

# NEWS BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.70 December 2020

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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.*

*In normal years we have a full programme of public events, lectures, walks and visits, and social activities, though this year much has had to go online. 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). For as long as the Coronavirus crisis continues, please use e-mail if at all possible.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nick in his study, as seen by participants in our Zoom meetings

While the disruption and uncertainty caused by the pandemic continues, I wish all our members well and thank them for their continued support for the Society. Particular thanks to Marta Alberti and the rest of the Activities Committee for their work in putting together a series of lectures on Zoom which have enabled members to stay in touch and still keep abreast with archaeological and historical discoveries. There are other lights appearing at the end of the tunnel: by the time you read this, the latest *Archaeologia Aeliana* will have been published, with another soon to follow.

In a break from our normal practice because of the virus,

the *News Bulletin* and the annual renewal documents are being sent separately this year. The *News Bulletin* is coming direct from our very helpful printers, YPD Creative in North Shields, while the usual winter mailing will follow shortly afterwards.

The Society is now well on the way to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), a recently created charity structure which has the advantage that the Charity Trustees (Council) can act as a corporation rather than having to nominate individual 'holding trustees' to enter into legal agreements or contracts. It also limits any financial liability that individuals might theoretically have assumed by becoming charity trustees. Already approved by the membership, the new status will be effective from January 2021. We are deeply indebted to Simon Pallett and Chris Walton for the immense amount of work they have put in to preparing for the change.

I must stress that this does not mean a change of direction for the Society or any change in its basic objectives. We are taking advantage of a newly available and convenient structure that will bring some advantages, but members can rest assured that there will be no change in the historic character of the Society or in its day-to-day running. The first annual general meeting of the Society as a CIO will be held in April 2022. Before that, we have to have the last two AGMs of the unincorporated Society, which is why you will be receiving notices of two AGMs to take place in rapid succession – the meeting for the 2019 year, postponed because of coronavirus, will be held immediately before the January 2021 Anniversary Meeting, while the final AGM of the unincorporated society, covering the year 2020, will be held in April 2021.

I look forward to sharing with you all some return to normality in 2021.

*Nick Hodgson*

## FROM THE TREASURER

The Coronavirus has had a huge impact on the Society's activities, but what has been the effect on the Society's finances?

Our investment portfolio lost over 20% of its value in the early part of the year as the virus took hold, but has bounced back since. More significantly our investment income, which we use to fund running costs, is likely to be down by more than a quarter as firms reduce or cancel their dividend payments. If this sets a longer term trend, it will affect our finances in the medium term. Members may wonder how it is that stock markets can remain so strong when the economy is clearly in serious difficulties, and it's a good question. Stock market values reflect expected future prospects but even so, the divorce between stock markets and the real economy is hard to fathom.

In terms of spending, there were some savings as activities were moved online, but there have also been additional expenses such as the additional newsletter and the offer of additional grants. Most expenditure has of course just continued as normal on salaries, insurance cover, IT support and *Archaeologia Aeliana*, plus of course some money for Zoom licences, so that we can hold meetings on-line.

The level of 2021 membership renewals will be important. Please rejoin and encourage others to join, as the Society needs as much subscription income as possible in order to carry on its important work in studying and preserving our heritage.

*Simon Pallett*  
*Hon. Treasurer*

## OUR ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

When in March 2020 we had to rethink our programme of activities and cancel all in-person meetings, this was not the first pandemic that the Society had seen. Our foundation date in 1813 means that we endured the Spanish Flu epidemic, which struck Newcastle between March and September 1919. Some members may even remember the Asian Flu of 1968-69. This time, the Society has a weapon that we did not have in the past: THE INTERNET!

In the last few months, our online meetings have covered Roman Finds, Belsay Hall, the fight against the Blackshirts on



*The Arctic landscape in summer, picture courtesy Matthew Ayre*

Tyneside, and a beautiful monument in Newcastle Cathedral. We have run our first virtual coffeehouse event and the second, coming just after you receive this *News Bulletin*, is a suitably seasonal one about archaeological finds in the Arctic.

For 2021, we have a full online programme. Highlights include a talk by Dr. Andrew Marriott about trench art and memorialisation, featuring the famous Durham Light Infantry cross. We also have two exclusive keynote speakers: Alistair Moffat, award winning author and former rector of the University of St. Andrews, and our own Professor David Breeze, who will be offering our Horsley public lecture, in conjunction with the Newcastle University Insights lecture series, in November.

