



*Staffordshire Archaeological
and Historical Society*



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

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REMEMBER!

The Guildhall, Lichfield: The New Venue for our Lectures starting 25th September 2015

The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney 1757-1843!

Newsletter Editors Rant!

I know it's that time of year again. You've all had a marvellous Summer and are ready to face the upcoming events that the approach of Autumn presages; dark evenings with the curtains drawn tight while the rain hammers down outside. And of course it's the start of our new season of Lectures to tempt you out from your fireside! But of course there is a new adventure in the air! Our new venue is at 'The Guildhall, Lichfield with better facilities and more comfort. It's only just round the corner from where you've been used to going so it shouldn't present any difficulties. Just to remind you I've used the same summery picture of the Guildhall from the last Newsletter to remind you.

But really what have you been doing since you returned from holiday? I was hoping for some nice little articles and some pictures of where you have been and what interesting historical buildings you've seen or archaeological excavations you helped at!

But no, there has been a distinct lack of emails (with some notable exceptions). So I'm afraid that this Autumn Newsletter is a bit shorter than you have been used to.

Since the last Newsletter we have had to change some of the previous listed lectures and change the dates of some of the others. So please check this new list to find the new dates and note (regretfully) that one is back to 'TBA'. Our Hon. Lectures Secretary has had a hard time this season but I'm sure you will agree that once again he has managed to find an interesting and varied programme with something for all tastes.

The Committee are all looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting on September 25th!

Paul Norris

Visit to the Newman Coffin Works

Birmingham

Wednesday 18 November 2.00 pm

Come and join us on a visit to the 1960s on this tour of the well known coffin factory.

15 places only so book now!

£7.00 includes one hour guided tour followed by tea and biscuits in the works canteen.

Send your cheque made out to SAHS to Richard Totty Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS15 4LL and include a sae if you require a receipt and / or directions to the works which are at 13 Fleet Street Jewellery Quarter Birmingham B3 1JP , about 15 minutes walk from New Street Station , but with car parks nearby. The tour will depart promptly so please be at the works entrance by 1.55 pm

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LECTURE SEASON 2015-2016

25th September 2015

Dr Kate Iles

The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney 1757 – 1843

A member of the eighteenth century Lunar Society, Thomas Day embarked on a unique experiment to educate a twelve year old girl, whom he named Sabrina Sidney, according to the theories of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. He hoped, in time to marry her, and therefore to fashion for himself a new breed of Enlightenment wife. This talk will look at Day's unusual experiment in female education and marriage. Most importantly, it will shed light on the life of a woman who has too often been overlooked in the history of the Lunar Society and reveal the adventurous history of Sabrina Sidney.

Dr Kate Iles is an independent researcher, historian and lecturer, specialising particularly in the women of the eighteenth-century West Midlands Lunar Society.

9th October 2015

Dr. Paul Garwood/Dr. Henry Chapman

Trent Valley Causewayed Enclosures Project:

Paul Garwood is Senior Lecturer in Prehistory at Birmingham University and Henry Chapman is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Visualisation again at Birmingham University. Both have appeared in television programmes Henry probably more so and he has been to the Society previously in 2008.

The talk Paul and Henry will present this evening follows the programme of investigative works at the Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure at Mavesyn Ridware as part of the Trent Valley Project: Rethinking the Early Neolithic in Central England.

23rd October 2015

Professor Colin Hazelgrove

Iron Age Stanwick North Yorkshire

Colin Hazelgrove studied Biochemistry at Sussex and Archaeology at Cambridge. He joined the School of Archaeology & Ancient History at the University of Leicester in 2005, having previously taught at Durham University, where he was a lecturer from 1977 and Professor from 1995. Colin's research focuses on the British and European Iron Age; on early coinage and currencies; and on the Iron Age to Roman transition in north-west Europe. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and was Head of the School of Archaeology & Ancient History at Leicester from 2006 to 2012.

Colin's talk this evening follows the recent further investigation carried out at Stanwick North Yorkshire and revisits the Iron Age site originally investigated in the 1950s by Sir Mortimer Wheeler updating that evidence and putting the site into the wider Iron Age context.

