

NEWS BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.67 December 2019

CONTENTS

Who we are and what we do.....	1
Message from the President.....	1
Converting to a CIO – the decision is yours.....	2
Next year's programme.....	3
Time Walks 2020.....	4
Join us on our Committees.....	4
Cataloguing Our Map Collection.....	5
Meetings and events in 2019.....	5
Monthly meetings.....	8
Deaths.....	11
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 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

Welcome to all our members and especially the students who have taken up our offer, new this year, of paying £5 for online-only membership. I hope everyone will take the chance to join in all our activities, whatever category of membership you belong to.

Over 300 members now receive our weekly e-circulars, which give us the opportunity to publicise not only our own events but other talks, visits and events in the area that are likely to interest our members.

This is all part of a drive to make the Society more accessible and welcoming, and to take more advantage of the talent and experience of members. In January we will be asking members to agree that we should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), as



Nick Hodgson addressing the Hadrian's Wall Pilgrims at Chesters in July 2019

explained by Simon Pallett in the next article. This will allow us to make more transparent the way that Officers and Council are elected, and we will also be able to sweep away the requirement in our current rules that new members must be formally proposed and seconded by existing ones. We comply with that formality at our committee meetings, but if anyone was thinking of becoming a member and took the trouble to delve into our constitution, that requirement would surely put them off!

We have also been discussing – but not reached a conclusion yet – adopting a shorter form of the Society's name, for use in certain branding and publicity. The snappiest suggestion so far is 'Newcastle Antiquaries'. Do let me have your views and alternative suggestions.

Our Library is now closing on

Friday afternoons, a slight reduction in opening hours, but that was always a quiet time. As for our collection of bagpipes at the Morpeth Chantry, we have reached a new agreement with Museums Northumberland on the management of the collection, and regular liaison meetings are now being held.

The 2018 volume of our learned journal *Archaeologia Aeliana* finally emerged in September this year, with delays due to the transition to a new editorial team and pressures on their time. Thanks to all of you for your patience, and to Don O'Meara as Editor and Roger Fern the Production Editor, for their hard work. Publication of the 2019 volume will be much earlier in 2020. The entire historical run of *AAAs* is now digitised and available online at the ADS website, 150 volumes going back to 1822. Many thanks to Roger Fern and Richard Pears for having completed this long-running and often difficult project.

Anyone who has gone past the Mining Institute in Westgate Road in recent months will have seen that it is currently swathed in scaffolding. We had met there since the 1930s, and it has been a real upheaval to move to a lecture room in Newcastle University. Whether, and when, we go back to the Mining Institute is uncertain at present. Attendance at our new venue has dropped marginally, but we have seen many new faces. Thanks to Marta Alberti for our seminars at Quilliam's Coffee House, which have given the opportunity to younger members both to speak and to attend.

Marta has also taken over the task of putting together the programme from Frances McIntosh. Many congratulations to Frances on the birth of a baby girl on 10 October. We hope to see both mother and daughter at one of our meetings soon.

*Nick Hodgson
President*

CONVERTING TO A CIO – THE DECISION IS YOURS

Members will have an important decision to take at our Anniversary Meeting in January. In the last *News Bulletin*, I explained that Council, our governing body, had agreed in principle to begin the process of converting the Society into a Charitable Incorporated Association (a CIO). A draft constitution was then developed by a small group – myself as Treasurer, our President Nick Hodgson, and Council member, Chris Walton, with some outside legal advice. Council then approved this at the September meeting, and so at the Anniversary Meeting we will be proposing that you, the members, approve the conversion. We will then need approval from the Charity Commission, and to transfer the assets of the current Society to the CIO. The aim is to make the change from from 1 January 2021. The proposed new constitution is available on our website (follow the link on our home page), alongside other documents. All the relevant details will be

made available with the agenda for the meeting.

What will *not* change, if the proposal is passed, are the Society's name, its charitable objects, its membership and their right to elect Council (the Charity Trustees) each year. What *will* change is the status of the Society, from being an unincorporated association (in legal terms, simply a bunch of people who happen to hold meetings) to an incorporated body registered with the Charity Commission. This will bring the advantages of limited liability for the trustees, and the ability to hold assets in the Society's name. Council members will be the Charity Trustees, as is currently the case, but we will no longer need separate Holding Trustees.

