



# SCA NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT

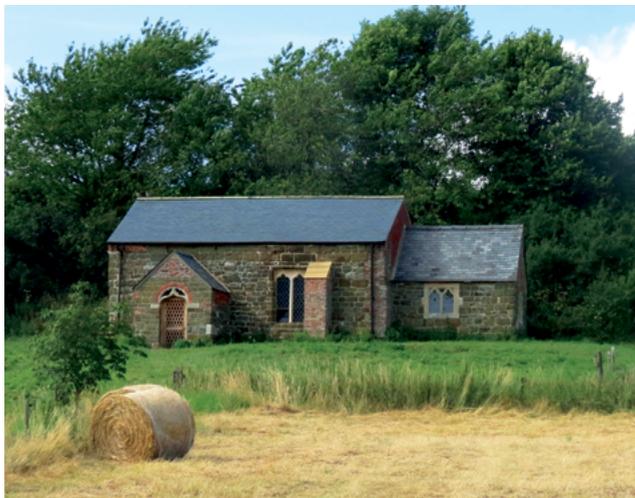
FROM THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

SPRING 2015

ISSUE NO.16

## Letter from the Chair

LET'S NOT BE parochial!  
Church archaeology should not cease at the churchyard boundary. Churches were rarely established in complete isolation; rather they were integral parts of the community that produced them, and even if that link between church and community is no longer evident, it would inevitably have been an important factor until relatively recently. So each church archaeology project can – and perhaps should – have a contextual component; whether it is the pattern of Viking settlement in Mercia helping to explain excavations at Repton, the landscape symbolism of the moorlands informing studies at Lavington and Kirkdale or patterns of early folk-ritual influencing studies of monastic sites. At Sutterby, a lost village in the remotest part of the Lincolnshire Wolds, an enthusiastic and dedicated group of locals has used the conservation of the church fabric, not just as the justification for a study of the church itself (not in use, and belonging to the Friends of Friendless Churches), but as



*St John Baptist, Sutterby, Lincolnshire from S. (Photo Dave Start)*

the inspiration and centre-piece of an exploration of the entire landscape of this enchanting valley. The group have not just studied the fabric, but used their studies as the starting point for understanding church architecture, wall-paintings, and liturgical traditions. They have progressed to study lichens, masonry bees, bats and barn owls, and eventually the whole diversity of wildlife habitats offered by the former churchyard - a final refuge in this intensively farmed agricultural landscape. Their historical studies have led them to take palaeography lessons

at the County Archives and so transcribe their own documents. Their field-walking has led them into studies of local ceramics, as well as into species-counting in hedgerows, and thus into contemporary debates about land-use. It's all connected, you see: church archaeology can be the starting point for every type of historical and environmental study! Being out of use, the churchyard boundary at Sutterby is ill-defined anyway and the plot leads naturally and inevitably into the open land around, but the study of *all* church fabrics have the same potential to lead out into

*continued on page 2*

the landscape or townscape in this way, and the findings we make there inform, in turn, our understandings of the church itself. We can learn from the Spirits of Sutterby!

2014 has been a year of new understandings for SCA also. With great personal sadness, I have to report that our President, Lawrence Butler, died on 10 December 2014, after a long struggle with cancer. A short notice is included elsewhere in this Newsletter, but a full obituary will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Church Archaeology*. My earliest recollections of him are of a smiling dapper man, with unmistakable whiskers and a stylish hat, twinkling his way around archaeological conferences and gatherings in York in the 1970s, often bringing the gathering back to reality with a witty and kindly remark: a rational shepherd for the more wayward, theoretically minded, members of the flock. Although he was president of SCA for a mere two years, he attended one conference and several committee meetings in that time and we will miss his wisdom sorely.

Although Lawrence's death has dominated your committee's thoughts at the end of the year, 2014 has been another successful year for the Society. Membership remains stable, and Josh Schwieso, our Membership Secretary, and Andrew Marriott, our Treasurer, have been working hard to improve our financial position; both by implementing a number of changes to our membership and administrative procedures, and by organising a number of fund-raising initiatives. Their work in recent years has allowed your committee to fully understand our financial position and to respond appropriately to our challenges. Josh and Andrew both make critical contributions to your committee's deliberations, and Andrew has slipped easily into the proper role of a Treasurer, looking critically at the financial aspects of every proposal, reminding us of our duties, and arguing strongly for financial rectitude and responsibility. We are very grateful for contributions by both Andrew and Josh this year.

