

NEWS BULLETIN



THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No.75 June 2023

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ABOUT US

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 over 600 members, and always welcome new ones.

We have a full programme of public events, lectures, walks and visits, and social activities. We are guardians of worldclass 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, email admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk.

EDITORIAL

To save space for more interesting content, I have used the President’s Address to also cover editorial matters, while they are my remit. My first task in commencing my first editorial is to express my warmest thanks my predecessor, Sue Ward, both for her sterling work editing the *Bulletin* over the past 20 years, and most particularly for the expert and patient assistance she has generously afforded your new editor, who is on a very steep learning curve. The following humble offering is the result of my first attempt and I hope it goes some way to meeting the very high standards of *Bulletins* produced under Sue’s editorship.

The life of the Society goes on, bringing it with the inevitable changes within the ranks of our officers and associated colleagues. This year will see the retirement of our Hon. Librarian, Denis Peel, and the appointment of the new Tyne & Wear Museums Librarian, Rebecca Knight. Below, the contribution of Denis to the Society is eloquently assessed by Past

President Derek Cutts, and Rebecca introduces herself in the regular Library Matters slot.

The saddest part of doing this job is reporting on the death of valued members and colleagues. In April we lost both one of our former Council members, Judge Christopher Walton, and one of the great pioneers of Northumbrian archaeology, Prof Rosemary Cramp. I am thankful to former Presidents Richard Pears and David Breeze, respectively, for their brief appreciations of these two remarkable lives, at the short notice dictated by our publication deadlines.

David Heslop

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Activities Committee is working on a programme of in person events during the summer months. These include the Summer Social at Dunston Staiths on Friday 14th July, a visit in planning to the Ad Gefrin Museum and Distillery (we cater to all tastes ...) and, hoping for better weather, history walks in the region. Following the sad news of the death of Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp, we hope to work with our sister Society in Cumberland and Westmorland to organise a conference to mark Rosemary's tremendous contribution to archaeology and education. We're also organising an event for new members in the Library at the Great North Museum: Hancock. Please watch bulletins for specific details of events.

Richard Pears

DENIS PEEL APPRECIATION

This Society is fortunate to be served by many volunteers. One such, Denis Peel, joined Council in 1971 when John Gillam was President and Edward Heath Prime Minister. Denis has served the society, for over half a century.

Denis, Yorkshireman by birth and a biochemist by profession, joined the Library and Museums Committee and volunteered to help the Librarian, George Wilson, with cataloguing. When George was unexpectedly no longer able to continue as Librarian, Denis took on the role in 1981.

A mediaeval gatehouse full of books would daunt many but he began by rearranging the many thousands of journals in the Black Gate, enlisting more volunteers.

In the 1980's, Denis oversaw the Manpower Services funded cataloguing of the library. The Society employed two full time cataloguers, and four part time typists for two years. Funding came to an end in 1987 before the task was finished. Denis and his volunteers completed the task and a catalogue of all the books and periodicals was on computer by the end of the century.

In 2001, when the Black Gate acquired a new roof, Denis took the opportunity to weed out non book material, sending it to the Northumberland Archives: a more suitable home.

After 25 years of good management, the Library was ready for the next event in its history: relocation to the Great North Museum. Thousands of books needed to be unshelved, cleaned, boxed and labelled and physically moved from a mediaeval building with no lift and across Newcastle to their new home, then reshelved in a very different setting. That this happened without mishap was a great achievement.

Denis has contributed to the Society in other ways, giving wise advice and promoting and leading country walks.

Denis has decided that now is the time to pass on his role to another. It remains to thank him for his service and to offer best wishes to him and to Georgina.

Derek Cutts



Denis in typical pose in the GNM Library photo courtesy of Sue Ward

LIBRARY NOTES



Hancock Library SANT Collection and open doors!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Rebecca Knight and I am the new Library Co-ordinator at the Great North Museum: Hancock Library. I started working here in February, after working over a decade in the Law Library at Newcastle University. I have discovered lots of wonders within the SANT Collection and I've not even scratched the surface!

I'd like to express my gratitude to the SANT members and volunteers who have made me feel so welcome in my first three months, especially to Denis and Howard.