Throughout this difficult year, we have learnt that culture and intelligent conversation can keep our spirits alight; technology can allow us to reach further than we previously could, to members living in the US and beyond; our Society is an organisation uniting many bright minds and capable of moving into the future. We look forward to spending another year in your company, and to keep offering you the best activities we can. In order to do so, we have created an online Survey, which you can find here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3633vwa>. The deadline for completion is 31 January, and I will be reporting results in due course.

Send us your ideas for activities, both on and offline, to us at [events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk). It all helps to make the Society what YOU want it to be.

*Marta Alberti*  
Meetings secretary

## FINDING MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER



*Ken's great-grandfather George, centre, with grandfather Isaac, bottom right*

It was an article in the Society's e-newsletter that caught my attention – a Heritage Open Day at St James' Church in Benwell. When researching my family history many years ago, I discovered that my great grandfather George Johnson Charlton, whose home address was 24 H Block Munition Cottages in Scotswood, had been buried in the church graveyard on 14 July 1920. (He died in the War Pensioner Hospital in Castle Leazes). Attempts to find his grave proved fruitless as the churchyard had become a wilderness of weeds, rubbish and broken glass, almost completely obscuring the memorials and gravestones.

I decided to revisit the churchyard, now transformed by volunteers from the St James Heritage and Environment Group, in the hope that someone could shed some light on the whereabouts of his grave. I spoke to local volunteer Judith Green in advance, and she had information ready for me on arrival. It showed the exact place of his burial plot, but sadly that there was no memorial or headstone for him. As he is my only ancestor without a headstone in the direct line of Charltons dating back over 200 years, I am awaiting permission from the church to provide a memorial to mark his grave.

The visit also clarified a further point. I know that during the First World War he served in the Royal Garrison Artillery (87 Company) in Hong Kong as I have a number of postcards he sent home from Hong Kong. However I also know that he spent some time during the war in the Guard Room (jail) at Catterick Garrison as I have letters written by him from the Guard Room to his son, my grandfather. At the time of my research I was met by a wall of silence when trying to investigate further but I was told by one family member, now long deceased, that he had received a full military funeral. I wondered then if this was an attempt to portray him in a more favourable light. The unmarked grave and confirmation that he had not been buried in a war grave suggests that this might well have been the case.

*Ken Charlton*

## CARRYING ON THROUGH THE CRISIS

### Abess Hild returns

I recently used Zoom to record myself, dressed as an Anglo Saxon nun, answering imaginary questions about the life of Abess Hild. Life has been strange of late ...

Many parents have found themselves taking on home schooling over the last year. For my colleague T and his 10 year old son JJ, it was a little easier. T is a history teacher, with much experience of finding new and exciting ways of bringing a subject to life. In this case they were studying Anglo-Saxon Northumbria.

T arranged an 'interview' to reinforce JJ's learning by making it entertaining, but also to give him a chance to expand his communication skills and consider issues of historiography. JJ carried out online research on the period and the characters he was most interested in – Athelstan and Hild. This gave him a context in which to consider the questions he would have put if only a Tardis had been available.

It also offered an opportunity to think about the differences between the time periods, and to ask himself what questions would have been unnecessary in the seventh century and what would reflect how attitudes have changed over the era.

He sent his questions to me, and I answered as if we were conversing. I would nod or otherwise react, occasionally restating the question to make it easier for him to identify the segment of film. Then JJ and his father filmed the former putting his questions, spliced the two videos together and put it on YouTube.

T's article about the project can be found on his blog here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6x28xy7>. This also includes a link a YouTube recording of Hild's 'interview'.

Across the country people have been coming up with new ways of communicating history. This one looks set to continue. It offers a chance for young people to take charge of their own learning and to think about history creatively. JJ is enormously proud that he has something he can share with others and is keen to get his classmates involved in similar future projects. The only question now is whether we have a budding historian or a social media influencer on our hands.

*Rosie Serdiville*

### From Zoom Novice to Old Hand

As a speaker on local history, when invited to give a talk to a group of people whether large or small it is both nerve-wracking and exciting.

Having all my talks cancelled due to Covid-19 was a blow and a little depressing. Researching new talks was my saviour. When I was invited to present some talks on Zoom, I was bewildered. The technology had passed me by, and I had never heard of or used Zoom before,. After much thought and consideration, I decided to say yes, and have found the experience enjoyable. With a live audience in front of you, you scan the audience to get an idea of how you are being received. With Zoom and no live audience, you just get on with it. No nerves, no butterflies. But I do miss the interaction with real people.

