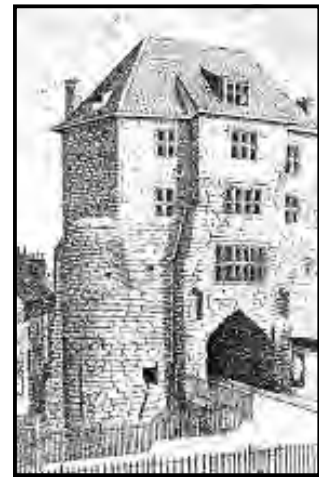


NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No. 34: JUNE 2003



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the country's oldest antiquarian societies, founded in 1812. We have a regular programme of lectures and events, a learned journal, a library, and collections housed in several museums around the region. We also lease the Castle Keep and the Black Gate from the City Council.

Subjects for our monthly lectures range from prehistoric excavations to aerial photography in Northumberland. During the summer months, there are Country Meetings – visits to places of interest by coach. There are also Country Walks throughout the year.

Every ten years, the Society organises a week-long Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage in conjunction with the Archaeological and Antiquarian Society of Cumberland and Westmorland, at the other end of the Wall.

*As well as this twice-yearly Newsbulletin, the Society has an academic journal, *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and publishes occasional monographs.*

The Society's books, thirty thousand volumes or more, are housed in the Library at the Black Gate. Opening hours are Wed 2–4pm, Thur 5–7pm and Sat 10am–12 noon. Volunteers to help out are always welcome. Our collections, once in the Black Gate Museum, are now mainly in the Museum of Antiquities, the Bagpipe Museum at Morpeth, and the Castle Keep.

Contact the Membership Secretary for more information at The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ, phone 0191 261 5390. Our e-mail address is admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk, and our website is www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk

ARCHIVES FOR ALL



James Cox, the Project Archivist

The extent and range of the Antiquaries' records is immense and unique. They include maps, deeds, autograph books, correspondence, sketches, brass rubbings, prints and glass plate negatives. Currently, most of the records are accessible at the headquarters of the Northumberland Archives Service, at Melton Park, Gosforth, but the lack of a detailed catalogue means that they are underused.

So *Archives for All* aims to increase access and use of the Society's records to both Society members and the wider public, through the production of a comprehensive web-mounted catalogue, along with educational CD ROMs for use in schools. Hopefully, this will create interest among a wide range of students in the Society's records.

The project is a partnership between the Society, Northumberland County Council through the aegis of the County Archives Service and the Heritage Lottery Fund – who have provided funding of £68,400 to support the project.

I have been an archivist for a number of years, and am finding it a privilege to have the opportunity to deal with such an eclectic collection. It is also, though, an immense challenge and one that requires a considerable amount of knowledge and local support. I have been most fortunate in both the support from the staff at the Northumberland Record Office and in the wonderful reaction, interest and enthusiasm of Society members who have volunteered to assist in cataloguing and researching the records of the Society – nearly 40 people so far.

Some of our volunteers have particular skills and enthusiasms, ranging from expertise in engravings and graphics, to family history, and digitisation. We are greatly appreciating and using their skills in specialist areas.

The majority, however, are undertaking the vital task of cataloguing and researching the records of Robert Blair and John Crosse Brooks. Blair made a quite wonderful collection of sketches and drawings from around the country (many of the views are in all probability no longer the same). Crosse Brooks collected the autographs and prints of many eminent people in a variety of formats, including letters, newspapers and books, in a wonderful series of scrapbooks. Please contact me at the Record Office (tel: 0191-236 2680) or via e-mail jaxox@northumberland.gov.uk for further information about the project or the collection.

James Cox

SOLDIERS, SETTLEMENTS AND SHIELINGS: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF OTTERBURN TRAINING AREA

Otterburn Training Area (OTA) has one of the greatest concentrations of archaeological and historic landscapes in the north of England. Although the prime purpose of the OTA is to provide military training, the MoD recognises the importance of its



One of the many complete millstones and roughouts still in situ in the quarry on Harbottle Crags

cultural heritage. 62 sites, to date, have been afforded legal protection through either Scheduling or Listing.