It's been great to get to know SANT volunteers and see the things they are working on. If you are interested in volunteering in the Library, either on SANT projects or within the Library in general, please get in touch.

The Library has some changes that you might like to be made aware of:

- The doors are now open while the Library is open. You no longer need to ring a doorbell to access the Library. We are open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 2pm.
- The Library Desk Services will close at 1.45pm (15 minutes before the Library closes). This is to ensure that there is enough time to issue any items and tidy up before the Library closes at 2pm.

If you haven't been in the Library for a while (or ever) then please feel free to pop in and say hello. Library Contact: You can contact the Library by email at library@greatnorthmuseum.org.uk, or by telephone on 0191 208 3555.

You can take a look at our website here: <https://greatnorthmuseum.org.uk/collections/library-and-archives>

HIGH ROCHESTER 2021–22



Well-preserved lime-kiln, High Rochester fort photo, author

In 2021–22 the Revitalising Redesdale community project facilitated two seasons of fieldwork at Bremanium Roman fort, for nearly two centuries the most northerly occupied fort in Roman Britain. Work in 2021 began with the excavation of a service trench for Beryl Charlton, then resident at The Bastle in the fort, but subsequently focused on the external area immediately to the west where excavation in the 1990s had uncovered two annexe-like enclosures.

The ramparts of the larger enclosure comprise a turf rampart, the northern edge sitting upon a line of flat stones with a gap providing access to a structure with flagged floor, perhaps a gateway or bakehouse. Within one of the two external ditches, waterlogged deposits

included the well-preserved remains of a Roman shoe. The smaller enclosure boundary comprised a substantial stone wall merging with an earthen or turf bank on its inner, east side but faced on its west side, where a road surface along with building remains were also revealed.

The most spectacular find, made close to the western ramparts of the fort, was a well-preserved single-phase lime kiln of typical Roman design, its 3m-diameter bowl incorporating a ledge for stacking the limestone. Filling the kiln was a deposit of rubble within a reddish, silty matrix some of which remained attached to the kiln walls, indicating that it had lined the kiln interior.

Elsewhere, overlooking the Silloans Burn, parallel lines of well-set stones was clearly part of a furnace or oven, and in the south part of the larger enclosure were building remains comprising flagged flooring and two wall-stubs or pillars, suggesting a structure sitting on a terrace edge.

The excavations carried out in 2021 and 2022 have confirmed the value of community archaeology and it is hoped that further investigations will follow, led by the newly-formed Redesdale Archaeology Group (redesdalearchaeologygroup@gmail.com).

Richard Carlton



Aerial view of Arbeia fort from the east photo, author.

ANTIQUARIES HELP KICK-START MAJOR PUBLICATION PROJECT

How do past presidents pass their time? For Nick Hodgson this is not a problem, as, with the help of the Society, he embarks on a two-year project to publish the next report on what was one of the most extensive excavations ever to be carried out on a northern Roman site. Over many years (1983 to 2007) an eighth of the interior of Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort, was excavated, revealing a complete sequence of prehistoric, Roman, and post-Roman activity. Hundreds of staff and volunteers had key roles in the dig, many of them members of the Antiquaries, such as Alex Croom, Graeme Stobbs and Margaret Snape, and of course the late Paul Bidwell.

Although the excavation area now hosts impressive reconstructed Roman buildings, publication of the archaeological results was delayed by financial cutbacks. Now a research grant from the Newcastle Antiquaries has helped unlock other funding from the British Academy, the Roman Research Trust, and the Society of Antiquaries of London which will pay for the specialist work on coins, glass and radiocarbon dating needed to bring the late- and post-Roman phases of the work to final publication.

Preliminary post-excavation work shows that in the late-Roman period the character of the military garrison changed, with an increased civilian presence. The fort remained the seat of an important fifth-century community and the remarkable evidence for this will be fully documented. Early-medieval burials and Anglo-Saxon objects indicate the continuing importance of the fort in Anglo-Saxon times (it was the reputed birthplace of King Oswin). The completeness of the structural and finds record combined with radiocarbon dating offers the prospect of one of the most complete and closely dated fourth- and fifth-century sequences in Roman Britain. The report will be complete by late 2024.

