

### President's letter



**Dear Members,** as the Society enters his 156th year of existence it is as vibrant as ever. We have a fascinating series of lectures for the coming autumn to spring session, exciting fieldwork ongoing in several projects and a regular programme of excursions. By the time this reaches you a party of members, led by David Mason, will have visited Portsmouth. This must surely be one of the most distant places for any excursion in the history of the society. We have also just completed the first ever exhibition about the Society, at the Durham Museum and Heritage Centre.

Since the last newsletter we have sadly lost long-serving Committee member, Sue Rothwell, who passed away in June. You will find an appreciation of Sue elsewhere in this newsletter.

Belinda Burke has indicated that she will step down as Secretary at the next AGM. If you think you might be able to help with any of the many jobs she undertakes, please do get in touch with Belinda or myself.

**Andrew Millard** President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



A visit to the Bamburgh Castle excavations with Graeme Young, Director, Bamburgh Research Project, 16 July 2016

### Hornby fieldwork update Summer 2016

**Work has progressed, with the significant improvement in weather conditions and ground water levels as summer has progressed.**

Further evidence of the later medieval kitchen associated with the hall uncovered in Season 5 (2014) has been recovered in Trench 6. This has included the base of a furnace or hot plate used for frying or keeping food warm, the base of a fireplace used for roasting meat visible beneath the later drain and a semi-circular stone setting enclosing a link to the piped water supply within the floor beneath. A significant deposit of stone rubble has been identified at the Trench edge adjacent to Trench 5 and partially overlapped by the formal garden path. This contains kitchen debris and gives indication that when the complex was destroyed in the late 15th century the hall fell eastwards across the kitchen. The kitchen area is presently being recorded prior to the removal of the garden path to enable a better understanding of the medieval deposits below.

A further trench (Trench 7) has also been opened to the north to investigate the location of the moat illustrated on the 1650 and 1765 Capability Brown plans. It soon became apparent, however, that the 1765 plan was inaccurate, with the moat actually lying some 6 metres north of where it was depicted. Instead of the moat, the remains of a well-appointed chamber lying partially behind the hall and partially behind the kitchen have been located. It is approximately



Metal handle of a drinking jug lid

Actual size ▶



◀ The second military arrowhead to be found Actual size

Photos Erik Matthews

1.5 metres above the floor level of the kitchen and approximately level with where the hall floor is expected to have been and is presumed to have been accessed from the low end of the hall. The partial remains of a timber boarded floor have been located, together with the base of a stone fireplace with associated chimney, which telescoped into the building when it was destroyed, along with a connection to the piped water supply. The proximity of the feature to the present day ground surface makes its survival fortuitous. It appears to have been cut into the moat bank during the building work in the early 14th century and a residual deposit of earlier domestic refuse has been exposed by the collapse of the chimney. In terms of finds quantities of medieval metal work have been forthcoming including two military arrowheads, a spade shoe and part of the metal lid of a drinking jug. Fragments of medieval stained glass have also been recovered. It is hoped shortly to lift the rubble of the chimney to look at the potential material beneath.

**Erik Matthews** Fieldwork Officer

## Honorary Secretary's role

As a result of an appeal for helpers, some of the burden of the Secretary's job has been removed. But we are still looking for someone to take on the post of Honorary Secretary, to oversee the running of the Society, and to be responsible for the following tasks.

**Committee** Book the room for Committee meeting (through Archaeology Department) . Take minutes of meetings **AGM** Book venue, organise tour in the morning, and refreshments and transport if required and take bookings from members . Liaise with Treasurer over accounts/financial statement and produce the Annual Report (generally made available at the AGM) . Copy and pass on papers to Membership Secretary for mailing to members **Charity Commission** Make annual returns to the Charity Commissioners via website **Email** Look after Society email account and send out emails to members as appropriate . Keep the membership email list up to date . Deal

with enquiries from website and forward to Committee for comment if required **Website** Provide content for the website, liaise with Webmaster **Stalls at events** Book stalls and organise people to look after them for Archaeology Days, history fairs, Binchester open days, local conferences, etc.

This is a great opportunity to work with a friendly and dynamic group of people, to learn more about the work of the Society and the heritage of the North East, and to develop new skills. I have held the post for fourteen years and have found it enjoyable and rewarding, but it is definitely time for a change, both for the Society and for myself. I propose to step down at the next AGM, but please get in touch now if you would be interested in the post. I am happy to provide any help and support that I can, and I know that a new recruit can count on the support and expertise of the Committee.

