was generously granted, a Paul Mellon Research Support Grant, which I used to fund a research trip to Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn to view SANT's archives.

John Brand's papers, which you can find at SANT/BEQ/3, illustrate how his work as a rector, antiquary, secretary, and historian overlapped: amongst his accounts and promissory notes of print and library purchases are nestled statistics of baptisms, marriages, and burials for St Mary-at-Hill from 1770–1800, and alongside the publishing notes for his *History* are numerous SAL papers. The archive also illuminates details of Brand's own life, including papers relating to his apprenticeship, and his later appointments. Above all, the papers show Brand's extensive links with other antiquaries and reflect the close links between Northumberland and London which fostered antiquarian research during the later 18th century.

*Sileas Wood*

Editor's note: Sileas' article, 'After the very rare original' Artist and antiquary the Revd John Brand, is published in the *Journal of the History of Collections* 2018, and available on <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhx058>. There is an offprint in our library.



*Image of St Margaret of Scotland, image RCIN 933195 Royal Collection Trust, copyright Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2018*

## ANOTHER ARCHIVE, ANOTHER FAMILY

Charles Philips Trevelyan of Wallington (1870–1958) was first a Liberal MP and then a Labour one. The most substantial of the four Trevelyan family archives, held in at Newcastle University Special Collections, contains thousands of correspondence files relating to him and his wife



*A page from one of the Trevelyan family photograph albums, picture courtesy Alexandra Healey*

Mary Katharine Trevelyan. They cover domestic and international politics, family life, motherhood and social change, and provide a unique and intimate insight into this unconventional landed family's activities in the early twentieth century.

The archive was initially catalogued in the 1970s, and scanned copies of this typescript catalogue have been the only way of discovering what is in this unique historical resource. Special Collections are now near the end of a two year project to create a digital finding aid, which will be available on the free-to-access Archives Hub. They are also repackaging formerly uncatalogued portions of the collection, with the aid of a team of student volunteers, and creating digital surrogates of the fragile family photograph albums.

Details on how to access all the Trevelyan family archives, and a link to the digitised photograph albums on our browser-based book viewer *Page Turners* can be found on the website [tinyurl.com/y967h6sq](http://tinyurl.com/y967h6sq).

*Alexandra Healey  
Newcastle University Special Collections*

## COMMUNITY HISTORY IN THE CATHEDRAL



*A laser scan of one of the Cathedral's ledger stones, picture courtesy David Heslop*

'Ledgerstones are the flat stones placed over a grave inside a church, usually incised with the name and dates of the deceased. They are often decorated with heraldry and many include interesting inscriptions about the person, their family and their life in the local community' (The Ledgerstone Survey of England and Wales, [www.lsew.org.uk](http://www.lsew.org.uk)).

St Nicholas Cathedral has the largest collection of stones in northern England, with over 130 currently visible on the floor of the church. More will be uncovered when the nave floor is relaid in 2020. Most are in the western arm, as the decision was taken in 1783 to remove floor level burial markers from the eastern arm, possibly in advance of a move to convert the church into a cathedral. The vast majority have been moved once and some twice. It is evident that little care was taken during the process of moving and in many instances the stones were greatly reduced in size to fit new locations, often to distant parts of the building. A few – the group currently under the organ in the north transept, the stones in St George's chapel and the Bewicke memorials in St Margaret's chapel – are still in their pre-1783 position.

As part of the HLF funded project 'Common Ground in Sacred Space' we have brought together a community history group to research the ledger stones,

monuments, windows and military colours, which make our Cathedral so special. A launch event at the beginning of May attracted over 40 people, 20 of whom signed up for the project. The group is now meeting once a week in the Cathedral, and volunteers will develop skills useful to researching family history. For more information, contact me on [david@newvisions.co.uk](mailto:david@newvisions.co.uk)

*David Heslop, Cathedral Archaeologist*

## HOW THE SOCIETY MANAGES MEMBERS' DATA

Anyone with an e-mail inbox will have noticed a recent deluge of notices from organisations and firms about the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which came into force on 25 May 2018. They add to the protection already given to you under the Data Protection Act 1998, in particular requiring greater transparency about what personal data is held and for what purposes.

SANT has registered with the Information Commissioner's Office under the new Regulations. As Treasurer, I am named in the registration as the Data Controller. Council agreed a new Data Protection Policy at its meeting on 2 May 2018 and this is now available on our website. A copy is also being sent out by post and e-mail with this June mailing.

The Society holds the data it needs to manage your membership. This ranges from receiving your annual subscriptions, claiming Gift Aid on it where you have signed up for this, to sending you your annual copy of *Archaeologia Aeliana* and the twice yearly newsletter, as well as notices for the Anniversary and Annual General Meetings. It will only be shared with third parties where it is necessary to offer membership services, such as addresses for the printer so you get AA, the details required to manage direct debits or to reclaim Gift Aid from HMRC, and the information needed by those who manage our website.