Nick Hodgson

BACK TO AD GEFRIN. NEW DISCOVERIES AT YEAVINGING

In 2021 the *Yeavinging Environs Project*, a collaboration between Durham University and The Gefrin Trust, ran its first excavation season at this iconic multi-period site in Northumberland. Yeavinging appears in the 8th-century writings of Bede, as the place of a royal visit. Located by air photography in 1949, rectangular halls, additional structures and cemeteries were excavated by Brian Hope-Taylor in the 1950–60s, bringing to light unique evidence at the time for a 6th–7th-century royal palace. Our new project, resulting from a long-running partnership, is the next stage in the story, and builds on the joint publication a Site-Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (2020 – <http://gefrintrust.org/>). We aim to test the extent of the multi-period archaeology on the gravel terrace and use excavations to establish secure dating and phasing for past activities. Excavation is targeted in areas where we can re-evaluate features uncovered



by Hope-Taylor, to secure material for scientific dating, and simultaneously explore new features. We opened two trenches in 2021 in Hope Taylor's Area C at the northern edge of the gravel terrace. These relocated Building C1, and re-excavation uncovered the burnt timbers of this sunken-featured building in situ and provided new architectural discoveries. We also excavated an entirely new early medieval structure, part sunken and cut into the northern slope of the plateau. Excellent preservation protected working floor levels and

2021 excavations underway. Trench A to the south (left) where Building C1 was re-excavated and Trench B to the north (right) showing the footprint of new craft-working structure.

finds of animal bone, teeth and charcoal, providing a secure, well-stratified sequence suitable for scientific dating. Discoveries of bead fragments, unbaked clay loom weights and an iron knife, all associated with floor levels, suggest this structure served as a multi-purpose, multi-phase workshop area, perhaps open-sided to the

north. Plans are underway for a second season in 2023.

Thanks to the Society of Medieval Archaeology, the Medieval Settlement Research Group, the Society of Antiquaries London, The British Academy, Durham University and The Gefrin Trust.

Sarah Semple, Tudor Skinner, Brian Buchanan, Roger Miket

THE EVERYDAY LIFE IN A NORTHUMBRIAN MANOR PROJECT



Illustration courtesy of Northumberland Archives

The Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor Project is now reaching the end of its first year. Within this time, we have been able to recruit 65 volunteers, across four volunteer groups, working both in-person and remotely to make Northumbrian manorial records more accessible. The groups have been working to transcribe records relating to their local manors, with documents from Tweedmouth and Spittal, Norham, Wooler, Morpeth, Hexham and Allendale transcribed so far. These documents contain a wealth of information, which will help us all to gain a better understanding of how Northumbrian manors functioned.

Manors could hold their own courts, have their own laws and customs, and they kept accounts of court proceedings. From the records, we can find lists of tenants, and their types of tenancy agreement. This gives us local names, and some ideas about the customs of the manor, which may also be detailed in the court rolls, alongside presentments of broken rules and surveys. In addition to this, as manorial records for some of the Northumbrian manors extend earlier than the Parish records, they can also be a useful resource for anyone with an interest in their family history. The records mention women, sometimes by name, but in other cases as the 'the wife of...', and this gives us some insight into the history of the 'everyday woman', though as these mentions are sometimes when women were brought before a manorial court, it is perhaps not the most favourable view!

The Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor Project has 1.5 years still to go, and in this time, we will be starting two more volunteer groups, producing more talks and workshops, and eventually introducing our manorial records into work with schools. It's been fascinating so far, so watch this space for our future findings!

Beth Elliot

THE NORTHERN CATHEDRALS INVENTORY PROJECT

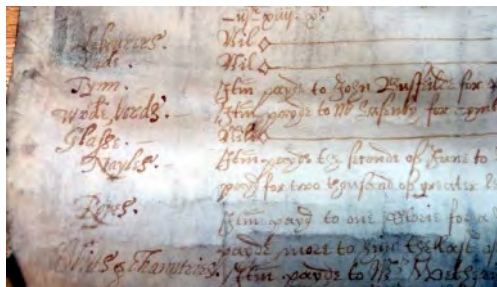
This project, being undertaken by The Centre for the Study of Christianity & Culture, University of York, presents an exciting opportunity to unlock the riches of the cathedrals of Northern

England, including St Nicholas in Newcastle, for the benefit of the cathedrals, the care of their collections, their management and statutory compliance, and for the thousands of people who visit, worship, or seek to engage with the hundreds of objects cathedrals house, use or display.