As a result of this move, the changes we are proposing are:

- There will be a maximum of 17 members of Council including the officers and the immediate past president. Other past presidents and vice presidents will be eligible to stand for election, but will not automatically be members of Council.
- All initial members of the CIO's Council, who are named in the constitution, will stand down at the first AGM of the CIO, but may stand for re-election.
- Thereafter members of Council will be elected for a staggered term of three to five years. Two officers and two elected Members will stand down each year, but will be able to stand for re-election as many times as they want. The process of standing for election will be easier and more transparent than currently.
- Monthly meetings will no longer be formal general meetings of the Society.
- The January meeting will retain the name of Anniversary Meeting, but its current business and that of the AGM will be all be transacted at the April meeting. This will receive the Annual Report and Accounts, and the election for Council members will take place there.
- The formal power to approve new members will belong to Council, but we will still present the names to our meetings to welcome them.
- We will have a CIO constitution, an up-to-date document based on a Charity Commission template, instead of the present statutes.

If anyone would like to discuss this further, please e-mail me at treasurer@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk before our January meeting.

Simon Pallett
Hon Treasurer

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME

Congratulations to our long-standing meetings secretary, Frances McIntosh as she welcomes her baby to the world. In the past few years, Frances has worked hard to secure interesting and engaging lectures for us all. True to her organized self, Frances volunteered Marta Alberti to take over. In her day job, Marta is Vindolanda's site archaeologist, and has been on the Activities Committee for several years.

We have a full programme of activities for 2020. The lecture programme offers a fascinating range of topics from Bronze Age combat, Roman baths, Brancepeth Castle and Belsay Hall, to John Collingwood Bruce, Great War memorials, the Great Depression and Cathedral geology. The



Marta Alberti on site, picture courtesy Vindolanda

Anniversary meeting on 29 January, with Derek Cutts as speaker, will be in Room 2.98, Armstrong Building, Newcastle University, followed by a social event on the fourth floor of Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street (the home of the Explore Lifelong Learning Centre).

As always, drinks will be provided in return for a small donation, while we are hoping members will bring food for a finger buffet. We will be launching a new programme of the Coffee House talks which have proved so successful in attracting students to the Society, in the spring.

The Summer Social will be at the Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, on the evening of 19 June, with a guided tour and buffet. Planning for the Summer country meetings is underway, including a visit to Minsteracres, former home of the Silvertop mining family and now a Passionist monastery and retreat centre. Booking forms for these and other events will follow in the New Year.

Keep an eye on the website and our e-circulars for updates. For social media, look at Facebook's Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle page, and Twitter [@NCLantiquaries](#). For speakers' suggestions or queries, e-mail santlectures@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing all members in 2020.

Richard Pears

TIME WALKS 2020

Our urban walk this year is on 27 December, and is an investigation into the early history of the cathedral of St Nicholas and its congregation. David Heslop, the Cathedral Archaeologist, will tell us about research at Newcastle's largest church and the plans for the future HLF-funded renovation of the West End. Meet at the cathedral font at 9.30. We are encouraged to make donations.

On 14 March, we will be meeting Denis Peel at Wylam Railway Station at 10.15 for a jaunt taking in the railway museum in Wylam, a Roman/medieval road, Newburn Waggonway, the site of the Battle of Newburn, and Ryton Motte and Church. We will stop at the Keelman Pub at Newburn for lunch and the walk will finish at Wylam Station. This is a very sheltered and level route apart from the climb to Ryton.

Marta Alberti will once more be our guide as we complete the second half of last's year's outing on the Wall, on 13 June, going from Once Brewed to Housesteads and Roman Vindolanda. We will be leaving cars in the car park at the Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre at 10.30, and going from there up to the Wall and along to Housesteads. (There are some steep slopes involved). We will then head down to board the AD122 bus for a ride back to Vindolanda. For those who pay the admission charge, Marta will give a guided tour around the site alternatively the bus goes back to the Sill car park. There is a café at Vindolanda where people can have lunch, or plenty of space to picnic outside.

It would be helpful to have a rough idea of numbers for each walk so please try to let me know in advance if you plan to come. This is mainly to ensure that we do have takers for the event! Don't worry if you change your mind at the last minute or find you can come after all. It might be worth giving me a quick call to check it is still on.

Please contact me if you need or can offer transport. I'm on rosie.serdiville@gmail.com or 0774 979 8023.

