



*Staffordshire Archaeological  
and Historical Society*



**NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2015**

Web: [www.sahs.uk.net](http://www.sahs.uk.net)

Issue No 118

email: [sahs@sahs.uk.net](mailto:sahs@sahs.uk.net)



The Temple of Apollo at Didyma, Turkey. This dates originally from the 8<sup>th</sup> C BC but was rebuilt and extended many times due to earthquakes. These columns probably date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> C BC and stand over 19m tall. There were 122 columns in the completed temple, which was at the end of the Sacred Road from Miletus. It was finally destroyed in about 500AD by earthquake. These two columns were left standing (there is third) and were cleared when the Temple was excavated, starting in 1872 by the French.

President: Dr. J Hunt

Tel: 01543423549

Hon. General Secretary:

Position Vacant

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K Billington

Tel: 01543278989.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JANUARY 2015

In the Autumn 2014 Newsletter I drew attention to the activities of the 'Historic Environment Forum' and suggested that Society members might be interested to have a look at the annual publication 'Heritage Counts', produced by English Heritage on behalf of the HEF. In addition to a national overview, each region also produces its own survey, and I think it worthwhile reiterating that its comments are worth reflecting upon.

Perhaps inevitably in a world where financial costs or returns are frequently more persuasive than such outmoded concepts as social, cultural or environmental 'worth', that is, worthwhile supporting for its own sake, then 'heritage' too is assessed for its 'value'. However sceptical one might be, this is the nature of our times and in common with many other sectors, particular attention has been given to assessing the 'impact' of heritage ('impact' is the word of the moment), particularly on wellbeing, and by association, on the economy.

Research has shown that 70% of adults in the UK have visited a heritage site in the last twelve months and believe that heritage sites are important to the local community. Many of the participants in the research highlighted the social benefits arising from their interests, engaging people in new friendships and networks, and giving people a stronger 'sense of place'. Some have taken these interests further and volunteered in various ways, joining local projects or supporting heritage societies in their communities. The impact on wellbeing from visiting heritage has been calculated as £1,646 per person per year, while in the west midlands the impact of 'heritage tourism' and visits has been put at around 68% of associated spending feeding directly into the local economy. So keep visiting! But, old-fashioned as it may be, I will do so because I enjoy it and it engages me, and it is a pity that in today's society such activities have to be justified by measuring 'impact' and 'value'.

Printed copies of these documents are available, but they can also be accessed via [www.heritagecounts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk) where it is also interesting to look at some related reports, one new feature being 'Local Authority Profiles'. Why not have a look and see how yours is doing!

By way of a 'closing miscellany', there are a few items of interest that have struck me in recent 'heritage' news from various sources. It is good to hear that six carvings stolen from several churches in the last few years have been recovered by the police in Bromley, Kent. There is a strong west midlands interest in these as they include medieval stone-carved effigies from Foy and Abbey Dore, both in Herefordshire, a medieval alabaster panel stolen from the altar retable at Drayton (Oxfordshire), and another alabaster carving stolen from Kinwarton in Warwickshire.

It is often remarkable what is stolen. Winchester Cathedral has announced that it would like to know the current whereabouts of eight illuminated pages from the twelfth-century Winchester Bible that were stolen at various times over the last 150 years and might survive unrecognised in somebody's collection. Some recent theft attempts have been thwarted but not all were. A thief wrote anonymously on 16 August 1927 to Francis Madge, then the cathedral's librarian, to boast of having removed an illuminated letter 'S' from the prologue to the Book of Joel.

Finally, those members familiar with reading the likes of Stebbing Shaw and Dugdale will no doubt also know the writings of John Nichols (1745 – 1826), author of *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, a massive eight-volume work that he finally completed on 14 February 1815 after thirty years of labour. To mark the bicentenary of this monumental achievement, Caroline Wessel and the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society is to publish a celebratory book on 1 February 2015 that will pay tribute to his work and the network of nearly 300 antiquaries across Leicestershire and neighbouring counties who assisted him in the project. Those who would like to know more about Nichols as an antiquary could also visit the 'Nichols Archive Project' pages on the website of the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester.

John Hunt.

President, Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society.

## MEETINGS FOR THE SEASON 2015

All our Meetings for this second session take place at St Marys in the Market Square, Lichfield at 8.00pm (except for the AGM). They are free for Members and £3.00 for Visitors. Membership applications are always available at the Meetings.

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**AGM 7.30pm**

followed by

**Terry Cudbird**

**Walking the Retreat**

The opening month of the Great War ended in the Battle of the Marne (6-9<sup>th</sup> September 1914). The French and British army's were forced into a long retreat subsequently regrouping to mount a successful counter-attack. During the retreat to the Marne over a million soldiers marched twenty miles a day carrying 60lb packs in temperatures above thirty degrees. Often short of food and only managing short snatches of rest, they fought a series of engagements over two weeks which ended in a battle from the plains of Lorraine to the gates of Paris. The march tested them to the limits of endurance and beyond. Terry's talk will recreate the March and battles for us by word and picture.

Terry Cudbird read history at Cambridge and subsequently studied French history at University College London and in France.

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Simon Buteux**

**Newman Coffin Fittings Works**

Simon Buteux is Director at Birmingham Conservation Trust and the landmark project currently is the 'time capsule' known as Newman Coffin Fittings Works which ran from 1894 to 1999. The Works is located in the Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham. The talk will cover the discovery of the works including what was found and the subsequent conservation of the works.

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Dr Oliver Harris**

**From Neolithic Bones to Viking Boats and Whitby Jet**

New discoveries have been made on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, Western Scotland. It will look at the ongoing work of the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project in Western Scotland that is Co-Directed by Dr Oliver Harris. The project examines how we can think about long-term change in a particular landscape, and the finds from the project include in situ Neolithic human remains more than 5500 years old, Bronze Age jet beads and the first intact Viking boat burial excavated by archaeologists on the UK mainland.

Dr. Oliver Harris is Lecturer in Archaeology in the School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester. He specialises in prehistoric archaeology, particularly the Neolithic and archaeological theory. Academic publications include the co-authored *The Body in History* (CUP, 2013), which was awarded two PROSE awards from the American Association of Publishers as best book in Archaeology and Anthropology and best book in the Social Sciences for 2013. Oliver has also published a number of academic and written for public interest in *Current Archaeology*, *British Archaeology* and *The Sunday Times*. He is the director of the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project which looks at long-term landscape occupation on the west coast of Scotland.