This year I want to record the Society's gratitude for

two unexpected, but very welcome, donations. In 2013 our sister body, the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA), decided to wind itself up. In winding-up its affairs ADCA needed a suitable website host for its standards documents – something which SCA was pleased to be able to offer. Consequently the ADCA documents, setting-out acceptable standards for various aspects of archaeological work on churches, are now accessible through the SCA website (or will be in the near future). ADCA also had a small financial surplus, and consequently the ADCA Committee kindly decided to donate a figure of somewhat more than £4,000 to SCA, expressing the hope in doing so that SCA would continue to support research work in the field of church archaeology through our grants scheme aimed at younger scholars. The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to Joe Elders and David Baker (our Vice-Chair) for the skilful and disinterested manner in which they have handled these delicate conversations.

It is encouraging that our grants scheme was recognised, in this way, as an important mechanism for engaging younger scholars. It is managed for us capably by Kristjan Ahronsén, and details of the awards made in 2014 are elsewhere in the Newsletter. For my part I want to thank Kristjan, once again, for maintaining the Scheme's impetus, and for his suggestions about how to improve it.

More straight-forwardly, it is my privilege to announce that SCA is one of a number of archaeological and environmental charities who have been recipients of a substantial donation from the estate of the late Professor Mick Aston (who died in 2013). Mick was a great supporter of SCA during its early years, taking a personal interest in its development and attending many events. We are extremely grateful for his act of generosity, and your committee will be considering how to use the funds he has given us to best effect during 2015. Once again the Society owes David Baker thanks for the careful manner in which he has handled the discussions with Mick's executors.

As we are coming to expect now, the editorial team have produced another excellent Journal – on time and on budget. Unfortunately Jackie Hall (the team's leader) fell ill in the Autumn, so Aleks McClain, with help from Duncan Wright (our reviews editor), heroically stepped in to ensure that the momentum of recent years is not lost. Jackie is on the mend, and we wish her a speedy recovery, but we miss her energy and efforts on our behalf (and not just with the Journal). As reported in the previous Newsletter, Aleks is also taking the lead in digitising past editions of the journal, and that work is making good progress. We anticipate being able to explain, next year, the arrangements by which SCA members will have access both to digital copies of all old journals and to the most recent editions. In an important related initiative, Aleks has also negotiated with CBA the digitization and inclusion of the complete run of *CBA Churches Committee Bulletin* within the same SCA digital archive. *CBACCB* was the brain-child of Richard Morris who, in those distant pre-digital days, saw the need for a dedicated

journal, as archaeologists came to grips with church archaeology in the modern era. The more elderly amongst us will remember it fondly as an enormously valuable (if somewhat irregular) journal, whose quality was disguised by its informal presentation style. It is much the most important record of the formative age of modern church archaeology during the 1970s and 1980s, but this undoubted status has been obscured by the difficulty in accessing complete runs. Soon, then, we can expect the important material it contains to be easily accessible once more. Thank you Aleks.

These developments have not dismayed our new Secretary, Emma Chapman who, in addition to moving to York and submitting her PhD (well done Emma!), has managed SCA's flows of paperwork with great aplomb. Amongst the most substantial generators of paperwork is the Annual Conference, of course. As many will be aware, we had an excellent conference in September at Chester Cathedral, mounted in collaboration with the University of Chester. There is a report later in this

Newsletter, but I would like to add my congratulations to Michael Shapland, once again, for having organised another excellent event. The quality of the papers was high, I thought, and the tours around the City and the early monastic sites of the Dee valley were most memorable. But, for me, the indelible memory was the extraordinary conference dinner at Chester's most happening nightclub – who would have thought church archaeology could be so exciting! And what a farewell for Michael, who stood down from his role as Conference Secretary at the AGM, after having given us a succession of excellent conferences (Chichester, Thetford, Cork, Gloucester and Chester) , and having

played an important role in the development of the Society – not least by involving many younger members. It will be a hard act to follow, as they say, but Anne Sassin has already taken-up this strenuous and demanding role for the Society. Anne will be introduced elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I have to say that, so far, she has shown no fear in approaching the sea of troubles that conference organisation involves. She has made excellent progress with SCA's 2015 Conference, in Leicester, which is aimed at exploring the relationships between churches and settlements (and which happily combines privileged access to Leicester's new church heritage attractions associated with Richard III, with a trip

into the unspoilt country of the Vale of Belvoir to see some extraordinary church sites). It will be a joint event with the Medieval Settlement Research Group and full details along with booking information are included within this Newsletter and in the enclosed flyer. I know I'm repeating what I said last year, but the last two conferences were fully-booked, so it really does pay to sign-up early.

Finally, I would like to observe that SCA is very much a team effort. I find it a pleasure to work with such a supportive and active group of people, all of whom continue to work hard for the Society and this year, again, they have my sincere thanks.

