



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 49 APRIL 2015



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To coincide with its twenty years of investment in the UK's heritage, amounting to over £6 billion to 40,000 projects, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) commissioned Britain Thinks to conduct in-depth research with some 4,300 people — c. 350 in each of twelve representative UK towns and cities. The research aimed to understand better the public's view of National Lottery investment and to see whether over the last twenty years, HLF funding was felt to have made a difference. The results, if unsurprising to most of us, do provide useful measures of benefit.

They found that heritage is 'positively linked to local quality of life, with eight in ten of people surveyed stating that local heritage makes their area a better place to live'. The research also found that 64% of people surveyed think heritage has improved in recent years in terms of how well it is looked after, while 50% answered '7 out of 10' or more when asked to rate the impact local heritage sites have on their personal quality of life. The research explored what 'value for money' means to the public. Both public and stakeholders had clear and shared criteria. A 'good' local project would ideally conserve a valued aspect of the past, be done sensitively, be fun, educational, of wide appeal, provide lots of ways for people to get involved, and be sustainable both financially and in quality. There were inequalities in access and involvement with heritage shown, with those from social grade DE and black and minority ethnic residents being less likely to be involved. Perceived benefits include helping to support local pride, encouraging social cohesion, making local areas more visually attractive, providing opportunities for leisure activities, and supporting local economies by promoting tourism and creating employment opportunities. Overall, the HLF claims a clear rationale for continuing to invest in heritage.

For more information and to download the report, see the HLF website where there are links to everything from a summary of the main findings and conclusions to videos where workshops were held, as well as to qualitative and quantitative results, useful for grant applications; <http://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/research-evaluation/20-years-heritage>.

Some years ago I wrote in dismay at the adverse impact on archaeology of all those 'banking irregularities'. At last, one small reparation: some of the fines paid by banks which manipulated the LIBOR (inter-bank lending) interest rates will benefit heritage causes. In the Budget on 18 March, plans were outlined for disbursement of £75 million over the next five years. Many of the beneficiaries are associated with the history of war: £4.5 m to a website detailing the history of all UK war memorials, with advice on repairs and their funding; £1/2 m to help restore the last surviving Second World War tank-landing craft, £7 m to military aviation museums and £5 m to fund a number of commemorations. These include the Battle of Jutland, the Gallipoli Campaign and the Battle of the Somme; the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt (£1 m), the 70th Anniversary of VE Day (£2 m), and the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo (£1 m). Another group to benefit is the 'Listed Places of Worship — Roof Repair Fund', for urgent repairs to public places of worship of all faiths across the UK that are formally designated as listed buildings. The £20 million given in the 2014 budget for the 'First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund', had been taken up within about eight weeks. Following on from the further £15 million for the fund announced in the 2014 Autumn Statement, another £40 million has now been announced for 2015 to 2017.

But these sums are mere drops in the ocean, and meanwhile, councils countrywide are disposing of museums and selling off their contents. After any UK General Election, the incoming Government is likely to outline a fresh round of cuts to departmental spending and

public funding. It is vital that to avoid future cuts we continue to remind both national and local political parties how much we value our heritage. The Heritage Alliance, of which our Institute is a member, would like us all to write to MPs including all our local parliamentary candidates, about the place of heritage in the local constituency, and how important it is to us, our community, and the UK as a whole. Visit their website at www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/take-action and download a draft template letter to send to your local MP and if possible to all local candidates for the May elections.

PRESIDENTIAL VALETE David A. Hinton

This is my last opportunity to contribute to the *Newsletter* as the RAI's President; my three-year stint ends after the AGM. This final message contains good news; the publishing arrangement for the *Archaeological Journal* and the annual Summer Meeting Report to be produced for us by Routledge (Taylor and Francis) has proceeded quite smoothly; the whole run of back numbers is now on-line and can be accessed by subscribing members through our web-site, and the first part of Volume 172 is already on-line, as are two of the articles for part two. We sent information about this in January to everyone whose email address we have, but please contact the administrator (admin@royalarchinst.org) if you did not get it. The printed version of Volume 172 will be with you in the summer, as will the Summer Meeting Report on The Borders. The last has been prepared for us by Hedley Swain, and the journal is of course edited by Howard Williams, who has borne the brunt of negotiating the new modes needed for on-line publication, with Kate Waddington editing the reviews — also now appearing on-line in advance of the printed volume.

In October, we circulated all British universities teaching archaeology, asking for them to tell their post-graduate students about our offer to them of free on-line access for a year. The take-up of this has not been overwhelming, but is enough to suggest that it is worth continuing with. We shall never know how many of these students eventually become members, but it is a step in the right direction, as will be one of the initiatives being promoted by our Treasurer, Andrew Williams, to increase the RAI's on-line presence through social media. He has also been in contact with the Annual Student Archaeology conference, and Council agreed that we should again sponsor their field visit. It was also agreed to maintain the donation that we have given in recent years to the Young Archaeologists' Club, run by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA).

Many members will know of the problems that the CBA is facing, largely because the British Academy has withdrawn its support. In many ways, the CBA's mission is similar to our own, but they have a broader membership base and do not produce a learned journal or have a similar lecture programme. One regret that I have is that in my time as President there has not been an opportunity again to discuss closer collaboration with the CBA; until we had ensured the future of *Archaeological Journal* we could not commit to anything, and we need to see how they come through their crisis — not too strong a word in my opinion.

I have made many mistakes during my term of office, one of which is forgetting where I found the very long Constitution that governed the RAI in Victoria's reign. It included a procedure to be followed if the President went mad; I like to think that that contingency has not arisen during my term, but if it has not, it has been because of the support that I have had from the RAI's officers — not by any means only those named above — and by Council members, whose willingness to serve on our various committees or to undertake other tasks

for us is exemplary. I thank them all, for they have helped to keep the RAI both viable and vibrant. Our Constitution enjoins us to perform various tasks for the benefit of what was not called the 'historic environment' when it was drawn up, but we have in one way or another continued to meet its demands. Personally, though, I prefer to think of the RAI as a body that guards against what one of last year's lecturers, John Goodall, deplores in *The English Castle 1066–1650* (Yale 2011, xvii): '[the] parting of the ways between the public and scholarly communities ... is in every way regrettable. The former misses a wealth of information, the latter loses the satisfaction of conveying its ideas to a wide audience, as well as the discipline and perspective imposed by so doing.' May the RAI long continue as a forum that ensures that this parting does not happen.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Current Archaeology Awards

In their seventh year, these awards again celebrated the projects and publications that made the pages of CA in 2014, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to

archaeology. They are voted for entirely by the public with no panels of judges. On 27 February, at Senate House, University of London, winners were announced and the awards presented by Julian Richards as follows:

Archaeologist of the Year: Michael Fulford (University of Reading)

Research Project of the Year: Maryport's Mystery Monuments (Ian Haynes and Tony Wilmott, Newcastle University)

Rescue Dig of the Year: First Impressions: Discovering the Earliest Footprints in Europe (Happisburgh Project)

Book of the Year: *The History of Archaeology* by Paul Bahn

Current Archaeology Live! 2016 will be held on 26–27 February 2016, at Senate House, London.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

Tony Clark Fund Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating

Bunnell Lewis Fund Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK

RAI Award Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

Please download an application form at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants> or write to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 11 January 2016. Awards announced in April 2016.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

The bequest of the late Frank S. Cheney was established to enable students to participate in Institute events or other conferences or meetings. An allocation is available annually from which indi-

viduals can apply for a maximum sum of £200; full terms can be seen at www.royalarchinst.org/grants. Before applying, please check with the Administrator, admin@royalarchinst.org.uk that monies remain in the yearly fund.

In 2014, the Institute supported three students, from the universities of Bournemouth, Glasgow, and Central Lancashire, with awards to help them to attend the Institute's Annual Conference, 'Science in Archaeology' (see report p. 25).

RAI Dissertation Prize

The Institute awards a dissertation prize each year to either an undergraduate (Tony Baggs Award) or a master's student, on a rotating basis. The award goes to the best dissertation on a subject concerning the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. The chief criteria considered are the quality of the work and relevance to the interests of the Institute. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner receives £500 and one year's membership subscription. The Tony Baggs (undergraduate dissertation) Award, covering years 2013 and 2014, was awarded to Katrien Janin of the University of Leicester, for her dissertation, 'Sex assessment on the basis of humeral and femoral heads: Perspective from post-Medieval British urban populations'. At the Institute's meeting on 10 December 2014, the prize of £500 was presented by Jenny Brzezinski-Baggs.