10<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Bob Meeson**

**The Saint in St. Editha's, Tamworth**

Research for the Staffordshire VCH into the early history of St Editha's Church in Tamworth has picked up on an excavation in the crypt in 1977 and a subsequent survey of the building by members of this Society. St Editha's Church stands within Offa's 8<sup>th</sup>-century Mercian palace enclosure and on the site of churches dating from that time. In a liberally illustrated talk, drawing on parallels elsewhere in Mercia, Bob will argue that c.913 the church may have been re-founded by Aethelred and Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians, and that remnants of the early west end of the nave survived until the fourteenth century, and when they were dismantled the crypt was remodeled as a reliquary chapel. Were these parts of the church intended for relics of St Editha?

Bob a former Secretary of this Society, Bob worked for the Staffordshire County Archaeology Service before taking early retirement to work as an independent historic buildings consultant. He served for 23 years as the archaeological consultant on Lichfield Diocesan Advisory Committee. He has lectured widely, published numerous papers, and illustrated books on vernacular architecture. His current research interest is medieval roof structures.

17<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Dr Simon Davies**

**Aston Hall, Birmingham**

The Jacobean mansion of Aston Hall is one of Birmingham's often overlooked historical gems. Its early history and the lives of the Holte family, who had it built, often seem not unlike a modern soap opera with tales of treachery, disinheritance and even the involvement of the King on the eve of the English Civil War. This talk seeks to introduce the hall's early history, explain why it was built where it was, and how architecture was used to influence visitors, and also relates the sad story of Sir Thomas Holte, its first inhabitant.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Professor Dawn Hadley**

**The Viking Winter Camp at Torksey, Lincs.**

This talk will outline the results of recent research on the Viking winter camp of 872-3 at Torksey in Lincolnshire, which is collaboration between the departments of Archaeology at the Universities of Sheffield and York. Metal-detecting in the fields to the north of the modern village have recovered a wealth of artefacts associated with the over-wintering that is recorded in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, including Anglo-Saxon silver pennies, Northumbrian copper-alloy 'stycas', Arabic dirhams, gold, silver and copper ingots and hack-metal, and weights, all of which are indicative of the Viking use of a bullion economy. The paper will consider what this evidence reveals about the nature of the impact of the Viking 'great army', which raided eastern and northern England in the 860s and 870s. The landscape setting of the Viking winter camp will also be explored, and the impact of the over-wintering on the subsequent development of the small town, or borough, at Torksey will also be examined.

Dawn Hadley is Professor of Medieval Archaeology at Sheffield University.



## Coope, Boyes and Simpson: 'In Flanders Fields'

The Guildhall, Lichfield, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014

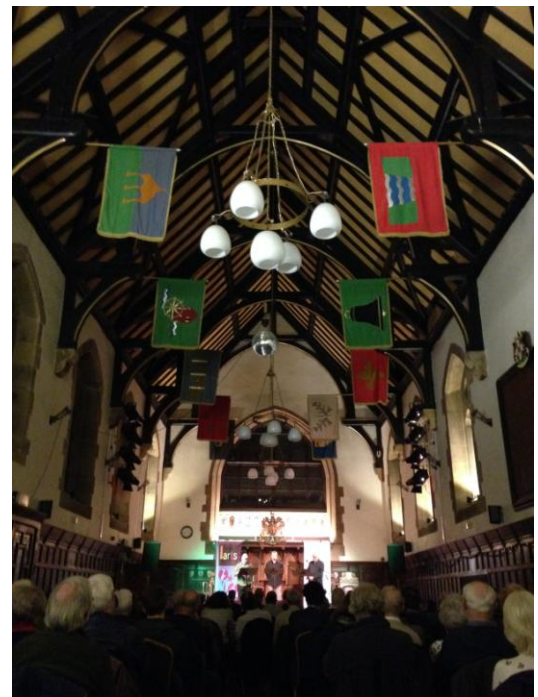
The renowned a capella group Coope, Boyes and Simpson played The Guildhall, Lichfield on Remembrance Sunday, in a concert put on jointly by Lichfield Arts and ourselves. The show was composed of material originally performed in St. Martin's Cathedral, Ypres.



The trio entered from the back of the hall singing 'We're Here Because We're Here'. Once on stage there is no incidental chat between songs. Instead every minute of the show is maximised to commemorate the millions who were affected by the Great War. The audience is treated between each song to war poetry, official bulletins and pertinent facts and figures. For humour, extracts were read from the Wipers Times, the satirical newspaper produced by the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, who were stationed at the front line at Ypres. These eclectic sources created a mixture of elegiac beauty and bandy boys' togetherness. They certainly touched upon aspects of war that are often passed over both at the front and back home in Britain.

The song 'Fault Lines' summed up the political confusion and the naïve sense of boys own adventure felt early on in the war. It also reflected on the misery of wives and girlfriends left behind. 'Hell on Earth' tells of covering in mud, before whistles sent the soldiers over the top, to be lined up like dominoes. 'Marchlands' is a song on the border area, which despite political demarcations was in reality an indistinguishable boundary, with a shared culture and language. The weaker ale brewed back in Britain, so that munition workers didn't lose time to the demon drink, was the subject of 'Lloyd George's Beer', whilst 'Tickler's Jam' told of the contract the Grimsby supplier had with the War Department. 'The Rhyme of No Man's Land' had the feel of a hymn. Hope that normality can return, so that lives and communities can be rebuilt, is reflected in the theme of 'Spring 1919'.

Poetry from G K Chesterton, Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon protesting against generals and general deceptions were read. A surprising poem was from the pen of A A Milne about the trivialities that could earn an OBE, yet the lack thereof among the rank and file. Humorous in nature, but also very pointed and poignant.