# OFFICIAL RECORDS

## 2015

THE SOCIETY FOR Church Archaeology is governed by its Constitution, formally adopted by the Society on 23rd March 1996.

The Society was formed to promote the study, conservation and preservation of churches, other places of worship and associated monuments in their other aspects by the achievement of the advancement of public education.

The Society for Church Archaeology is an unincorporated association and is registered with the Charity Commission under no. 1056194.

Membership at 31st December 2014 was 287, of which 22 were institutions, a significant increase on the preceding year. Subscriptions are available through the Society website, or through applications to Dr Josh Schwieso, Membership Secretary.

The postal address for the Charity is:

c/o Council for British Archaeology,  
St Mary's House, 66 Bootham,  
York, YO30 7BZ.

The Trustees during 2014 were:

President:	Dr Lawrence Butler
Chair:	David Stocker
Vice-Chair:	David Baker
Hon. Secretary and Charities Commission Correspondent:	Emma Chapman
Treasurer:	Andrew Marriott
Membership Secretary:	Joshua Schwieso
Editor:	Jackie Hall
Assistant Editor:	Aleks McClain
Book Reviews Editor:	Duncan Wright
Publications Officer:	Kevin Booth
Website Officer:	Aleks McClain
Conference Secretary and Publicity:	Michael Shapland (Jan – Sept)
Conference Secretary:	Anne Sassin (Sept – Dec)
Publicity Officer:	Diane Wren (Sept – Dec)
Research Committee Chair:	Kristjan Ahronson

# OBITUARY: LAWRENCE BUTLER 1934–2014

LAWRENCE BUTLER WAS a Nottinghamshire boy (and a keen supporter of Nottingham Forest Football Club). Indeed he used to claim – possibly mischievously – that he belonged to the same family that gave the Notts. village of Cropwell Butler its cognomen. After education at Nottingham High School and Peterhouse, and a spell as a Cold-War warrior during National Service in the RAF, he trained as a teacher whilst simultaneously undertaking a PhD in archaeology at Nottingham University.

Teaching rapidly lost out to archaeology, though, and from 1959 to 1965 he worked for the Royal Commission in Wales. Moving to the newly established archaeology department at Leeds University in 1965, he became its first lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, and (in 1991) its last Head of Department. When the Leeds department closed he transferred to York University, where he became a valued member of staff until his retirement in 2001. Then followed a change of scene; to Swaffam Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire, where talks on

church history and archaeology became regular events, and where, inevitably, the church acquired a new guidebook.

Lawrence's academic interests were wide: he revealed the importance of 'grave-covers' through his seminal 1964 article in *Archaeological Journal* (based on his PhD thesis), but church monuments continued to fascinate him throughout his life and he was a regular contributor to *Journals on the subject*. He was a great excavator of castles as well as of churches, and had an admirable record of producing excavation reports quickly and effectively, but his most widely-known contribution to church archaeology might be his edition of Sir Stephen Glynn's *Church Notes for Yorkshire*. Lawrence was sometime Consultant Cathedral Archaeologist at Lincoln, Wakefield, Sheffield and York and served on the Cathedrals Advisory Commission for England. He was President of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and of the Cambrian Archaeological Society and in 2012 he was elected President of the Society for Church Archaeology.

Whilst at Cambridge he met his wife Isobel (who became a medical Social Worker) and they married in 1958. They had two daughters, Judith and Susannah. Sadly Isobel died shortly after they retired to Cambridgeshire, but this tragedy stimulated Lawrence to immerse himself in his new community and there was no doubting the affection in which he was held by his fellow villagers at his memorial service.

Lawrence was a bright and lively character of boundless wit and charm. He made an important contribution to the whole field of medieval and post-medieval archaeology and will be both fondly remembered and sorely missed.

NB. It is hoped that a fuller appreciation of Lawrence Butler's life and academic contribution will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Church Archaeology*.

# CONFERENCE 2014 REVIEW

## The Archaeology of Early Christianity: Cheshire and the Pillar of Eliseg

5th–7th September

HELD IN THE beautiful city of Chester, our 2014 conference took its theme from early evidence for Christianity based on Chester and its surrounding environment. Held in the chapter house of Chester cathedral, this year's conference took place in an even-grander venue than in 2013 at Gloucester. Beginning as an Anglo-Saxon church dedicated to Saint Werburgh, it was rebuilt in the late 11th century as a Norman monastery, before being granted cathedral status under Henry VIII in 1541. From this location, attendees were well-placed to study the development of Christianity in the west of Britain.