Rosie Serdiville

JOIN US ON OUR COMMITTEES

We are a thriving society, and have had a welcome influx of new members in the last year. What we are lacking, though, is people to help with the tasks of steering the organisation and ensuring its activities and publications go smoothly.

As well as our main Council, we have two key committees. The first is Publications, which looks after *Archaeologia Aeliana*, the *News Bulletin*, and our internet and social media presence. The other is Activities, which looks after our monthly meetings and coffee house seminars, our walks and visits programmes, and our social events. The committees meet three times a year, in the early evening, with the bulk of the work going on in the background between meetings.

Would you like to join us? We particularly need a Socials Organiser, and a Country Meetings Organiser, as well as people knowledgeable about publishing and the internet. Contact our President, Nick Hodgson on president@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk, or speak to him at one of our meetings, if you are interested and would like to talk about it more.

CATALOGUING OUR MAP COLLECTION

A map provides as much information as a written document, but it is only useful if people know it exists. We have now catalogued over twelve hundred historic maps in our collections. At the core is the bequest of over a thousand maps from industrial archaeologist Stafford Linsley. Two-thirds of these are Ordnance Survey maps of Northumberland, Durham, North Yorkshire & Cumbria, in editions from the nineteenth century up to the 1920s. These highly detailed maps show field boundaries, place-names, individual buildings etc. Around a fifth of these are non-Ordnance Survey maps and relate to mining projects, railway development, harbour improvement (especially Sunderland). There are also older County Maps (especially from Durham). Town plans and town



Mike Barke at work on our maps, courtesy Denis Peel

improvement schemes from the nineteenth century also form a significant part of the collection.

We also hold a set of 2.5" Ordnance Survey maps from the Society's Field Research Group, marked up with sites of antiquarian and archaeological interest, some with notes attached. The group was set up in 1971 to monitor planning applications and research what was on the ground, but after the 1974 Local Government Act led to the appointment of a County Archaeologist, the group was no longer required.

The Library holds many other maps, some as single sheets and others within books, tracts, reports, or even Acts of Parliament. We intend to include all the important ones in the Map Catalogue. An example is Hollar's 1655 map of the Tyne in Gardiner's *England's Grievance Discovered*, exposing the Newcastle Hostmen's monopoly of trade on the river. In time, we will also include the historic maps and plans which are in our holdings at Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn, to give ourselves and researchers a complete picture of what we have.

Mike Barke

MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN 2019

Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage 2019



The assembled pilgrims outside South Shields Town Hall, picture courtesy Bill Griffiths



Professor Valerie Maxfield explaining Pike Hill Tower to the first coachload of pilgrims to visit that day



Our caterers Bryony and Joy in their gazebo



The remains of the bath house at Wallsend (picture courtesy Graeme Stobbs)

Every ten years, a bunch of intrepid ‘pilgrims’ sets off across the wild open spaces of Northumberland and Cumbria to find out what has been happening on Hadrian’s Wall since the last time they visited. July 2019 saw the fourteenth of these events, organised jointly between ourselves and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS).

The first Pilgrimage was in 1849, and involved only twenty people, going most of the way on foot. This year’s version involved over 200 people, who stayed in Newcastle for the first three days and Carlisle for the rest of the week. Coaches picked them up each morning to take them from one venue to another, with walks along short stretches of the Wall or the Vallum, and tours with expert guides around forts, milecastles, and turrets.

It was probably the most international Pilgrimage there has been. Pilgrims included Ella Katzel, a PhD student from Cologne, and Ivana Protic from Belgrade University, one of two students whose participation was financed by a bursary from the Robert Kiln Charitable Trust. We had two Professors from the USA, and four Dutch academics including Erik Graafstal, who has lectured to us about the Wall in the past, and was one of the coach guides. And finally from China came William Lindesay, the expert on the Chinese Great Wall who gave our Public Lecture in 2018, with his family. From the UK, three participants had been on the 1959 Pilgrimage, while the youngest was 16-year-old Ben McCluskey, attending in company with his parents.

As much as anything else, our visitors welcomed the opportunity to network with other Roman specialists from elsewhere. As Ivana Protic put it ‘As well as just seeing the Wall, the visit is phenomenal for making contacts, and helping with my academic career. I will keep on coming, and I will be able to bring colleagues from Serbia and Croatia.’

Setting up the Pilgrimage is a feat in itself, and planning starts five years ahead. This year’s Treasurer was Ian Caruana, of CWAAS, who had to deal with £150,000 going through

his books from start to finish.