The aim of the project is to improve collections care and recording and to assess the need for guidance on the work necessary to comply with recent legislative changes in the 2020 amendments to the Cathedrals Measure for cathedral inventories. All cathedrals are required by law to maintain an inventory of their significant moveable items, but this now has to be held digitally and this is proving to be a challenge to resource-stretched cathedrals. Beyond the purely prosaic compliance, however, there is the potential for this project to renew pride in this area through better understanding and sharing of the treasures in our cathedrals as well as their role in the development of the Christian faith and culture in the United Kingdom. Ultimately, this project will allow for the development of systems which will provide greater public access and greater understanding of our shared heritage.

The current phase involves visiting each cathedral at least once to assess where they are in terms of expertise, documentation and completeness of the record. The outputs will be delivered in the form of an Action Plan for each cathedral. These will then be collated into a summary report in the autumn which will be used to secure central funding for implementation and a possible roll-out to the cathedrals of the southern province.

Dr Louise Hampson <loubielou1485@googlemail.com>
The Centre for the Study of Christianity & Culture, University of York



York Minster Fabric Roll photo, author

THE WOMEN IN THE LEDGER STONES: NEW HISTORIES AT NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL

Northumbria University and Newcastle Cathedral are delighted to announce a new collaborative PhD project: 'The Women in the Ledger Stones: New Histories at Newcastle Cathedral'. Funded by the AHRC Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership, this project will see doctoral student Abby Hammond, supervised by Dr Jennifer Aston, Dr Claudine van Hensbergen (Northumbria University) and David Heslop (Newcastle Cathedral), develop the initial findings of volunteers and investigate the largest collection of memorial ledger stones in northern England to recover the prominent role played by women parishioners in the life of the town.

Previous research has shown seventeenth- and eighteenth-century women not only engaged in but also developed important business, religious and educational networks. The lives of women including coal merchants like Alice Proctor (d.1684) and Dame Jane Clavering (d.1734), the philosopher and educational reformer Mary Astell (1666–1731), and the businesswoman and philanthropist Dame Eleanor Allan, are just some of the women here offering rich avenues for comparative research, given their overlapping religious, educational and business networks in the north-east and further afield. The project will reveal important information about the business and philanthropic roles women played in the town and the ways in which they networked through the Anglican community, using their social interactions to create economic opportunities and to build political capital.



The ledger stone of Alice Proctor/ Mallaber photo, David Heslop

In addition to her academic research into the ledger stones, Abby will be working closely with David and the Newcastle Cathedral staff and volunteers to produce an exciting range of new resources and initiatives, shaping how the Cathedral interprets the story of historic women parishioners for thousands of annual visitors.

Jennifer Aston

BLACKFRIARS



Blackfriars – proposed new landscaping photo author

Since taking over the restaurant at Blackfriars 13th century former Dominican friary, I've witnessed numerous tourists walk through into the cloisters, take a quick look around and then promptly walk out. It's a magical space but is sadly underutilised and often over-looked.

It's not that there's anything wrong with the area if you look at the photos from the 1980s after the renovations were first completed you can see it was an attractive little sunny square. But over the years it became tired, some of the trees outgrew their home and their canopies prevented the grass flourishing. What's more, the two foot step-up onto the muddy garth provided a physical and psychological barrier that prompted most visitors to about-turn.

My hope was always to lower the garth to create a vibrant all-weather level-access space fit for licensed outdoor performance, markets and other community activities that would draw visitors in, increase their dwell time and provide a better explanation of the scheduled ancient monument's unique history.

As you would expect, the permissions required were arduous requiring detailed planning. As such, it was three years before the contractors started on site. At the time of writing they're making good progress the old diseased willow has been removed, the modern 1970s deposits have been removed under the watchful eye of our ever-present archaeologist, granite coping stones have been cleaned, access ramps built and Caithness paving laid.

Careful consideration has been given to the use of materials, drainage, lighting, seating and the remaining walnut tree to ensure the new space harmonises with the surrounding medieval buildings. There are also plans to renovate the explanation boards and create an online app to provide additional information and augmented-reality content.