Before the conference began, on Friday evening early attendees were granted privileged access to Chester castle and city walls. After the tour, the party gathered at the Olde Kings Head, a pub built in the early 17th century on 13th century



*Gloucester Cathedral*

foundations and reputedly housing timber sourced from one of Admiral Lord Nelson's sunken ships (as well as 13 ghosts!) for a relaxed catch-up over dinner and drinks.

After an opening address from the Chairman, the conference opened on Saturday morning with Simon Ward presenting an detailed overview of early archaeology and Christianity in Chester, followed by a presentation by Howard Williams, in advance of the Sunday excursion, of the Pillar of Eliseg and its relationship to the early Christian archaeology of North-East Wales. Alan

Thacker's talk on the cults of early English saints in the north-west Marches complimented this talk, before Paul Everson presented his and David Stocker's discussion of early sculpture at St John's church in Chester in the context of the River Dee and its economic importance. Following lunch, Ruth Nugent precluded the tour of the cathedral with a stimulating overview of the cathedral's memorials, providing an appropriate introduction. Following this tour, attendees moved to St John's church next to the Dee, where the Rector, David Chester, gave a fascinating

talk on the first cathedral in Chester and its continuing use. Saturday's activities ended with the conference meal and drinks in the rousing and energized restaurant 'The Church'.

Sunday presented a range of interesting site visits in the hinterland of Chester. Following arrival at LLantysilio, Howard Williams welcomed the Society to the Pillar of Eliseg and Valle Crucis Abbey

and contextualised both the conference topic and his earlier talk with these two remarkable monuments. At St Dunawd's Church, Bangor-is-y-coed, Michael Shapland, with some help from an animatronic monk, provided a historical contextualisation of early Christian and religious politics on this area of the Dee, before Paul Everson guided the party around St Chad's, Farndon ended the Sunday tour.

The Society would like to thank again all our speakers and guides, whose invaluable contributions greatly aided to the construction of this very successful and enjoyable conference. We are also grateful to the Dean and staff of Chester Cathedral, English Heritage, St John's, Valle Crucis Abbey, St Dunawd's and St Chad's.



*Tewkesbury*

# CONFERENCE 2015

## Church and Settlement: Rural churches and the medieval landscape

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### SCA Annual Conference, in partnership with the Medieval Settlement Research Group, Leicester, 4th–6th September 2015

THE SOCIETY IS happy to announce that this year's annual conference is a collaboration with the Medieval Settlement Research Group and will be held at the University of Leicester's John Foster Hall. Focusing on new research on the relationship between church and landscape using local ecclesiastical examples, the weekend will include guided tours of Leicester Cathedral, the new Richard III centre and rural churches in the Vale of Belvoir. Including a keynote talk by Professor John Blair of the University of Oxford in a comfortable conference setting, it promises to be a great event, with the following papers to be presented:

- David Parsons, *'All Saints' Church, Brixworth, in its local context*
- Richard Jones, *Dedicatory place-names*
- Aleks McClain, *Churches, commemoration and settlement in the Anglo-Norman north*
- Emma Chapman, *Family expression in parish burial in 10th–16th century England*
- Gareth Davies, *Church, market and social life: a perspective from recent excavations and survey at Lenton Priory, Nottingham*
- John Blair, *Local churches c 900–1050*

Setting the scene for the conference talks on Saturday, on Friday 4th, delegates will have the opportunity to join a tour which will start at Leicester's cathedral, originally St Martin's church which received its first bishop in 680. Largely rebuilt in the 13th and 14th centuries, its latest addition is the ambulatory tomb for Richard III, with the

newly-built Grey Friars Visitor Centre adjacent. This unique opportunity to receive a guided tour of the centre after hours will be followed by an informal dinner at Le Pierre Bistrot, one of Leicester's finest restaurants situated in the heart of the city.

On Sunday 6th, we will be visiting a range of captivating sites relating to the themes of the conference, centred in the southern Nottinghamshire/northern Leicestershire region. Beginning with Little Dalby, a classic church south-east of Melton Mowbray isolated amongst the earthworks of a deserted medieval village, now within the park of a stately home, we will tour its fascinating structures. This will be followed by visiting Kirby Bellars, just to its west, an interesting earthwork site with a fine church that is reputed to be the remains of the priory church.

We will then travel north to Colston Bassett, one of the Vale of Belvoir's more picturesque villages, where we will have lunch en-route at the well-reputed Neville Arms pub and restaurant in Kinoulton. Afterwards, we will be guided

around the ruined church and its surrounding landscape by Andrew Marriott.

Finally, we will continue on to Car Colston, where Paul Everson will provide a detailed tour on the village and church, before returning back to Leicester for the homeward journey.