6th November 2015

Dr. Tom Brindle

The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain

Tom Brindle is Research Fellow on a Leverhulme Trust funded project investigating rural settlement in Roman Britain, led by Prof Mike Fulford (University of Reading) and Neil Holbrook (Cotswold Archaeology). The overall aim of this project is to use published and unpublished 'grey literature' reports to examine the intricacies of regional and chronological variation and distinctiveness within Roman rural settlement in Britain, south of Hadrian's Wall. This topic is the basis of the talk this evening and follows the request for permission from the project to use related data from The Society Transactions volumes.

Tom is a specialist in archaeological 'small finds' and coinage and before coming to Reading worked as Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, first in Northamptonshire and then in Staffordshire and the West Midlands. Aside from artefacts and coinage, Tom's research interests also include the study of Roman rural settlement in Britain, landscape archaeology, and methodological approaches to the study of amateur metal detector finds. Completed in 2011, Tom's doctoral research utilised Portable Antiquities Scheme data as a landscape resource for the study of rural settlement in Roman Britain.

20th November 2015

Jonathan Goodwin

Tipping Street Stafford Investigation

Jonathan Goodwin is Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER) at City of Stoke on Trent. The recently published volume XLVII of the Society Transactions was the monograph of Tipping Street Investigation and is the background for the talk this evening.

4th December 2015

The Annual General Meeting followed by

Michael Bellamy

The Listing of Buildings

Always unnaturally keen on architecture, he worked at the RIBA Drawings Collection, between school and university. After a degree at the Courtauld Institute and a spell in publishing, he joined the Department of the Environment and was involved in the national survey of listed buildings, firstly in Cheshire, and then in Suffolk in the 1980s. More recently 'my patch' has covered the northern Home Counties and the West Midlands. In addition to working for English Heritage and the new Historic England, he spent several years in the commercial art world and was a senior specialist in the Old Master Paintings Department at Christie's.

What considerations does Historic England take into account when recommending if a building should be listed? How do they assess if a structure passes the test of 'special interest', and does this vary with different periods, regions and types of buildings? Highlighting some

recently listed building decisions, Michael Bellamy will give some insight into the factors which have shaped his advice and their outcomes.

19th February 2016

This Talk to be confirmed and circulated in due course

4th March 2016

Dr John Hunt

Faith and Society in medieval France:

Looking at churches in the High Saintonge

The Saintonge in south-western France, most readily defined by the medieval diocese of Saintes, is a region renown for the survival of hundreds of Romanesque churches, many richly decorated with sculpture. With particular reference to the *Haute-Saintonge*, we will consider the character of these buildings and what they convey about the life, culture and mentalité of local society, especially in the eleventh and twelfth century.

18th March 2016

Deirdre O'Sullivan

The Knight of St Bees

In 1981 an archaeological excavation at the priory revealed a vault with a lead coffin containing an astonishingly well preserved body - now known as the St Bees Man. He has been identified as Anthony de Lucy, a knight, who died in 1368 in the Teutonic Crusades in Lithuania. Although the body was over six hundred years old, his nails, skin and stomach contents were found to be in near-perfect condition. After his death the vault was enlarged to take the body of his sister, Maud de Lucy, who died in 1398. The effigies which are probably of both Maud and Anthony can be seen in the extensive history display which includes the shroud in which he was wrapped.

Although this is a fairly old excavation from 1981 it has been brought to light and aired again with the programme on Freeview TV Yesterday Channel back in March and the talk will hopefully bring us up to date.

1st April 2016

David Moore

Lichfield Waterworks Pumping Station and Cholera in the Black Country

For most of us, running a tap to pour clean drinking water is nothing special. We take it for granted. Drinking water and effective sanitation now form part of the fabric of modern day Britain. However this has not always been the case. By the mid 19th century the industrial revolution was running at its peak, and infrastructure could not keep pace with the rapidly rising population. Large families and poor housing conditions

made the situation ripe for a sinister and deadly problem, cholera. Cholera had a massive impact on the Black Country, a centre of the industrial revolution. In Bilston, there were no families who had not been touched. Between August and September 1832, the death toll had reached 742; almost 20% of the population; the burial grounds had to close because they were full.

There was a dire need to improve the water supply of the Black Country, and so Lichfield provided the solution with the establishment of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company....

15th April 2016

Dr. George Nash

Walney Island Cumbria – A hidden Home Front

Dr George Nash is an Associate Professor at the Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (IPT) in Portugal and Visiting Fellow at the University of Bristol. In the Mação facility of IPT, George is responsible for teaching prehistory, material culture and theory, and supervises within the post-graduate school. George, who completed his doctoral thesis in Norway is also employed part-time for environmental consultants SLR and writes for television and radio, focusing on such diverse subjects as industrial and military archaeology, prehistoric mortuary practices, prehistoric and contemporary art.