*Freda Thompson*



*A screenshot by Rosie, of herself dressed as Abess Hild*

## COVID-19 MUTUAL AID ORAL HISTORY

Across Britain, local Mutual Aid groups have sprung up in reaction to the outbreak of Covid 19. No two are the same, but they all share a common objective: to help people in their community who were suffering as a result of the pandemic. Some run online information and advice services. Others collect and distribute food. For many people, the personal contact that comes with their activity may be the only human contact in a solitary day.

A group of North East historians ran a pilot study back in June, wanting to record the life stories and experiences of Mutual Aid responders and to ask how they saw future activity developing.

The interviews were undertaken by a team of academic and community oral historians,



*Community phone box poster, from Newcastle Mutual Aid Twitter for Media feed*

the future is a way of combatting the horrors of the present. It has been a humbling and moving experience.

We are currently waiting to learn if we have obtained funding for the full project. If you would like more information please contact [oralhistory@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:oralhistory@newcastle.ac.uk)

*Silvie Fisch*

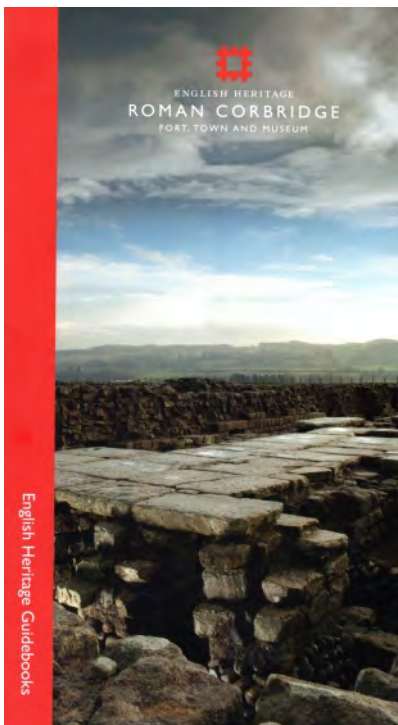
working with the Oral History Collective at Newcastle University and Northern Cultural Projects (NCP), a Newcastle-based community interest company.

We will be returning to our subjects in six months' time to give a chance for participants to reflect, to look back on the initial response to Covid-19 and to consider what changes they might have undergone.

Remarkably, given the hectic demands of their work, people from all over Britain have taken time to speak to us. Remote recording has proved invaluable. We asked about backgrounds, motivations for becoming involved, how the groups operate, their experience and how it had impacted on their lives, and what role, if any, mutual aid could play in the future.

Why did they spend time on the interview? Of course, we all like to talk about ourselves. But a stronger motive has emerged from our preliminary efforts. They all seemed to be most enthused by the purpose of the project: to provide a body of experience that could inform the research and knowledge of future generations. It's almost as though arming

## GUIDING US ALONG THE ROMAN FRONTIER PART II



*The present day descendant of the original Corbridge guidebook*

David Gill's piece in the last *News Bulletin*, about the evolution of the 'Ministry' and English Heritage Hadrian's Wall guidebooks, inspired me to bring the story up to date. In the latest version, pictured here, 'Corbridge Roman Station' has become 'Corbridge Roman Fort, Town and Museum'! I was privileged to have the opportunity of writing this latest edition in 2015, having revised Chesters in 2011. Although neither site has seen much in the way of recent excavation, I tried to re-interpret each in the light of the most recent research, while striving to retain something of the evocative style that our past president Eric Birley brought to the earliest versions. The most recent edition of the Chesters guide, from 2016, has a fascinating section on the Clayton family by our own Frances McIntosh.

In this format academic footnotes are inappropriate, but the present day authors of the English Heritage red guides benefit from beautiful graphics and photography, sympathetic editing, and the encouragement to give a much fuller list of sources and further reading than was permitted in the 'white guides' of the 1980s. As well as Chesters and Corbridge there are up-to-date guides in this series for the wall-forts of Housesteads (by Jim Crow) and Birdoswald (by our member Tony Wilmott), sites where knowledge has been transformed by excavation since Eric Birley's day. Our past president David Breeze's general Hadrian's Wall guide, in the same series but in a larger format, is always a firm favourite with visitors. In the tradition of the pioneer guidebooks, as well as offering an informative description and tour that works, each of the twenty-first century guides offers a statement of knowledge for its time.