For quick and easy booking, please visit [://shop.le.ac.uk/](http://shop.le.ac.uk/) and register with the University of Leicester's shop@le portal (email [conferences@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@leicester.ac.uk) – telephone 0116 223 1680), where their helpful Conference Office manages registration and payment for all event components, including accommodation.

The deadline for booking is Saturday, August 29th. For any queries or difficulties with on-line booking, please contact our Conference Secretary: Anne Sassin (email [asassinallen@gmail.com](mailto:asassinallen@gmail.com) – telephone 07896 125 207).

# RESEARCH GRANT NEWS

## Research grant 2015 award

WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that an exceptional award has been made in this year's Research Grant competition. Catrine L Jarman, a PhD student in Archaeology and Anthropology at The University of Bristol, has been awarded £1400 towards her Project *Mobility in Viking Age Repton: Assessing the extent of Scandinavian migration through strontium isotope analysis*. Our grant will support 'the cost of strontium (Sr) isotope analysis of tooth enamel from the Viking Age cemeteries around St. Wystan's Church in Repton, Derbyshire'. She makes the point that 'Repton is particularly significant as the site provides the best known evidence of the Scandinavian presence in England in the early part of the Viking Age'. Society funding will enable her 'to identify first generation immigrants in the Repton cemeteries'. Catrine L Jarman writes that isotope analysis provides 'information about geographical backgrounds, and of social and cultural differentiation'. She explains

that strontium isotopes 'from local soils and geology are taken up by the human body through consumption of food and drink, and are preserved unchanged in tooth enamel after this is formed during childhood. By comparing the ratios found in archaeological teeth with geological maps and other baseline data, it is possible to trace an individual's geographical background. This, in turn, is used to determine the presence of non-local individuals'. She continues, pointing out that 'Traditional osteological- and artefact analysis of the cemeteries have suggested a number of individuals of Scandinavian descent, and possible social differentiation between those and contemporary burials. A pilot study at Repton demonstrated that several of the charnel individuals may have originated outside the British Isles...'

## Research grant 2014 report

We are also pleased to provide updates from the recipients of last year's awards: from Dr Ben Russell & Dr Corisande

Fenwick on their *Tunisian-British Bulla Regia Project*, and from Kori Filipek-Ogden on her *Illness and Isolation? Assessing leprosy stigma in Medieval England (11th–16th centuries AD), and its subsequent impact on contemporary society Project*.

## Report from Russell & Fenwick

In 2010, emergency excavations uncovered a Christian church and cemetery complex immediately to the west of the ancient city of Bulla Regia in the western Medjerda valley. The scholarly importance of this discovery is hard to overstate. Few North African churches or cemeteries outside Carthage have been scientifically excavated and our knowledge of late antique Bulla Regia, an important city in the Vandal and Byzantine period, remains limited. The complex is nonetheless at risk: it lies outside the protected boundaries of the site, and is now under threat from development and illicit excavations. In response, an international collaborative project has been established

with the Institut National du Patrimoine to understand, publish and conserve this important site as part of a broader project on the late antique and medieval phases of the city. Bulla Regia is rightly known as one of the most important North African archaeological sites. A small but affluent city tracing its heritage back to the Numidian kings, it is famous today for its well-preserved Roman public buildings and unusual houses with subterranean, mosaic-clad rooms. The late antique and medieval city, however, is poorly understood, even though documentary sources reveal its importance as a significant administrative hub into the eleventh century. The new discoveries in 2010 are crucial, therefore, opening a window onto Christian religious and funerary practices in North Africa and at the same time providing a unique opportunity to gather demographic data about the people of Bulla Regia in late antiquity. In 2014, with the support of the grant from the Society for Church Archaeology, the

Tunisian-British Bulla Regia Project conducted a 10-day pilot season, which involved mapping all of the Christian remains that are to be the focus of the project and assessing the condition of the newly-discovered church and cemetery, its mosaics, and the skeletal remains from the site. The results of this pilot season will enable the project to apply for increased funding to continue this work for the years to come. The next stage of the project is to conduct a comprehensive geophysical survey and begin excavation alongside a campaign of restoration.

## **Report from Filipek-Ogden**

My PhD research focuses on the biological and social impacts of leprosy in Medieval England. One of the ways to further examine this topic is via the mobility histories of people with leprosy buried in both leprosaria and parish churches. Thanks to a grant from the Society for Church Archaeology, I've been able to complete the initial analyses

and am in the process of writing up exciting results that challenge conceptions about societal responses to leprosy sufferers, and my article for Church Archaeology should be completed by this Summer. I am also currently presenting some of these results at a variety of international conferences, including the Paleopathology Association's Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in March 2015, the United Kingdom Archaeological Science Meeting in April 2015 at Durham University, and a public lecture at Sheffield University in June 2015. I'd like to thank the Society for Church Archaeology for giving me this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to the results from this project being shared with all of you soon!