On some days the four coachloads, each with two expert guides, had to interweave their routes so that sites were able to manage the numbers. Some of the experts on the ground had to do their bit four times in a day, and had to leap about on sections of the wall and bridge abutments. ‘The logistics are a lot more complicated than they were on the first Pilgrimage I came on in 1979, as an assistant to Brian Dobson,’ Val Maxfield says. ‘And there is much more health-and-safety awareness. But there’s the same wonderful mix of amateurs and professionals.’ A temporary stile was erected at Limestone Corner, to ensure that pilgrims could get safely across the Military Road without having to take a long detour.

And that was taking no account of the weather – two blazingly hot days as part of the country’s July heatwave, and a final day of a downpour heavy even by Cumbrian standards. This meant a wet walk up Walltown Crag, but archaeologists Rebecca Jones and Andrew Birley were not put off from lecturing at Burnhead Camp and at Carvoran in the open air. Our stoical caterers,

Bryony and Joy, from Gladje in the Scypen farm shop and café, provided picnic lunches in all conditions, including a gazebo in the rain at Cawfields car park.

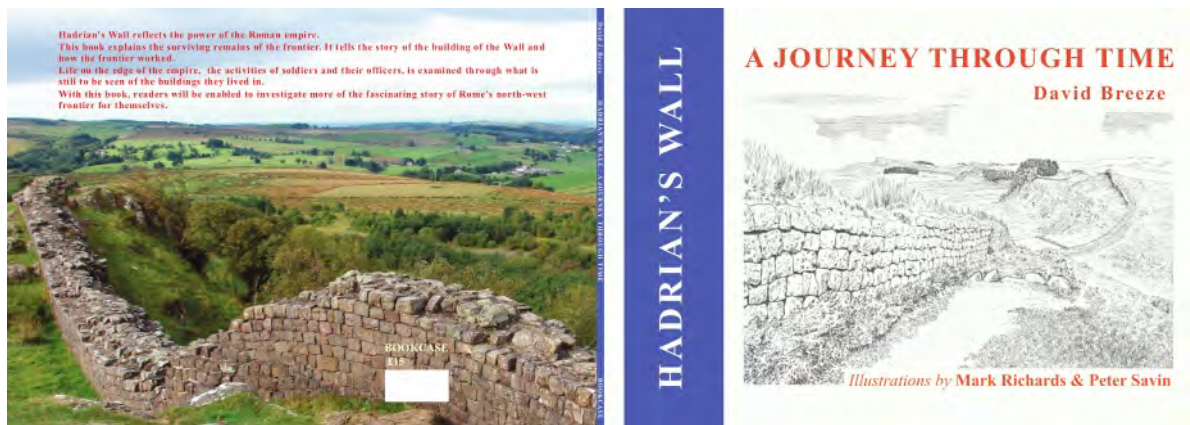
And then, of course there was the social side. The first night involved a dinner at Newcastle's Civic Centre, with our member Kim Bibby-Wilson piping us in. Later in the week, there was a reception at the Great North Museum, where Julie Sanders, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University celebrated all the Hadrian's Wall work that the University had been involved with. A display of Hadrian's Wall literature in our library upstairs had been laid out by Denis Peel our librarian. We had another reception at Carlisle's Tullie House Museum, whose Roman gallery is new since the last Pilgrimage. The 75th birthday of the Chief Pilgrim, David Breeze, fell in the middle of the week and was duly celebrated at the final dinner in Carlisle.

So what did the Pilgrims learn? There were long-running controversies to be argued over was there a Wall Walk, what order were the milecastles, turrets and the Wall itself built in? There were also discoveries made since the last Pilgrimage to be examined, such as the remains of the bath house at Wallsend, rediscovered in 2015 during the Wallquest project. At Vindolanda, we could view the recently discovered strap end with Christian motifs, evidence for a Christian presence there. Four (presumably successive) apsed buildings interpreted as churches have also been excavated there.

Sue Ward

Note there is a longer version of this article, with many more pictures, on our website.

And the follow-on...