Katrien Janin receiving the Tony Baggs prize
(S. G. Parfitt)

RAI Research Grants, 2015

Research grants for 2015 have been awarded to the following projects:

Alex Gibson *Survey and Palaeoenvironmental sampling at Castle Dykes Henge, Aysgarth, N. Yorks* (Tony Clark Fund)

Chris Scull and Jude Plouviez *Survey and Excavation at Rendlesham, Suffolk*

Keith Boughey *Publication of the excavation by Welbury Wilkinson Holgate of Hare Hill Ring Cairn, Craven, North Yorkshire*

Kirsty Millican *Lochbrow Landscape Project*

Peter Halkon and Rodney Mackey *Continued investigation of a multi-period site near Melton, East Yorkshire* (Bunnell Lewis Fund)

Rachel Pope *Illustrating Eddisbury: Excavations 1936–38 and 2010–11*

Rob Hosfield *Beyond the rivers: Lower Palaeolithic archaeology at Knowle Farm*

Shannon Fraser *Upper Dee Tributaries Project* (Tony Clark Fund)

RAI Research Grant Reports

St Oswald's Chapel, Bamburgh Castle

Joanne Kirton

In 2008, rescue-style excavation was enabled by work conducted by castle staff outside the twelfth-century chapel in the Inner Ward of Bamburgh Castle (Northumberland). A number of pre-Norman walls, associated with burning, were unearthed. These are on a different alignment from the chapel and associated with mortar spreads. A mortar mixer of seventh- to eighth-century date was unearthed by Brian Hope-Taylor in the 1970s in the West Ward; this suggests some of the earliest Anglo-Saxon mortared buildings are located within the wards of the castle. In early 2013, evaluation and analysis was made of the palaeoenvironmental material, metal-work, pottery and skeletal material recovered during the 2008 excavation.

The ceramic assemblage is largely thirteenth- and fourteenth-century sherds, which sits well with recent radiocarbon dates, two of which are thirteenth century. These dates suggest that a significant burning event occurred at this time at the eastern side of the current building, as the dating material was taken from a layer of burning with melted window lead.



Bamburgh: Wall beneath C12th chapel foundations, on different alignment, with probably pre-Conquest dry-stone wall below (J. Kirton)

A third sample (from the western exterior of the chapel) dated to the first- to second-century AD. Radiocarbon dates from an earlier excavation within the chapel produced material of a comparable date, confirming that this part of the castle's interior has much earlier evidence for occupation.

The palaeo-environmental report, whilst providing samples for dating, also demonstrated that there was a variety of domesticated plant species present, with bread, wheat and hulled barley the main crops here during the 13th century. The animal bone assemblage suggested a shift from cattle consumption in the first or second century to sheep/goat in the thirteenth century.

Lastly, some objects were sent for conservation assessment and X-ray. The majority of the corroded material appears to be nails but one piece of chainmail, multiple pieces of partially-melted window lead and two silver hair pins were present.

The Bamburgh Research Project is now better placed to phase the pre-Conquest buildings and

associated contexts, and to inform further work on the various mortar samples associated with the multiple structures and how these relate to the evidence for mortar production in the West Ward of the Castle.

Excavations at Binchester Roman Fort 2014 (Bunnell Lewis Fund) David Petts

This summer saw the fifth season of excavations on the *vicus* at Binchester. The focus of work was on the exceptionally well-preserved bath building. Owing to rising external street levels and a massive phase of refuse dumping in the later fourth century, the walls of the structure survive to a height of 2 m making it one of the best preserved Roman bath-houses in Britain. The *apodyterium* was fully cleared out — this revealed evidence that in an earlier phase it had contained one, possibly two plunge baths, before they were knocked out and stone benches placed round the room. This change of use seems to have occurred alongside a restructuring of the internal space at the north end of the room, with one door being blocked and a new wall constructed. The previously painted wall plaster scheme was also replaced by a plain cream plaster screed. Possibly at around the same time, two new plunge-baths were constructed in niches added to the southern end of the adjacent corridor. Further excavation clearly showed that the structure continued to the east and south of the trench. It appears that the main axial corridor in the excavated structure aligned on an early circular



C4th AD silver ring from Binchester with intaglio bearing early Christian imagery © Durham University

bath-house uncovered by excavations at the site in the late nineteenth century.

The entire structure appears to have been infilled with massive dumps of late Roman domestic rubbish, rich in butchered animal bones. The initial dating for this deposition stage suggests it commenced in the 370s AD. All excavated rooms were entirely filled with this material which then lapped out onto the street levels in front of the building. These latest dump layers were then cut by two phases of a rectangular building constructed using post pads. This structure might date to the very final years of Roman control, or even to the sub-Roman period.

Other work on the *vicus* in 2014 revealed a well-built wall to the west of the bath-house which may well have marked the boundary of the bath complex.

New light on Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill, Worcestershire Derek Hurst and Gaynor Western

Kemerton Camp, on Bredon Hill in south Worcestershire, was originally excavated in 1935–7. It was especially notable for the discovery of a ‘massacre deposit’ of human remains along the entrance-way into the hillfort, which has recently been re-analysed and *c.* 14 dated to the period of *c.* 170–50 cal BC (95% probability). Several examples of peri-mortem trauma were found amongst these predominantly male skeletal elements.

In order to further understand the context of this catastrophic event, the pottery and animal bone assemblages are now being looked at afresh. This has shown that the pottery is largely of wares typical of this part of the Severn valley in the middle Iron Age: viz Malvernian, shelly (fine and coarse types), Palaeozoic limestone-tempered, and sandy wares, and Droitwich briquetage. A date in the latter part of the middle Iron Age fits much of this material, and so, though the implications of this are yet to be fully evaluated, this suggests that the ‘massacre’ deposit might be best assigned to the earlier rather than the latter part of the *c.* 14 date span.

Re-analysis of the animal bone has focused to date on the faunal assemblage recovered from the ‘massacre’ layer. Sheep has been found to be the commonest species, and there is evidence that sheep/goat and cattle were being butchered on-

site, reflecting localised husbandry practices, as indicated by recent stable isotope analysis of some of the dentition. In contrast, only selected parts of carcasses of pig and deer were brought into the hillfort. Evidence of horse and canid species is also present.

Although comparison with other similar sites is needed before any more detailed conclusions can be reached about the significance of these data, the initial results suggest that a multidisciplinary approach to the re-analysis of archived assemblages is providing a fruitful, and more incisive, level of information for our understanding of life at Kemerton Camp.

Investigation of a multi-period site near Melton, East Yorkshire Peter Halkon, Rodney Mackey and James Lyall

This site was discovered in 2003 by detectorist Tony McManus. Geophysical and fieldwalking surveys coordinated by the writers with members of the East Riding Archaeological Society revealed enclosures and buildings associated with a Roman road heading for the river Humber. An excavation was undertaken in August 2014 by ERAS members and Hull University Archaeology students. Three trenches each around 12 m × 3 m were excavated. Trench A revealed a stone building with an apsidal end 20 m × 7 m wide, closely matching the geophysics. Despite heavy plough damage, the foundations showed that it could have had two storeys. Over 200 *tesserae* and fragments of painted wall plaster confirmed that it had been a structure of considerable status. The building overlay a ditch containing third-century AD Roman pottery.

A corresponding ditch in Trench C also contained bone and pottery including an eyebrow of a face-pot. Two pits also contained much pottery and bone including the remains of large birds and a cowrie shell. This assemblage may have been the remains of a feast or ritual meal. Trench B contained a damaged skeleton, further wall footings and a ditch. Metal-detecting yielded several mid-Saxon hairpins, Roman coins and an enamelled buckle dating from the ninth century.

Placed on a gravel rise close to the River Humber, the site was ideally located for communication with the Roman centres of Brough-on-Humber and York. No structures have yet been



Melton, Trench A looking E. Foundations of the stone building: some facing stones are still *in situ* by the scale
(Rod Mackey)

excavated contemporary with the unusual brooches found by Mr McManus (which included first-century AD Pannonian types possibly associated with troops involved in the Roman conquest of the region), nor with the Anglo-Saxon dress accessories and *styli* which also make this site potentially of national importance and worthy of further investigation.

Aberdeenshire material culture review: Year 3 Gemma Cruickshanks, Fraser Hunter and Murray Cook

During the project's first year, a comprehensive database of later prehistoric material culture from Aberdeenshire was compiled from a review of museum collections and literature. The material was examined in person during year 2, and a selection illustrated. Year 3 has focused on further artefact examination and illustrations for the final publication. Stone lamps were highlighted as an important group in last year's work; four from different museum collections were illustrated this

year, on top of eleven illustrated last year. This ensures a range of forms, sizes and decoration are represented.

Another key focus has been querns. Aberdeenshire boasts over 60 relevant examples, and many more are likely to exist outwith museum collections on private properties. Sixteen were examined at National Trust for Scotland properties at Crathes Castle and Leith Hall. The Crathes rotary quern was supposedly found on a nearby crannog, while the Leith Hall assemblage comprised a range of styles and dates, including a rare Iron Age radially-decorated, upper rotary-quern stone. In addition, a further miniature rotary quern was identified and illustrated from Aberdeenshire Heritage's collections. The identification of two previously unrecorded miniature rotary querns in this study reinforces the north-east Scottish distribution of this distinctively regional type.

Other illustration work has focused on unpublished stone tools from local museum collections. Key among these is a grooved or 'tracked' stone,



A decorated Iron Age stone lamp from Aberdeenshire (Marischal Museum: ABDUA 17423).