*Nick Hodgson*

## IDENTIFYING OUR FLICKR COLLECTION

One of the many unidentified slides from Barbara Harbottle's enormous collection has been identified, and with it a warm personal recollection.

On her death in 2012, Barbara Harbottle bequeathed to us her archive of around 2300 slides, mainly views and records of archaeological digs. The originals are currently stored at the Discovery Museum, and the images have been indexed and digitised and are now on our Flickr site (accessible through the side bar on our Home Page). They are of historic interest, and in some cases may provide the only record of buildings or events. Quite a number, though, lack identification.



Lisbeth Thoms, from Dundee, got in touch with us earlier this year to say that she recognised an image in Box 14, B14-049, pictured above. It shows, she says, a group of people at the Society for Medieval Archaeology's annual conference held in 1982 at Kilkenny, Ireland. She is standing at the far left of the photo and at the back, seven from left, is Eric Cambridge. They were looking at the Romanesque doorway of the old church at Killeshin, Co Laois, which Lisbeth identified as the preceding slide in that box.

As Lisbeth explains, 'I travelled a lot with Barbara after I left Durham [where she was a postgraduate 1970–72] to pursue my career in archaeology and built heritage here in Dundee, Scotland. We went to many conferences together mainly those of the Society for Medieval Archaeology and also the Castle Studies Group and then travelled abroad a lot too. Barbara was a great friend and mentor – I learned so much from her concerning medieval archaeology, particularly urban archaeology which was really in its infancy in the 1970s especially in Scotland.' She visited Barbara regularly at her home in Newcastle right up to her death.

Lisbeth identified several other slides from the Kilkenny trip, and could point to others in the box which had been mislabelled. If anyone else would like to hunt through and see what they can find, we'd be delighted. Send us your information via [photoarchive@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:photoarchive@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk), which will go through to Irwin Thompson.

Sue Ward

## ANOTHER LIBRARIAN IN LOCKDOWN

*Editor's note; our last News Bulletin had a report from member Alan Coates, about how he was spending his time while his workplace, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, was closed. Below is a description from nearer home, from our own Assistant librarian Howard Cleeve*

During lockdown I have been attempting to work from home, in particular on a piece destined for the Society's website. I had on loan a number of volumes from our Library, but it wasn't long before I found myself wishing that I could still make my way to the Library every week, and not be banned from public transport as my journey was not essential! I really needed to consult a number of tomes that were not with me.

It was then that I discovered how much of the early material published by the Society is now online. For instance, if you wish to check out John Collingwood Bruce's monumental work *Lapidarium Septentrionale, or A Description of the Monuments of Roman Rule in the North of England*, then you can do so online, courtesy of the Hathi Trust, who have scanned a Cornell University copy of it. I may need to obtain copyright images from the actual volume for the piece, but once the Library is again accessible, I can photograph them from our own paper copy.

I also needed to check out Rev. John Hodgson's *History of Northumberland: in three Parts*, which is also online. [www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/och/northumberland.shtml](http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/och/northumberland.shtml) gives access to all the Parts of Hodgson's *History*, and many other volumes about our county. It also offers tips



Stone 172:  
Found at  
BORCOVICUS,  
Housesteads,  
from *Lapidarium Septentrionale*,  
p.88.

on making Google scans more user-friendly. There are of course, many other websites with potential material, still to be explored.

Howard Cleeve

## MOCK-HEROIC DIVERSIONS



*Britannia Excisa: Britain Excis'd. A new Ballad to be Sung in Time and to some Tune (1733), from Derek Cutts' collection*

Readers may recall my excursion into satirical prints in my January lecture for the Society. However, satirical verse can provide more extended diversion than satirical prints.

The lineage of mock-heroic verse in English can be traced from Samuel Butler's *Hudibras* (1662-1674), a satire of the Civil War. Via Alexander Pope's *Dunciad* (published in three different versions between 1728 and 1743), the genre developed through the eighteenth century. Pope also set a fashion for the choice of a poem's name.

Not long ago I found a disbound copy of the first edition of *Criticisms on the Rolliad* (1784) which purports to be a collection of literary essays on an ancient epic poem, but is in fact an attack on William Pitt, with some modern resonance suggesting voters' remorse:

The dupe enraptur'd, views her fancied charms,  
And clasps the maiden mischief to his arms,  
Till dire disease reveals the truth too late,  
O grant, my country, heav'n, a milder fate!