Indeed at one stage in the war, Captain F J Roberts, the editor of the Wipers Times, observed that each soldier could find his Muse somewhere at the front and asked for more prose in the journal. This was produced on an

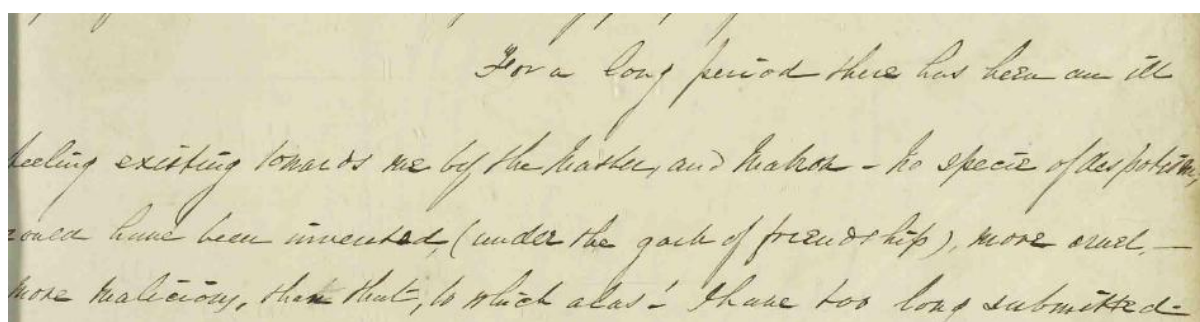
abandoned printing press that had been salvaged. Roberts also noted that the question all senior officers asked when inspecting the troops was 'Are we being as offensive as we could be?' This was adopted as the motto for the newspaper and the Tommies happily expressed themselves through in-jokes, lampoons of military situations, as well as their poetry and reflections. The Wipers Times could possibly be seen as the Template for today's Private Eye.

The entire evening was a moving and contemplative experience, which truly gave a voice to the nightmares and prayers of the individual. However, there was also the gallows humour and an understanding of the collective camaraderie during World War I, which was empathetically delivered with feeling by Coope, Boyes and Simpson, with their rich harmonies and diligent research.

Peter Evans

## LIVING THE POOR LIFE

A recent conference at Keele (organised by the British Association for Local History) has featured one of the National Archives successful projects, the transcription of the voluminous correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners in Somerset House London and the Guardians of local Workhouses between 1834 and 1871. Groups of local volunteers have worked on the project and twelve volunteers described individual cases that gripped their attention as they worked through the records. By no means all of the records have been transcribed, just those of a few selected Poor Law Unions, two in Staffordshire, Newcastle under Lyme and Wolstanton & Burslem. The matters covered were mostly those that could not be dealt with locally and were referred to higher management or those in which the Commissioners themselves felt the need for an inquire; by their nature they often do not reflect the day to day running of the workhouses but relate to the more unusual events that took place. However some of the letters that went back and forth were simply covers for routine forms containing such information as the number of lunatics, or the number of children in the House. The contributions from Staffordshire volunteers included a case of immorality from Newcastle, a well publicised case of the starvation of a vagrant again in Newcastle and thoughts on the motives for establishing which Potteries parishes joined which Poor Law Union in 1836. A fascinating day; all the presentations were of a professional standard and all of the speakers had a real tale to tell. The transcribed correspondence is available through the National Archives new catalogue 'Discovery' ; using the advanced search you will need to enter MH 12 in the 'search within' box to limit the search to this set of records but otherwise you can search for any type of information , person or place. High resolution images of the items you are interested in can be downloaded free of charge in a few seconds viz;



This is part of a letter from the schoolmaster at Wolsatanton & Burslem workhouse in 1851 to the Commissioners complaining about ill feeling towards him by the Master and Matron. (He had just resigned because of allegations that he had used excessive corporal punishment on one of his pupils.)

Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be any plan to extend the project to the workhouses in the south of the county.

Richard Totty November 2014

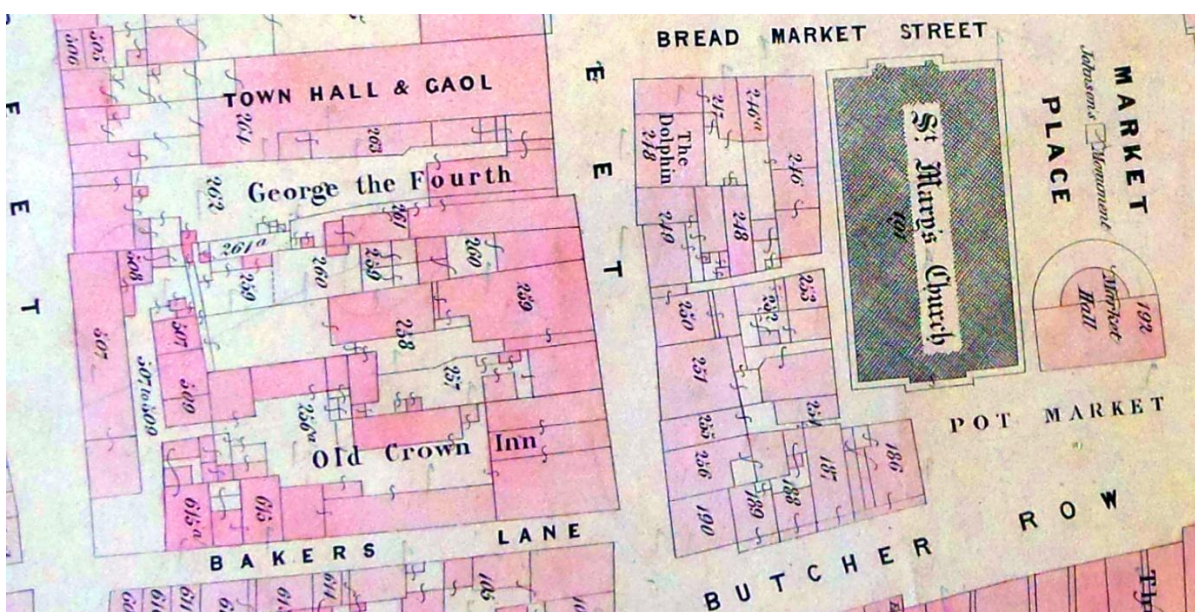


## TITHE MAPS

Tithe apportionment maps and awards resulted from the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. Tithes were originally paid as one-tenth of the produce of the land (crops, eggs, cattle, timber, fish, etc.) to the rector of a parish, as alms and as payment for his services. The tithes were often stored in a tithe barn attached to the parish. Tithes were divided into great and small tithes; generally speaking, corn, grain, hay and wood were considered great tithes, and all others were classed as small tithes. It was common, but by no means universal, for the great tithes to be payable to the rector and the small tithes to the vicar of the parish. At the dissolution of the monasteries some of the land passed out of church ownership, and the tithes were then paid to private landlords. Inclosure Acts in the eighteenth century made further modifications, either abolishing tithe payments entirely or replacing them with monetary payments. Various other arrangements also replaced payments in kind, but not systematically. By the time of the Tithe Commutation Act in 1836 there was considerable discontent over payment of tithes; Roman Catholics for example often refused to pay tithes to support Anglican Clergy. The Act substituted a variable monetary payment (referred to as the "corn rent") for any existing tithe in kind. Parcels of land for which tithes had already been commuted (i.e. repayed by a cash payment) were unaffected.