Drawn by Jan Dunbar

the wear created from intensive use as a strike-a-light. These are usually seen as typical of Atlantic Scotland, so the discovery of one from north-east Scotland sheds new light on inter-regional contacts.

The illustrations will serve to show a representative selection of the most interesting items of later prehistoric material culture in Aberdeenshire, and will form a point of reference for future work.

Investigations into the settlement at Swallowcliffe Down, Wiltshire: new light on old sites (Tony Clark Memorial Fund) Elizabeth M. Foulds

The settlement at Swallowcliffe Down, Wiltshire (SM AM837) was excavated in the 1920s, but

remains a poorly understood Early Iron Age site. It sits at the intersection of three parishes (Swallowcliffe, Ansty, and Alvediston) on a ridge-way that affords prominent views to the north and south. The site is also well known for the intrusive Saxon bed burial found within a Bronze Age barrow. Geophysical survey at the site aimed to broaden our understanding of the settlement and context of the rich artefactual assemblage from the 1920s excavations.

Using high-resolution geophysical equipment, an area of 4.1 ha was surveyed. An enclosure ditch was identified on the western side (much of which is still visible from the surface) and on the eastern side was revealed (which was not visible from the surface). By overlaying our survey results with the



Processed survey data from Swallowcliffe Down (grayscale range: white -7nT to black +5nT) (E. Foulds)

original site plan from the 1920s excavation, it was possible to geo-reference many of the excavated pits. However, some of the features identified during the survey could not be correlated to the original site plan and appear to be potentially unexcavated pits. More importantly, large circular features were identified between the two enclosure ditches that may indicate the presence of round-houses, which have not been documented at this site until now. Although the survey did not extend further to the east due to crop cover, the successful identification of features within the main area of

the survey, despite being ploughed until recently, suggests that features may yet be identified in those areas.

The scheduled area extends to the south of the main area of pits, where a small semi-circular bank sits on the edge of a dry valley. It was previously proposed that this positive feature was a part of the Iron Age settlement. Unfortunately, the geophysical survey did not reveal any features in this area, and the relationship between the bank and the Iron Age enclosure remains unclear.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2015

Spring Meeting 15–17 May to East Dorset led by David Hinton (details with this mailing)

Summer Meeting 4–11 July to Sweden, Stockholm and its environs led by Hedley Swain (there is a waiting list to join this meeting)

Autumn Day Meeting 24 October to Kew, Richmond and the Thames, led by Ann Ballantyne and Robin Price (details with this mailing)

Annual Conference 16–18 October at the University of Southampton (see below/ details with this mailing)

Forthcoming in 2016

Please check our website for news and early details, at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/events>.

Spring Day Meeting proposed visit to the exhibition Celts at the British Museum (details to be confirmed)

If you would like further details of any of these meetings sent to you, please send your e-mail or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE or admin@royalarchinst.org.

org or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, The Firs, 2 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD, or csraison@gmail.com

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Ships and Shore-lines: Maritime Archaeology for the 21st Century

University of Southampton, 16–18 October 2015

Organised by the Royal Archaeological Institute, in association with the University of Southampton Lifelong Learning Programme and the Centre for Maritime Archaeology, this is a non-residential Conference based at the University's Avenue Campus. The opening keynote address will be given by Professor Jon Adams, 'Maritime archaeology in the 21st century'.

The programme will include lectures on the work of the Maritime Archaeology Trust, new research on HMS Victory by the Royal Navy

Museum, subsonic investigation of the 'lost' port of Dunwich, sea level changes, investigation of Mesolithic and other submerged landscapes in Northern Ireland, the Mary Rose, the Dover boat, the Swash Channel wreck and the Must Farm log boats. There will also be short presentations by postgraduate students and early-career archaeologists.

For the programme, fees and arrangements, please see details in this mailing.

MEETINGS NOTES

160th SUMMER MEETING, 5–12 July 2014: Tweed Valley

MAUREEN AMORY

'Prepare to meet thy God': the precept over our hotel door in July 2014 was no doubt urging us to make best use of all earthly opportunities. Forty-seven members of the RAI certainly had a full and satisfying Summer Meeting, thanks to admirable planning by our leader Hedley Swain (Meetings Secretary).

Our tally is impressive: four abbeys and a trio of priories; five churches/chapels; seven houses of varying stateliness plus a tower or two; a hill-fort and other dips into the prehistoric; a Roman camp; a holy island; some four perambulations; a major battlefield; tastes of the textile industry and of current estate-management which fosters local economy and heritage — and many incidental delights such as our Barony piper in full fig and a rich sampling of Selkirk bannock.

As main point of our hopeful assembling and gratified dispersal, proud Edinburgh's Waverley

Station deserves mention, though far from palatial. Set in a deep valley, it looks like a sprawl of humble greenhouses. It can aim no higher: legal covenant prevents any upward extension affecting the view of Arthur's Seat. Within, the railway has enhanced what it can, including elevated walkways. On 5 July these became familiar to many RAI members, foxed by various exits and levels until shepherded by Caroline onto our coach; on 12 July Waverley's Central Hall offered a final haven to diminishing numbers of our happy party, after a splendid week based at the Barony Castle Hotel.

The Barony has a story to itself, *Barony Castle: the Years and the Tears* (George Futers, 2014), to which I am indebted. Near Eddleston village, it stands alone on steep ground above the Dean Burn, a white mansion with grey trim and ogee-helmed corner towers, crow-steps, strap-work, and monograms. At times known as Darnhall, it



Barony Castle Hotel, Peebles (R. Arnott)

started as Black Barony, a sixteenth-century tower-house, to be amplified by successive owners; consequently the staircases and corridors have long confused visitors, including many of us. A hotel since 1930, it now provides a spa and conference centre.

It was a comfortable and fascinating base. The staff were cheerfully attentive, the meals tasty and plentiful — including our celebratory meal with haggis (even vegetarian haggis) at every course, and a majestic piper to set the tone. The dining-room wall was decorated with ‘distressed’ white gothic panels, copper ceiling-tiles salvaged from New York’s West Street Building of 1907, after the 2001 attack on the Twin Towers. Daily on the very steep drive we passed the ornate iron gates — and a field of grazing alpaca. In the grounds you can find the ice-house dated 1789, a pretty summer-house and a little suspension bridge over the Dean Burn ravine, leading to the Great Map of Scotland. This huge relief-map in rock, sunk in a walled circle originally full of water representing the sea, was built by Jan Tomasik, a Polish former owner. ‘Maczek’s Map’ was inspired by the General’s wish to leave a testament to the regard felt for the Scottish people by many of 17,000 Polish forces participating in the WW2 defence of Scotland (and

later in the liberation of Europe); the Barony was a significant Polish secret training-centre. General Maczek died nearby in Edinburgh, at 102.

On the way to the hotel we had visited Rosslyn Chapel, with its myriad carvings and Da Vinci Code resonance. Founded by William Sinclair, first Earl of Caithness, and begun in 1456, it is the choir for a collegiate chapel of St Matthew, endowed in an age of plainsong and polyphony to maintain masses for Sinclair souls, but unfinished after William’s death.

For all its pinnacles and crocketed buttresses, the exterior gives little promise of the complexity inside. Under an ornate roof of five bays (one a starred vault), arcaded arches run round three sides, forming a division between nave and Lady Chapel of three pillars, formerly Earl’s, Shekinah (Hebrew ‘dwelling’, indicating God’s presence) and Prince’s Pillars. These acquired new names, the Master, Journeyman and Apprentice Pillars, with a Georgian legend: jealous of the apprentice’s prowess in carving his pillar, the Master naturally aimed a mallet at his head, killing him. The Master’s face was punitively carved to gaze forever upon those decorative bands, spiralling to the foliate capital. You may favour the suggestion that the pillar represents a root of the Nordic Yggdrasil



Walter Scott's study (R. Arnott)

Tree, having, appropriately, dragons at the base and foliage at the top.

There is ample fodder for interpretation: Green Men (over 100), knights, Christian motifs, plants (wheat, strawberries, lilies, aloes and allegedly maize, supporting the idea that a previous Sinclair made a pre-Columbus trip to the Americas...) and a sequence of 213 cubes protruding from upper surfaces. These cubes have been subject of an experiment in cymatics (detection of sound by using vibration with powder, the resulting pattern matched to notes of corresponding frequencies): hence a tune, the Rosslyn Motet. And so to our Barony beds, after location of far-flung bedrooms, dips in the spa pool, a typically leisurely evening meal, and some bar-room converse.

Sunday brought us Sir Walter Scott's romantic Abbotsford, the dignified town of Peebles, beautiful landscape which became a daily pleasure, and a final spectacular bonus.

Abbotsford, in Scottish Baronial style 'just like Balmoral', is set in Scott's appealing garden, sloping down to the Tweed, once with the view of Melrose Abbey which led to his choice of its new name. Originally a humble farmhouse demeaningly called Clarty Hole, Abbotsford

evolved with Scott's literary repute as he rose to the baronetcy, and was maintained even when financial misfortune threatened bankruptcy. Writing became a lucrative oppression. Property sales cleared debts and saved the house at his death in 1832.