The work was developed and expanded over a number of editions. I now have a copy of the 21st edition (1799), which includes also the *Political Eclogues, Probationary Odes and Political Miscellanies*. Among them is a poem of local interest, the *Delavaliad* by Joseph Richardson (1755–1803), born in Hexham, a Whig journalist, MP and associate of Sheridan. It is a satire on John Delaval (1728–1808), MP for Berwick, who in 1784 abandoned the Opposition and declared warm support for Pitt, being rewarded with a peerage in 1786.

Wilt thou against oppression bawl?  
Just so did valiant DELAVAL!  
Yet in a month, thyself enthrall,  
So did the yielding DELAVAL

Another mock heroic satire of local interest is *The Stoniad*, addressed to Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes in January 1777. While it is available on line, the hunt is now on for a 1779 copy.

Derek Cutts

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### July 2020

The June monthly meeting was rescheduled, and there was an audience of over 70 for our first Zoom speaker, Barbara Birley, Museum Curator for the Vindolanda Trust, on 15 July.

Barbara explained that with the lockdown, Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum had lost all their visitor income, though some grants had continued and emergency funding had allowed work on several projects. The first was on leather artefacts, especially the 5,000 leather shoes which had been preserved in anaerobic conditions for nearly two millennia. An ongoing programme, in partnership with the Canadian Government, aimed to create a new database to improve the collection's accessibility. Canadian students working on the project, whose summer visit had been cancelled, were able to do training online, and moved all the archive photos onto the new database.

The 3,000 objects in the wooden collection were much more diverse, but time had been spent studying them, including looking at Vindolanda's famous writing tablets as objects rather than as sources of communication. New tablets found in 2017 and dating from around AD 85, were

analysed, and the first four were put on display in the recently re-opened museum.

Also on the digital front, *Stories from the Frontier* was a 'gameplay' intended to engage children, in conjunction with Newcastle University's Department of Archaeology and their Games Lab, with Arts Council assistance. This was intended to be played on site, with tablets and smart phones, with a 'detective story' theme based around the child's skeleton found in 2010.

A further project, *Engaging Vindolanda's Global Community*, had developed out of the lockdown. A grant from the Arts Council emergency fund had allowed them to pay staff wages to create *A Closer Look*, ten short films uploaded onto their YouTube channel, covering a variety of research themes and giving insights on the collection. Alongside this was *Our Favourite Five*, with staff and volunteers nominating their favourite objects, and others using household goods to recreate objects for an online gallery. Finally, they had been able to create a large batch of learning resources, including instructions on how to make a Loo Roll Lepidina – shades of Blue Peter, for those of us of a certain age.

All the Vindolanda projects and news are available on [www.vindolanda.com](http://www.vindolanda.com), and questions for Barbara can be directed at [info@vindolanda.com](mailto:info@vindolanda.com)



Loo Roll  
Lepidina, from  
the Vindolanda  
website

For our regular July meeting, Nigel Todd spoke on *In Excited Times; The People Against The Blackshirts on Tyneside*. He explained that there had been small organised groups of fascists in the 1920s, but in October 1930 Oswald Mosley had founded a fascist movement, the British Union of Fascists (the Blackshirts). This created a great deal of noise and violence, for example against Yemenis in South Shields.

In the North East as elsewhere, the movement held some appeal for young men missing the exhilaration and grimness of World War I, and enjoying the opportunity to swagger about in a uniform. Seaham Hall's owner Lord Londonderry frequently entertained the German Ambassador, Ribbentrop, at his various homes. There were also some small- and medium-sized business owners operating in the Baltic markets, who would go across the North Sea with their goods and attend Nazi rallies. Local newspapers reported speeches by Nazi sympathisers. Armstrong College, the forerunner of Newcastle University, had a Fascist Society, and William Joyce (later Lord Haw-Haw) visited the area.

The movement, it was discovered in 1940, was heavily bankrolled by Mussolini. His quid pro quo for this was probably the receipt of naval intelligence, and so recruitment was targeted on places like Portsmouth, Chatham and of course Tyneside.

Mosley's strategy was to win the 'battle of the streets'. On Tyneside, the BUF planned a series of activities on 13–14 May 1934, not long after Lord Rothermere declared his support in the Daily Mail, culminating in a rally on the Town Moor. However, attempts to hold public meetings were broken up by the Anti-Fascist League, and only the police saved Fascist marchers across Tyne Bridge from being thrown into the river. Mosley called off the rally, though he made another tokenistic attempt in June. The disruption in Newcastle became the pattern elsewhere. London's 'battle of Cable Street' in 1936 reflected the Fascists' decline.