The archaeological record demonstrates that from prehistoric times to the present, despite the marginal nature of the land, people made a conscious decision to live and work here. Burial cairns, early British settlements and field systems, Roman roads and temporary camps, shielings and bastle houses, farmsteads and corn-drying kilns, limekilns and ‘collieries’ and a network of First World War practice trenches all testify to humankind’s continued presence.

Communal effort by people active in the area during the Neolithic period *c.* 4000BC–*c.* 2200BC, erected the long cairn on Bellshiel Law close to the A68 in Redesdale. 110 metres long, it is the largest and most impressive in Northumberland.

Round stone cairns are a particular feature of the Bronze Age *c.* 2200BC–*c.* 800BC. Several, unusually massive and well-preserved, are on prominent hilltops such as Windy Gyle and Thirl Moor in Upper Coquetdale. There are also small cairns, some in groups of six or more.

The relatively peaceful conditions of this moorland region in the Iron Age/Romano-British period *c.* 800BC–*c.* 400AD, are evidenced by areas of narrow rigg and furrow suggesting widespread crop cultivation and settlement sites with their round stone houses, yards for animals, tracks and fields. The best examples are the settlements at Yatesfield and Barracker Rigg in Redesdale neither of which has been excavated. The only sites that possibly could be considered ‘defensive’ are those on Ward Law and Trows

in Upper Coquetdale which command extensive views over the valley below.

The most remarkable remains however, are the Roman military sites strung out along Agricola's road, Dere Street, which runs through the western part of the Training Area. Eight temporary camps, the superimposed earthworks at Chew Green and the signal station on Brownhart Law are a compelling testimony to the surveying and engineering skills of the Roman army.

Centuries later, when lives and property were at the mercy of the Reivers, stout-walled bastles or defensible farmhouses, such as those at Ironhouse, Raw and Highshaw, provide graphic evidence of the measures people took to protect themselves.

The Union of England and Scotland in 1603 eventually brought peace to the area. With political stability, came improvements in agriculture and the development of small-scale rural industries – coal, drainage tiles, slate, ironstone, limestone and notably millstones. The digging of 'mylstones' on Harbottle Crag is mentioned as early as 1604 and continued until the 19th century. Vestiges of over 60 millstones are still there and are to be included in a new interpretive trail starting from Harbottle Castle.

Visible on the ground but best seen from the air, is the pattern of diamond and dog-leg practice trenches which date to the First World War. These and a number of other early twentieth military installations are earmarked for Scheduling by English Heritage.

Group visits to the OTA are welcome, by arrangement with the Access and Recreation Officer, Pippa Jackson Tel: 0191-239-4276.

Beryl Charlton

This is a summary of the wealth of material in "Fifty Years of Peace and War", a report by Beryl for the MoD. She co-authored the original 1977 version, without funding, and the only two copies of the typescript were lodged with the Northumberland Record Office and in Newcastle City Library. In 1996, the MoD found funds for her to produce a new edition, completely revised and with maps. One copy is lodged in the Antiquaries' library in the Black Gate (for reference only, not for borrowing) and another is in the Record Office.

COUNTRY MEETINGS



Mellerstain House, one of the places to be visited on the Scottish trip

We have two further Country Meetings this year. The trip to the Scottish Borders on 12th July includes three visits: to Smailholm Tower, in a magnificent setting and with sweeping views across to the Cheviots. This sturdy little stronghold of the Pringles and the Scotts also has an attractive exhibition of costume figures celebrating Sir Walter's Border minstrelsy. Mellerstain, with its wonderful series of Adam rooms and its terraced gardens, is the most enjoyable house in the Border country. Dryburgh is one the four great Border Abbeys built during David I's reign, founded for Premonstratensian Canons from Alnwick and now cared for by Historic Scotland.