You have the right to request a copy of the information the Society holds about you; send requests to [admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk) or put in writing to the SANT office in the Great North Museum. You can ask to have any errors corrected, but we do expect you to let us know about such things as changes of postal or e-mail address so that we can continue to provide you with membership services. For members who have resigned, we will only keep records of your name and dates of membership for historical purposes, but you can ask to have your records deleted altogether.

In May, we e-mailed members to ask them for explicit consent for us to continue sending News Bulletins and flyers, and our regular e-mail circular, to you by e-mail. We asked you to respond by 25 May by clicking on the link at the bottom of the e-mail. Anyone who has not consented has now defaulted to receiving AA, the *News Bulletin*, and flyers by post only. So if you have received this *News Bulletin* only by post, when in the past you have been sent a copy by e-mail as well or instead, it will be because you did not click on the right button!

You can re-subscribe to our e-mail system easily enough by sending an e-mail to [events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk). You can click the opt out links at the bottom of the e-mails you receive, if at any time you wish to stop receiving e-mail circulars. Under the Regulations, in future we will need to check periodically about whether you still want to receive them

Please contact me on [simon.pallett@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:simon.pallett@ncl.ac.uk) with any queries about this.

*Simon Pallett, Treasurer*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### November 2017

Tony Barrow talked about *Incendiary letters and Iniquitous practices; Smuggling and Customs Evasion on the North East Coast 1750–1830*. He explained that by the nature of the topic statistical information was hard to come by. His material mostly came from the local newspapers of the time, and the correspondence from Customs Officers held in the National Archives at Kew.

The term Customs Port meant the entire stretch of coastline under the jurisdiction of a Customs House. In the North-East, Newcastle's Customs House was the main one, with subsidiary jurisdictions at Blyth, Sunderland, and Stockton. Smuggling and the evasion of Customs duties was a huge business in the eighteenth century. Duties represented 70% of the

price of tea and the East India Company's own ships were estimated to smuggle tea worth £7m a year in the 1760s.

It was a violent trade; 250 Customs officers were wounded and 6 actually murdered, including one at Cullercoats, in the years 1723–36. However, to judge by the advertisements that appeared in the local papers for the sale of impounded goods, enforcement of the law was quite successful. The North East specialised in Dutch gin, which could be bought for 1s a gallon in Holland and sold for 4s 6d in England, but other goods included tobacco, salt, and whisky (where the smuggling was across the land-border, to take account of differential rates of duty). Coal ships at Sunderland often evaded duties by declaring that they were obliged to unload their cargo at foreign ports after being 'forced overseas by stress of weather'.

Smuggling had never come to an end globally, and was probably more widespread and violent today than it had ever been. It had died out along Britain's East Coast, however, partly because the end of the Mercantilist system reduced and eventually abolished duties. At the same time the establishment of a well-resourced Coast Guard, with stations along the coast, made for better enforcement. By the middle of the century, Tony concluded, smuggling had become a romantic subject for paintings and books, rather than the criminal activity it really was.

Tony Barrow can be contacted on [tnybarrow@aol.co.uk](mailto:tnybarrow@aol.co.uk).

## February 2018

The February lecture by Diana Whaley, on Northumberland and its Names was cancelled due to appalling weather conditions, and will be rescheduled for next year.

## March 2018



One of a pair of Roman boxing gloves found at Vindolanda, picture courtesy Andrew Birley

Andrew Birley, Vindolanda Trust's Director of Excavations and CEO at Vindolanda Roman site spoke about *A frontier and community in transition: the Tungrian Vindolanda*. He pointed out that there were 9 or more forts on the site, each on different plans and that these lay below the foundations of the 3rd and 4th century Vindolanda modern visitors see today. The earliest were wooden, and built by Tungrians from the north of what is now Belgium. Over a long period, the 1st and 2nd Cohorts of Tungrians, each around 1,000 strong, had moved back and forward between different forts on Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine Wall, and others in between.

The earliest fort at Vindolanda, from around AD 85–90, was quite small and completely concealed below the foundations of the later ones. Shortly after AD 92 the Tungrians left Vindolanda and a new garrison came in (the 9th Cohort of Batavians), before the Tungrians returned in 105 to construct a much larger fort. This was abandoned in a hurry between AD 117 and 119. Although there is no evidence for fighting at the fort itself, one of the garrison's centurions, Titus Annius, was killed in the war and his tombstone was set up at Vindolanda.

One significant discovery in the latest research project was a round-house (British style) co-existing with rectangular (Roman style) buildings in an area outside the remains of the early forts. Due to the anaerobic conditions on that part of the site, they had found metal artefacts in good condition, including coins and some much-repaired brooches. There was also writing material and fragments of a Romano-Celtic temple, dedicated to a hitherto unknown goddess who appeared to stem from the Ardennes mountains, called Ahvardua.

Inside the fort, robber trenches gave the opportunity to go down below the later stone buildings to explore the earliest buildings, made of timber. Here, archaeologists uncovered a surprising number of artefacts from the living rooms within a cavalry barrack; the stable area was very clean. The finds included two complete sets of harness ornaments, and two intact swords, very rare items. Of the many shoes, the male ones were very large, suggesting that troopers were perhaps chosen for their size. The infantry barracks from the same fort seemed to have housed many women and children as well as men, but there was far less evidence of cohabitation in the newly discovered cavalry barracks. The prize finds of 2017 had been two leather boxing gloves. Such gloves were known from sculptures, but these were the only known examples to have survived from the Roman world.