A statue of Maida, Scott's deerhound, named after a Napoleonic battle, guards the turreted entrance. The miniature Gothic Hall, with mock beams and two full suits of armour, is crowded with items from his 4,000-strong collection, and leads to an enviable galleried, 2,000-book-lined study. The stair in a corner turret enabled him to flee visitors. His large library, whose books remain a legal resource, overlooks riverside lawns; its oriel window is graced with Scott's 'Roslin drop' (with lamp), a pendant detail from Rosslyn Chapel. His little Armour Room was formerly a space for the ladies, ousted by Scott's collection of historic weapons — owned, for example, by Bonnie Dundee, James VI, Rob Roy and probably Napoleon, famous and valuable pieces. The dining-room, though altered, is made personal by family portraits and the fact that Scott chose to spend his final days here, for the garden view.

Peebles, a royal burgh since 1152, developed on a promontory between the Tweed and Eddleston Water; its High Street could illustrate a history of eighteenth- to twentieth-century town-house facades, much older work lying behind. At the bottom of the street the Victorian church occupies the castle site. The town offered 'villadom' to privileged commuters, freed from mill-city grime and noise by three railways, of which only a timber goods-office remains, the station site sporting a municipal flower-bed. In the courtyard of the Chambers Institute, a mainly Baronial-style building given to Peebles by its encyclopaedist son, we saw the fine War Memorial (1922): a Celtic cross stands in a white stone hexagonal building with triple-arched arcade and a copper ogee dome, topped with tall cupola and pineapple finial. It is by one Orphoot, of a local firm with Sicilian affinities to judge by the mosaics and a nougat-like stone, billiema.

Historic indicators include the oft-widened stone bridge over the Tweed, and a section of sixteenth-century wall which fortified Peebles against border trouble. In our perambulation we met one-storey 'bungalow shops', a joiner's cottage



Orphoot's War Memorial, Peebles (R.Arnett)

whose attic windows exemplify his decorative skills, residences of Chambers, John Buchan and Mungo Park, an ice-house on the Tweed bank convenient for the salmon catch, and St Andrew's tower, relic of the church destroyed by the English. Especially rewarding was the crowded old workshop of L. Grandison and Son, renowned and still-active Specialists in Ornamental Plasterwork, whose skill with 'horse' and many a mould spans generations. Cross Kirk Priory, in use by monks and later by parishioners till 1784, lies in ruins in a grassy glade; Alexander III was inspired to build it after the discovery of cross and urn of ashes (1261). We were welcomed into this unlikely site of these relics of St Nicholas of Myrna (a Bishop of the early 300s) by a similarly unlikely teddy-bear perched extremely high in the eroded tall entry-block.

The day's tailpiece was a drive uphill in a spectacular storm, to crunch our way over a field of hailstones for 'the icing on the cake' (as our President remarked): Dreva Craig hill-fort, on a dominant knoll in wide landscape. Across the Tweed valley flashes of sunlight picked out the twin fort sites of Henry's Brae and Tinnis Castle.

We explored Dreva's two chevaux-de-frises and signs of settlement on terraces below, hearing views on continuity in use of such sites and field systems. Debate resumed in a lay-by (the immediate archaeology being alas a vandalised wayside loo) tantalisingly near a site at the Meldons, denied us by the vanishing of time almost inevitable in a rich agenda.

Monday's bill of fare included longhouse, pele tower and mansion. This is the moment to record our regard for driver Steve. An expat from Cumbria now familiar with the Borders, he offered to flesh out information available to us, but finally admitted to driving on byroads and the occasional scary bridge previously unknown to him. He took cheery care of his passengers.

A tempting exhibition in Manor village hall introduced the Manor Valley Project. The valley lay in the territory of the Gododdin (Votadini), Iron Age Celtic people who dominated from the Forth to the Tweed, with a seat at Din Eidyn (Edinburgh). In 2013 grants enabled the Glenrath community excavation, using traditional techniques complemented by a laser-scan survey which demonstrated *'that the upstanding remains indicating the presence of buildings and field boundaries most visible on the ground are only one part of a very complex accumulation of overlapping field systems, enclosures and buildings of varying dates and times'*, from the first millennium BC through to the post-medieval. Learning of a 1km site, largely untouched by plough, which revealed a longhouse and a roundhouse among terraced enclosed settlements in an area used for some 4,000 years, we set off enthusiastically to view it.

Gingerly, Steve manoeuvred his large bus over a small bailey-type bridge, at right-angles to the track, into Glenrath farmyard. After a prudent phone-call to the office, he was escorted in a car to reconnoitre the wilds ahead. Meanwhile, tearing round the corner came a mass of shorn, horned sheep, who braked, gazed in stunned alarm at the amused RAI in their great coach, scattered at speed in the opposite direction and were neatly rounded up by man-and-dog on quad-bike. Less well-entertained, Steve returned, dejectedly declaring the route definitely off the agenda. At Lindsay's popular request, we returned to the exhibition, before heading to the cosy Three Hills Roman Centre in Montrose, a mile from Trimontium.



Scott's View, the hills of Trimontium (W. Husband)

Welcomed in a corniced former billiard-room, we moved on to packed, lively depictions of life for up to 1500 soldiers at Trimontium: light-up maps of signal-posts, permanent and temporary camps along local rivers; comparisons with the Saalburg (echoes of Frankfurt 2013); model forge; weapons, uniforms, food. All in all, good preparation for our departing drive round the west and south annexes of the camp, stretching mainly to our right as we travelled the 'berm' alongside the ditch, with the steep terraced scarp to the Tweed falling away to our left. A mansio (pay-in-kind tax-office, maybe) and baths were located, and we glimpsed a rudimentary theatre and the line of trees indicating Dere Street.

Smailholm Tower is a commanding sight, high on a crag and isolated (except for Sandyknowe farmstead nearby, where the boy Walter Scott recuperated from polio). Amid rocky humps and bumps, we looked up through the gate at blocks of green basalt in the walls and old red sandstone quoins and surrounds. A gun-loop covers courtyard and approach to the main door. Stronghold of the Pringles till bought by Scott's forebears, Smailholm consists of a stark rectangular tower with few windows, and barmkins (courtyards) east and west, once containing hall and kitchen protected by much higher walls than now. The five

storeys are simply one major room above another, stone-vaulted on second and fifth floors. From two breezy roof-walks we scanned open country for miles around. One of the best preserved reivers' towers, this was the enduring centre of a 'toon', forming typically around tower, farm or church, when reiving (raids for livestock and property) was a local enterprise.

Battlemented Mellerstain has its defensive pretensions. It is unusual in being entirely Adam, combining work by father and son, and in being an early, less sophisticated example of the Adam Castle style. George Baillie commissioned William Adam's design in 1725, but only two separate wings were built, economically with undressed stone apart from quoins and voussoirs. For forty years family lived in the East wing, staff and horses in the West. Baillie's grandson commissioned Robert Adam in 1770 to link these pavilions. His long plain 'castle' façade, with taller projecting centre to balance the end wings, again uses dressed stone only for surrounds, string-courses, and corbels. The overall effect is restrained.

The view from the rear garden terrace runs to the far horizon and Hundy Mundy, William Adam's gothic folly, built from the ruined watch-tower of Eunamonda. Two of us, entering the house from the side, surprised Lady Harrington

and aide preparing an exhibition of modern works in the (closed) lower-floor gallery; after a privileged glimpse we were ushered above. There are exquisite plaster trceries and friezes, largely in original colours, fine portraits, antique needlework furnishings and Chinese wallpaper, a bedroom suite in Caribbean manchineel wood, and a grand gallery, purpose uncertain, sweeping across the top floor. Highland cattle ruminant in the park.

On Tuesday our furthest eastward journey, to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne by way of Berwick-on-Tweed, passed the Bass Rock and Torness Nuclear Power Station in murky visibility.

Now England's most northerly town, Berwick was a Scottish royal burgh and seaport of strategic and commercial importance; a frontline city for 300 years, it changed hands some thirteen times and mainly through force. We perambulated Sir Richard Lee's Tudor 'trace-italienne' fortifications with our own Berwick hereditary freeman (whose forefather, the prison governor, married the barracks officer's daughter in 1788, thereby adding Tatton to the family name). Tim Tatton-Brown led us up Meg's Mount to look down on the broad Tweed and its bridges (v. Caroline's account, *Newsletter* 48, August 2014). From Scotch Gate we saw below the steeped, porticoed and arcaded Town Hall (1761) strangely placed in the middle of the road. Striding along the rampart which links the great angular bastions, learning about gun-emplacement and enfilade, we enjoyed our high vantage-point despite the falling rain. Eventually, not without medical concern for our leader who disdained mac or umbrella, we were rained off Windmill Bastion, some of us into Hawksmoor's Ravensdowne Barracks, the oldest in Britain. This fine building offered museums civic or military and even an offshoot of the Burrell Collection. Opportunists also found hot drinks at the 'Thistle Do Nicely' café near our coach.