We hope the renovated space will be well-received and urge everyone to come and see for themselves.

Andy Hook

FIRST EDITION OS NAME BOOKS FOR COUNTY DURHAM



Brancepeth Castle, home of Lord (Viscount) Boyne, courtesy of R Pearson

In 2016, after Altogether Archaeology (AA) worked with Professor Diana Whaley's team in transcribing the final Northumberland OS Name Books, my late wife, Val and I proposed a sister project for County Durham. In two arduous 5 day spells at The National Archives we produced almost ten thousand images! Stephen Eastmead of AA grey-scaled the images to provide some uniformity.

Transcribers come from the Northumberland Group, AA and new recruits. We started with Aycliffe and working alphabetically have reached Gateshead. A snapshot of 1850s County Durham, with surveyors from the Royal Engineers and their Civil Assistants.

Constants are COAL, RAILWAYS and IRON. The waggonways and railways brought coal to the staithes on the Tyne, Wear and Tees. New collieries opened as old ones closed, mostly owned by a few families – Bowes, Ravensworth, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Boyne, Lambton and Eden, whose mansions, castles and parks, are all described.

Settlements expanded rapidly with new churches, chapels, public houses and schools for the

workers' children. Housing varied but in Darlington is the 'Freeholders' Home Estate', with streets named after 19th century reformers. The Darlington and South Durham Freehold Land Society split the 46 acre Dodmire Farm into plots, costing £20 each at 2/6 a fortnight, entitling male owners to vote.

Durham's Penitentiary was to reform 'females of vicious habits'. The house called 'Gowknest' – a gowk is a cuckoo. Was Chair Lane Chare Lane? 'Mearsman' who worked out precise boundaries. 'The Highlander', an 'inferior' public house in Seaham Harbour frequented by bad characters. 'Hind', a farm labourer. 'Wath' or ford. 'Haugh', low ground by a stream, 'heugh', a crag or deep cleft. Tithe Commutation Plans. Clarty Lane, 'a very miry and wet lane', is still there, but The Londonderry Arms Hotel, first building at Seaham Harbour in 1828 is now a Thai restaurant!

Robert Pearson, Altogether Archaeology

HENRY EDWARD ARMSTRONG – 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWCASTLE'S FIRST M.O.H.

2023 is the 150th anniversary of Henry Edward Armstrong's appointment as Newcastle's first Medical Officer of Health, albeit under considerable opposition. Armstrong remained in post until his retirement in 1912. He was one of Newcastle's most effective public servants but also became a national figure in the field of public health. His lengthy and distinguished career is the subject of a forthcoming paper in *Archaeologia Aeliana* by the late F.J.W. Miller (1911–96).



The Doctor's Bill photo author

Armstrong was born at Chipchase Castle in 1843. His major leisure passion was fishing, along with a small group of close medical colleagues, immortalised in 'Lochboisdale' or *Physicians a Fishing* (1906), lodged in Newcastle Central Library. This is a tongue in cheek account of fishing expeditions and consists mainly of a poem, in rather doggerel verse, reflecting on the characteristics and medical status of his colleagues. But writing on himself, the tone of affectionate teasing gives way to something a little sharper, although it is a testimony to their friendship that Armstrong felt he could be so pointed in his observations.

*Among his peers he stands alone
For him no private patients groan
No epidemic him delights
No crowded church on rainy nights
No consultation his, nor fees
Nor vested interest in disease
But his the hard and thankless task
To thwart his friends in all they ask
Defective drains to rectify
On what they, for their fees rely
Preserve food, air and water pure,
Which elsewhere makes their practice sure*

A cartoon accompanies the poem, showing the shocked reaction of a patient receiving his doctor's itemised bill! How interesting that, in 1906, a vital public service provider should comment on the pecuniary status of colleagues in private medical practice and compare this unfavourably with his own. *Plus ça change....*

Mike Barke

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November 2022

Dr Trudi Buck from Durham University spoke about deviant burials on Hadrian's Wall. By this she meant, she explained, people who had been buried not in cemeteries, but elsewhere –

such as inside dwellings and in ditches. Her specialism was *osteobiography*, making use of modern techniques and multiple strands of evidence to give a history to those below the threshold of textual evidence.