Belinda Burke Secretary

## Society monographs

The following AASDN monographs are still available

### The medieval cross slab grave covers of Co Durham

Peter Ryder 1985 AASDN Research Report 1  
ISBN 0 9510388 0 X . £10.00 + p&p £8.00 for members

### Plant and vertebrate remains from archaeological sites in Northern England

Jacqui Huntley and Sue Stallibrass 1995 AASDN Research Report 4 . ISBN 0 9510388 3 4 . £25.00 + p&p £15.00 for members

### Past, present and future, the archaeology of Northern England

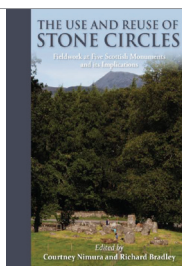
Catherine Brooks, Robin Daniels and Anthony Harding (eds) 2002 . AASDN Research Report 5 . ISBN 0 9510388 4 2  
£5.00 + p&p £3.00 for members

### Acts of perception A study of Barnard Castle in Teesdale

David Austin 2007 AASDN Research Report 6  
2 volumes  
ISBN 0 9510388 0 . Volumes I + II £45.00 (reduced from £65.00)  
+ p&p, special price for members £20.00

### Roman Piercebridge Excavations by D W Harding and Peter Scott 1969–1981

H E M Cool and D J P Mason (eds) 2008  
reprinted 2016  
AASDN Research Report 7 . ISBN 978 0 9510388 57 . £25.00  
+ p&p £22 for members



### The use and reuse of stone circles Fieldwork at five Scottish monuments and its implications

Richard Bradley  
and Courtney Nimura (eds)

This book presents new data from the excavation and cross-comparison of five Scottish stone circles of varying

type, size and sequence. It reassesses the construction sequences and the histories of use of stone circles in Britain.

2016 Oxbow Books . paperback, 240 pages

ISBN 978 1 78570 243 3

£39.95

### Pilgrim Routes of the British Isles

Emma J Wells

This book leads the modern traveller along some of the key ancient pilgrim routes of England, Scotland and Wales, taking in world-famous sites such as Canterbury and Lindisfarne, and out-of-the-way places along paths not so widely travelled. Each route has easy-

to-follow directions that guides you step by step on a journey of discovery.

Illustrated throughout in colour, this practical book provides clear maps and informative commentary on the history of each route, as well as its current landscape, shrines, art and architecture, making this an ideal starting point for those looking for new places to visit.

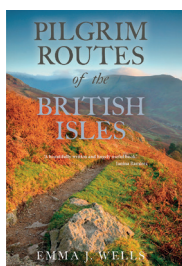
This book offers an understanding of the history, significance and practices surrounding the pilgrim routes and sites of Britain, helping us to follow in the footsteps of our forebears and gain invaluable insights into their world. Janina Ramirez called it 'A beautifully written and hugely useful book'.

St Cuthbert's Way and St Andrew's Way are included as two of the overall seven ancient routes, making it particularly appealing to Society members.

Published 11 October 2016 Robert Hale

Hard cover; 80 colour photographs, 2 maps.

ISBN 978 0 7198170 76



## Susan Rothwell 1945–1916

Members will have been saddened to hear of the death of Sue Rothwell, who joined our society in 2004 and became a valued member of our committee, taking on responsibility for organising excursions in 2010.

Sue was born in South Wales in 1945 and qualified as a speech therapist in London in 1967. Her work took her to Bedford, Monmouthshire, then Aberdeen, before she finally settled in the North East. But from the start, Sue's interests went far beyond her demanding and rewarding work. She obtained a BSc from the Open University, and a Certificate in Remedial Drama from the College of Ripon and St John, York. As a volunteer for the Samaritans while working in Aberdeen, she met her airline pilot husband, Mike, at a conference in Dundee in 1974, and they were married in 1977. The couple moved to our area when Mike was posted to North Yorkshire, and from 1979 Sue worked at Darlington Memorial Hospital and elsewhere, managing and developing Speech Therapy services in the region. In 1989 she took two years out of the NHS to work for Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide in Sunderland, on a pilot project to remedy speech and language problems in two to four year olds, to prepare them for entry into primary school.

Sue was a committed member of the Labour Party, becoming a Constituency Women's Officer for North West Durham, Chair of the Constituency Labour Party, Vice Chair of Derwentside District Council, and Chair of the parish council representing Langley Park. In 2003, as a delegate to the Labour Party Conference, she spoke out on the changes in the NHS, challenging powerful union leaders, and her intervention stole the lead spot on the six o'clock news from Gordon Brown. In 2012 she joined the WEA study group 'Politicians, Thinkers and Activists'. An enthusiastic supporter of the organisation, she became Vice Chair of the Durham branch of the WEA.

Sue listed horse-riding among her many and varied interests, narrowly escaping serious injury when thrown head-first between her mount's ears. and she joined non-riding members of the local riding club who volunteered to help out at events, leading to a lifelong friendship with Prof. Jenny Price. She was also a keen gardener, and an enthusiastic member of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. She pursued her interest in history and heritage through many local groups. She joined the committee of the Friends of the Fulling Mill, and her membership of the Bewick Society led to a fascinating tour of Bewick's Newcastle, organised for our society. She was also a friend of the Bowes Museum, and room steward and member of the book presentation team at Wallington Hall.