The drive across the intertidal causeway to Lindisfarne prepared us for the peace of the island. An early Christian site under Saints Aidan and Cuthbert, source of the Lindisfarne Gospels, ravaged by Vikings and later re-established as a priory community, it is a comma-shaped island on an outcrop of the Whin Sill — most prominent at Castle and Heugh. In the village at the comma's head we studied the Church of St Mary, made our reflective ways around the Priory remains and

gathered to explore the Heugh, a sudden little rise above the ruins. It gives wide views of the island, the islets around, the navigation beacons and harbour-site which respectively reflect former coal and herring trades. The Heugh has revealed medieval structures, and there is later military archaeology. Aroma from a wooden coffee-roastery heralded refreshment in a café garden full of sparrows, and at least one member managed the walk to the castle (remodelled by Lutyens) and back, before the return drive, as the waters began to rise and silhouetted walkers moved cautiously from stave to stave across the shining expanse of wet sand.

After this saintly isle, Wednesday began a two-day run of splendid ecclesiastic sites: Melrose and Dryburgh, Kelso and Jedburgh, Coldingham, Swinton and Ladykirk — with secular variations en route.

The four great abbeys share much in foundation, site and tragic history. Three were founded by David I in the twelfth century, the fourth by his friend de Morville, each on or near a previous holy site close to the Tweed, each for a different religious order. David drew on his knowledge of, for example, Rievaulx and Tiron for his opulent abbeys; architectural wonders of their time, they give a complex record of style and technique. Repeated damage, largely through English initiation or retaliation over centuries of conflict, culminated in the depleting effects of the Reformation; yet the ruins demonstrate vast and refined achievement.

Melrose Abbey, built at David's request by Rievaulx monks, stands on a grassy expanse in the town. Substantial church walls are pierced with beautiful, tall, pointed window-arches which often retain their full tracery. Typically Cistercian in its long nave, choirs for lay-brothers and monks, east-end chapels and a general elegant austerity, the church is 'a barometer of changing attitudes to architecture', English influence at the east end giving way to French fashions. Mason John Morrow from Paris proudly inscribed a list of his Scottish works on a panel, together with a prayer for this abbey. The south-transept gable exemplifies his sumptuous work, with finely carved tabernacles on the buttresses, a distinctive 'ogee flip' on the window-arch moulding, and animated corbels. Famous if less fine is a bagpipe-playing

pig, high on the nave exterior. Melrose shelters the heart of Robert I, the Bruce, in a simple leaden casket, duly reburied on discovery.

On the way to Dryburgh we paused at Scott's View, as apparently his funerary horses did, knowing their master's habit to stop and gaze at the three mountains (of Trimontium) far across a beautiful green valley. An inspiring landscape, it made a contemplative interval in our grand Abbey Progress.

Most secluded of the abbeys, Dryburgh is surrounded by fields and trees. The largely domestic ruins, dominated by an arched window of the south transept and the perfect rose window in the refectory gable, spread down grass slopes to the dry water-channel. It was founded for Premonstratensians from Alnwick by Hugh de Morville, who came over with William the Conqueror, befriended David I and became Constable of Scotland; in old age he was a novice at Dryburgh till his death in 1162. (His namesake son, however, took part in the murder of Thomas Becket.) In the remarkably complete little barrel-vaulted chapter-house, we noted the interlaced arcading, stone benches and even paint remnants. Visiting Scott's tomb in the two remaining graceful arched bays of

the choir aisle, one understands why he chose to be buried in this peaceful setting.

In Kelso, we cut across the broad Market Square, with its bull-ring marked in cobble, to the Abbey. Through the north doorway in the looming wall of the north-west transept, we entered the fascinating, if forbidding, sturdy Romanesque ruins (so sturdy that an upper part accommodated a later prison). David I founded Kelso for the Tironensians, an ascetic Benedictine offshoot unfamiliar in Britain, and probably looked to designs at Ely and Bury. Archives describe a double cross plan, unparalleled in Scotland, with two towers and wooden roof. What now appears to be a mighty nave is but a fragment — the west tower crossing and transept. Erected tier-on-tier rather than end-to-end, Kelso has a massive unity; the interior impact is of superimposed open arcades. The remains of the destroyed west entrance bear the only remnant of beak-head in Scotland.

Approached from below, Jedburgh Abbey church offers a most dramatic skyline: the vast aisled nave stretches from the crossing-tower along the top of the hill, sky showing through the fine tracery of windows on both sides of its three



Mary Queen of Scots' House (R.Arnott)

storeys. Built as a priory, elevated to an abbey for Augustinian Black Canons, it took a century to complete. Inside, the eye is drawn down the grand consistency of the long nave until attracted back to the remarkable use of a giant order of cylindrical piers at the east end. The west front survives to full height, and the west doorway is rich in design, its six orders displaying for example wyvern-like creatures on what are essentially Corinthian capitals, and 'Byzantine blossom' foliage below.

The town provided a secular finale, kindly kept open for the RAI: Mary Queen of Scots' House, so-called though probably built soon after her visit in 1556. More a town-house than a bastle, having few defensive features, it consists of two sparsely-windowed storeys and a garret; the projecting stair-turret is roofed by a conical 'candlesnuffer' and the crow-stepped gables are finished with 'cavetto-moulded skewputts' (brackets). This interesting little museum displays items relating to Mary. It is set in a peaceful garden, where stands a ninth-century stone cross with interlace decoration, found locally; three sides reveal pairs of facing or opposing beasts, the fourth a single beast.

Thursday completed the ecclesiastical spectrum, introduced us to Lord Joycey and his estate, thrilled us with Flodden and soothed us at Floors Castle.

Coldingham Priory was our most northerly destination. You enter a spacious churchyard past a Victorian hearse-house, and approach the village church through a freestanding arch. This once led from nave-aisle to transept in the Benedictine priory, rebuilt after destruction by the English King John in 1216, to suffer later fire and invasion; the church was the priory choir. Inside you are arrested by the sight of the facing north wall; halved by a string-course, it is completely covered with a stupendous array of arcading. The lower stage is filled with a continuous wall-arcade of pointed arches; the fenestrated upper stage has tall pointed arches to correspond with the windows, linked with paired shorter arches between to form a continuous pattern, with an open mural passage running along the whole. Harmonious in itself and with the east end, the arcading is in violent and memorable contrast with the plain walls rebuilt at west and south.

Swinton Kirk, once in marshy land known for wild swine, is connected with the ancient Swinton



Coldingham: arcading of the N wall (R. Arnott)

family. Their mortuary enclosure, once barrel-vaulted, is attached to the rear of the church and their arms, a boar and three hogs' heads, are boldly carved on a window gablet. In the church the carved effigy of Alan Swinton (c. 1200) lies in its niche, the family arms above him. A small church, built to the usual east-west orientation but largely recast over centuries, it now surprises with a meeting-hall interior and a few slender Georgian-type pillars supporting the roof. The Swinton family 'loft' lies to the side within what was the chancel, and main light comes from three eighteenth-century gabled dormers. The chain of the Flodden Bell, tolled after the tragic Scots losses, hangs from the kirk's gable end.

St Mary's Church, Ladykirk, on the bank of the Tweed near a fording point, was built by James IV in 1500, reputedly in thanks for being saved from drowning. The church is cruciform, the shallow eastern apse, transeptal apses midway along the nave and west tower forming a symmetrical design unique in Scotland. The austere interior made a strong impact on us because of the unusual all-stone construction, all parts having pointed and ribbed barrel-vaulting under the stone-flagged



St Mary's, Ladykirk: the Sexton's gravestone
(W. Husband)

roofing. To rival Swinton hogs, the churchyard has a quaint 'sexton gravestone', naively carved with the sexton's digging implements and a presiding cherub.

Lord Joycey entertained us to coffee over our lunch in Branxton village hall and to an inspiring account of the Northumbrian Ford and Etal Estates, to which he is deeply committed. These historically opposed areas, bought (1907–8), united and developed through the fortune of the 1st Baron Joycey, his mine-owner grandfather, now form a marketing-co-operative embracing the combined estates of 15,000 acres astride the River Till. It takes care of buildings, land, 21 agricultural and 31 mini-business tenants; encourages tourism; maintains graded buildings including the two castles, and is very supportive of the development and protection of our next target, the adjacent 'battle-field of Flodden'.

This term proved to be a misnomer; the tragic battle of 9 September, 1513 was actually at Branxton Hill. It was fought between James IV (in support of Scotland's Auld League with France) and Howard Earl of Surrey (for Queen Katharine, Regent while Henry VIII was at Théroutanne in the Catholic League against France). Surrey had

blocked the Scots' escape-route north from their station at Flodden Edge, forcing them to move, hastily and encumbered, to Branxton Hill.