Her first group was 'trophy of war', from Vindolanda. A group of round houses had been excavated there, surrounded by defensive ditches. Human skulls dating from the Severan period of warfare, had been found in one of the ditches. These were probably severed heads, put on display after being brought back from the wars in Caledonia. One of them was complete, but the skull was very battered, with sword cuts plus signs of having been bashed on the head with a shield. His DNA showed that he had grown up in the north-west Lake District, or north-west Scotland, but that one of his parents was Italian. Trudi's guess was that he was the son of a British woman raped by a Roman soldier, and this might be why he was now fighting against the Romans.

Another corpse was that of a young girl aged 8–10, found under the floor of one of the barrack buildings. Romans did not do 'normal' burial under buildings, so this was clandestine. She had an open wound on her head when she died, so it could be the result of a murder. She had not been brought up in Vindolanda, or indeed in Britain, but in Southern Europe. She might have been the child of a soldier, or a trader, or have been enslaved and brought to Vindolanda.

A third category of 'variant' burials was that of very young babies. A number of sets of bones had been found in ditches around Vindolanda, and were perhaps the result of infanticide. When 97 babies' corpses had been found on a Roman site in Hambleden, they had been interpreted as the children of women in a brothel, but there could be other explanations.

We could not look exactly into the past, Trudi concluded, but we could use these skeletons, along with other information, to build up a picture of what people's lives were like.

Trudi can be contacted on t.j.buck@durham.ac.uk

Monthly Meeting 25 January 2023

At our first meeting back in the Mining Institute (now the Common Room) lecture theatre, Steve Collison from ECUS Archaeology, spoke about the excavations on the site of the old Berwick Infirmary. He explained that Berwick was surrounded by multiple defences dating from the early middle ages right up to Tudor times. The Infirmary buildings themselves dated from the 1870s and the 1920s.

An evaluation carried out in 2021, as demolition began, had found traces of intensive activity. As a result, it had been decided to carry out a full excavation. They had divided the site into a sequence of zones, to fit around the demolition programme. This meant they were working around rubble.

They had found that the area was on the outskirts of the medieval settlement, with evidence of industrial activity, but no dwellings. There were 5 medieval wells, all later filled up with waste, and one Victorian one which had served the buildings when they belonged to the Poor Law institution. It was a very wet site, with a high water-table, perhaps the reason that no-one lived there. This had made excavation difficult, and some had been done by machine.

The main thoroughfare from Berwick to Edinburgh and to the castle ran through the site, and there were signs of a defensive wall and a ditch. There was a huge number of everyday objects, 'the detritus of everyday life' as well as some less common ones. One of these was the base of a malting kiln. Malted grain was an essential ingredient of the widely home-brewed at the time, but there was little sign of actual brewing. There was, though, huge evidence of fish processing, with piles of shells, and processing of horn, with over 30 cores discovered in a single pit. There was also a trackway.

February lecture

Professor Matthew Kelly, of Northumbria University, spoke about *Pauline Dower and the Designation of Northumberland National Park*. Pauline, he explained, was the daughter of Labour MP Sir Charles Trevelyan of Wallington, who backed the 1920s campaign for National Parks. In 1929 the Labour Government published the first detailed study, but its recommendations fell foul of the fall of the government in 1931.

In 1929 Pauline married John Dower, an architect and civil servant, who was committed to the idea of public access to the countryside. He drew up a further report, but the Second World War intervened, and it was only published in 1945. Having been invalided out of the army due to TB, he was employed at the Ministry of Public Works on post-war planning. John died in 1947. In 1949 Parliament finally passed a National Parks Act, with designation of the first parks starting in 1951. Pauline was appointed to the National Parks Commission, on which she served for 16 years, including a later spell as Deputy Chair. She represented the Commission at the public

inquiry into the Peak District National Park, the first time the concepts had been tested in public.

As for Northumberland National Park, a key question was what should be included. Only part of the Cheviots were in England where the legislation applied. For a time the Forestry Commission supported the idea of Kielder Forest being included, but eventually concluded the aims of the two bodies were incompatible. There was also the issue of the Roman Wall. All these issues led to the eventual shape of the National Park as an elongated slice of Inland Northumberland, stretching from the Scottish border to Hadrian's Wall, but excluding any part of the coast.