During 2014 just off the coast of Cumbria on Walney Island a system of World War 1 trenches were discovered and George's talk will bring the investigation of this well kept secret to life.

29th April 2016

Michael Guest

Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral

Michael hails originally from Gloucestershire and studied medieval and modern history at The University of Manchester and Queens' College Cambridge. He subsequently pursued a career in secondary education teaching English and focusing on the pastoral curriculum within which he held senior posts in Staffordshire High schools. He developed an early enthusiasm for choral music and trained as a tenor through part time studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Birmingham Conservatoire. Since 1977 he has lived in or near Lichfield and is currently senior vicar choral at the Cathedral. Since retirement from full time teaching he has returned to his academic roots and is due to complete postgraduate research at Keele University this autumn, offering a thesis on the history of the choral foundation of Lichfield Cathedral in the eighteenth century.

His talk will focus on the college and corporation of Vicars Choral as a study of eighteenth century musicians living and working within the Close and city during a colourful period in their long history.

Annual Membership Subscription Renewal – The PayPal Option

Annual subscriptions were due for renewal @ 1st September 2015. The rates remain unchanged and are: Individual Membership £20.00, Joint Membership £30.00, Concessionary Membership (Students and Unwaged) £15.00.

Many of you will be paying by cash or cheque (a number have already paid), or indeed for some it is taken care of automatically via bank standing order.

There is another option though, which is a convenient way to renew, if you choose to do it using your PC, tablet or other device. Log on to the Society's website www.sahs.uk.net and from the home page follow the links for subscription payment using PayPal. Select the type of Membership you are renewing and with your bank card details to hand make the appropriate payment to SA&HS electronically – it goes through to our PayPal Account.

It is easy for us to keep our subscription records up to date as PayPal always email a full details of payer, etc. advice to the Honorary Treasurer immediately on the payment transaction occurring. It is a secure and certain way of paying us. The payer also receives an email confirmation.

Just another way to renew which increasingly is being taken up.

Thank you for choosing to be a Member(s) of Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

Keith Billington, Hon Treasurer.

Upper Longdon Windmill

Some of you may remember that in last winter's newsletter I reported on the progress being made to restore the windmill at Upper Longdon. This has taken much longer than expected but in July the cap appeared and the scaffolding around the tower was removed. As well as the cap there is in place a smart white "self-regulating wind machine" or "winding", a device that automatically adapts the positioning of the windmill to the direction of the wind. It consists of a fantail and a gearwork, and was invented by the English blacksmith Edmund Lee in 1745. All that is now needed is the actual sails. I will report again when the sails arrive and I have seen them turning. The windmill is in a commanding position on the end of a ridge and overlooks the Trent Valley; it is though a little difficult to see close to from any public road or footpath but a photograph of the fully restored mill should be possible eventually.

Richard Totty August 2015

Tales of Old Shenstone

John Jolyffe and his Caskett of Gold

In the research for the Shenstone Report many items were discovered and not used as the aim was to prepare a landscape survey and these items were more in the manner of human interest stories – see Brian Bull's note in the last newsletter. One such item was the story of John Jolyffe and his Caskett of Gold.

Much of history relates to the wealthy elite who have left us records in plenty ; the great mass of the people have left us few written documents which could tell us about the lives that they lived. But occasionally a few fragments survive which give us a glimpse, as of an image reflected in a shattered mirror or a view through a tiny keyhole.

In the William Salt Library there exists a folder described as an Elizabethan Lawyer's Casebook; it is undated but contains a number of documents which seem to be the drafts of cases prepared by a lawyer and kept for reference as models for use in future cases. It is written in a late Elizabethan Secretary Hand so seems to be late Sixteenth century in origin and several of the notes refer to Shenstone.

The note of immediate interest relates to the family of John Jolyffe of Shenstone. He is mentioned in the list of families in the Archdeaconry of Stafford prepared in 1532. Here he is in Shenstone in the prime of life with his wife Margery in Thornes, a hamlet in the south west of the parish, several miles from Shenstone village. There are only two households in Thornes at the time so it is little more than an isolated farm. Also in the household were Robert, Alice, Lettice, Joan, William, Elizabeth, Katherine, Eleanor and Margery, probably his children.

