

autumn 2004

President's letter



Dear Members, welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. Please take time to read through the contents and take especial note of the forthcoming lecture list which is now printed here rather than on separate cards, as previously. The six months since our last newsletter has seen a healthy growth in the Society, both in numbers and activities which have included trips to see excavations at Bollilhope in Weardale, and to view the architectural woodwork of Bishop Cosin. Looking back to the early days of our Society in the 1860s, it was very much the founders' intentions that visiting sites and buildings was the primary goal. I encourage more members to come along to future outings and enjoy the good company and enlightenment they bring.

Once more, my thanks go to our excellent Committee and to all of you for subscribing and taking part in the great adventure that is the study of archaeology!

Niall Hammond President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Plane table surveying at Low Harperley

The Canon Greenwell Conference

Canon William Greenwell and his contemporaries

the history of British archaeology in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Durham . 16–17 April 2005



Canon William Greenwell, 1820–1918
© Durham Cathedral

This conference will be held in Durham City, where Canon Greenwell (1820–1918) spent much of his life. A reception will be held in the Monks' Dormitory in Durham Cathedral on the Saturday night. The keynote speaker will be Professor Tim Murray from La Trobe University, Australia. The Society are hoping to be represented and have offered a paper on the Cannon, who was president of the AASDN for some forty years.

Papers are invited relating to the life and work of William Greenwell, antiquarian, archaeologist, collector, historian, numismatist, fisherman—polymath. Papers on the broader context of Greenwell's archaeological researches are particularly encouraged. The conference aims to give a flavour of the rich and varied research environment of Greenwell's time.

The duration of papers should be thirty minutes. The conference welcomes contributions from both

professional and amateur enthusiasts. Abstracts should be no more than three hundred words and, if possible, should be submitted in Microsoft Word document format, by e-mail, to canon.greenwell@durham.ac.uk. If sending by post, please mail the abstract on a floppy disk to the contact address below. Please include your name, institution, the title of your paper and a brief *curriculum vitae*. The organisers should receive abstracts by 30 November 2004.

Cost: students £6.00; other delegates £10.00. Please make cheques payable to 'The University of Durham'.

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Northumberland and Durham Rock Art Project



Rock art
at Old Berwick

The prehistoric rock carvings of Northumberland and Durham form an important group within a tradition found on boulders and rocky outcrops in many parts of Britain and elsewhere. The majority are abstract symbols; cup marks, or cups surrounded by one or more concentric rings (cup-and-ring marks), often with lines radiating outwards. Some rocks are covered

with complex designs, while others may have only a single carving.

Building on existing research, the project, funded by English Heritage, aims to develop an archive of all known sites, with clear and consistent levels of recording, compatible with databases across Europe and, ultimately, worldwide. It will provide as comprehensive a record as possible, including information on the current condition of stones and on their relationship with other natural and archaeological features. This is an opportunity to test new methodologies and approaches, taking account of technological developments and new recording methods.

The project is dependent on the participation of enthusiastic volunteers, and there will be many ways to get

involved as the work progresses, whether out in the field, inputting data, archival research or through community projects to encourage an awareness and appreciation of rock art. It is hoped that the local knowledge of volunteers will prove invaluable in placing sites within the context of their historical environment, while bringing to light any new sites as yet undiscovered. Training will be provided, as well as equipment, specialist support and travel expenses. This is an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise, to develop new skills and experience, and to be part of an exciting research project.