Controversies such as the use of areas by the military, or the siting of TV transmitter masts illustrated an important point, Matthew said. National Parks had little clout in dealing with either private interests or competing public interests. This was epitomised by the fact that although the Northumberland National Park was created in 1956, it was actually administered by Northumberland County Council until 1997.

Matthew Kelly's book, *The Women who Saved the English Countryside*, was published by Yale Books in April 2022. He can be contacted on matthew.j.kelly@northumbria.ac.uk.

April meeting

Following our Annual General Meeting, Alison Deegan of Historic England (HE) talked about the South East Northumberland Air Photo and Lidar Mapping project, part of a national HE project of mapping and monument recording that began in 1998, but was still only 53% complete. Despite its name, by the end it included much of Northumberland and a slice of land south of the Tyne, 481 sq km in total. All the results are now on HE's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer website, freely available to the general public.

Nearly 13,000 vertical air photos, 2,000 specialist oblique air photos and 300 military oblique photos came from HE's own records, plus many Lidar scans, which allow one to see what is beneath tree-cover. Ordnance Survey and Google provided other material. The images could then be linked with excavation reports, such as those by George Jobey in the 1960s and 1970s – which had themselves followed aerial photography projects by Norman McCord and Kenneth St Joseph. Computer 'rectification' of the images allowed the pictures from above to be mapped precisely onto GIS maps, with different visualisations for different purposes.

The project team could then create or expand monument records, to add to the summary information already in the GIS data, such as archaeological features and their relationship to one another and the landscape, the rationale of the interpretation and the contribution of other sources beyond the aerial imagery, like finds, geophysical surveys, and excavations.

Unfortunately, as Alison explained in the Questions and Answers session, although new records could be added, she could not add directly to existing records in the various Heritage Environment Records (HER). Instead monuments with existing HER records were recorded in the Historic England system and the data provided for the HER officer to deal with in their own time.

Alison's research report is on the Historic England website, at <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/79-2022> and the Mapping Explorer is at <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/>

SoA Public Talk Evening

On 24 March we held the second public talk evening at the Digital Lounge of Tyneside Cinema, this time organised in conjunction with the North-East Heritage Library and with a focus on Local History.

There were five speakers, ranging from local historians, PhD candidates, academics and volunteers, who shared their research topics and personal stories to a sold-out audience.

Jessica Cox, Reader at Brunel University, London discussed her research of maternal life in the 19th Century, with a focus on Newcastle's lying-in hospital and the life of one of the hospital's many patients: Mary Stephenson. Jessica's book *Confinement: The Hidden History of Maternal Bodies in Nineteenth-Century Britain* is due to be published later this year.

Georgia Brusby, a volunteer with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, shared her stories of researching her relatives' military history and locating their graves, as well as how her work helps intends to shine a light on the experiences of the fallen, and bring their lives back into living memory.

Craig Thomas, a PhD candidate at Newcastle University, spoke on how he researches the first industrial history of the Buccleuch and Queensberry estates, one of the largest private landholdings in Scotland and Northern England, by accessing both private and public archives,

and how his research is helping local communities and heritage organisations discover their local histories.

Rob Langham, railway historian and author, discussed how his boots-on-the-ground approach led to him rediscovering the remains of the Stanhope & Tyne Railroad which has left its mark on the landscape and scenery of the North-East. Rob has published several books including *'The Stanhope and Tyne Railroad Company'* and *'The Wear and Derwent Railway'*.

Finally, Daniel Riddell, PhD candidate at Northumbria University, shared his previous research into 19th Century politics in Newcastle, and the strengths and weaknesses of accessing digital and physical archives.

The Digital Lounge allows for a relaxed environment for an evening of talks, with time after the talks to socialise and discuss the topics further. One attendee gave the feedback of *'It was well-organised complemented by the diverse range of presentations... A really enjoyable and thought-provoking evening'*. We hope to hold more events here and would welcome anyone interested in sharing their research or interests, in particular, we'd like to hear from newer members, students and early career professionals. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more about speaking at an event or contributing to the North-East Heritage Library.