On 20th September our visit is to Ryedale, the ever-growing Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole with its fascinating collection of rebuilt homes and crafts, one of the pleasantest of all such collections. From there we go on to see St Gregory's Minster, with its unique sundial telling how Orm Gamalson bought it 'when it was all broken and fallen', and set about rebuilding. The final visit is to the National Trust Nunnington Hall, with the fascinating Carlisle collection of miniature rooms. We shall end, as we always do, with a good tea.

Members and friends who wish to join either outing but have mislaid their booking forms should contact Tom Corfe, telephone 01434 603562, or 22 Hudshaw Gardens, Hexham NE46 1HY, or tom.corfe@ukonline.co.uk

THE WORK OF OUR CONSERVATION OFFICER

I became interested in the society's response to conservation issues in November 1978, when the City of Newcastle asked the Society



The Golden Tiger public house, photographed in 1977 and subsequently demolished

to comment on proposals to demolish buildings in Cloth Market. I wrote to the then secretary – Dr Fraser – that a recent case in the Queen’s Bench Division had strengthened the hand of those objecting to developments in Conservation Areas, for the judge had ruled that account must be taken of the proposed replacement building. The result, unexpectedly, was that I became the Society’s Conservation Officer.

Since then the Society has received many letters from the planning department about listed buildings and the historic environment. The legal basis for consultation is at present the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 (relating to listed buildings and conservation areas) and 16 (relating to archaeological sites and monuments). These two will be replaced shortly by ‘PPS’, which is now circulating in draft. At present, applications for consent to demolish or alter listed buildings are processed by the Local Planning Authorities and are available for public inspection at their offices, and should be advertised by them in ‘statutory notices’.

A notable proposal was the relocation of the John Wesley memorial to a spot in front

of a public house, an insensitive suggestion opposed by the Society and by many others. For many applications it was necessary to check maps and documents to understand a building before commenting on a proposal to demolish or alter it, and to investigate gloomy, dusty, dirty, empty structures, frightening trapped pigeons out of their wits.

There were also pleasant walks, with camera and notebook, on sunny days: one was to the East Quayside, where SS Caledonian Princess was tied up beside the long sheds. The City was proposing that she should be moored at the Quay, in front of the Custom House. I still have the incredible map showing how the floating night-club would have loomed over the historic waterfront buildings from Broad Chare to Fenwick’s Entry.

Then there was the long-empty south-east corner of Grey Street, now being restored and redeveloped, and Benwell Hall, a fine building which was eventually demolished. Smaller buildings, but important in the history of the town and in the townscape, were two small Georgian houses at the foot of Pilgrim Street, one then well-known as the Golden Tiger pub. Unfortunately they went, to be replaced by a hoarding which ironically still reminds us of them by its *trompe-l’oeil* windows.

A report of Council proceedings in 2001 brought to the attention of one of our members the proposal by North Tyneside Council to demolish the former Grammar School, unlisted and just outside the conservation area but opposite the Church of St Peter and affecting its setting. The Society wrote to North Tyneside Council, objecting strongly to the proposed demolition. Somehow, ‘Piloti’ who writes on architectural matters, heard of this, and agreed with the Society. For the first, and probably the last, time in our history, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne was mentioned in *Private Eye*.

Grace McCombie

A FOOTNOTE IN AVIATION HISTORY

In July 1902, Colonel (a self-conferred title) S.F. Cody presented a touring melodramatic show *The Klondyke Nugget* at the Theatre Royal, Prudhoe Street, North Shields. This was a different person from Buffalo Bill



The intrepid aviator as seen by our resident cartoonist Gil Gilmour

Cody, but he frequently claimed a non-existent family connection, trading on his alter ego's fame with a showman's lack of scruple. On occasion he claimed to be Buffalo Bill's son, though the latter's only son actually died in infancy!