Some members have already volunteered; hopefully, the Society's involvement will increase as the project progresses. For further information, please contact:

Dr Tertia Barnett, Rock Art Project Officer
Environmental Directorate
Northumberland County Council, County Hall,
Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF
telephone (01670) 533 076
e-mail tbarnett@northumberland.gov.uk
websites www.durham.gov.uk and follow the links to
Environment/Archaeology; and
www.northumberland.gov.uk and follow the links to
Services/The Environment/Heritage

County Durham Archaeology Day Saturday 5 March 2005 9.30 am to 4.30 pm County Hall, Durham

A day to inform the public and amateur archaeologists about recent archaeological work within the county. Cost: £5, including lunch buffet and tea or coffee. Further details will be available in January

or February. Contact: Lee White, Assistant Archaeology Officer
County Hall, Durham DH1 5TY.
telephone (0191) 383 4212; e-mail lee.white@durham.gov.uk

Society field trips

In planning its activities, the Society is very fortunate in being able to draw upon the wide ranging interests and expertise of its membership, and we are very grateful to those who shared their enthusiasm and knowledge on



View of Cornforth Hill and Culloden Tower
from Castle Walk, Richmond

the three excursions organised last summer.

Following his well-received lecture in January, *The architectural woodwork of Bishop John Cosin and his circle*, on 27 June Martin Roberts led a party to visit Durham Cathedral, Auckland Castle Chapel, St Andrew's Church Haughton-le-Skerne, and St Edmund's Church Sedgfield to inspect examples of the characteristic dark woodwork with its interesting blend of gothic and classical features. Works from both periods of Cosin's activities were admired; from the Laudian movement of the 1620s to 1630s, which prompted the puritanical canon Peter Smart to denounce Cosin for his 'strange Babylonish ornaments', and from the post-Restoration period, when Cosin returned from exile in Paris to become Bishop of Durham, and was able to initiate the lavish refurbish of

the Cathedral and Auckland Castle. Documentary sources were quoted to provide fascinating insights into the working lives of the craftsmen whom Cosin employed.

On 3 July, Jon Healey led a trip around the Richmond area. Having scrambled up a small but imposing section of Scots Dyke, and ruminated on its possible date and significance, members proceeded to Hartforth to inspect the remains of the mill race that Jon had talked about at the Members' Meeting last December, the *Humps and bumps at Gilling West*. Jon then guided the party around Richmond, with fascinating insights into the history of his home town.

The final trip, on 25 July, was a tour of Bollilhope Common, led by Dr Rob Young, including a visit to the excavations directed by Rob and his wife, Dr Jane Webster.



Having journeyed to the northernmost reaches of our territory for last year's AGM at Berwick, this year the Society headed south. Members met at Rokeby Hall, by the confluence of the rivers Greta and Tees, an area of considerable antiquity lying close to the ancient east-west route across Stainmore with its prehistoric, Roman and later remains. Rokeby itself was once the site of a village and within the grounds of the Palladian house stands a collection of Roman altars. An excellent tour of the house was greatly enjoyed; home to the Morritt family, Rokeby is still very much a family home rather than a museum.

Members proceeded to Barnard Castle and the comfortable surroundings of the United Reform Church. Its congregation was exceptionally welcoming, and Mrs Elizabeth Conran, retired Curator of the Bowes Museum, recounted the history of the church and non-conformism in Barnard Castle. A full business meeting was followed by the Presidential Address, including

The AASDN AGM 2004 Rokeby Park and Barnard Castle

a short paper on the President's most unusual wedding present to his wife Caroline. First recorded in the 13th century and, in truth, a fortified manor rather than a true castle, Scargill Castle, Teesdale, poses some interesting conundrums. Dendro-chronological dating of timbers from the present gatehouse place it in the mid 16th century, curiously, just after the last of the direct Scargill male line had died. On closer examination, the apparent fortification of the building shows many signs of being a façade; a mere nod to medieval sensibilities.

An article will follow further research; meanwhile, the gatehouse, a former Building At Risk, has been restored and re-roofed, thanks to grant aid from English Heritage, The European Union and Teesdale District Council. The President concluded that, apart from the pleasure of rescuing and researching a fascinating building, he had unfortunately set an unattainably high standard for future presents to his wife.

The only sour note to an enjoyable day was an accident to our

member Richard Harper who slipped at Rokeby while trying to explore a view referred to by Pevsner. We all wish Richard a full and speedy recovery.