Nigel's 1995 book on the topic is available in City Library, and the lecture can be viewed on the Antiquaries' channel on YouTube. Nigel can be contacted on [nigeltodd@phonecoop.coop](mailto:nigeltodd@phonecoop.coop)

## August 2020

Professor Jeremy Boulton, of Newcastle University, talked about the Maddison Monument in Newcastle Cathedral. He had taught a course on the topic of death and dying since he first took up a post at the University, he explained, and usually included the monument in his field trips. One point he always stressed was how much physical change there had been within the building. It had been substantially remodelled in the 1780s, in the expectation that it would soon become the cathedral of a new diocese, although in fact that took another century. The church lost many historic tombs at that time. The Maddison monument had been moved and inscriptions added to it during the Victorian period.

It dated originally from the first half of the



An engraving showing the Maddison  
Monument in its 1833 position

seventeenth century, at the peak of church monument building. Stunning as it was, there were many others, especially outside the relatively impoverished North East. They were often erected during the lifetimes of the people they commemorated, since they would not entirely trust their heirs to spend the large amount of money needed.

It was a monument to three generations of the Maddison family. Henry Maddison, the main figure, had made a large fortune, and had a large family (sixteen children). All his sons survived to adulthood, a remarkable feat for his day. He was mayor of the city, as his father Lionel had been before him. Henry's eldest son, another Lionel, had entertained the King on his progress north, and had been knighted as a result – so he appeared on the monument in armour. During the Civil Wars, Sir Lionel eventually came out on Parliament's side, which was probably why this monument had not been damaged during the Scots' occupation of the city.

Apart from that, we knew little of its history in the seventeenth century, since few churchwardens' accounts or other documents survive from the period. We do know, however, that it had been repainted around 1690. There was a detailed description of it in the State Papers for 1716–19, but the first picture dated from 1824. By then, Professor Boulton concluded, it was a tourist attraction, whereas on its original erection it was a celebration of prosperity, learning and family.

Professor Boulton can be contacted on [jeremy.boulton@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:jeremy.boulton@newcastle.ac.uk)

## September 2020



*The Theseion from the Agora in Athens, picture Susanna Phillippo*

Dr Susanna Phillippo talked about Sir Charles Monck's travels in Greece and the connection between what he saw there and his building and landscaping at Belsay Hall. She explained that her work on Sir Charles's travel diaries was part of a wider project with English Heritage to create an interactive map of Belsay Hall and Gardens overlaying some of the pictures and quotes from the diary. An exhibition of the diaries had been delayed because of coronavirus, but an online exhibition with the Great North Museum was being created (now live at <https://greece-recreated.com/>).

Monck was steeped in the classics: his education at Rugby School could include 30 lines of Ovid before breakfast! He

could quote from Homer, without the text, at Aegina. In Sicily, faced with cacti which would not have been there in classical times, he adapted Horace. After inheriting his father's estate aged 16, he had married in his twenties and set off on a honeymoon trip (despite the Napoleonic Wars) taking in Denmark, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Northern Italy, and finally Greece, where he was in Athens from May to October 1805.

On his return, he had built Belsay to his own designs, with some help from architect John Dobson, starting in 1807 but only finishing the Hall itself ten years later. The Hall's austere lines were inspired by Doric temples such as the 'Theseion', and (in Dr Phillippo's view) by the Cyclopean architecture of Mycenae. Monck described the stones of Mycenae as 'exquisitely cut', and the careful finishing of the Belsay stonework has often been noted.

Belsay's quarry gardens imitated the famous Quarries at Syracuse. Although Monck created this landscape before actually seeing the Syracusan quarries on a later (1831) journey to Sicily, he might well have seen engravings. Other travel experiences from his Greek journey of 1804–6 could also have been influential, particularly the Cave of Pan at Vari.

Dr Phillippo's handout is available on our website, and she may be contacted at [S.Phillippo@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:S.Phillippo@ncl.ac.uk).

## October 2020

Dr Marco Romeo Pitone spoke about *Transforming Bede's World: a journey in experimental archaeology*. He explained that his research field was experimental archaeology on Bronze Age copper smelting. His activities at Jarrow Hall had meant a jump of a millenium or so in his interests. The 'Anglo-Saxon' buildings were now more than 30 years old, and unfortunately the archives of the original project had not all been retained. Building had begun in 1994, and

finished in 1997. The 'grandstand', all that remained of the original idea of reconstructing the Royal Palace at Yeavinger, was only completed in 2003.