The show was favourably reviewed in the *Shields Daily News*, which particularly noted nightly incidents such as the hero and his pony falling 15 feet into a ravine while trying to cross a railway bridge sabotaged by the villain, and a loyal Indian chief riding through a glass window while gathering vital evidence to save the hero's life.

At the same time, Cody was pursuing his experiments in flying, which he had probably begun about three years earlier on a visit to Carlisle. Although he described his inventions as airships or even aeroplanes, they were in reality large kites, often sent up in series and designed to carry a man or a variety of other payloads. Cody's experiments here were based on a football field at the West end of North Shields, and aroused so much interest that on the first ascent the local magistrates adjourned their court to watch the kites in action.

On 9th July Cody was badly injured when a gust of wind caught the kites, damaged the winch and pulled him into the air. The broken cable wrapped round his right arm; he fell heavily to the ground and sustained serious and painful fractures to his right arm. He appeared at the theatre that night, apologised for his absence from the show, and carried out some fancy shooting with his left arm. The kite was picked up at South Shields.

On 17th July Cody flew his kites from behind the Station Hotel, Newcastle. In late July the kite-flying venue moved briefly to Blyth Links. On 22nd August a large kite

blew away while being flown from Newcastle Town Moor (it was later recovered near Wardley Colliery). On another occasion, a kite was struck by lightning and Cody had a narrow escape when the current sped down the cable; again the kite itself blew away and was wrecked. In August and September Cody's kites in Newcastle repeatedly lifted meteorological instruments in experiments sponsored by the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*. In early September, one of Tyneside's most famous photographers, H.J. Thorne, then based in Spencer Street, North Shields, produced a dramatic portrait of Cody which was very widely reproduced. During these weeks, unmanned kites were sometimes flown to high altitudes – 14,000 feet was claimed on one flight – and Cody himself took to the air on several occasions.

This was not Cody's only appearance in the North East as an aviation pioneer. Newcastle was one of the staging points in the celebrated Round Britain aeroplane race in 1911, and while on this leg travelling north he lost his way in fog and had to make a forced landing near Brandon Colliery in County Durham. His enforced arrival produced great public interest – police had to be called in to cordon off the aircraft – and huge crowds gathered to watch the aeroplane's repairs and eventual take-off for the 25-minute flight to the Newcastle rendezvous.

Accounts of Cody's kite-flying activities can be found in the *Shields Daily News* and the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* for these summer months of 1902. Cody's remarkable career is described interestingly in '*Colonel' Cody and the Flying Cathedral*, by Garry Jenkins, (Simon & Schuster 1999).

Norman McCord

17TH CENTURY WOODWORK IN THE NORTH EAST

Included in this mailing is a flyer for our conference (jointly organised with North East Vernacular Architecture Group), to be held on Saturday 8th November in Neville Hall, Westgate Road.

The woodwork of the exceptionally talented but unknown 'Newcastle master', and the new church furnishings commissioned by

John Cosin, Bishop of Durham, and his circle, have tended to be studied in isolation. This conference places them side by side. At its close, there will be an opportunity to visit buildings of the period in Newcastle.

Martin Roberts

JULY MEETING – CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Following the sudden death of Dr Victor Watts last December, I have had to make a change to the Indoor Meeting for July. Dr Watts was to have lectured on place names, a topic which we have not featured in the programme for some years. I am therefore very pleased that another place name scholar, Dr Diana Whaley, has agreed to give the July lecture. Her title is “Place Names and the past; the ‘English’ Lake District”. I am most grateful to Dr Whaley for offering this lecture.

Colm O'Brien

A NOTE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Welcome to all the new members listed below, who have joined since last summer.