We climbed the hillside to reach the Flodden Memorial, magnificently sited at a high point on the English side of the battlefield. Here we looked up across the valley at the slope down which the far more numerous Scottish army approached, in methodical Almain formation, to attack the English drawn up at the other side of a treacherously boggy area below. James was disadvantaged by heavy cannon, hard to manoeuvre and partly out of range; by long pikes, unwieldy in close fighting against bill-hooks; by the relentless onward momentum of the formation, disastrous once his first troops encountered the clogging mud; and by his medieval chivalric principles which restrained him while English troops crossed a river earlier and which put his noble officers in the forefront of the fighting. With James and many of his leading nobility dead, there was no-one to co-ordinate retreat; slaughter and rout followed. Some 4,000 English and 10,000 Scots died.

Our guide gave a remarkably clear and vivid commentary on the progress of the battle, holding his audience in thrall. It took the 'Baronic wit' of Floors Castle to call us from this sobering experience.

Floors (fleurs) Castle is hard to recognise as William Adam's neoclassical Georgian country house of 1721. In 1837 the 6th Duke of Roxburghe invited William Playfair to remodel the whole. Over ten years he flamboyantly added pepper-pot towers, turrets, battlements and parapets, and most bizarrely, in the words of *Country House*: 'rows of gargoyles in the form of cannons of every shape, twisted, fluted, spiralled, knotted and panelled'. Floors has ornate interiors and outstanding collections of paintings, French furniture and Gobelins tapestries but remains a private ancestral home. By chance, the *Scotsman* of 12 July carried a report of the death at 99 of Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe, who infuriated the Duke on their pending divorce in 1953 by stubbornly holing up at Floors, the family seat, without 'phone, water, electricity and with limited access to friends, apparently virtualised on the quiet by local aristocracy. The siege was somewhat alleviated when Lord Home of the Hirsel (Alec Douglas-Home) advised her to inform the insurance



Traquair (W. Husband)

company of the fire risk. Emerging from the trauma and the marriage she pursued a life of culture and charity in London and Surrey.

The final excursion, on Friday, would gratify a range of taste: a textile museum in a former tower-house, retail therapy, a bosky walk to mansion and hidden castle-mound, a glimpse of Scott as legal professional, a quaint cottage-museum, the week's programme culminating in the archetypal Borders mansion, Traquair House.

Formerly the Black Tower of Drumlanrig, Hawick's oldest building stands in the High Street near the confluence of Slitrig Water with the Teviot. The symmetrical façade and 1810 Tuscan doorway give no hint of the sixteenth-century tower-house still detectable at the rear, nor is there any interior sign apart from the oval gun-loop at ground-floor level. The original L-shaped tower was squared-off and enlarged (1702–3) by Anne Duchess of Buccleuch as a town-house which became an inn (1769) for over 200 years. Now the Borders Textiles Towerhouse, it displays textile design, expounded by former employees of the

local industry. We admired knitted combinations and bikini, together with luxury designer-items in silk and cashmere, set out below a cornice of huge plaster thistles from former days. Hawick gave us the terms 'tweed' (from a London misreading of a bill for 'tweel') and 'twin-set', knitwear first designed for Pringle's.

Appetites whetted for purchase, the RAI exploited the subsequent visit to one of Haworth's textile-mill outlets, some drawn to quality garments and some to refreshment, before driving to Selkirk.

From Selkirk Old Church we walked down through a little wilderness of bushes, pausing to look across to the Ettrick Water in what was the royal Ettrick Forest. Turning a corner on a wooded lane we met the imposing frontage of The Haining (1794–1810), its great two-storey pedimented Palladian portico supported by an arcaded porte cochère. The mansion's rear facade has an elegant convex centre with balustraded Corinthian portico and a wonderful view over the garden terrace and Haining Loch. A one-time Pringle property, The

Haining (Scots: 'enclosure') is a Grade-A listed building bequeathed to the people of Selkirk, due for renovation under a charitable trust.

Walking back into the woods we were led to the modest mound of Selkirk's motte and bailey Castle, founded c. 1113 by David I, then Earl of Huntingdon, on a natural rise above the loch. In 1302 it was refurbished as a pele with timber tower, palisade and stone gateway, for Edward I. He had been involved in choosing the new Scottish King, John Balliol, intending to manipulate him, implanting garrisons in southern Scotland — but drove him to rebel into what became the Auld Alliance with France.

Our walk complete, we explored at leisure. The Town Hall and Sheriff Courthouse, where Sir Walter Scott dispensed justice till 1832, has been made into Scott's Courtroom Museum, complete with lifelike figures (and selling rare printed notaries' notebooks). Halliwell's Museum is Selkirk's oldest surviving domestic building (c. 1800), Walter Halywall of Duns owning most of the close by 1768; it vividly presents local cottage life and the shoemaking industry. The roofless old parish church, a late eighteenth-century shell, is now a neat burial enclosure laying claim to remains of Franklin D Roosevelt's maternal ancestors, one from Black Barony. As Steve drove us uphill out of Selkirk, Hedley pointed out High Sunderland, the single-storey house built on a fine viewpoint in the 1950s by Peter Womersley for textile designer Bernat Klein — a flat-roofed rectangle with sliding windows and fixed panels of green, yellow, black and fawn glass.

The family seat of the Earls of Traquair made an ideal finale to the week's programme and we

enjoyed it to the full. Untouched by classical or Baronial fashion, Traquair House keeps to the Scottish vernacular, its plain white walls, rows of small windows and round eave-turrets giving the main block an impression of enduring solidity. On the site of a medieval royal hunting-lodge, it has, embedded in it, the base of a sixteenth-century tower-house; its general appearance now is that of 1700, a four-storeyed range with low side-wings projecting forward. Host to some twenty-seven kings, it owns evocative relics of Mary Queen of Scots' stay in the King's Room — her rosary, crucifix and quilt, her bed and her son's cradle. Many of its 70 rooms were adapted to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century domestic style and comfort; the two libraries and the High Drawing Room, with its rather rustic Corinthian panelling and an over-mantel chiaroscuro wood-engraving of a seascape, are inviting today. Products of Traquair's active brewery joined us on the return for our last night at the Barony.

President David Hinton spoke for us all in warmly thanking each contributor throughout the week and especially in summing up our appreciation of the work of Hedley and Caroline. Hedley's scholarly, entertaining programme, with Caroline's knowledgeable assistance and power to cope cheerfully with our foibles and megrims, ensured the marked success of a Meeting which did justice to this historic, beautiful borderland in the momentous year of the Scottish Referendum.

With profound thanks to Members who aided memory with Pevsner and photos!

Autumn Day Meeting, 11 October 2014: Greenwich Part 2

PETER PICKERING

Professor Anthony Quiney led this meeting, which was a sequel to the first Greenwich visit in October 2009. On both occasions the Institute walked in the Park and lunched at the Plume of Feathers (one second east 0° 0' 1" E of the meridian, the line of which is marked out on the road); but the 2009 visit had concentrated on the Royal Observatory, and the Queen's House, while this one looked rather at the many important buildings around the Park. Of course, between Part 1 and Part 2 fell the

Olympics. There was in 2009 concern that the equestrian and pentathlon events would have serious adverse effects on the Park and that it would take a long time to recover. By the time of our visit everything seemed calm, though Anthony told us that some of the goodies promised by the authorities had not materialized.

The Institute must be in high favour with the Clerk of the Weather, since on a day for which the forecast, especially for the afternoon, was not at all



Vanbrugh Castle

good, the only shower — and it was a heavy one — fell while we were in the Plume of Feathers, and we were incommoded only by being unable to sit outside. There were copious amounts of food, and a variety of beers; fortunately my considerate companions woke me up at the right time.

The walk was quite strenuous; Anthony led us twice up to the top of the hill (once by Croom's Hill and once by Maze Hill), and twice down again, through the Park itself. He explained how the hill (or rather plateau) came into being — I think he spoke of events sixty million years ago and how they produced the numerous springs on its slope, witnessed by the number of conduits (at least eight, four of which survive to be seen today) which were built to serve Placentia (as Greenwich Palace was called in Tudor times). As we climbed

the hills Anthony drew our attention (at least that of the less exhausted of us) to the very varied houses lining the streets. He was especially anxious that we should understand the evolution of the semi-detached, that most English of house types, which goes much further back than some pundits would have us believe. We were shown some very grand ones; some with entrances adjoining, and some with them on the extremes. Staircases had to be lit, and therefore when they were on the flank walls houses had to remain pairs and could not become terraces (the common term, which Anthony favoured, rather than the 'rows' preferred by the pedantic). At the top of Maze Hill stands Vanbrugh Castle, built in 1719 and altered by Hawksmoor in 1733–4; an impressive castellated sight, it was used at one time as a prep school for