This is a family dispute over a will; well what's new I hear you ask, you can read about such things in the daily newspapers. But it just shows how unchanging human relationships are; here is a family living in remote rural Staffordshire who are looking to the law to resolve their dispute, being unable to resolve it themselves.

John Jolyffe's will dated 19 August 1541 was proved in Lichfield on 14 September 1543, according to the Act Book; but the actual will is no longer there; I think that it was removed from the probate records, for the purpose of the court case around the dispute, and never replaced. His executors were Thomas Rugley, Edward Frith and Humphrey Thickbroome. The complaint, made to the Court of Chancery, was that the contents of a locked casket containing coins owned by him had not been divided amongst John's five daughters as he directed in his will. In the words of the lawyer:

In most humble wyse sheweth and complayneth unto your good Lordshipp your daylye Oratores William Freeman and Lettyce his wife William Botte and Agnes his wyffe Humphrey Thickbrome and Jone his wyfe and William Fowler and Katryn his wyfffe That where one John Jollyff of Thornes in the County of Staffs yeoman deceased was lawfully possessed in his own righte of a Caskett with certeyn somes of money therein conteyned the plentye and true some thereof is to your said Oratores unknown and he the said John Jollyffe so beinge thereof possessed delyvered the same caskett with the said monye therein conteyned to one Alyce Adcoke now the wyffe of one John Adcoke and to the intent to distribute the said some of money in such forme as he the said John Jolyff by his last will & testament should declare and appoynte the same to be bestowyd sone after that the fore said John Jollyffe made and declared his laste will and testament being date the 19 day of August in the yere of our lord god 1541 and by the same did will and bequeth dyverse parcells of his goods cattells and detts together with the money conteyned within the same Caskett by the maner of all his goods cattels and detts after his detts paide and funerals done unto his five daughters that ys to say unto the said Lettyce Agnes Johane and Kathryn and to one Alyce the wiffe of Edward Frythe. And for the execution of the same testament the same John Jolyffe ordeyned the said Edward Frythe to be one of his executors and dyed.

In other words four of John Jolyff's daughters, Lettice, Agnes, Joan and Katherine are saying that his executor Edward Frith, the husband of their sister Alice, has not correctly administered the estate and has failed to distribute the contents of the casket which was held by the Adcocks. The case came before the Court of Chancery and records of it, including a copy of the complaint are preserved in the National Archives at Kew. Also at Kew there is the answer to the complaint, by John Adcock. In a lengthy response John Adcock admits that John Jolyffe brought him the locked casket but that later Jolyffe came to his house in Nether Stonnall with his daughter Alice Frith and said to her that she was to give 20 nobles each to two of his servants and that she was to use the residue in the casket for the marriage of her daughter saying 'for thou hast been a good comfort to me'. John Adcock also said that he knew of no other casket. This all seems quite clear, John Jolyff's daughters Lettice, Agnes, Joan and Katherine think they are due money from their father's estate whereas he has actually arranged for it to be given to his favorite and eldest daughter Alice.

Or has he? Who do you believe the four daughters who brought the complaint or their sister, wife of the defendant? The use of the Court of Chancery was an expensive way to resolve a family squabble and the likely outcome of the affair is that only the lawyers made any money out of it. The Court documents are dated from 1544 to 1547 which shows that the quarrel started soon after John's death and ran for several years.

The family were quite used to actions in the Court of Chancery ; William Bott of Handsworth and Agnes his wife sued William Freeman and Lettice his wife for the detention of deeds to a cottage in Aldridge in 1544, which shows that even the four sister who brought the complaint over the will could not agree amongst themselves on other matters: John Jolyffe yeoman himself had been sued in Chancery by John Greysbroke in 1529 for the detention of deeds of a messuage in Shenstone and again by his son in law Robert son of John Greysbroke deceased about land in Shenstone in 1532: William Freeman of Great Barr commenced an action in Star Chamber in 1553. Humphrey and Joan Thickbroome started an action in 1544 to recover a messuage in St John Street Lichfield formerly held by John Jolyffe, Joan's father. Many of the items in the bundle at the William Salt Library involve Edward Frith, including several between him and William Bott about forgery of a bond.

I don't know what the result of the dispute over the casket of gold was as the verdict has not survived but I do know that Edward Frith and his family were living in Thornes Hall a little later, the property having come to Edward through his wife Alice, and that Rowland Frith, Edward's grandson, a Master in Chancery, was one of two lawyers who bought the manor of Shenstone in 1604.