Miss Avril Moffatt
Dr Christine Newman
Mr Iain Kirkman
Mr David McGhee
Ms Fiona Milnes
Mrs Susan Wood
Mr Richard Smith
Mr Blair Gormley
Ms Rosie Serdiville
Mr Roger Napier
Mrs Gillian Parry
Ms Sue Pearson
Mr Christopher Hunt
Mrs Kathleen Hunt
Dr William Errington
Mrs Helen Clark
Mr Kenneth Black
Mrs Moira Bambrough
Mr Ian Charity
Dr Elizabeth Ashton
Miss Gail Smith

Mr Dennis Allsop
Miss Eva Laurie
Mr Jonathan Kindleysides
Mr James Saunders
Mr Collin Birch
Mrs Eunice Peart
Mrs Margaret Forsyth
Mr Roger Miket
Mrs Tracy Render

However... it is the unfortunate duty of membership secretaries to nag people for money, and this I must do. The deadline for paying 2003 subscriptions was **31 March**. Most people have paid, but there are 71 outstanding – not good enough.

Please could those members either pay up immediately, or inform me of their intentions regarding their membership of the Society.

On a lighter note, enclosed with this mailing you should receive our much-needed promotional leaflet – we hope you like it. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone you feel might be interested in joining the Antiquaries. Thanks to those members who sent in photographs for possible use. Unfortunately, we were extremely limited in the number and kind we could use, so please don't be disappointed if yours did not feature. I will return all photographs shortly.

Sarah Walter

ARCHAEOLOGICA AELIANA; OUR SPECIAL ISSUE

Members who subscribe to *Archaeologia Aeliana* should have received the special volume on the Roman Fort at Newcastle upon Tyne. The compilation and production of this, and of the recent general volume AA30 have been extremely time-consuming for one reason or another, but the Society now has two essential works of scholarship and reference that will also bring pleasure to the reader for many years to come.

The Editor, Professor Richard Bailey, and the Production Editor Roger Fern both devoted many hours to both publications. The Society is fortunate in having such expert and hardworking officers and owes them both a great debt of gratitude.

Beryl Charlton

STRUCTURAL IMAGES OF THE NORTH EAST (SINE)



A sketch of North Shields, by William Henry Charlton

As those who attended the May meeting will know, SINE is a project making images of structures from around the region available on the Internet (at <http://www.sine.ncl.ac.uk>). It has drawn heavily on collections by Society members.

There is a collection of aerial photographs by Norman McCord covering such views as, the centre of Newcastle, colliery villages and parts of Hadrian's wall. From Stafford Linsley's collection of 26,500 slides, SINE has digitised images of structures connected to lesser-known industries of the region, such as brick and rope-making, textiles, tanning and brewing. Other collections show the region's defensive buildings, including bastles and pele towers (Ronald Pearce collection), the decline of the region's railways (John Fleming collection) and architectural features of more unusual and historic buildings (Grace McCombie collection).

The Hatton Gallery at the University has allowed the digitisation of fine art collections by Thomas Harrison Hair – showing collieries between 1840 and 1860, and William Henry Charlton – depicting the North Shields quayside at the turn of the century.

The Project is lottery-funded, and is based at the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Newcastle. Geographically, it covers Northumberland, Durham, Tyne & Wear and what was the county of Teesside,

occasionally straying into Cumbria and the Scottish Borders. There are currently around 3,500 images available.

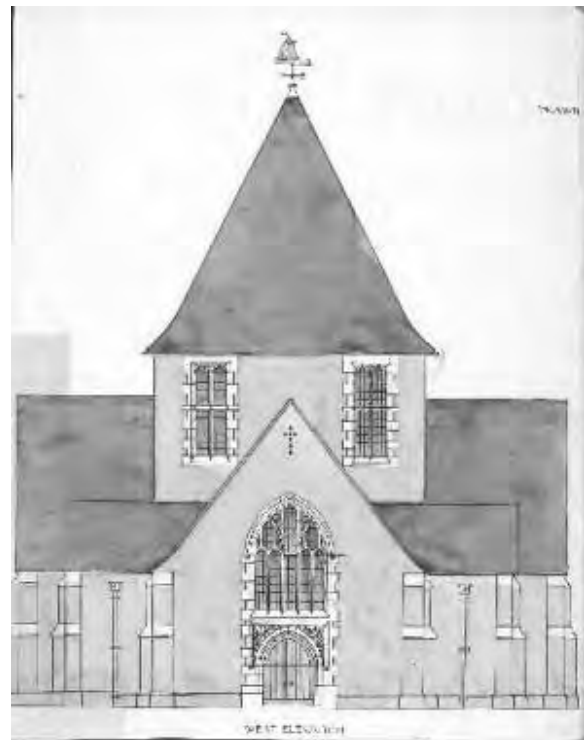
Users can search or browse the collection in a number of ways: by looking for a named structure; by browsing through a thesaurus of structure types; by entering a place name or by using a map to see what structures are represented in a particular geographic area.