To help implement the Act a detailed map of each parish was prepared showing each plot of land and building in accurately surveyed detail. In Staffordshire there are around 260 maps covering about 70% of the land area, the main area not covered being the unproductive moorland in the far north of the county. Associated with each map was an apportionment schedule, which listed each map plot by number. For each plot the owner, tenant, area, name or description, state of cultivation, rent charge payable, and the tithe owner was listed. A preamble gave the name of the tithe owner, the circumstances under which tithes were owed, and the whether the apportionment was agreed by the parties or was being imposed by the Crown. The surveying was carried out expeditiously, with the majority of the work performed by 1841, and largely completed by 1851. The maps and the accompanying awards provide an invaluable snapshot of the ownership tenancy and use of land in the first half of the nineteenth century, of use to those of us interested in family, local and house history. Three copies of each map and apportionment were made. The original document was kept by the National Archives; the other two copies were deposited with the local diocesan registrar and the parish. The diocesan copies of the Staffordshire maps are now in the Lichfield Joint Record Office. The quality of the maps varies but most of the Staffordshire maps that I have seen are of excellent quality. One of the best is that of the parish of St Mary Lichfield, a large map, about a metre square covering this small parish in the centre of the city, almost entirely urban in nature. This parish was between the parish of St Chad in the north, the parish of St Michael in the east and south and the Cathedral Close and the extra parochial district of the Friary in the west. (There are maps for St Chad and St Michael but not for the other two small areas which were exempt from tithes.)

The map is very detailed, showing not only each individual property in the city but also individual buildings within each property. Each plot is numbered and on the schedule, which is a separate document, the owners and occupiers of each property are identified and well as the payment to be made to the owner of the tithes which in



this case was the vicar of St Mary. Part of the map is illustrated here showing the properties to the south of St Mary's church (north is to the right)

Plot 256 was the Old Crown Inn occupied by George Calloway but owned by the Earl of Lichfield and is revealed as a rambling building (shown in pink) with a large irregular shaped yard eventually opening into Baker's Lane and including stables, coach houses, offices and pigsties. Calloway also occupied another property a little distance away with more stables and a coach house. He's in the 1841 census as an Innkeeper of Bore Street and although the census does not identify which Inn he kept this information is provided by the tithe map; he was married with young children and the Crown must have been doing good business as there were no less than eight live in servants. The front part of the building is still there and is Boots the Opticians but the out buildings have disappeared under the Precinct. Nearby at 262 Thomas Stringer at the George IV Inn occupied much the same type of premises, with stables, offices and pigsties around the yard, as well as 262a occupied by Esther Stringer which was a garden and pigsty. (Ester was a schoolteacher; elsewhere in the parish she had a schoolroom with garden yard and yet another pigsty). This property was owned by the Master of St John's Hospital. 257 and 260 were shops with brew houses at the back; 257 had a pigsty and 260 had a garden. 258 had a brew house garden and dispensary. (Census returns show several surgeons living in Bore Street.) These are typical premises for central Lichfield, closely built structures facing the street, which were Inns or Shops, with rambling yards behind often containing small gardens, brew houses and pigsties. The presence of so many pigs in the centre of the city is a little unexpected but there is a long tradition of keeping pigs in towns in England. The presence of stables and coach houses is less unexpected and there would be a substantial number of horses housed in the City at this time. Together with some small gardens in the yards these horse and pigs would give the city a more rural character than it has now. Across Bore Street from the Old Crown was Plot 256, the Police Station yard and offices, occupied by Daniel Scully Bergen and owned by the Subchanter and Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral. It is a simple matter to link the information from the tithe maps, which show where properties were and how big they are, with the census returns which list the people who lived there and what they did.

In the Market Place north of St Mary's the Old Market Hall is shown together with the site of the Pot Market; the Market Hall has been demolished and the Pot Market no longer held.

This and all the other county Tithe Maps are kept in Lichfield Joint Record Office where they can be seen and inspected. The Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives are at present appealing for funds to make digital copies of the maps that can be held in all the County Record Offices and all Major County Libraries. Your Society has made a donation to this appeal and is sponsoring the digitisation of all of the Tithe Maps of the City of Lichfield (St Mary, St Chad, and St Michael) and those of Burntwood, Hammerwich, Streethay and Fisherwick. (Other local tithe maps are still available for sponsorship – please contact the author). Once complete this digitised record of the Staffordshire Tithe Maps will be complemented by a searchable database of all owners and occupiers of property who are given in the Tithe Awards that accompany each map; for the past five years a team of volunteers has been working at the Stafford Record Office to transcribe the information in these tithe awards and once complete this will be added to the on line Name Indexes available on the Archive Services Web Site.

Richard Totty

## **LICHFIELD RECORD OFFICE, AN UPDATE.**

You may remember that early last year the County Council put out some Proposals to centralise the County Archive Service in Stafford that would have resulted in the closure of the LRO and the William Salt Library with the transfer of most of the documents to Stafford into a new Records Office. It was proposed that Lichfield should be served by a Local Family History Centre with on-line access to the Stafford Centre. The construction



of this new Centre, the digitisation that would be required and the conversion of the LRO into a Family History Centre were only possible if the County Council could obtain a Lottery Grant.

