

### President's letter



**Dear Members,** Our winter lecture programme is well underway and you can find details of the remainder of it elsewhere in this newsletter. I'm pleased to say that the numbers attending have increased so that we have moved the lectures for rest of the programme into a larger ground-floor lecture room, Elvet Riverside 140, in order to be able to accommodate everyone comfortably.

Your Committee would like to enable more of our members be able to engage in commenting on planning applications, either as individuals or collectively through the Society. To this end we propose to run a training day on 31 May, open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the planning process and how it relates to the historic environment. This day will be run jointly with the North East Heritage Partnership and other local organisations. In the morning we will cover how archaeological projects are initiated, conducted and reported under the planning process, and how local people and societies can be involved. In the afternoon we will examine planning and historic buildings, and conservation areas, and how local people can be advocates for this aspect of the historic environment. The programme will be designed to allow attendance for one half of the day or the full day.

Since Niall Hammond retired as our conservation and planning officer last year, the committee has lacked someone to consider and respond to planning applications involving historic buildings. As I mentioned in my last letter, the committee would like to develop a team of people who can be involved in this work to safeguard our heritage. Could you help with this? No particular prior knowledge is needed, and the workload can be as much or as little as you are able. The training day will give a taste of what is involved, and after it we will seek to formally establish this conservation and planning group.

If you are interested in receiving more details of the training day or joining a conservation and planning group, please do get in touch with me or Belinda Burke. More details will also be announced at our meetings, via email and placed on the website.

**Andrew Millard** President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Excursion to Melrose Abbey June 2013



In search of *Trimontium*, Newstead Roman fort. The Eildon Hills, with the Bronze Age hill fort, are in the background June 2013



Preparing for the ascent to Whitley Castle, with Stewart Ainsworth



Exploring the ramparts at *Epicum*, Whitley Castle August 2013



Erik Matthews explains the sequence of floors and drainage features in trench 3 at Hornby September 2013

## New project reveals the region's lead industry heritage

**The Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project is a two year long conservation and heritage project centred on the remains of what may have been, for many decades from the mid 17th century, the largest lead smelting mill in Europe, and is now just a picturesque and enigmatic ruin in quiet woodlands in Northumberland.**

Led by the Friends of the North Pennines charity in conjunction with the parish councils of Hexhamshire and Slaley, and chiefly funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, this project has already galvanised a great deal of community support and involvement along the line of the lead routes which once connected the mines of the high Pennine dales, through the smelt mills en-route to the markets of Tyneside.

Three archaeological digs have already taken place, led by Richard Carlton of Newcastle-based The Archaeological Practice. These have revealed potentially unique early lead fume condensing chambers in front of a pair of chimneys, and a well preserved section of the millrace lined with used cast iron 'hearthstones' from the mill. These digs were greatly enjoyed by the numerous volunteers who have participated, for some of whom this was their first such experience. Now



Volunteers excavating the chimney bases and condensing chambers at Dukesfield in summer 2013, under the direction of The Archaeological Practice Ltd

that the remains of the 'Gothick' arches which once carried flues to the chimneys have been stabilised and conserved, a further excavation is planned for May 2014, from which it is hoped that footings of adjacent buildings will be revealed.

To complement this fieldwork, a documentary transcription project is underway, bringing together, amongst others, members of the Hexham, Ryton, Stocksfield and Winlaton local history societies and individuals who have not previously been involved in this kind of research. More than thirty people are now reading and transcribing archive material to contribute to an online research resource of letters and business accounts from the 17th to the 19th centuries. This will be of

immense value to the project and to future researchers.

The project therefore investigates the region's lead industry heritage from a number of perspectives. It provides, in the words of Ian Forbes, chair of the Friends of the North Pennines, "an excellent model of a community heritage project by combining volunteer archaeology, building conservation and documentary research. I'm not aware of many other such projects that have been tackled quite so much 'in the round' as this one".

For further information on progress and how to get involved, go to [www.dukesfieldwordpress.com](http://www.dukesfieldwordpress.com) or to [DukesfieldSmeltersAndCarriers](https://www.facebook.com/DukesfieldSmeltersAndCarriers) on Facebook.