For further information on our Research Grant Scheme or to apply for our 2016 Competition, please look to our webpages or contact the Chair of the Research Grant Committee, Dr Kristján Ahronson (k.ahronson@bangor.ac.uk).

# SOCIETY & COMMITTEE NEWS

## Review of the Society's Work in 2014

The Society met three times in 2014 (10th January, 13th May and 8th October). The AGM was held at Chester on the 6th September. Meetings were attended by the Officers and Trustees of the Society.

The business of running the Society was discussed at all meetings. Andrew Marriott, the Society's Treasurer, presented the financial position of the accounts and reported that though expenditure against income remains high, the annual account in credit for the first time in a number of years. Andrew reported that the continuing good profits made at the conferences also continued to benefit the Society's finances. This will enable the Society to continue to fund the journal, conference and research grant.

The Membership Secretary, Josh Schwieso, presented reports on the breakdown of the membership, including a good number of new members joining in 2014, including an increase in institutional members. Sending

out renewal reminders and increasing student membership was identified as a possible focus for increasing membership.

Subscription fees were tabled to be discussed at the 2014 AGM, but it was decided to postpone this option until the 2015 AGM. Following the Committee's discussion to branch out into social media, a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/churcharch](http://www.facebook.com/churcharch)) and Twitter account (@SocChurchArch) were created to better publicise the Society and broaden its reach, and there are also plans to create a new website to further increase the SCA's impact. The Committee apologises for continuing administration issues related to the postal address of the Society, and would like to ensure our membership that a solution will be implemented soon.

As in previous years, progress on the journal was discussed at each meeting. Jackie Hall, gave details of the upcoming journals and contributed papers, while Assistant Editor, Aleks McClain, continues her work on the digitisation of the journal, with back issues to be made available online through open access, along with plans to provide digital access

to The Bulletin of the CBA Churches Committee, following discussions with the Council for British Archaeology.

## Committee News

Over the past year, two committee members have joined the Society, and one has left. Michael Shapland stepped down as Conference Secretary after a producing a series of wonderful events, for which we are ever thankful for. He has been succeeded by Anne Sassin Allen, who has taken up the responsibility of organising further conferences. Diane Wren joined the Committee in the new position of Publicity Officer, and is in charge of the Facebook page and Twitter account as well as publicising the Society and the upcoming conference.

### ABOUT ANNE SASSIN

Anne is an Honorary Research Fellow at Canterbury Christ Church University, as well as a tutor at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, where she contributes to medieval archaeology modules. She began her archaeological

education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied anthropology and classics. Upon moving to the UK in 2005, Anne undertook an MA in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, followed by her PhD, which focused on social identity expressed through monumental architecture in South Wales during the early medieval and Norman periods. Whilst her research focuses on such themes as church placement in the landscape, commemoration, iconography, craftsmanship and the incorporation of memory into ecclesiastical monuments, her present interests include outreach and heritage learning. This is particularly the case with her current fieldwork and community archaeology projects in her home county of Surrey, where she is actively involved in community outreach and education programmes for both the Surrey Archaeological Society and Council for British Archaeology South-East.

#### ABOUT DIANE WREN

I began my education in archaeology at the University of Nottingham, where I studied Archaeology and

Ancient History. After my undergraduate degree I stayed at Nottingham to undertake an MA in Medieval Archaeology, which was then followed by a PhD. My research focuses on identities, lifestyle and socio-economic networks, as revealed by mobile material culture, of south east Wales and the eastern Marches of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire during the Anglo-Norman period. Alongside this, I also have a keen interest in medieval art and architecture. I am very pleased to have been elected to the position of publicity secretary and I am looking forward to working closely with and getting to know the Society's members and committee.

## News from our members

### A PUZZLE AT REPTON – CAN YOU HELP?

Many readers will be familiar with St Wystan's Church at Repton, with its ancient 8th-century crypt and pre- and post-conquest architecture. St Wystan's arguably also has one of the most important churchyards in England.

While one of our members was recently conducting some geophysical survey in the churchyard for the University of York, the vicar drew his attention to two intriguing grave slabs mounted on low-lying chest tombs (see photos). The slabs are of a grey/black undressed stone, devoid of any inscription but covered with irregularly placed incisions of shoes. The shoes vary slightly but are generally blunt-toed and possibly of 17th-century style.