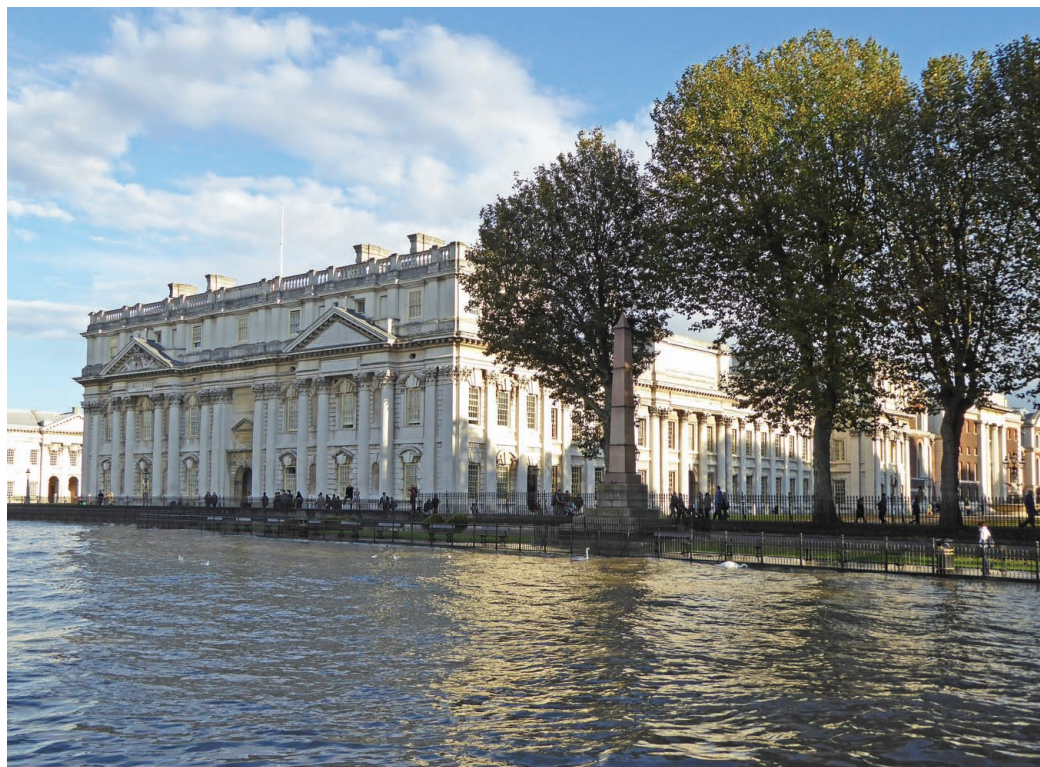
Gloucester Circus, part of the original circus designed by Michael Searles, 1790–93 (M. O'Brien)

RAF personnel — ‘the saddest possible school, whose library contained only Biggles’ — and then became a squat; though its present conversion into flats retains its dignity, little but vaulted corridors remain, we were assured, as evidence of its interior form. Off Croom’s Hill is Gloucester Circus by Michael Searles begun in 1790–3, an intricately designed concept with ‘a curved range of two-bay houses with entrances in a recessed third bay, grouped into quasi-pavilions of four houses linked by single-storeyed entrance bays.’ (from Anthony’s notes).

We visited two churches. The parish church of St Alfege is supposed to be on the site where the Archbishop of Canterbury was killed by Danish raiders, who had taken him there in chains, because he refused to have ransom money paid for him. It was designed by Hawksmoor and built 1712–1714. The exterior survives (though the

classical east front, facing the street, was covered in scaffolding and invisible); the interior was rebuilt after the blitz by Sir Albert Richardson to follow the original in general terms though not in detail. It has a dark ‘churchy’ feel, and was being prepared for a concert when we were there. In the open space west of the church a large number of tombstones have been placed rather unhappily in a row like a sort of wall; it seems that there was some vandalism three years ago — not by local disaffected youth but by people in authority who should have known better.

We found the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea locked when we approached, and were about to give up when the priest in the presbytery next door saw us through his window and came to let us in. Of 1851 it was designed by W. W. Wardell and is a pleasantly Puginian building with its nineteenth-century Catholic interior



Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich (M. O'Brien)

(some of it by A. W. Pugin and some by his son E. W. Pugin) not too much subverted by reordering following the Second Vatican Council.

The development of the London railway system is always a fascination. Greenwich Station is itself a handsome building designed for the South Eastern Railway by George Smith and opened in 1840 as a terminus and rebuilt in 1878 when, at last, the astronomers at the Royal Observatory were persuaded out of their fears that to continue the line would interfere with their delicate instruments. This was not the only station in Greenwich: the London, Chatham and Dover railway was opened in 1888 to link Greenwich to Nunhead and thence to Blackfriars or Victoria; but it was much slower than South Eastern, and was abandoned in 1929. The building survived the war but was then demolished; the site was a car park for many years before it was partly rebuilt at the instigation of Greenwich Council (now the Royal Borough of Greenwich) as housing, a hotel and cinema, still with a car park at its heart.

Anthony was full of information about where bombing during the blitz and by later flying bombs had destroyed historic Greenwich and led to post-war rebuilding of varying quality. He appended to the full notes he gave out a reduced copy of the relevant part of the London County Council's bomb damage map.

The final stage of our comprehensive tour was the Old Royal Naval College, where we saw the exhibition in the visitor centre, ignored Anthony's recommendation to spend money in the shop, and were taken along the narrow underground passage which links the undercrofts of the Painted Hall and the Chapel.

Thank you Anthony for a fascinating and informative day. I hope I shall never forget what you told us about the semi-detached house. Oh, and thank you for your deal with the Clerk of the Weather; I hope it did not cost too much.

Royal Archaeological Institute Conference, 17–19 October 2014: Science In Archaeology ZANE STEPKA (CHENEY BURSARY)

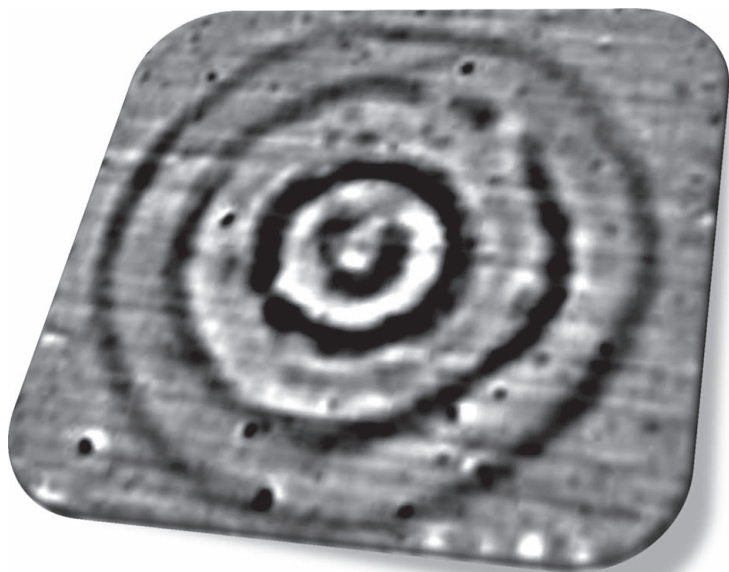
The Institute's fifth annual conference 'Science in Archaeology' took place at the University of Bradford. It was at Bradford 40 years ago that the first degree course specifically in Archaeological Sciences was launched. The conference gained an immediate momentum as a milestone event with the warm welcome by Bradford's Lord Mayor at the City Hall.

In 1974, computers did not even provide emails to ease archaeologists' work, whereas today technologies such as radiocarbon dating and provenance and DNA analyses seem to be usual constituents of the discipline. The introductory talk by Professor Carl Heron marked out key events of this development, providing some 100 delegates with a valuable structure from which all of the talks to follow would build.

The first part of the conference reflected on contributions of natural sciences to various periods of archaeology (Early Prehistory, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Later Prehistory). The talks were given by acknowledged specialists in these fields (Profs Paul Pettit, Mike Parker Pearson, Tim Champion and others). Many of them began their presentations with words like 'I am not a scientist, but ...', yet, it is these scholars who have witnessed and consequently often contributed to the invaluable

developments that the natural sciences have brought to archaeology. The natural sciences have, for instance, largely advanced the studies of the earliest ancestors, provided possibilities to date various materials, to provenance artefacts, to 'see' beneath the ground surface, and to produce 3-D computer-image recording, as well as, through the internet, to introduce and involve the general public with archaeology.

The second part of the conference focused on the various methods themselves. Radiocarbon dating, remote sensing, materials science, and human and animal remains investigation were all topics of discussion. Amongst the speakers were some of the co-developers of these methods with long lists of publications (Profs Gordon Cook, Vince Gaffney, Ian Freestone, Charlotte Roberts, and Terry O'Connor accordingly), as well as students entering the field with bold thinking and new ways of discerning the past. It was evident that there are numerous advancements forthcoming: the 'old' techniques, such as radiocarbon dating, are continually being improved, while given persistent work, relatively new ones, like rehydroxilation dating of ceramics and biomarker analyses, could open new opportunities for archaeology.



Amesbury 38a: GPR Image of a multi-phase complex hengiform and barrow sequence with concentric ring ditches © Stonehenge: Hidden Landscapes/ (LBIArchpro)

Perhaps the greatest strength of the event was the participants' varied backgrounds. Those who conduct the analyses talked about their work to those who would use the results to go on to provide interpretations about the past, and vice versa. This led to lively and motivational discussions.