Our Committee discussed in details the Proposals, as they were available on the SCC website and also the information provided by Dr R Totty and Mr P Norris (who attended one of the Open Days at the LRO in a personal capacity) and felt that at this stage the Proposals were unlikely to proceed due to complications with the ownership of the William Salt Collection and Building. Also as Dr Totty (who is Chairman of FoSSA) it was felt we had enough access to the decision making to be able to make our views known without being a formal member of the team.

This is an Extract from the Lichfield Civic Society Newsletter December 2014 which sums up the current position. (Used with permission).

#### “HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID: REJECTION OF CENTRALISATION OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE AND WILLIAM SALT LIBRARY PROJECT.

Members (of the Civic Society) will recall that in January the County Council consulted on a centralisation project with total costs of £4.3m which would have resulted in the closure of the Lichfield Record Office. All records deposited at Lichfield would be transferred to an enlarged and improved Stafford Record Office. The (Civic) Society objected to the proposed closure with concerns about the process and the justification used. The ‘stage one’ bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) made in April was rejected in July. Fund officers have given advice on issues to be addressed in a resubmission that the Council is to make. A report to the Joint Archive Committee on 20 November stated that resubmission of the application has been encouraged by the HLF.

A revised application will need to take account of the feedback that has been given by the HLF i.e.:-

- They were supportive of the Council’s approach to bring the three collections together but felt that the project needed a much better overall vision to demonstrate how the public could be encouraged to engage with the fantastic collection of archives more clearly.
- They thought that the application did not outline the potential future use of the William Salt Library building and it was considered that this should be further explored as part of the options of scoping the project.
- Further consideration needed to be given to public consultation with regard to the potential closure of the archives and William Salt Library Building
- The budget towards activity costs was considered to be relatively low and activities would be delivered in one year which raised concern. It was also reported that the Council’s Project Board for this scheme had met in August to discuss the feedback and it was agreed that further work was possible to improve the bid. The Board agreed that employing a consultant with the right skills and expertise was essential and also commissioning a new design through a competition to achieve the following:-
- A new vision for the project and the Service as a whole
- Further stakeholder engagement especially with non-users
- Exploring options for use of the William Salt Library Building
- Developing a strong activity programme
- A new design reflecting the vision for the Service
- Preparation of a second ‘stage 1’ bid with the Project Team The November report concluded “The rejection of the HLF bid in July was disappointing but not unusual. It has given the Project Team an opportunity to reflect on the feedback and develop a new approach involving stakeholders in the decision making. The allocation of funding to employ a consultant brings additional capacity and creativity to the project. The development of strong vision for a sustainable and resilient Archive Service will ensure benefit regardless of whether HLF funding is secured or not. The focus will still be on attracting investment to save on service delivery costs but the vision will also provide a plan for transforming the Service without HLF funding and delivering a sustainable funding model for the future.”

The County has now engaged an archives and heritage consultant with a track record of successful HLF bids. The role of the consultant, Janice Tullock Associates, is to facilitate a new vision, new approach and new bid. The project has been renamed the Staffordshire History Centre. The January 2014 public consultation results, set out below, indicate little support for the rejected proposals as they affect Lichfield in contrast to Stafford.

**Stafford:**

Support	64%	99
Against	11%	17
Concern	11%	17
Neutral	8%	13
Blank	5%	8
TOTAL:		154

**Lichfield:**

Support	18%	16
Against	54%	47
Concern	21%	18
Neutral	3%	3
Blank	3%	3
TOTAL:		87

**Combined:**

Support	115	48%
Against	64	27%
Concern	35	15%
Neutral	16	7%
Blank	11	
TOTAL:	241	

I (John Thompson) have been asked to join the Project Team to represent the Lichfield (Civic Society) interests. From my initial meeting it is evident that the consultants want to undertake a fundamental review with stakeholders of the future needs and shape of the service. Further public consultation is to take place and this will hopefully offer options rather than just one proposal. If anyone has any views on this project and the future of the Lichfield Record Office please do contact me at: [chairman@lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

Website: [www.lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

Twitter: @lichfieldcivic

Dr. Richard Totty wrote on 27 November 2014:

This is an update on the current position of the project to reorganise the County's Archive Service. Two consultants, Janice Tulloch and Emma Parsons have now been appointed to work with the Archive Service to develop a vision for the next three years to help prepare the 2015 to 2018 forward plan and the HLF bid for funds for the renovation of the Stafford site. There is to be a workshop on December 8th which will involve a small group (15) of staff and stakeholders to help start this process. I will be there primarily to represent FoSSA. Janice and Emma are also telephoning other stakeholders for their views in advance of the workshop but I don't know who is on their list. I'm happy to put forward any views that the Society has and if you have specific views that you would like me to put forward please tell me. One of my main concerns is to ensure that whatever replaces Lichfield Record Office provides the best facilities that are possible for local history, and that this part of the project does not get overlooked in the discussions over the future of the William Salt Library. I'll keep you in touch with any developments.

Richard

He further reported on 9 December 2014:

I was at the first workshop run by the consultants yesterday; John Thompson (Chairman of the Civic Society) was there too. It was mostly Archive Service Staff plus half a dozen others. Very high level stuff, our vision for the future really and a long way from any detailed proposals. Very good natured. I have also had a longish chat with the consultants who I am impressed by; they have a good grasp of what Archive Services are moving to. Very early days for this second project but at some stage there is going to be wider consultation which the Society might well wish to be involved in. The next project team meeting is in January.

Richard

## GOOD NEWS

### Message from Friends of Sandfield Pumping Station

#### *Engine House at Sandfields Pumping Station, Chesterfield Road, Lichfield - List Entry Amended*

Following your application to amend the entry for the above building on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have now considered all the representations made and completed our assessment of the building. I am delighted to inform you that having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to amend the entry for Engine House at Sandfields Pumping Station on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II\*.

A very big thank you to everyone who have supported this application to amend the listing status and to prove that this site has a significant industrial historic interest that should be protected for the benefit of the community for future generations.

### STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORY DAY SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

The annual Staffordshire History Day is once again taking place this spring, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at the Kingston Centre in Stafford. The event is as previously being organised by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service, in collaboration with Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham, with a full day's programme of lectures and presentations on offer. Sessions will occur throughout the morning and afternoon, with a number of presenters and will include talks given by two keynote speakers. The day as ever provides a valuable opportunity to hear of current and recent work into the history of the County of Stafford. It is also a splendid chance to meet and talk with like-minded historians, both amateur and professional.