The national charity Groundwork had taken over the site in 2016, but maintenance and conservation in the years before that had been poor. Limewash was crumbling, the thatch was in a very bad state, and the bases of the posts in the Hall had rotted away. The gruberhausen were much eroded, and there had also been vandalism.

The plan of action was to do research and assessment first, training up a group of volunteers. It then transpired that they could do minor works to conservation standards, before bringing in the experts. When replacing wattle and daub, for instance, or limewash, the volunteers recorded the recipes used and the weather conditions. The McCord Centre for Landscape, at Newcastle University, had created 3D digital models of the buildings, to be altered as needed. This had allowed them to consider whether, for example, the internal walls might have been decorated, or the posts carved.

The plans now were to build up the archives, taking pictures before and after any repair work, doing research, and continue the digital project. They would be applying for funding for major interventions, and as part of this they would be organising meetings and workshops in due course. They were fortunate to have strong support from the Friends of the World of Bede.

In discussion, Colm O'Brien, who had been involved with the original project, explained that the planned 'grandstand' had been experimental in terms not of building technique, but of the use of space for performance. However, the completed structure had not met the specification, with no raised dais and no screens behind.

Dr Pitone can be contacted on [marco.romeo.pitone@gmail.com](mailto:marco.romeo.pitone@gmail.com)

### November Public lecture

In a reinstatement of our annual Public Lecture, which had been cancelled with the onset of Coronavirus, Professor Robert Morris talking about *Property, Gender, and the 1870 Married Women's Property Act*.

Prof Morris explained that the 1870 *Act to Amend the Law relating to the Property of Married Women* gave a married woman the right to her own earnings in any trade which she carried on separately from her husband; money or property gained through the exercise of literary, artistic or scientific skill; and savings or investments in her own name. However, it also said that married women could sue and be sued for debts, and were liable under the Poor Laws to contribute to the support of their husband and children.

The genesis of the Act lay in economic changes, and in increased individualism with more acceptance that women might separate from their husbands. Contradictory legal doctrines had developed in Common Law and Equity; in the former, a married woman did not exist legally, while in the latter there was a framework under which she could have a legal personality via trustees. As commerce and the use of credit developed in the mid-nineteenth century, there were many legal cases in which married women owed substantial amounts of money but neither they nor their husbands could be made liable.

Even before this, women already owned considerable amounts of property, often through trustees, as rate books and wills demonstrated. In terraces of housing built around this period, breaks in the bonding and variations in design frequently showed that the houses were built piecemeal, three or four at a time, with an individual or family as owner-occupiers in one house, and renting out the rest. Courts or yards in cities such as Leeds would often have a mix of a factory, a dwelling house for the owner, and other property to rent. One could detect a family strategy to protect the standard of living throughout the lifecycle.

Professor Morris can be contacted on [R.J.Morris@ed.ac.uk](mailto:R.J.Morris@ed.ac.uk)



*Blackfriars Street Oxford, in the 1960s at the end of its life; typical south midlands brick cottages. Copyright R J Morris*

### Francis William David Manders, BA, MLitt, ALA (1939–2020)

Anyone seeking the history of the 'other place' (Gateshead) must begin with the definitive history of the town written by Frank Manders, who has died aged 81. Born in Carlisle, Frank studied for his BA at Newcastle University, and returned there to complete his MLitt on *The Administration of the Poor Law in the Gateshead Union, 1836–1930* (with Professor Norman McCord as his supervisor). This was achieved through part-time study whilst working full-time as a librarian.

Frank married Greta Campbell in 1966. Whilst working as a librarian in Gateshead Local History and Archives, and with the support of the Council and the Borough Librarian, Frank wrote his highly-regarded *History of Gateshead* in 1973, just before the abolition of the County Borough. His publications stretch over forty years from 1969 to 2009. In them, he explored aspects of Gateshead history before *Crossing the Tyne* (2001) to write on Newcastle's history.

He worked closely with Alan Godfrey, who republished historical Ordnance Survey maps. Frank wrote the accompanying text for seven of these, drawing the reader's attention to evidence of development or decline. His eye for visual sources led to publications on the first photographs of Newcastle upon Tyne and to an area hitherto neglected, the cinemas of Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Sunderland. Meticulously researched, these will remain the standard works on this important aspect of social history. He was also much in demand as a lecturer on these topics. Frank was an active member of this Society, serving as a member of Council from 1992 to 1997, and was Secretary of the Publications Committee and Editor of the *News Bulletin* in the 1990s. He will be missed by all who enjoyed his histories of our region.