We would like to enlighten the vicar and would be very grateful if readers could let us know if they are aware of anything similar. Please email any responses to [A.G.Marriott1@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:A.G.Marriott1@ncl.ac.uk) or [aleksandra.mcclain@york.ac.uk](mailto:aleksandra.mcclain@york.ac.uk)



*One of the Repton shoe slabs.  
(Photo Andrew Marriott)*



*Details of some of the shoes. (Photo Andrew Marriott)*

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## Report on Society Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

THE SOCIETY FOR Church Archaeology had no assets and/or liabilities, other than those listed in the accounts, during the financial year beginning on 1st January 2014 and ending on 31st December 2014.

We began 2014 with £7,317.20 in the current account and had a closing balance of £9,814.59.

Expenditure against income remains high. However, a significant contribution from the disbanding Association

of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists (ADCA) saw the annual account in credit for the first time in a number of years. The Society continues its financial consolidation without having adjusted membership fees. The Annual Conference produced a healthy profit although reduced from the 2103 figure. This year we have also had to absorb increased running costs for the journal, newsletter, postage and insurance. We also awarded research grants to two candidates in 2014, resulting in slightly higher expenditure.

SWETS went into administration this year but at no cost to the Society.

Losses continue to be slightly mitigated by our income from interest on deposit accounts. As at 31 Dec 2014 our deposit accounts totalled £16,605.13. Our income exceeded expenditure by £2,663.13.

This statement represents the Society's accounts for its eighteenth year of operation. The finances are set as a record of overall income and expenditure under a series of sub-headings, and as a balance sheet to 31 December 2014. The accounts for 2013 are included for comparative purposes.

## Notes on the financial information and balance sheet

1. SWETS. Dutch library and publishing organisation based in Leiden, with UK offices in Abingdon.
2. UOR Payment credited to SCA in June 2014.
3. EBSCO. US-based journal distribution service.
4. In common with previous years, our CCLA investments are as per the latest received statements in September.

## Financial Information

<b>OPENING BALANCE</b> (Carried forward from 2013)	Current Account	£7317.20
	Investments	£16,538.02
<b>TOTAL</b>		£23,855.22

INCOME	2014	2013
Membership subscriptions	£6157.00	£5493.00
Swets and Zeitlinger, UOR & EBSCO	£75.00, £450.00, £300.00	£525.00
Donations, sales and misc income	£49.00	£73.00
Conference Income	£4567.33	£4375.00
Coif Account Interest	£165.74	£98.63
Publication Grants	--	--
ADCA Donation	£4325.11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	£16,089.18	£10,564.63

EXPENDITURE	2014	2013
Stationery, Postage, Photocopying Executive Meetings & Travel	£1034.09	£1,035.20
Journal/Newsletter/Publications	£6835.19	£6437.44
Venue Hire (Meetings)	£66.60	£97.70
Sec Services (CBA)	£250.00	£250.00
Grants	£1250.00	£1063.00
Conference Expenditure	£3699.28	£3113.50
Presentations	--	£40.16
Insurance	£170.89	£164.66
CBA/Heritage Alliance Membership & Misc	£120.00	£120.00
Bank Adjustments	--	£4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	£13426.05	£12,325.66

<b>BALANCE OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	£2663.13
<b>CLOSING BALANCE TAKEN FORWARD</b>	£ 26,419.72
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014</b>	£ 26,419.72
Bank Balance on 31 December 2014	

<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>	Current Account	£ 9,814.59
	Investments	£ 16,605.13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	£ 26,419.72

# EVENTS IN 2015

## **Early Medieval Monasticism in the North Sea Zone**

*A Conference Examining New Research and Fresh Perspectives*  
• 24th–26th April 2015,  
University of Kent • Conference fee: £42, Field trip: £10 For further details or to register go to: [www.lymintagearchaeology.org](http://www.lymintagearchaeology.org) or email [a.knox@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.knox@reading.ac.uk)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: JUSTINE Bayley (London), John Blair (Oxford), Rosemary Cramp (Durham), Rosamond Faith (Oxford), Zoe Knapp (Reading), Elizabeth Lorans (Tours), Mark McKerracher (Oxford), Tomás Ó Carragáin (Cork), David Petts (Durham), Thomas Pickles (Chester), Gabor Thomas (Reading), Dries Tys (Brussels), Ian Wood (Leeds) and Barbara Yorke (Winchester).