Elected onto the AASDN Committee in 2009, she soon became indispensable, bringing her knowledge, determination and political acumen to all aspects of the Society. She represented us on the board of the Bow Trust, taking a leading role in organising receptions at St Mary-le-Bow. From 2010 she has planned our excursions with great efficiency and enthusiasm. With surgery and chemotherapy in 2015, she was forced to step back from participating in the trips, but she was still very actively involved in discussing future destinations with Louise and myself, and she again took the lead in organising excursions for 2016. She joined the trip to the National Museum in Edinburgh, and it was a great joy to have her with us again, relishing the moment, and planning future adventures. So it came as a terrible shock when we realised shortly afterwards that her cancer had returned.

Sue's contribution to our Society was unique. We shall all miss her as a good friend and colleague, always ready to give advice when asked, and words of encouragement when struggling with a particular task. Members have paid tribute to her



Sue Rothwell  
at Binchester excavations  
in 2009

Photo J Price

warmth and exceptional kindness, her common sense approach, her feisty, positive nature and her bravery right to the end.

**Belinda Burke** With particular thanks to Mike Rothwell, and to many of Sue's friends who have contributed their thoughts and reminiscences

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### Memories of Sue Rothwell

A valuable member of the Society

I had the privilege of working with Sue, organising the yearly trips for the Society. She always had boundless enthusiasm and a breadth of ideas which were fed by her involvement with so many other organisations.

We needed to meet over coffee and scones to give us the energy to work at her pace. Sue knew so much on so many different topics and put her 'heart and soul' into everything she did. She was always there to offer you help when needed and never left anyone behind. At the beginning of every trip she was always there first, making sure each trip ran smoothly.

I, and many others I am sure, miss Sue for her kind and caring nature, her laughter and all those wonderful characteristics that made her the Sue we loved. Even now I hear and see her face 'light up' as she came to you and made you feel cared for.

Louise Gosling

## Our trip to Portsmouth 22 to 27 September 2016

I was on board the coach as a member  
To travel down south  
As far as Portsmouth  
I will tell you the things I remember.  
We stopped off at Hardwick Hall on the way  
Elizabethan in style, I must say  
Created by Bess Who was a Countess  
For she'd married Earl Shrewsbury one day.  
'Twas built next to the abandoned old Hall  
Known for its windows of great width and tall  
The amount of glass  
Showed her wealth and class  
And her initials were carved on the wall.  
We were booked in at the Langstone Hotel  
It's beside channels of sea without swell  
With a grand balcony  
And food a-plenty  
I'm sure David's choice served us all well.  
There stands at the Weald and Downland Museum  
A medieval house, of the type Pendean  
For importance selected  
It's been re-erected  
So that its radical plan may be seen.  
On site there's a small, green tabernacle  
May have been used as Methodist Chapel  
It came in kit form  
Easy to transform  
By strong men using rope, chain and tackle.  
The approach to Arundel is steep  
There's a barbican, gatehouse and keep  
A great coastal defence  
With curtain wall, not a fence  
And an impressive dry moat which is deep.  
The castle is combined with a house  
A Victorian home – maybe with grouse  
A huge country pile  
Gothic in style  
And well able to stand up to a rouse.  
Petworth House is clearly in sight of the Town  
You could look through a space, so nought to pull down  
With a magnificent park  
Where a man made his mark  
That man of renown, Capability Brown.  
Petworth was once known as 'The House of Art'



Turner, Reynolds and Van Dyck all played their part  
With portraits and landscapes  
Lovely faces and lakes  
Their treasured art, what a joy to impart.  
At Chichester we saw the City and Cathedral  
Heard its history, Roman, Saxon, medieval  
Built in a grid pattern  
Where Danes were in battle  
And going back to the age of primeval.  
Then on to the Roman Palace at Fishbourne  
With fine mosaic floors which were made to adorn  
Maybe a reward from Vespasian  
To one loyal to the cause, Flavian  
And later reduced to a villa in form.  
At Portchester the Romans built a strong fort  
It served as a castle, a prison and port  
A great Saxon stronghold  
Against those Vikings bold  
And Kings who came later made it their court.  
To climb to the top of the Spinnaker  
One needs to be fit – like Lineker  
It's best not to fall down  
And like Jack break your crown  
You'll end up with brown paper and vinegar!  
If you look far out to sea it's worthwhile  
Where there's a spot at just under a mile  
Where Mary Rose sank  
Lay on a silt bank  
The find of our time of the highest profile.  
To raise her up from the sea bed  
Would take lots of thought in your head  
Archaeology  
And ingenuity  
And be professionally led.  
At the new Mary Rose Museum  
They've created a virtual theme  
You feel you are walking the deck  
Through parts of the wreck  
Where all is not what it might seem.  
Tuesday dawned, it was the end of the trip  
All had gone well – not even one blip  
We've David to thank  
A toast should be drank  
I'll end my poem there, I've made my last quip.



Janet Ball 2 October 2016

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