Pauline McCormack

CHURCH PLANS ONLINE

The SINE Project has also been undertaking technical work for Lambeth Palace Library. Their Church Plans Online project has digitised over 12,000 church plans from the 1840s onwards. Deputy Librarian and Archivist Susanna Rayner explains;

Church Plans Online (www.churchplansonline.org) is making freely available online some 13,000 plans and drawings in the archive of the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS). The archive spans the period 1818–1982, and covers the whole of England and Wales. It is a record of



A drawing of the west elevation of St Paul, Egham in Surrey, from the Church Plans website

the most significant period in church building since the middle ages and the single largest source for plans of new and existing churches in the country. It documents the work of some of the most prominent and innovative architects of the 19th century in building new churches and also enlarging and altering existing structures. Where a church has since been restored, converted or demolished, the often-unique records in the archive preserve a vital part of the shared cultural heritage of the people of England and Wales.

The digitised images can now be viewed online. In addition, the website provides access to the catalogue database of the ICBS files, which can be searched in a number of ways, including by place, by date, or used to locate records relating to individual architects or architectural firms.

The project has been undertaken in partnership with SINE, whose team designed the website and are providing long-term storage for the images data. Funding of £75,000 for the digitisation element of the project came from the New Opportunities Fund, and the Leverhulme Trust also supported a £100,000 cataloguing and research project over a 6 year period.

Susanna Rayner

FROM ANCIENT MELODIES COMMITTEE TO FARNE WEBSITE:

In 1855 the Society of Antiquaries set up an Ancient Melodies Committee, at the request of the 4th Duke of Northumberland, Algernon, in order to preserve the old ballads, songs and tunes of the area. It made much use of the work of one of the Society's founder-members, the bookseller John Bell, who had amassed a large collection of tunes

and lyrics from oral and written sources, and gave many items to our library.

This Committee's work was interrupted after several members died during (but not as a result of) the collection process. It resumed its activities in 1877 with lectures, competitions and finally the publication in 1882 of "Northumbrian Minstrelsy", in two parts, edited by Collingwood Bruce and John Stokoe.

The archive material from the Ancient Melodies Committee, and from many other museums, libraries and private collections, can now be accessed on the Internet through the Folk Archive Resource North East (FARNE), a lottery-funded project run by a partnership of Gateshead Council, The Sage Gateshead and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

To find out more about some of the Society's musical manuscripts, including that of Henry Atkinson, dated 1694/5, the North of England's earliest fiddler's manuscript, William Vickers' 18th century fiddle tunes, the 19th century John Baty and Crawhall manuscripts, and of course the crucially important Bell documents, just log on to <http://farne.weblogger.com>

Kim Bibby-Wilson

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

The Society is an institutional member of the Council for British Archaeology and sends a representative to the CBA Council meetings, which are usually held in London on Saturdays. Those who are interested in this should write to the Society's Secretary, Dr N Hodgson, at The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would be very glad to have readers' comments or suggestions for the content of the Bulletin. I am also happy to receive contributions from members, but with the warning that pressure of space means that articles frequently have to be drastically cut, deferred, or dropped altogether. My address is 5 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, fax 0191 222 1559. E-mail is sue.ward@btinternet.com Deadline for the next edition will be 3 Nov 2003.