Many Staffordshire Societies and Groups will have representation at the event, including Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society which will have a table manned by a couple of Members of your Committee. It is always an ideal opportunity for SA&HS to promote and publicise itself and what it has to offer to those with an interest in local history and archaeology. Last year we had a very successful day indeed in this regard and it was well worthwhile our being there. Some of you reading this became Members on the day!

The programme for this year's event is understood to be about to be published in the form of a flyer, but not yet available to us at the time of preparation of this article. By the time you read this though, both the flyers and ticket booking forms are doubtless obtainable by online download from the Staffordshire County Council website, following the links to this year's Staffordshire History Day; or just Google the latter! In addition we will have flyers available to give out at our lecture evenings in February and March.

The full day starts at 10.00 am and finishes at 5.00 pm with tickets costing £19.00 each and this includes lunch, refreshments and free parking. The SHD is always very popular and early booking is therefore advisable to be sure of a place if you wish to attend.

As an aside, the A513 main road between Rugeley and Stafford will be closed completely at Milford from mid January for 6 months owing to major sewer works taking place. A suitable diversion may therefore be necessary for some of you travelling to attend the day.

Keith Billington

## LICHFIELD FESTIVAL OF FOLK: OCTOBER 2014

The 2014 Lichfield Arts 'L2F – Lichfield Festival of Folk' was held in the city in late October and proved to be highly successful.

Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society manned a stall, as part of a popular craft market and heritage display held in the Guildroom. Betty Fox, Keith Billington and I had a most enjoyable time talking to several other societies and making our own better known in the county.

The morning of October 25<sup>th</sup> began with a Lichfield Arts and Heritage procession, where 120 members of Morris sides and local arts made their way through the streets of the city to the Cathedral Close. The Society was represented in this with the help of Stuart and Elaine Davies, who have joined our Society this year.

The music over the weekend was well attended, but then the programme was exceptionally full and varied. I rather enjoyed the wit and wisdom of Fake Thackray on the Sunday afternoon, being unable to attend the Oysterband in the Cathedral the previous evening.

The Society hopes to take part in the event next year.

Peter Evans

## GEORGE TURNBULL (1809 to 1889)



I first came across George Turnbull when writing a piece about the bronze Sultanganj Buddha on display in Birmingham City Museum (I hope you have all been to see it!). As you will recall the Buddha was discovered by E.B.Harris Civil Engineer on the East India Railway and, apparently, like so many people in earlier centuries a keen Amateur Archaeologist. Before you ask I have not found out any more about Harris He seems to have wandered off into obscurity! It was actually Turnbull through his contacts that the Buddha was transported back to England and Birmingham in particular. The picture above are on the left supposed to be taken in 1868 when he was retiring and the one on the right was probably taken shortly before he died some twenty years later.

Turnbull himself was the Chief Engineer to the East India Railway (Calcutta to Delhi) indeed he was the first Chief Engineer and remained in post until the Calcutta (Howrah) to Benares railway line was completed (601



miles including branches) and opened in 1863. The East India Railway will be subject of another piece in a later newsletter— you are warned!

Anyway getting back on track as it were George Turnbull was born 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1809 at Luncarty near Perth in Scotland. He was the 11<sup>th</sup> child of William Turnbull and Mary Sandeman. Both the Turnbull and Sandeman families had over many years developed bleachfields. There is even a book “The Sandeman Family of Perth” – ISBN9780905452524 and published in 2008. Bleachfields are usually a meadow or pasture used for spreading out linen cloth on the ground so that the sun would bleach the cloth.

Moving on - In 1814 William Turnbull moved his family from Luncarty to Hunting Tower and developed new bleachfields there. How successful they were is difficult to ascertain as elsewhere in Britain bleachfields were becoming increasingly redundant following the discovery of Chlorine during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Chlorine did a better job more efficiently than the sun but the downside was the pollution of the environment which did not seem to bother folk of earlier centuries.

Right, so much for that short excursion along the branch line...

George was initially and largely schooled by his older sister Mary. Then in 1819 our man gained admission to Perth Grammar school some four or so miles from home. At the age of fifteen years (1824) found George at Edinburgh University where he studied Latin, Greek and Mathematics until 1828.

Obviously hoping to better himself after university education he sailed to London seeking work and gained a position to study engineering with Thomas Telford. This position with Telford may have been pre-ordained as his lifelong friend David Hogarth from back home in Perth was also studying engineering with Telford although this did not last as Hogarth left engineering behind to train as a priest.

George on the other hand had now found his true vocation and went on to become one of Telford's trusted assistants. Indeed he was living in Telford's home at Abingdon Street where he became acquainted with many notables of the era including Robert Southey, Robert Burns, Sir William Cubitt and Roland Stephenson to name just a few. 1829 saw Turnbull elected to the Institution of Civil Engineers. It was soon after this Telford decided to reduce his own work load which greatly benefited George with numerous and varied professional engagements.

Turnbull's name became associated with numerous prestigious projects which included the Metropolitan Water Supply, Bute Docks Cardiff, Middlesbrough Docks, Works at Birkenhead and Seacombe Sea Wall, The Shakespeare Tunnel and Viaduct at Dover along with twenty miles of the Great Northern Railway in London which included Copenhagen and South Mimms tunnels. Furthermore Turnbull supervised the construction of Telford's tomb following his death in 1834.

So Turnbull now well established was appointed to be the Chief Engineer for the East India Railway with his control extending from Calcutta to Delhi. This appointment Turnbull held until the opening in 1863 of the Calcutta to Benares section (601 miles). In addition George designed and supervised the construction of the stations including Howrah which now has 23 platforms and the bridges along the route.

By now George was 59 years of age returned to England hoping to retire but was immediately appointed as Arbitrator for several projects back in India that were subject to legal disputes. This additional work continued until 1874 when he did eventually retire back to England he purchased a small estate 'Rosehill' at Abbots Langley. ('Rosehill' the estate is now a residential development but is remembered in the road name 'Rosehill Gardens').