The cover of *Hadrian's Wall, A Journey through Time*

Hadrian's Wall 2009–2019, edited by Rob Collins and Matt Symonds, was a report of excavations, analysis, and research in the last ten years, provided to all participants. At the final dinner in Carlisle, our prolific former president David Breeze launched *Hadrian's Wall: a Journey Through Time*, with illustrations by Mark Richards and Peter Savin, available from Bookcase at £15. David Breeze has also now written a book on *all* the Pilgrimages, to be published in the New Year. It will go free of charge to all 2019 Pilgrims, with extra copies for sale to other members.

Meanwhile, new member Hannah Taylor is beginning a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD at Sheffield Hallam entitled 'Shaping bespoke visiting experiences by interpreting the multiplicity of Hadrian's Wall'. The plan is to use digital technology to enable visitors to experience the wall and its history in rich new ways. And Howard Cleeve has been researching the library copies of the first edition of John Collingwood Bruce's *The Roman Wall*, for a feature on our website.

Our Walks in 2019

The walks season began with *In the Footsteps of George Tallentire Gibson*, led by John Griffiths. Gibson was a mid-nineteenth century Newcastle solicitor, praised in his obituary but reality a corrupt slum landlord, developing an area between the valleys of the Pandon Burn and the Ouseburn which became known as 'Gibson Town'. Its back streets, relatively new, were described in 1864 as being 'in a disgraceful and undrained state ... nothing could be worse than the undrained condition of that road, and the inhabitants could have neither health nor comfort'.

At the beginning of July there was an opportunity to see inside the tower of St Stephen's Church, Low Elswick, led by Judith Green of the St James' Heritage and Environment Group. This is now the only part which remains of a magnificent Gothic Revival church, built in 1866. It



The monument to Margaret Cruddas in the tower of St Stephen's Church

was part of our walk around the villas of Victorian Elswick, then an area inhabited by wealthy industrialists like the Cruddas family.

A few days later, we had a walk round Beadnell Bay, led by local resident Katrina Porteous, poet and author of the book *Limekilns and Lobsterpots*. Her walk encompassed the harbour with its limekilns, the jagged coastline with evidence of fishing, mining, the little that is left of the eighteenth and nineteenth century fisherfolks' housing, and occasional evidence of much older occupation. We learnt about the difficulty of handling 'cobles' in rough seas (hence an alarming death rate), and about the herring fishery, with herring lasses travelling south from Scotland to East Anglia and beyond.

Katrina was able to point out the houses of the local landowners responsible for much of the local building and industry.

Finally on a very wet Saturday in October, a small group of prospective members gathered at the Castle for a walk around the town walls of Newcastle. 375 years earlier, in 1644, the besieging Scottish army had stormed the town, Mines had been blown up at strategic points under the town walls and troops had poured through the breaches. The Royalist mayor John Marley and a few shaken adherents took refuge, briefly, in the castle.

Led by John Griffiths, the walk covered the two mile circuit of the wall and took in all the surviving visible remnants, looking at the complete defence system with back lane, wall and ditch and considered its long term impact on the modern townscape. The walls had served Newcastle well in their long history: keeping Wallace and Scots raiders at bay in the 13th and 14th centuries, holding out for two months against an army equipped with artillery, and even – hastily patched up – put into use in the emergencies of 1715 and 1745. *Fortiter defendit triumphans!*

MONTHLY MEETINGS

May 2019 monthly meeting



An aerial view of the Heugh on Lindisfarne, picture courtesy Richard Carlton

David Petts and Richard Carlton discussed recent excavations on Holy Island. David, Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University, pointed out that Lindisfarne had been one of the most important early monastic sites in early medieval Britain, not just in Northumbria. The island had always been tidal, but access routes had changed considerably since St Cuthbert's day, and the dune fields were post-medieval. The marshy area close to the village had been a lagoon of open water in earlier times, so that the monastery had been much more clearly on a

headland like Hartlepool.

We now knew that there had been at least two Anglo-Saxon churches on the Priory site. Geophysics across the island had shown evidence of ancient rig-and-furrow, and that the village's footprint had shrunk since medieval times, perhaps after the Dissolution. The excavations had discovered a previously unknown cemetery, with graves one on top of another. It was clearly for lay people, since it included the bodies of women, small children, and tiny babies, dating from the eighth to tenth centuries – possibly extending into the period after the monks were reported to have left the island. While there was no evidence of coffins or shrouds, there were more of the small round-headed burial markers that had been discovered elsewhere on the island.