*Richard Pears*

*Editor's note; for reasons of space, Frank's lengthy bibliography is not included here, but is given in full in the Biographical Directory included on our website.*

### David Lovie 1942–2020



*David Lovie at his desk, with thanks to his family*

David Lovie, who died peacefully from pancreatic cancer on 9 July 2020 at his home in Alnwick, was a most distinguished conservation officer, of national as well as regional importance.

A Mancunian by birth, David came to Newcastle in 1961. After degrees in Land Use Studies and Urban Planning Design, he settled into Tyne and Wear Council's Joint Conservation Team, later joining Newcastle City Council.

At both Councils he established himself as a leading member of the region's premier conservation team. As Jules Brown has written, 'David progressed a distinctly communal approach to conservation, championing the cause of everyday heritage and the passion of local people for it. He had a deep commitment to helping people understand and learn about the historic environment around them'. In 1978, he helped set up Newcastle's Town Teacher, one of the earliest urban studies centres, later advising on the 1980s regional BBC TV programme *Townscape*, fronted by his friend John Grundy. At Newcastle he helped create and manage the Grainger Town project, the 10-year programme to regenerate the heart of the city in the late 1990s and early 2000s. For Grainger Town and much more he wrote everyday guides on townscape, historic buildings and especially churches.

David was a founder member of the Association of Conservation Officers, later the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, rising to become its national president. His last full-time job was as Historic Areas Advisor at English Heritage's North-East office, where he championed conservation area grant schemes, setting up 21 in the region at one point.

In 2003 David semi-retired, eventually moving to Alnwick, still working with the North of England Civic Trust (now Cultura Trust). In 2010, he joined Inspired North East, advising over 100 places of worship in the Newcastle Diocese on conservation, funding and community matters. Later, he was closely involved with Alnwick Civic Society, helping to write the award-nominated *Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes*.

To be a distinguished conservation officer is good enough, to be successful even better. But

having worked very closely with David for five years at English Heritage, what lingers in the memory is an unquenchable passion for buildings and places, and how important they are to people. He oozed enthusiasm, he guided and mentored, cajoled and steered. A very good man doing a very good job.

*Martin Roberts (with thanks to Jean Lovie and Jules Brown)*

## A VERITABLE CORNUCOPIA OF INFORMATION

I have been trawling through the *News Bulletins* of old, for inspiration for heritage-themed walks to try out (or rather, I was being lazy: having decided to pilfer ideas from previous Country and Winter walks). I became side-tracked rather quickly.

The *Newsbulletin* was first produced by the late Enid Hart back in 1987. These were typewritten and mass photocopied. Content was primarily Society news, Committee structure, lists of new members, new Library books, and of course details of forthcoming walks. There were also short articles, such as one that informs us of a former plan to display one of George Stephenson's locomotives from Hetton Colliery (now known as Hetton Lyons) on a pedestal in the University Quadrangle. The Great War intervened and the engine eventually ended up at Beamish, after a spell in the NRM in York (No. 6, June 1989). Participants in last year's Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall might be interested in the anonymous, tongue-in-cheek, account of 1989 Pilgrimage (also No. 7). Whoever it was appears to have had a bee in their bonnet about Professor Peter Fowler: I'll say no more!



Colm O'Brien took over in 1991, and the *News Bulletin* began to be professionally typeset thanks to Dr Mike Bishop and the Tyneside Free Press in reaction to a Society survey taken in 1995, which highlighted a need to improve communication within the Society, Colm introduced a more systematic way of providing information on matters under consideration by Council and introducing 'Committee Focus' detailing each committee and their role. Articles were fewer in the 1990s but there is still interesting information to be gleaned for example, an explanation as to why the Society has an Anniversary meeting in January and a separate AGM in March – too long to go into here, but quite rational at the time. The situation was described by John Philipson as 'An unusual arrangement, but then we are an unusual society' (No. 19, Dec. 1995).

In December 1999 the current editor took over, despite claiming to have previously always resisted undertaking editorial work, being a freelance journalist. She is now fully-trained!

*Graeme Stobbs*

## 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*

[events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk](mailto:events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk)

*Copy deadline for the next edition is May 3, 2021. The mailing date will be 9 June. All inserts must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 2 June. If you want an insert included, please e-mail the Administrator on [admin@newcastle-antiquaries](mailto: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.*

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