Richard Totty June 2015

Talk by Dr **Michael Hall**, Past President of the Black Country Society,
Nailmaking in Staffordshire.

Dr Hall's most recent book, *In cramped and Sooty Caverns*, is not a traditional study of industrial history. It adopts as its framework the portrait of nail-makers and nail-making created by **Francis Brett Young** across nine novels set between 1800 and 1930.

After the FoSSA AGM **Monday November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Staffordshire Record Office Eastgate Street Stafford.**

Join us for refreshments which will be served before the AGM and before Dr Hall's talk. Members, guests and visitors welcome including SAHS members at no charge.

STAFFORDSHIRE HERITAGE GROUP INVITES YOU TO

STAFFORDSHIRE HERITAGE DAY 2015
Anniversary '15'

Magna Carta 1215 - Agincourt 1415
Jacobite Rebellion 1715 - Waterloo 1815

A day of talks by experts from each period
including demonstrations by a living history group

Saturday 10th OCTOBER 2015 - 10am to 4pm

Castle Church Parish Hall Newport Road Stafford. ST16 1DP

Lunch and refreshment breaks included in the price of £17

<u>BOOKING FORM - HERITAGE DAY 2015 - £17 each</u>	
Name	Number booked
Address	1/We enclose £
Tel:	Specific requirements: -
Email	Cheques payable to: - STAFFORDSHIRE HERITAGE

Bookings received by Monday 5th October 2015 please
Send forms/cheques to: -
Margaret George, 36, Cliff Road, Great Haywood, Stafford,
Staffordshire. ST18 0SZ
Email: - ma.george@btconnect.com
For details contact Margaret George 01889 882472

Refunds returned if cancellation is received 7 working days prior to the event

Foundrydata: a heritage project using digital technology.

Foundries used to be almost everywhere. The metal work that they produced filled the streets factories and homes of Britain (and much of the rest of the world) and is rapidly disappearing. The firms have mostly closed. Everyday stuff is being melted down, often leaving no trace and certainly no written or photographic record.

Eddie Birch and I have decided to try and capture this information before it's too late. Collecting all this is a huge task and will only happen if the project is democratic and engages many interested people. It is envisaged, if you like, as a sort of wiki-foundry-pedia. The web-site is www.foundrydata.org and anyone can access the saved data without password or registration.

Just now there is a limited amount of test data posted (a few hundred foundries, castings etc.), but you can see the intended scope of the project. There is probably no well-defined end to this job, but we expect to turn it into a useful research tool within a year or two. Within a few months we expect to have a viable "digitised heritage" resource.

The database divides into four main sections:

- Artefacts (castings, their locations, descriptions and photos)
- Foundries (the manufacturing process and its physical location)
- Firms and People (the history of who, what, when and where)
- References (printed and digital sources to test or validate the above)

and these sections are interlinked so that (for example) the record of a lamp post is linked to the foundry that made it. (But the range of interesting castings is vast ranging from huge engine parts, bridges and ordnance to miniscule brass “toys”.)

This note is an invitation to join in. The sorts of activity involved include:

- Posting your existing images and information
- Combing the streets and taking pictures of castings (and the foundry marks on them)
- Locating and researching the foundries
- Tracking the people and firms who did this work, building a history
- Working out what technology was used and how it was propagated.

If you wish to add material you will need a password.

If you're curious about this please give me a ring on 01435 830155 or email me: jonathan@foundrydata.org

Jonathan Prus

Local Notables

In the Shenstone Landscape Survey (2009) we included a copy of part of the will of Ralph de Grendon, then Lord of the manor of Shenstone, primarily to show that he had a stone manor house in Shenstone when he died around 1336. Very little is known about the life of Ralph, however he is listed on the Falkirk Roll. This is a list of 115 lords who were present and fought beside King Edward the first at the battle in 1298 against the Scots under the leadership of William Wallace. The battle resulted in a decisive victory for the English Forces who employed tactics that the Scots were unable to match. The Rolls which it is accepted was drawn up soon after the event, gives the names and the coats of arms of the principal English commanders. Here is the entry for Ralph de Grendon showing his coat of arms;



Ralph de Grendon Argent two chevronels gules.

Richard Totty

PROTECTING THE PAST, PROMOTING THE PRESENT, PLANNING FOR POSTERITY

Please pass the following information to your fellow members of Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society.