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HIS HONOUR JUDGE CHRISTOPHER WALTON (1949–2023)



*Christopher Walton (1947–2023)
courtesy of Brenda Walton*

Christopher Walton, who died on Easter Sunday, 9th April, joined the Society in 2015 after a distinguished legal career. Educated at St Cuthbert's Grammar School in Newcastle, he read Law at Cambridge University and was called to the Bar in 1973. He was Recorder of Newcastle from 1992 to 1997, author of definitive legal texts on Negligence, and the Designated Civil Judge at Newcastle until his retirement.

Chris very quickly made his mark on the Society, volunteering his time and energy in transcription projects, beginning in 2017–18 with the Society's Heritage Lottery Fund project 'Unlocking the Archives', and continuing into the project to transcribe Edwarde Potter's *Booke of Physicke*, a 17th-century manuscript volume of remedies and recipes. Sue Ward noted that as well as tackling difficult handwriting, Chris was always willing to help with the meaning of historic legal terms and processes. He was also firm that we must include a disclaimer and 'don't try this at home' warning on the website for Edwarde Potter, given the many dubious (and some downright disgusting) ingredients in the recipe.

With his immense legal knowledge, Chris was an invaluable member of Council, adding his expert thoughts to its discussions, none more so than his guidance as the Society completed the required processes and documentation to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Chris also joined the Library Committee to offer his services there. During my time as President, I knew that I could rely upon Chris for sound advice on matters involving the Society, and I'm sure that succeeding Presidents Nick Hodgson and Dave Heslop greatly valued Chris's support too.

Chris wore his expertise lightly: he was first and foremost delightful company, easy to talk to, keen to contribute to activities, his advice and comments offered with a warm smile. We send our deepest condolences to his wife, Brenda, and their family. Chris will be greatly missed by his friends in the Society, the legal profession, and other organisations to whom he gave unstinting support.

Richard Pears

PROFESSOR DAME ROSEMARY JEAN CRAMP (6 MAY 1929 – 28 APRIL 2023)

Rosemary Cramp was the grand dame of British archaeology. A cheerful, friendly person, adored by her students, and supportive of them in return. In 1971 she was appointed the first woman professor at Durham University. From 2001 to 2004 she served as President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the most northerly based person so far to hold that post.

Her academic achievements were recognised by the state through the award of a CBE in 1987 and then being made a Dame in 2021, and by several honorary degrees and a Festschrift.

Rosemary's interest in Anglo-Saxon archaeology started as a student at Oxford, her BLitt being awarded in 1950 on the relevance of archaeology to Old English poetry. Following five years as a tutor at St Anne's College, Oxford, Rosemary took up an appointment as a lecturer at Durham in 1955, retiring in 1990.

In 1963, Rosemary commenced her excavations at Jarrow-Monkwearmouth, the home of the Venerable Bede, and they continued until 1978, with a subsequent season. She was able to put life into the statement that Benedict Biscop built in the Roman manner while her excavations produced an important collection of early medieval stained glass. The report was published in two volumes in 2005 and 2006. Rosemary also excavated at the Hirsell on the Douglas-Home estate, this report being published in 2014. In spite of her reputation as an investigator of Anglo-Saxon Britain, her first excavation had been a Roman villa on the family farm in Leicestershire, and she also examined a Roman site at Catterick, undertaken in the snow in 1966.

Rosemary contributed to British archaeology in many ways through service in societies and on committees. An indication of her perseverance is the seven volume *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Sculpture* (1984–2005).

David Breeze



Portrait of Rosemary Cramp to mark her Presidency of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Reproduced by kind permission of the Society

A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

I am now looking forward to the next edition of the Bulletin, for which the deadline will be 1st of November, 2023. I am always glad to have readers' comments or suggestions for the content of the Bulletin and I am also happy to receive contributions from members. The format means that pieces are fairly constrained in length – 300 words maximum – with one illustration, for which any copyright permissions need to be secured. My e-mail is david@new-visions.co.uk

The mailing date will be 9 December, and any inserts for inclusion in the mailing must be delivered to the Membership Administrator by 2 December. If you want an insert included, please email the Administrator on admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk 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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