On more personal matters George married twice. In 1845 Jane Pope became his first wife but sadly she died in 1850 whilst in Calcutta. Then in 1850 George marries Fanny Thomas, the niece of Sir William Cubitt with whom he had become acquainted whilst living at Telford's house, indeed had also worked with/for on some projects. The marriage took place in Switzerland when he and Fanny are returning to Calcutta after leave in England. The marriage produced five children.

His retirement years did not see him idle as he soon became involved the Hunton Bridge Gas Works, the Abbotts Langley Water Works Company and in addition became Chairman of the Assam Tea Company.

George died at Rosehill on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1889 aged 79. At the time of his death he was the oldest and the longest serving Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Turnbull's chief characteristics were a singular simplicity of manner, a distaste of ostentation. This may have been from his Scottish roots. Also he possessed a 'do it' approach particularly on the East India Railway when the Government were less than decisive. These traits were possibly why Turnbull declined the knighthood that Lord Elgin promoted him for as he felt that he did not have sufficient money to enable to maintain the standards that would be expected. It is reported that the decision to decline the knighthood was later regretted.

In all he was a country boy who made good and who will be remembered for his projects, as most, if not all and certainly within Britain are still in use today although not obvious to the casual observer.

The pictures are credited to Wikipedia Foundation whilst the text sources are Oxford Biography, Institution of Civil Engineers and Wikipedia Foundation.

Brian Bull

# TURKISH ARCHAEOLOGY, A QUICK VISIT

In early 2014 we decided to treat ourselves to a visit some of the Western Turkish Archaeological sites and go on what was described as an eight day trip to Western Turkey. This took place in Oct/Nov 2014. This map shows the area and the main sites we visited.

Our tour took in, working from north to south, Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma. This involved moving hotels almost every day.

Many of the visitors to the archaeological remains of the ancient city of Ephesus in Turkey come either as part of an organised tour like us or on a day visit from a cruise liner moored in a nearby bay. They see a Greco-Roman city of great antiquity, the home of the people that St Paul wrote to all those centuries ago. In St Paul's day it was already an ancient city/state having been founded in about 5000 BC and was moved to its present site, the Ayasuluk Hill in about 2000 BC, which was then an island. They see amazing ruins of a city built over several centuries whose history is well documented. Tour guides take their parties through the streets once lined with shops and fountains and temples, downhill to the great library building and the commercial Agora and Grand Theatre beyond. We expect there are many of us who are familiar with parts of the site.



Ephesus has been fought over by many armies including the Lydians, the Persians and Alexander the Great. The Romans took the city over in 133 BC having been left it in the will of the Pergamon King Attalos III. Under Augustus Caesar Ephesus became the capital of the Roman Province of Asia Minor. The Commercial Agora, the Mauseion Gate and the Augustus Temple belong to this time.

In 17 AD a big earthquake hit Western Anatolia which did great damage. Emperor Tiberius had the cities repaired and rebuilt and it is estimated that afterwards Ephesus's population was over 200,000! Hadrian visited twice and had a temple built in his name. The city has been continually attacked by raiders before and since, the Goths amongst them, then Arabic Navy in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries and finally the Turks.

As well as St Paul, the city was said to be the home of St John and the Virgin Mary during the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD with a Church founded in her name. St John was buried at Ephesus. Later the Church at Ephesus was strengthened by the arrival of St. Paul but they had different communities. Under St Paul the Church at Ephesus became leader of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. A Basilica was built on the grave of St John in about 350 AD. Emperor Justinian and his wife Theodora had a big, six domed Church built in its place in 550's AD and became a major pilgrimage centre.

So as you can see, Ephesus has a long and complicated history. Some parts of the City were discovered during the construction of a railway line by an English engineer J T Wood who was looking for the Temple of Artemis under auspices of the British Museum in the 1870's. The Austrian Archaeological Institute (which is still active there) began excavating in 1893. Excavations started in the 1920's at the St Mary's Church and continued in a major way on the rest of the city in the 1950's. It was accelerated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the 1970's. The Ephesus Museum has been directing the excavations with European partners, mainly Austrian. Much effort has been put into preservation and conservation of existing discoveries. It is estimated that only about 10% has been unearthed.

It is an impossibly large site to see in a three hour visit! Our Tour Guide was very good in pointing out the principal objects and buildings many which have been partially rebuilt from the earthquake damaged remains. All we could do was to take as many pictures as we could and look at them when we got home.





This is the main road down through the city from the Government Agora called Curetes Street, leading downhill to the centre of the city. You can see the crowds and the steepness!



Fountain of Trajan. Built around 100AD and dedicated to the Roman Emperor Trajan. It had 2 pools of flowing water supplied by a nearby canal.



Detail of mosaic floor of a colonnaded gallery with a roof in front of the shops lining Curetes Street. This extended along the Street for 50m.

This shows the facade of the Great Library of Celsus at the end of Curetes Street showing the Gate of Mazeus leading to the Marble Road, the Grand Theatre and beyond to the (now silted up) port. The facade was rebuilt in the 1970's.





On the hillside to the east of the main roadway down Curetes St. there is now a large covered area known either as the Terraces or Hillside Houses. Our Rough Guide described it ‘as the hardly visited recent excavation known as The Terraces’ and said it was the most exciting part of Ephesus and not to be missed! It is a very large slice of the hillside inland from the main boulevard, Kurets Street. This excavation is covered by a gigantic steel framework and translucent rigid polymer panels and a visitor has to pay about £5 a person to visit it, on top of the site entrance fee.

The Rough Guide description whetted our appetite. However our Tour guide really tried to put us off—“you haven’t got time”—“there is so much more to see down there” etc. Four of us therefore duly paid the premium and so entered a world of delights. The following account is designed to whet your appetite in case you ever visit Ephesus. Please ignore tour guide instructions and take an hour to visit the Terraces. Tour guides are banned from the site, having been suspected of pilfering the finds. Hence their reluctance to let their parties go in.

Work on this excavation started in 1960 to 1985. Reconstruction and Protection are still in progress. The protective roof was installed in 1999. The official people on site are all archaeologists who speak English well and are ready to explain and answer questions.

View of “the Terraces” excavation site with Kurets Street in the foreground. The slope is steeper than it looks in this photograph. The Terraces are still in the process of being excavated so the remains are very fresh and in excellent condition.