## Hornby Castle Fieldwork Season 5 2014

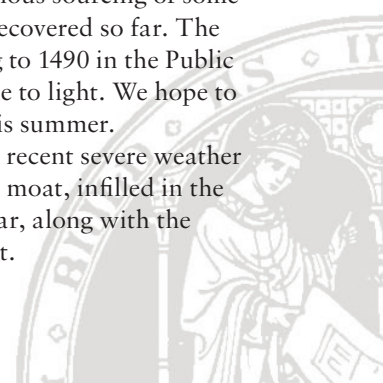
Work at Hornby begins again on 29 March for another full season through until November. We hope to remove the remaining overburden in Trench 4 to reveal further evidence of the collapsed medieval stone building which appeared during Season 4. The removal of some, at least, of the rubble will hopefully reveal more of the artefacts that were starting to appear in some numbers towards the end of last season and give some idea of the dating and usage of the structure. We also hope to explore further a section of Trench 3, and to remove part of the Late Medieval mortar floor to trace the earlier Anglo-Norman period structure beneath.

During the 'closed' season work has been undertaken on some of the documentary material and a series of charters referring to the site in the 12th and early 13th centuries has been traced. These refer to a house of the Dukes of Brittany, who were Lords of Richmond, at Hornby in 1115 and then in 1156. Clear reference is



made to a hunting park, a mere and a moat, all of which were previously thought to be much later in date. The same documents also refer to extensive landholdings in Lincolnshire, including urban property in Lincoln itself, which remain linked to the main estate through into the 15th century. This explains the curious sourcing of some of the pottery and other artefacts recovered so far. The existence of an estate survey dating to 1490 in the Public Record Office at Kew has also come to light. We hope to be able to gain access to study it this summer.

One positive consequence of the recent severe weather has been that a small section of the moat, infilled in the 18th century, has started to reappear, along with the mere in the field directly to the west.



## Travelling with Pevsner

**Martin Roberts has been appointed to undertake the revision of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* volume on County Durham. This five-year task began in summer 2013 and Martin will write an occasional note for the newsletter on his progress around the county.**

'Bottom left' always seemed the logical place to start. Teesdale, somewhere I know moderately well, then moving upwards, district by district (many now 'former'), through Wear Valley to Darlington, then Stockton and up the coast. All done parish by parish, finishing, *Deo volente*, in foreign parts – South Shields – perhaps the place I know least well in the county. I have left Durham City to the last, though I know it very well, but am humbled by the thought of revising the Cathedral entry. I need experience for that, being still somewhat on probation.

'Humbled' is a good word to describe how one approaches the sacred text – part Pevsner from 1953, and part Elizabeth Williamson, who revised the volume for the 1983 second edition. There are evident errors and plenty of new research to accommodate, new dates, new architects for old buildings, but NP's 'bon mots' must be preserved, of course, even if our attitudes to buildings change over the decades. Note the elegant way Elizabeth Williamson preserves his witheringly enjoyable critique of Old Shire Hall in Durham – 'faced with that cursedly imperishable red Victorian brick, which is such crushing proof of technical proficiency and aesthetic dumbness' – while observing that now (1983) we see it in a more sympathetic light, as the richly modelled Victorian building it is. But sometimes the criticism is short and harsh – Raby Castle chapel is 'painted tastelessly' – words to keep, to keep and qualify, or to replace?

What the work so far has shown me is the benefit of studying one area at a time, in some depth. Barnard Castle, apart from its obvious attractions, has a quite distinctive group of early 19th-century buildings – possibly the work of one mason – whose affection for Greek Revival (in the 1820s and 30s) can be seen on doorcases, eaves cornices and gable kneelers. Further



The 17th-century facade of the enigmatically named 'Manor House' on The Bank in Barnard Castle

back, some of the medieval churches along the Tees valley have common features – from the 13th century, delightful little bowl piscinas and nicely shouldered rere-arches to lancet windows, as well as some brutally big (and I'm being polite here) late medieval fonts.

Along the way there are mysteries, and if there is one cautionary note in revising Pevsner that I'm alert to, it is the need, where unavoidable, to use words of uncertainty. 'Pevsner' is so often quoted as Gospel that it is essential that where dates are not known or provenance not established, one should always use 'said to be', 'probably', *etc*, because you cannot resolve these architectural questions, and doubt leaves space for future research. And also, perhaps, because doubt is fun – it invites enjoyable enquiry and speculation. Just why is Hamsterley church where it is? And why, as Peter Ryder has noted, is Winston church perched on the very lip of the Tees' banks, making burials to the south almost impossible. No doubt, as Kenneth Williams was wont to remark 'the answer lies in the soil'. Proof, if it were needed, of the inseparability of 'Arch and Arch'.