Tamworth Civic Society - the conservation, environmental and heritage organisation for the Tamworth area since 1973 - has been given a major makeover after a period of dormancy and is being re-launched as The Tamworth and District Civic Society. We would be delighted to welcome you and other members of the STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY, and indeed any of your other contacts who you think would be interested, at the Public Launch at the

Central Methodist Church in Aldergate, Tamworth on Tuesday, 22nd September at 7.30 p.m..

As well as hearing what the reinvigorated society is setting out to achieve, there will be local history displays, and inter-active sessions for you to say what you like and dislike about the area and what you would like to see happen to improve it.

We shall take forward the proud record of achievement of the Civic Society and again provide the local community with a strong forum and voice on planning, environmental, and heritage issues. Our enthusiastic and experienced 12-strong Committee includes the Civic Society's founder chairman from 1973, Dr. Geoff Noon. Our new title of 'Tamworth and District' emphasises what has always been the case - that our organisation serves not just the Borough of Tamworth, but all of the surrounding district in Staffordshire and Warwickshire. Under our over-arching remit of creating and supporting civic pride and engagement in our locality, we shall in particular:

- Seek to protect and enhance our historic buildings, street scenes, townscape and landscape.
- Press for new developments to be appropriate, and sympathetic to our built and natural environment.
- Encourage high standards in planning, and architectural design and quality.
- Educate and inform people about our district's rich history and heritage.
- Celebrate and promote our area's historical identity and tourism potential

We hope that our objectives and activities will appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds who share a love for, and commitment to, Tamworth and District. If you care about our past, present and future, and want the best for the town and the surrounding villages and countryside, then come along and join the new-look civic society on 22nd September. With a strong and shared voice you can make a positive difference.

Yours sincerely,

David

Dr. D.R. Biggs

Chairman of The Tamworth and District Civic Society

28th Earl Lecture at Keele University

5 October 2015 7.30pm reception for 8pm, in the Westminster Theatre, Chancellor's Building

'Church Monuments in Post-Reformation Staffordshire' given by Professor Richard Cust.

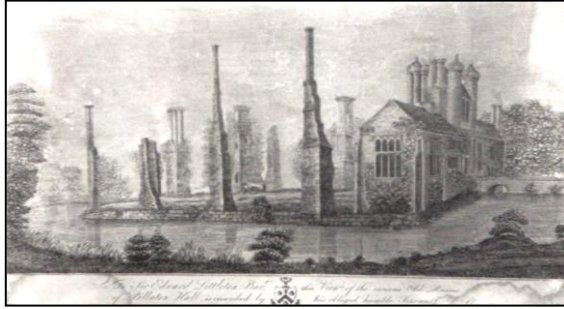
Professor Richard Cust of Birmingham University is one of the country's leading historians of early modern England, with a special interest in the politics and elite culture of the late Tudor and early Stuart periods, and most recently the author of *Charles I and the Aristocracy, 1625-1642*.

His lecture will discuss the commissioning of family monuments in Staffordshire churches from the 1540s to 1660, and what their form and character can tell us about the values of the local gentry.

Supported by the Jack Leighton Trust, the Earl Lecture is given every two years by an eminent national historian in order to promote the history of Staffordshire.

Excavation of a Mediaeval Moated Site at Pillaton Hall Penkridge Staffordshire

The moated site of Pillaton Hall lies to the south-west of the Penkridge–Cannock road. The only substantial buildings on the platform are the Tudor gatehouse and the adjoining chapel of St. Modwena. At intervals around the platform are the remains of chimneys, the largest of which, a kitchen chimney with integral bread ovens, was due for demolition to enable a new wing to be built at right angles to the gatehouse. Excavation prior to this was therefore carried out both in this north-west area (between house and chimney) and to a limited extent in the south-west of the platform. In addition two sections were cut in the western arm of the moat.



Cover illustration: “View of the Curious Old Ruins of Pillaton Hall” by Stebbing Shaw (1799)

Above platform occupation began in the late 13th/early 14th C, and continued until the middle of the 18th C. The earliest period was represented in the NW. by a large timber building with associated pebble floors. After a lengthy period of occupation it was destroyed by fire, and subsequently covered by a cobbled courtyard. However the Tudor hall is probably situated to the south of the platform where a limited excavation revealed masonry and both mediaeval and post-mediaeval pottery. (A succession of Sir Edward Littletons lived at Pillaton Hall, the third of whom in 1578 referring to it as ‘his new dwelling house’, later described by Erdeswick as ‘a proper gentleman’s house of brick’). Much of what remains today dates from that period. A total of 327 sherds of mediaeval pottery (8.25 kg.) was recovered from the site, mostly unglazed utilitarian ware.