Richard, of the Archaeological Practice and Newcastle University, spoke about excavations on the Heugh, the whinstone ridge on the south side of the island, where earlier geophysical

and topographical surveys had indicated possible building remains. Excavations on the site close to the shipping beacon had found, beneath sandstone rubble, a layer of carefully laid dressed-stone blocks, probably the foundations of a substantial building. The only piece of masonry surviving on the foundations was a jamb of the south doorway, and there were very few artefacts. The building is assumed to be an early church, of comparable size to Escomb, but samples from beneath the foundation slabs had provided inconclusive dating evidence.

In the area around the war memorial, they had found enigmatic traces of a large, square, platform-like structure, mortared only on the east side. On the south side was a re-used socket stone for a cross, which might be from any time between the eighth century and the high medieval period.

Further west, the ruinous nineteenth-century Lantern Chapel overlay the remains of a much earlier building. The excavators had found three grave cuts, with seven skeletons and the scattered remains of several others. A fragment of eighth- or ninth-century cross-shaft had been placed between two skulls, as if to keep them apart.

David can be contacted on d.a.petts@durham.ac.uk, and Richard on richard.carlton@newcastle.ac.uk

June 2019 monthly meeting

Dr Louisa Campbell, of the University of Glasgow, spoke on *Paints and Pigments in the Past: Colouring in the Roman Frontiers*. She explained that traditionally, archaeologists had subordinated the study of colour to the study of form and the material value of the objects they found. More recently interest had grown in determining whether Roman statues, reliefs and inscriptions were adorned in colour, and for what purpose. Some frontier statues, including the Antonine Wall Distance Stones and others from Hadrian's Wall, provided tantalising hints of pigment. Her research involved analysing surviving remains using the latest non-destructive techniques such as portable XRay Fluorescence (p-XRF) and Raman Spectrometry.

However, extensive cleaning and conservation of stone sculptures by well-meaning museum staff often had a negative impact on the survival of pigments. Dr Campbell praised our own Museum of Antiquities, where Roman inscriptions and relief sculptures had arrived immediately after excavation and, because of Lindsay Allason-Jones' resistance to attempts by conservators to clean them, their surfaces had remained reasonably intact. So the Mithras altar in the Great North Museum had provided good, clean results, confirming a palette of colours, including shades of red such as red lead and ochre, white lead as well as golden yellow orpiment shining through the carved rays of Mithras' diadem. Another altar to Mithras, also in the Great North Museum, contained inscribed lettering coloured with azurite blue except for the name of the dedicator, Lucius Antoninus Proculus, which was depicted in rich vermilion red.

In collaboration with the Physics Development Team at Glasgow and colleagues from other universities, including Durham, Louisa is now developing specialist equipment and bespoke software for non-destructive analysis and x-ray imaging of archaeological materials and works of art, including fabrics, and medieval reliefs.

Louisa can be contacted on Louisa.Campbell@glasgow.ac.uk

July 2019 monthly meeting

Rosie Serdiville talked in July about *From Women's Rights to Human Rights: How the Struggle for the Vote Changed the World*.

Campaigning for the vote had continued after the grant of the franchise to some women in 1918, she explained, until 1929 when all men and women finally achieved the vote. The National Union of Women Workers, led by women such as Margaret Bondfield (MP for Wallsend from 1923) had needed to fight against the dismissal of women from engineering and manufacturing jobs once the war was over. Campaigners had also taken up international issues. Eglantyne Jebb, who came from a very well-off family but nonetheless had a strong sense of social justice, saw the effects of the war on malnourished children in Macedonia, blockaded by Britain, like other parts of Eastern Europe, until 1923. She campaigned without success for an end to the blockade, and set about organising relief work, founding Save the Children and developing the League of Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted in due course by the United Nations as well.

The National Union of Suffrage Societies (NUSS) became the



A retail company cashes in on the women's suffrage movement

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, led by Eleanor Rathbone. They campaigned for family allowances, equal pay, equal access to employment opportunities, and access to birth control. However, their demands alienated some former members of the NUSS – Millicent Fawcett, for example, opposed family allowances on the grounds that they would only encourage the idle – while parts of the Labour Party believed that equal pay would lead to cuts in men's wages rather than increases in those for women.

Some of the women elected to Parliament in the first few years after the war, Rosie pointed out, were not themselves eligible to vote because of their age or the lack of the necessary property qualification. However, the thirty women MPs punched above their weight, introducing over six hundred pieces of legislation.