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## Wearmouth and Jarrow Northumbrian Monasteries in a historic landscape

Sam Turner, Sarah Semple and Alex Turner

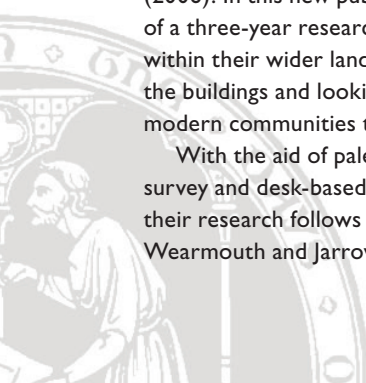
2013 University of Hertfordshire Press . ISBN 978 1 909291 13 3

The archaeological sites of Wearmouth and Jarrow are well known through Professor Rosemary Cramp's report, *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites* vols 1 (2005) and 2 (2006). In this new publication, the authors reveal the results of a three-year research project, placing the monasteries within their wider landscape, re-examining the structure of the buildings and looking at how they are perceived by the modern communities to whom they belong.

With the aid of paleoenvironmental research, geophysical survey and desk-based historic landscape characterization, their research follows the development of the landscape of Wearmouth and Jarrow from the earliest traces of human

activity to the present day. The Anglo-Saxon fabric of the church buildings has been subjected to petrological analysis, providing information about the sources of re-used worked stone from local Roman sites and the quarrying of new stone, and exploring how these elements were used in the buildings.

This book adds to our knowledge of these sites, but also points to areas for future research, notably in the identification of a possible crypt at St Paul's Jarrow through the use of ground-penetrating radar. It concludes, 'Our project will feed into the creation of a new research agenda for Wearmouth and Jarrow that will create further opportunities to deepen our knowledge.'



## Lecture programme 2014

All lectures will be held at 2.30 pm in Elvet Riverside, Room 140 New Elvet, Durham, unless otherwise notified, and everyone is welcome to attend. For further details, please contact the Society or visit our website. Prior booking for excursions is essential.

- Saturday 15 March **Ireland in the Virginia Sea Comparative archaeologies of the early modern Atlantic world**  
**Dr Audrey Horning** Queen's University, Belfast  
Lecture supported by a bursary from the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology
- Saturday 5 April **Creating Segedunum** **Bill Griffiths** Senior Manager, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums
- Saturday 10 May **AGM**  
To be held in Alnwick
- Saturday 19 July  
3.30 pm **Syria Cultural Heritage in Conflict** **Dr Emma Cunliffe** Global Heritage Network  
This lecture will take place in Room PG20, Pemberton Building, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3EP, and will be followed by a reception at St Mary-le-Bow at 5.00 pm (pre-booking for reception required)
- Saturday 20 September **Reconstructing Hadrian's Wall** **Professor David Breeze**
- Saturday 11 October **Monarch, Prince and Lord Aspects of castle building in north Wales and the March in the 13th century**  
**Dr John Kenyon**
- Saturday 8 November **Celtic art in northern Britain An archaeological view** **Dr Fraser Hunter** National Museums Scotland
- Saturday 13 December **Members Meeting**  
To be held at the Oriental Museum, Durham (details to follow)
- Excursions**
- Saturday 2 August **A walk around medieval Newcastle** **Jenny Morrison**
- Saturday 6 September **The Roman fort at Greta Bridge and Bowes Castle** **Dr David Mason**
- Saturday 25 October **Ulnaby and Scargill Castle** **Niall Hammond**

**Extended excursion to Leominster**  
Friday 6 to Tuesday 10 June 2014  
Led by Dr David Mason

On this excursion we hope to visit Ludlow and its castle, Stokesay Castle (a medieval fortified manor house), Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Wroxeter Roman town, Hampton Court Castle and/or Berrington Hall and Bridgnorth with its castle keep which leans at an angle three times greater than the Tower at Pisa.

The anticipated cost for the weekend, including accommodation at the Best Western Talbot Hotel in

Leominster town centre, breakfast, dinner, coach fare and entrance fees, will be £350 per person for two sharing, £410 for a single room.

For a booking form, contact David Mason on telephone 03000 267012 or email [david.mason@durham.gov.uk](mailto:david.mason@durham.gov.uk).

### Excavations at Binchester

This year's community excavation at Binchester will take place from 30 June to 18 July, with a possible extension for a further week. If you would like to take part, contact David Mason (as above).

### Email list

From time to time, email updates are sent out to members about lectures, fieldwork opportunities and other events in our area, generally under the heading 'Arch & Arch news'. Unfortunately, some emails always bounce back, so we may not have your correct address. If you are not receiving these updates, and would like to do so, please send an email to [archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk](mailto:archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk), to be added to the list.

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