Newly discovered writing tablets referred to a decurion called Masclus, a man who was already known from other much later documents. He could have served in the same capacity

under several different commanders. The tablets, discovered in 2017, had been used as infill when levelling ground for a new building – suggesting that new commanders had scant use for the archives of previous office holders.

Andrew can be contacted on [AndrewBirley@vindolanda.com](mailto:AndrewBirley@vindolanda.com).

## April 2018

Margaret Fox spoke on *Scotland's Law Lords v. Northumbrians Behaving Badly*. Margaret explained that she had worked for many years in the National Archives of Scotland, and her most recent task had been cataloguing eighteenth- and nineteenth-century records from the High Court of Justiciary. The papers relating to a case could include all sorts of social details, and the medical reports in particular were of great interest to specialist historians.

The High Court was centred in Edinburgh, but twice a year judges went out on circuit to try cases in the localities. When Margaret had started researching Northumbrians who had come up in the Scottish courts, she had assumed that the cases would be concentrated in the Southern circuit and in particular in Jedburgh. In fact, although they had the highest number, cases were spread all over Scotland as far north as Perth. Because of the problems of keeping people in local jails, perhaps for several months before the court sessions, many were let out and told to return in time for the hearing. Understandably, many English defendants did not return, and they would then receive a sentence of 'fugitation and outlawry'. Others were 'assoilzied and dismissed' after an assize (jury) found the case 'not proven', a verdict allowed under Scots law. Those found guilty could be sentenced to execution, transportation, or imprisonment.

For example, a Northumberland man was convicted of sheep-stealing at St. Boswell's Fair in 1770, sentenced to death, and hanged. A 'promising young lad' of about 15, William Anderson from Berwick-upon-Tweed, had been shipwrecked near Aberdeen. He was evidently making his way home when he had fallen in with bad company, and was convicted of stealing silk handkerchiefs and other goods in a household burglary. All three of the associates were transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) but sadly, William died on the way.

Christiana Ritchie of Bishopwearmouth got away with a lesser punishment, despite being described by the judge, Henry, Lord Cockburn, as a 'heartless villain'. She was convicted of bigamy, after a dubious wedding ceremony at Lambertton Toll in Berwickshire, in one of the 'marriage houses' which abounded along the Scottish side of the border. She was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and was duly released once she had served her time, with her behaviour described as 'good'.

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*Lord Moncrieff, who sentenced the young lad to transportation. Engraving by Charles Holl from a portrait by Raeburn*

## DEATHS

### June Crosby

June Crosby, who died in February just a month short of her ninetieth birthday, joined the Society in 1993. She will be well known to anyone with a keen interest in County Durham's history and heritage, especially in Durham and Weardale.

June began her career as a teacher, and later returned to Durham University at St Hild's College, training future history teachers. She was instrumental in getting local history onto the training curriculum despite departmental opposition. She chaired the City of Durham Trust for many years and led the campaign for the restoration of the city's early eighteenth century statue of Neptune.

In 1981 June and Jack retired to Stanhope, where she was a founder member of the Weardale Society. She produced two volumes of



*June Crosby, picture courtesy Martin Roberts*

*Weardale in Old Photographs* as well as a biography of the early nineteenth century Durham architect, Ignatius Bonomi.

*Martin Roberts*

### **Stephen Harbottle**

Stephen Harbottle died on 26 February at the age of 92. Stephen was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 28 April 1925, followed by his sister Barbara, a distinguished archaeologist, and then Richard. After university and solicitors' finals, Stephen joined his father's legal firm in Newcastle. He was asked to sit on a variety of governing bodies including the Council of Newcastle University, for which he received an honorary doctorate. Between 1979 and 1986 he was president of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. After he retired he wrote a biography of its founder, the Unitarian Minister William Turner.

Stephen was Chair of the Trustees of the Senhouse Roman Museum in Maryport from 1998 to 2006. He was instrumental in arranging funding for the construction of an observation tower and for what turned out to be one of the largest ever geophysical surveys of a Roman site.

He first joined the Society in 1960. He was an enthusiastic attender at the Decennial Pilgrimages and at President's Nights, as well as the Country Walks. Until he retired, he also oversaw any legal needs we had as he worked for the firm which represented SANT on the rare occasions when it was needed, although he was scrupulous in ensuring that one of his partners did the work, in case of conflict of interest. He was a Holding Trustee of our Society for well over thirty years. One of his final actions as Holding Trustee was to sign our agreement with the Woodhorn Trust about the bagpipe collection.

### **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 cut, deferred, or dropped altogether. My address is 5 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, or e-mail me at [sue.ward@phoncoop.coop](mailto:sue.ward@phoncoop.coop).*

*Copy deadline for the next edition is 14 November. The mailing date will be 12 December. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 28 November. 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.*

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