This shows tables of the broken marble sheets laid out for reconstruction, ground floor level, with the high vertical wall and in situ marble lining sheets in place. The ceiling would make the ground floor of the house above. The sheets are about 2m x 1m and about 1.5cm thick!

It seems that the houses were damaged and made uninhabitable by land movements due to earthquakes in the 260's AD. The site is made up of a series of houses, one on top of the other. The outside terrace area became the roof of the house below it. The houses therefore climbed up the hillside with connecting pathways between them, hugging the contours of the hill slope. There was easy access to the temples, baths and lavatory blocks as well as a brothel and shops on Curetes Street. Des Res! The house had interior courtyards with underfloor heating with hot and cold water.



Under the covering of The Terraces, looking downhill towards Curetes Street.

The Terraces, looking up the hillside.



A whole house view showing the open arrangement of rooms

The mosaic floor of an upper house showing the floor of the house below it on the Terrace.



An interior view of a high class dwelling, with painted walls and mosaic floors.



An unusual floor pattern in a very fine mosaic.



More of the mosaic floors!

We took very many more photographs at Ephesus and at many other sites. With the political situation in the near East possibly about to affect the future of Turkey, we feel privileged to hold this photographic record of this excavation and many others that we saw in our six days. An example is on the Front Cover of this Newsletter. One day we may be persuaded to show some of these to the Society!

Jean and Paul Norris

## UPPER LONGDON WINDMILL

The windmill at Upper Longdon stands in a commanding position atop Brereton Hill about two hundred yards east of the start of Upper Way, not quite on the summit of the hill but well placed to catch any passing breezes. The site has extensive views to the north over a long stretch of the Trent Valley. For a hundred years or so the mill has just been a tower with the cap and sails removed and a non descript extension around the base to form a dwelling house. A new owner has been busy restoring the mill ; the extensions have gone and the tower renovated. It is now ready for the internal works to be installed. The top cap , which rotates to provide the best condition for the sails, is now being manufactured in Henley on Thames and will be shipped to Longdon in January. The four sails , each 33 ft long are being made in Lincoln and will be ready for installation in March . By April you will be able to see this mill working , generating electricity for the new owners house and farm which are being built nearby. The farm will house a herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle who will graze the surrounding fields in the shade of the 350 new trees planted around them. This is an excellent development for the village and an example of sensitive restoration of historic buildings.

Richard Totty

## NEWS FROM THE PAST, CBA W. MIDLANDS

All the latest Archaeological Discoveries in the West Midlands Saturday 28 February 2015, 10.00am– 5.00pm

The Church Room, Carrs Lane Church Centre,

Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

See <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php>

Fee: CBA WM members £15.00 Non-CBA WM members £20.00

(Refreshments provided but please bring your own lunch)

This annual event, organised by the Council for British Archaeology West Midlands, includes illustrated presentations about sites and objects from across the region.

Provisional Programme: The times and order of individual presentations may be subject to alteration.

10.00am Welcome and introduction by Sheena Payne-Lunn, Chair CBA West Midlands and Chris Patrick, Coventry City Council

Prehistoric Birmingham– Dr Mike Hodder, former City of Birmingham Planning Archaeologist

Recent Archaeological Work in Wolverhampton and Walsall– Mike Shaw, former Black Country Archaeologist  
Selly Manor– George Demidowicz

Recent Discoveries Reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme– Angie Bolton, PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Warwickshire & Worcestershire

Building Recording in Worcester– Mike Napthan, Mike Napthan Archaeology

CBA World War One Home Front Legacy Project– Louise Ennis, Head of Strategic Development - Council for British Archaeology

The Archaeology of World War One Training Grounds– Martin Brown, No Man's Land

Broadwell Archaeology Investigation Team Project– Kevin Watson, Coventry and District Archaeological Society

A View from a Hill? Using basic aerial Lidar to find new sites and better understand old ones– Bryn Gethin, Archaeology Warwickshire

5.00pm Close



## 2015 VISITS : A W Pugin

Following the popular talk in 2014 on the architecture of A W Pugin in Staffordshire, by Michael Fisher, we have arranged visits to three of the most distinctive properties associated with Pugin.

The first on Wednesday 10 June at 2.30pm is to Alton Towers to see the mansion, designed by Pugin, and the gardens, and will be guided by Michael Fisher. Refreshments (tea/coffee/soft drinks, sandwiches and cake) will be provided. Travel to Alton Towers is under your own arrangements but note that the management might ask for a fee of £6 for parking each car. (We are required to give an undertaking that none of our members will seek to use any of the rides in the Theme Park.) Cost £14.50 each. Park as directed and go to turnstiles, use the monorail as it is a long walk. Michael Fisher will be at the turnstiles from 2.00pm onwards; please aim to arrive at the turnstiles by 2.20pm.

The second on Wednesday 29 July at 2.00pm is to Pugin's masterpiece, the church of St Giles Cheadle followed by G.F. Bodley's magnificent church of the Holy Angels at Hoar Cross again guided by Michael Fisher who will unravel the influence that Pugin had on Bodley. Travel under your own arrangements to Cheadle and from Cheadle to Hoar Cross, (the latter journey will take around 40 minutes). At both churches Michael will show us items not usually on display. Sadly no refreshments are available at Hoar Cross. Cost £6.00 each. Meet outside the church in Cheadle by 1.55pm

Please reserve ..... places at £14.50 each on the visit to Alton Towers 2.30pm 10 June

Please reserve .....places at £6 each on the visit to Cheadle and Hoar Cross 2.00pm 29 July

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone number for contact in the event of last minute changes:.....

I can offer transport to Alton..... Cheadle and Hoar Cross.....

I need transport to Alton.....Cheadle and Hoar Cross.....

(We will endeavour to match offers to needs from Lichfield but there can be no guarantee that this is possible)

Send cheque made out to Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society to: Richard Totty, Rock Cottage, Redhill, Rugeley WS15 4LL as soon as possible as numbers are limited for both visits.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you require a receipt; no tickets will be issued but your name(s) will be on the visit list.

**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2014-15**

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

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

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

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2014/15 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed.

Signed .....

Date .....

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

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



**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

TO: STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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

Declaration:

Members Full Name .....

Address .....

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

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

Signature .....Date .....

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