The AGM for 2005 will be held at Sedgfield on Saturday, 21 May, focusing particularly on the restoration of the 18th-century historic parkland created by John Burdon and the noted architect James Paine.

Scargill Castle
before restoration ...



... and after

North-East Regional Research Framework (NERRF) update

As noted in the last newsletter, the Regional Research Framework is well underway and summaries of all the main historical periods have now been produced.

The aim of the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment is to produce an archaeological research framework for the region that will provide a viable, realistic and effective academic basis for undertaking archaeological work, either as a result of development-related operations or to underpin future

research designs. Copies of the documents and further details can be found on the project website www.durham.gov.uk/research or from the Project Officer:

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Archaeology Section, Cultural Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5TY
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Fieldwork

After an initially slow start, the Society's fieldwork programme is now well underway, with events arranged into the coming year. In July the AASDN joined NEVAG and CBA North to hold a joint recording day at Low Harpeley Hall, near Wolsingham. Members took part in drawing plans and elevations of this interesting, and rather illusive, medieval stone building. The highlight of the day, for me, was a discussion led

by Martin Roberts on several incongruous features found in the roof space. Torches were dangled over rafters, arms disappeared into poorly lit recesses, and there was much scratching of heads—but much still remains a mystery. Hopefully, the drawings made during the survey will help elucidate the matter further.

Inspired by our first session at Harpeley, a return visit was arranged for September. The plan was



Demonstration of the use of a total station theodolite, Low Harpeley,
by AASDN Fieldwork Co-ordinator, Penny Middleton

to begin work on recording the various earthworks surrounding the Hall. These included the remains of a deserted medieval village and associated field systems. During the meeting, members were introduced to both ends of the field survey spectrum when they had a chance to try their hand at both traditional plane table surveying and real time survey with a total station theodolite.

The work undertaken in September recorded only a small fragment of the surrounding earthworks and there is still a great deal to be done. It is hoped to return to the site in November (to be confirmed) to undertake a walk-over survey and further earthwork recording. We

also hope to spend some time over the winter months researching the documentary history of the area.

The Society would like to thank the owners, Mr and Mrs Allison, for providing access to the site and for their continued support of the project.

In addition to the work at Harperley, we also hope to maintain our links with the Brancepeth Landscape Project being run by Society member Dr Steve Cousins. Steve will be leading a fieldwalking session for members on Saturday, 30 October. Please meet at 10.00 am at the old station car park at Brancepeth (bring stout shoes and waterproofs).

Looking further forward into the New Year, the Society hopes to undertake some recording sessions as part of a Rock Art Recording Project being run by Northumberland County Council.

We still need volunteers who are interested in getting involved in all aspects of fieldwork. You do not need any previous experience or skills, and all members are welcome to take part in either field- or library-based work.

If you are interested, then please contact Penny Middleton on e-mail pm@naa-mail.co.uk, or write to her address below. Alternatively, keep an eye on the Society web page for upcoming events.

Programme 2004–5

All lectures will be held at Elvet Riverside, Room 141 New Elvet, Durham, at 2.30 pm (except where noted). Everyone is welcome to attend

- Saturday 13 November **Self-adornment through prehistory Maureen Smith** AASDN Membership Secretary
note Gustav Milne's lecture has been rescheduled for 9 April 2005
- Saturday 11 December **Members' Meeting** at Elvet Riverside, Room 141, followed by a reception at the Durham Heritage Centre, St Mary-le-Bow. Please contact the Secretary for details
- Saturday 8 January **The Roman villa at Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees Richard Annis** Archaeological Services, University of Durham
- Saturday 12 February **Why is Boudica or Boadicea so popular? Richard Hingley** University of Durham
- Saturday 12 March **Recent archaeological work on Teeside Robin Daniels** Tees Archaeology
- Saturday 9 April **The Port of London Gustav Milne** University College London
- Saturday 21 May **AGM at Sedgefield/Hardwick** Notices to follow

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