Rosie can be contacted on rosie.serdiville@gmail.com

August 2019 monthly meeting



The North Terrace Dig at Auckland Castle, copyright Dr P Forlin, Durham Univ

John Castling, Jamie Armstrong, and Chris Gerrard talked about the *Past Beneath the Lawns excavations at Auckland Castle*. John explained that he was the Archaeology and Social History Curator for the Auckland Project, which was developing the site into a visitor attraction. Since 2014, extensive excavations had been carried out by students and volunteers under the auspices of Durham University Archaeology Department.

Auckland is recorded as having come into church hands under a charter of Canute's dated to c.1035. There had been much re-building since then, especially under Bishop Cosin and in the early nineteenth century. The layout of the site was known overall from surveys, topographical

views and plans, but they were relying on archaeology to give them more information.

Jamie Armstrong, Durham University's senior project archaeologist on-site, went through the excavation work in advance of the new wing being built to house the forthcoming Faith Museum, and on the North Terrace. They had found traces of the medieval manor-house, and of a curtain-wall and ditch built as part of the transformation in late-medieval times from manor to castle. They had also discovered an early chapel, noted in documents but not seen on any images as it had been allegedly destroyed in the Civil War, with even its location unknown until discovered by their excavations.

Finally, Professor Chris Gerrard, from Durham University's Archaeological Department, talked about the finds. There was a remarkable selection of decorative stonework, very important for indicating the dates and nature of the buildings on site. Small dress accessories included jet rosary beads probably made in Whitby. One rare find was a gold ring, probably dating from the seventeenth century when the bishop's wife was running a girls' school on the site. John Castling can be contacted on John.Castling@aucklandproject.org

September 2019 monthly meeting



Ava's reconstructed face, by kind permission of Hew Morrison and the Achanavich Beaker Burial Project

The September lecture on *(Re)discovering Ava, The Achanavich Beaker Burial Project*, was given by Maya Hoole, the project manager. She explained that she was interested in exploring the identity of prehistoric individuals, and this included revisiting older collections and archive material. She was also keen to engage directly with the public on archaeological issues.

The project had been set up, with help from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, to look again at a cist burial in the Caithness area of the Scottish Highlands, first discovered in 1987 during road building. Although there was press coverage at the time, the site had been largely forgotten for nearly three decades. Photos were available but no site plan, and most of the finds, and the bones including the skull, had been preserved.

The body was that of a young woman, whom the project named Ava. She had been placed in an unusual rock-cut pit

lined with flat slabs, possibly with herbs surrounding her. There had been radiocarbon dating in the 1980s, but a new analysis had re-dated her burial to 2280–1940 BC, very early Bronze Age. Photogrammetry on the pottery beaker, found buried so close to the woman's head that it had to be removed before the skull could be excavated, had produced a 3D model. Isotope analysis had found that Ava was probably brought up on the East Coast of Britain, spending her early childhood in the immediate area. DNA analysis, however, suggested that her grandparents or earlier ancestors might have come from somewhere in the Netherlands or surrounding area, which would chime with the theories of 'beaker folk' migration.

A reconstruction of Ava's face, by forensic artist Hew Morrison, had been viewed by over 50 million people on the project's Facebook site, with much coverage also on other printed and electronic media. There were plans now to investigate a male burial found fairly close by in 1904. The skull had been preserved in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow.

For more information see the project's website <https://www.socantscot.org/research-project/the-achavanich-beaker-burial-project/>

October 2019 monthly meeting

Sue Wood, Head of Archives at Northumberland Archives, spoke about *the Manorial Documents Register for Northumberland*. The quality, quantity and diversity of manorial documents in England and Wales, she said, far exceeded those of any other source for local history, not just in this country but anywhere in the world.

The manorial system was the framework for rural life from early medieval times onwards. The Manorial Court was involved in law enforcement and settling local disputes, but also held a key role in property transactions. For 'copyhold' property, the tenant's right to occupy was proved by him or her holding a copy of the Court register showing this. The tenure was finally outlawed in the 1924 Law of Property, and deeds of enfranchisement were prepared for any property still under it. Manorial documents were given statutory protection, under the charge of the Master of the Rolls.