The assemblage of post-mediaeval pottery (215 kg.) retrieved from the moat sections covers much of the range of north Staffordshire ceramics in use from the 17th to the mid-18th C, with the obvious exception of tin-glazed earthenware, German salt-glazed stoneware, Martincamp flasks and Chinese porcelain, all of which attest to the high status of the occupants. Very little pottery between the 14th and 17th C was evident; however one discovery definitely dating from the 16th C was part of a German salt-glazed stoneware ‘Bellarmine’ jug. Apart from the pottery types referred to above there were numerous examples of Midlands purple ware, Midlands black ware, Midlands yellow ware, slipware, manganese glazed ware and coarse earthenware.

The moat excavations also revealed traces of a revetment in the form of stake holes; indeed one stake was still ‘in situ’. A total weight of 11kg. of animal bones from the moat was analysed – mostly oxen, pigs, sheep and deer (fallow, red and roe), and one example of a mute swan. From the moat too came a range of Broseley clay pipes, with a date range of 1630 to 1750. From other areas, mostly amongst 18th C demolition debris came: dressed stone, including a horse’s head, tiles and brickwork, wall plaster, window glass and 17th/18th C bottle glass, and metal objects, principally an early 15th C iron rowel-spur.



Iron spur, length 15cm, medium eight-point (possibly nine-point) rowel, type FF terminals, early 15th C.



German salt glazed stoneware jug, c.1550. This particular type of 'Bellarmine' from the Cologne area was not known to the expert at Cologne city museum, Dr. Ingeborg Unger, who included it in her definitive work of 2007.



Small Staffordshire slipware dish (diameter 15cm) dating from the late 17th/early 18thC. It has a traditional buff body and 'pie crust' edge. The inner surface has dark brown slip trailed onto a cream-coloured ground.

K.C.Barlow.

Copies of the report can be obtained by emailing me (ken.c.barlow@btinternet.com). The cost of £9 includes postage.

Sutton Park: A walk led by Dr Mike Hodder

Saturday 3 October, Starting at 2pm at the Town Gate entrance to Sutton Park, off Park Road B73 6BU. The walk will finish at about 4pm.

Car parks are just inside the Town Gate (there may be a charge). The Town Gate is a short walk from Sutton Coldfield railway station and Sutton Coldfield town centre, so it is also easily accessible by public transport.

Sutton Park originated as a deer park in the 12th century. Successive recreational and other uses have resulted in extremely good preservation of archaeological remains of various periods, as earthworks. This walk will explore the boundaries of the medieval deer park, fishponds and millpools, ancient woodland and a 19th century racecourse.

Please wear suitable footwear for rough paths (strong shoes or trainers are ideal) and weatherproof clothing because there is no shelter on the walk route. Also, please note that there are refreshment facilities and toilets near Town Gate but there are no toilets on the walk route.

Background reading: M Hodder, *The Archaeology of Sutton Park* (The History Press, 2013)

**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2015-16**

Membership fees: Individual £20, Joint £30, Student/Unemployed £15

Title.....
Names(s).....
Address.....
.....
Postcode
Email
Phone.....

I agree to allow the Society to contact me/us by email and telephone.

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2015/16 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed.

Signed

Date

Please send to Ms S Lupton, 71 Birchwood Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9UN

Note: Direct Payments can be made using PayPal™ option on the Web site.



GIFT AID DECLARATION

TO: STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Choosing to Gift Aid the Subscription or donations you make to the SAHS will allow the Society, which enjoys Charitable status, to reclaim from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs the basic rate of Income Tax paid on the amount of those subscriptions or donations without any cost to you, the Member. It is only necessary to fill the form in once.

To do this you must be a UK Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax payer and have paid an amount at least equal to the tax the Society reclaims in the Tax Year concerned.

Declaration:

Members Full Name

Address

..... Post Code.....

I would like the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society (SAHS) to treat as Gift Aid all Subscriptions and Donations I make from the Date of this Declaration.

SignatureDate

Please return to the Honorary Treasurer, Keith Billington, 4 Gainsbrook Crescent, Norton Canes, Cannock. WS11 9TN or by hand to me at a Meeting.

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