Some recurring areas of focus and constructs for the future were:

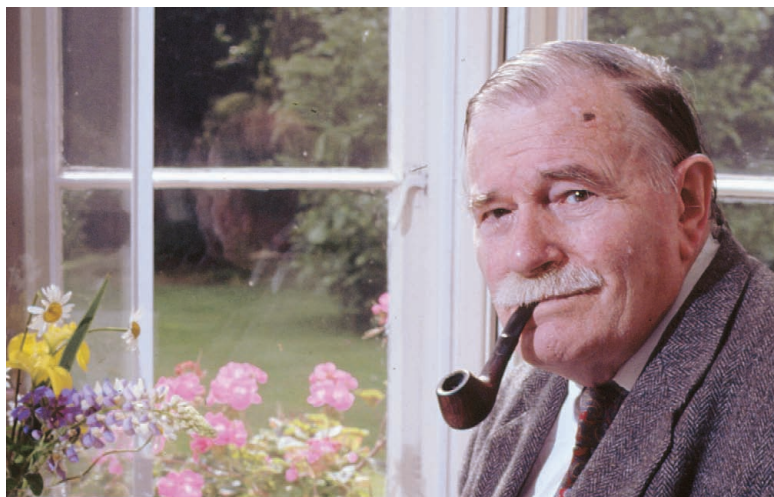
- the need for increased cooperation
- the need to pay more attention to site formation processes
- the need to improve fieldwork techniques and 'move' laboratories to the field
- the disputes over whether some methods are the 'hard' sciences or the 'soft' sciences (perhaps this discussion shows that archaeological science is still a new discipline and requires further establishment of its methods).

Such a healthy interdisciplinary conversation leads one to think that in archaeology there is perhaps no communication gap between the 'arts' and 'sciences', rather there are simply not enough events that bring the two under one roof. I would, therefore, like to express sincere gratitude in the name of all the delegates to the speakers and organizers. May the next anniversary's conference reflect on fulfilment of some of the ideas expressed here and bring us new breakthroughs in the archaeological sciences.

For more about the programme, please consult the conference abstracts available on the RAI's website www.royalarchinst.org/conferences/past-conferences. Many of the participants spoke about their current work, the publication of which is still to come; keep an eye on the news to follow these developments.

OBITUARY

Professor Sheppard Frere CBE, FBA (1916–2015)



Sheppard Sunderland Frere was born 23 August 1916, in Graffham (W. Sussex). His father was a district commissioner in Sierra Leone and his great-great-grandfather was the eighteenth-century antiquary, John Frere, who discovered Stone Age tools in Suffolk.

Frere was the last of a generation of archaeologists who like Mortimer Wheeler had begun their careers as self-taught amateurs. He joined the RAI in 1945 at the age of 28 and remained a

member until his death aged 98 on 26 February 2015. He served as President 1978–1981 and was our oldest Past President. Anthony Quiney recalls 'Sam Frere was a wonderfully genial president to serve under — I was Meetings Secretary at the time. I remember him gracefully accepting yet another example of South Yorkshire vernacular during our 1980 Summer Meeting at Wentworth Woodhouse, manfully braving pigs and their attendant mud so that we might inspect the

remains of a cruck-framed hall-house at Barnby Hall Farm. I think he preferred the Norfolk churches we visited the previous year. At least then I got in some Romano-British. Brave days — and Sam gave them real distinction.’ Originally trained in classics and ancient history, first at Lancing College and then at Magdalene College, Cambridge, he taught at Epsom before and Lancing after World War II, during which as a conscientious objector he served in the Auxiliary Fire Service.

His pre-war experience of archaeological excavation led to his succeeding Audrey Williams as director (1946–1957) of the rescue excavations at Canterbury, where the opportunity was taken, before rebuilding work, to excavate bombed sites. They encountered deep cellars and trenches for which his fire-service training proved invaluable. Frere’s analysis of the artefacts was done with meticulous care: using the then new technique of stratigraphy, he related the remains to datable finds such as coins and pottery, in the same layers. He revolutionised knowledge about the Roman town of Durovernum Cantiacorum, establishing a detailed outline of the archaeology of the city and reconstructing plans of houses, baths, the theatre and some streets together with the full extent of the town walls.

In 1955 he succeeded Mortimer Wheeler at the Institute of Archaeology, London, and in 1961, he became Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Provinces. In 1966, he went to Oxford University as Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire and a Fellow of All Souls. He retired in 1983.

‘In 1955, Sheppard Frere was appointed director of a new programme of excavations at Verulamium, in advance of a road-widening scheme’ These excavations, in the summer months from 1955 to 1961, mainly with volunteers, were among the largest undertaken in Britain up to then. Although the outlines of the history of Verulamium had been established by Wheeler in the 1930s, Frere’s discoveries led to a substantial revision of Wheeler’s conclusions. He found evidence for sizeable first-century defences and widespread burning of the Boudiccan destruction. He showed that at the end of the Roman period, Roman customs and ideas continued far longer than had previously been thought, including a timber water pipe, apparently carrying water to the

centre of town, implying some kind of functioning civic authority probably well into the fifth century.

Frere worked all over Britain, with Molly Cotton at the Iron Age hillfort of Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire, on Roman forts in the Welsh Marches, in East Anglia and in the 1970s with John Wilkes, at the Roman fort of Strageath near Crieff, in Perthshire. One of his favourite sites was the Roman villa at Bignor in Sussex.

‘Until 1967, he was probably best known as an excavator, but in that year he published *Britannia: A History of Roman Britain*, a book that was to become the standard work on the subject for the next 30 years. Perhaps surprisingly, no detailed history of Roman Britain had been published since Collingwood’s *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* in 1936, and the intervening 30 years had seen profound developments in our understanding of all aspects of the subject.’ Frere ‘brought together the new discoveries and ideas that had come from the development of aerial photography, and the great upsurge in excavations that had followed the end of the war’ in ‘a clear and up-to-date history of Britain from the Roman conquest to the collapse of Roman control early in the fifth century AD, with detailed accounts of the military and civil development of the province’.

Frere was instrumental in the creation of the journal *Britannia* which has appeared annually since 1970. Having completed in the 1980s his contributions to publications of his excavations, he continued to publish, including notably, in 1988, with Frank Lepper, the first full discussion in English of the reliefs on Trajan’s Column.

He was appointed CBE in 1976, elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1971 and remained an emeritus fellow of All Souls. In 1961 he married architect Janet Hoare, who survives him together with their son, Bartle, and daughter, Sarah.

This tribute is based on obituaries published in *The Guardian* (William Manning: 10 iii 2015) and *The Telegraph* (anon: 13.iii.15).

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/10/sheppard-frere>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11470309/Sheppard-Frere-archaeologist-obituary.html>

A Memorial Service will be held at All Souls’ College, Oxford on 16 May 2015 (2.00 pm)

Sponsored Young Student Membership of the RAI Second- or third-year students under 26, can be nominated by their archaeology department for membership of the Institute, sponsored by volunteer existing members. New sponsors are welcome — £20 pays for a year's membership for one. To help to expand the scheme, with funds or by proposing more candidates, please contact the Administrator at the address below.

Online access to RAI journals and lectures The *Archaeological Journal* from Volume 1 (for 1844) onwards is now available to ordinary members on the Taylor and Francis website via the members' area of our website. Log on with your User name and password — contact the Administrator for these. The entire run of the journal is now searchable and copies may be downloaded. For associate members and others, these same volumes are available on a pay-per-view basis on Taylor and Francis' website. Volumes 1 to 120 are still freely available to all on the Archaeological Data Service website at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/archjournal/volumes.cfm>

The video recording of the Institute's lectures to link them to our website is continuing, at a much-improved quality since the Society of Antiquaries' technological services upgraded their equipment. Ordinary members may view them, using the same process as for reading our journal online, by logging in to the members' area of our website www.royalarchinst.org. Associate members may continue to benefit from attendance at lectures at Burlington House. Some of the Society of Antiquaries' lectures are available to all and can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, under News and Events.

If you would like online access to lectures or to the journals, please contact the administrator with your e-mail address. You will be sent a username and password, which you can use to login to our website using the boxes at the top of its first page. Once logged in, you will be able to change your password to something more memorable, and to access the journals.

Subscriptions The current rates are: Ordinary member, £40 and Associate or Student, £20, with discounts when paid by direct debit; Life member, £750 or £525 if aged over 60. Payment for subscriptions may now be made by direct debit or cheque only. For a membership form or direct debit instructions, please see <http://www.royalarchinst.org/membership> or contact the Administrator.

Gift Aid Members who pay the standard rate of tax and have filled in the gift aid form have gained for the Institute a substantial sum. Despite previous notices of encouragement, it is still the case that less than a third of members have yet arranged for the Institute to receive gift aid. Under this scheme, if you are a taxpayer, the government will refund to the Institute, 25p in the pound of the value of your subscription. If you would like to help, please ask the Administrator for a form.

The RAI office The Institute's Administrator will usually be at the Society of Antiquaries on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11 am and 3 pm. The direct telephone number is 07847 600756, the email is admin@royalarchinst.org and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of June 2015 for publication in September 2015.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: The 15th-century peel tower at Smailholm, Roxburghshire (W. Husband)