He had since passed that responsibility to the National Archives, who were in the process of updating an old card-index to a digital record showing what manors existed, and where their records were held. As part of this, between 2014 and 2018 they had funded a part-time researcher at Northumberland Archives to check first what manors and baronies could be proved to exist, and secondly where their records were held. By the end of the project, they had made a net gain of 24 manors and baronies, to 737 altogether. Some had been removed because their existence could not be shown, and others added. Of the records, 41% were in Northumberland Archives, the same percentage in the Alnwick Castle archives, and the rest in a scatter of statutory archives and private ones – or possibly mouldering in the attics of country houses.

In the course of the project, Sue said, she had become aware that hardly anyone knew about manorial records, and very few people used them, despite their importance for local, social, and family history. So she had applied successfully for Heritage Lottery Fund money for a Legacy project. This would be coming on stream in January 2020, and would include opportunities for volunteers to work on transcribing digitised images on the website. The Antiquaries were one of the groups who they hoped would participate.

Sue Wood can be contacted on suwood@northumberland.gov.uk



An image of Wooler from a 1570 survey, picture NRO 4118, courtesy Northumberland Archives

DEATHS

Dolly Potter

Dolly Potter died in September of this year at the age of 92. She was a long term champion of heritage in our area.

She was brought up at Ponteland Cottage Homes where her parents were the managers, and went to University at Newcastle, having already developed a strong interest in the arts, heritage and radical politics.

Her future husband, Cliff, was studying mining engineering there, and the family went all over the world with him in the following decades. They settled in London on their return, where Dolly

lectured on art history and architecture until they came back to the North East in the 1960s.

Here Dolly took up a post as an inspector for what would become English Heritage, and became an active member of the Labour Party. She took a key part in the successful battle against the City Council's plans to demolish the St Thomas and Leazes area of the City (where she lived). Over the next few years, Dolly applied her expertise to the cause of protecting and enhancing Newcastle's open spaces. When Newcastle United announced plans to build on the Town Moor, Dolly spent two years trawling through the club's 11-volume planning application to make a cast-iron – and again successful – case that the club was contravening conservation rights.

Her eyesight failed in later year but she kept on living life to the full. Ten years ago she moved to Thomas Tawell House in Norfolk, a specialist care home for the blind. My abiding and joyous memory of her remains that of someone full of ideas and enthusiasm.

Rosie Serdiville

Bill Saunders

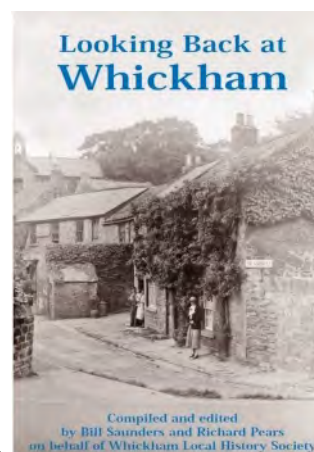
Bill Saunders, who has died at the age of 75, joined the Society in 2003. Bill was Chairman of Whickham Local History Society from 1995 to 2015. During this time the Society grew from 30 to 80 members, each meeting opened by Bill's friendly welcome.

Bill was the son of a coal miner at Addison, a pit village near Ryton, declared Category D and demolished in the late 1950s. His family moved to Blaydon and as a teenager he worked in the co-operative store there. Bill was apprenticed as a printer and over the course of his career he worked at De La Rues and Waddington on the Team Valley Trading Estate. After his 'retirement' Bill's experiences of pit village childhood, the Co-op and printing were put to fine use at Beamish Museum, where he worked for a further eight years.

Throughout his life Bill was a keen student of local history. For over thirty years he gave talks to groups, societies and schools around the region, sharing his research and enthusiasm with thousands of people. He was a regular contributor to Gateshead's annual Local History Month. His subjects, meticulously researched, included Bessie Surtees (about whom he published a booklet *Bessie Surtees:*

Her Life and Times), the artist Ralph Hedley, the comedian Bobby Thomson, Provincial Banks in the North East, and – returning to his origins and his experience at Beamish – the Pit Village and the history of the Co-operative Movement. He also co-authored *Looking Back at Whickham*, published by Summerhill Books.

Richard Pears



The cover of Looking Back at Whickham, by Bill Saunders and Richard Pears

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@phonecoop.coop.

Copy deadline for the next edition is May 4, 2020. The mailing date will be 10 June. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 3 June. If there is a Spring Mailing, it will be on 11 March, with inserts required by 26 Feb (two weeks before). If you want an insert included, please e-mail the Administrator on admin@newcastle-antiquaries 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 YPD Creative