## **Church Monuments Society Excursion: Study Day at Tong (Shropshire)** 2nd May 2015

ST BARTHOLEMEW'S CHURCH, Tong, has one of the finest collection of monuments in any parish church in the country. The immense collection includes

alabaster effigies of the 15th and 16th centuries to members of the Vernon family, brasses and stone effigies of the 17th century. On the south side of the church is the Vernon – of 'Golden' – Chapel, added 1515–19. The day will start at 10.30 with a tour of the church, with the afternoon session consisting of two papers: Mark Downing: *Military Effigies of the Thomas Prentys and Robert Sutton Workshop, Chellaston, and Adam White: The Stanley Monument in Context*. Tea will be served at 4.00 pm. The cost to members is £20.00 (25.00 to non-members), which includes tea/coffee on arrival, buffet lunch and afternoon tea. For further details please contact Mark Downing FSA, 9 Kestrel Drive, Sundorne Grove, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4TT. Tel: 01743 464780. E-mail: [markdowning1@talktalk.net](mailto:markdowning1@talktalk.net)

**Monastic Sciences: Medicina, Mechanica, Philosophia**  
*Annual Leeds Monasticism Conference* • 8th–9th May 2015  
• *Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds* • <http://leedsmonasticismconference.wordpress.com/>

THE FOCUS FOR the upcoming event is the way that religious life, particularly monasticism, accommodated what in the modern world is termed 'science'. The monks and other religious of medieval Europe were in a privileged position to study humanity's interaction with the natural world, and did so by pursuing a great and varied range of disciplines, notably those pertaining to medicine (*medicina*), technology (*ars mechanica*), and the rationalisation of the natural world (*philosophia; philosophia naturalis*). The exact definition of fields, disciplines and areas of expertise we leave to the speakers and delegates, but we believe that the proffered themes provide a solid base from which to begin.

**Between Heaven and Earth: Ecclesiastical Patronage In Europe, 1400–1600**  
*Saturday 9th May 2015* • *Conference* • *The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, London*

A ONE-DAY conference on the ways ecclesiastical patrons used devotional and commemorative art with lectures on the location of chapels and memorials, the

depictions of the donor and the role of inscriptions. For further information please contact [lydia.hansell@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:lydia.hansell@courtauld.ac.uk)

**Conference: Princes of the Church and their Palaces**

*Tuesday 30th of June – Saturday 4th of July* • An International Conference and series of public lectures exploring bishops' and popes' palaces across Britain and Europe, with a particular focus on The Auckland Project.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN research, conservation, and public presentation are currently taking place at Auckland Castle, the Bishop of Durham's former residence. This conference will consider bishops' and popes' palaces from across Britain and Europe with the Keynote speakers: Simon Thurley (English Heritage), Maureen C. Miller (University of California Berkeley) and Malcolm Thurlby (York University, Toronto). The conference will take place at Bishop Auckland Town Hall and Auckland Castle. For more information call 01388 743750 or email [enquiries@aucklandcastle.org](mailto:enquiries@aucklandcastle.org) or visit <http://aucklandcastle.org/conferences>.

**International Medieval Congress**

*University of Leeds • Monday 6th–9th July 2015*

THERE ARE MULTIPLE sessions including 'The Political Function of Tombs in Late Medieval Europe' at this year's Leeds IMC which have been organised by Sanne Frequin (Amsterdam) and Matthew Ward (Nottingham). For full details: <https://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/imc2015.html>

**The post-Reformation chancel fittings at Deerhurst: a unique survival'**

*Deerhurst Lecture • 12th September 2015, 7:20 PM • Deerhurst Church*

The speaker will be Trevor Cooper, Chairman of the Ecclesiological Society. Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 for students, can be purchased in advance or on the door, and include cheese and wine. <http://deerhurstfriends.co.uk/lectures-events/>

**Neoclassical Church Monuments In Britain (1770–1840)**

*Church Monuments Society Study Day • 10th October 2015 • Senate House, London • [http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/CMS\\_Events.html](http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/CMS_Events.html)*

A BRITISH RESPONSE to a European-wide style which favoured simplicity, regularity and idealization, neoclassical tomb sculpture thrived during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars and their aftermath. Memorials were produced for an expanding professional middle classmarket, expressing both patriotism and sensibility. They increasingly drew on a vocabulary of design informed by art historical studies, travel and exploration. The state monuments erected at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, London, attracted extensive press coverage and a variety of popular responses.

*Deadline for call for papers; 30th April 2015*

**Church Monuments  
Society Excursion: South  
Staffordshire**

*24th October 2015* • [http://  
www.churchmonumentsociety.  
org/CMS\\_Events.html](http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/CMS_Events.html)

THIS EXCURSION (LED by Robin Draper) will have a main focus on the products of alabaster workshops in Burton-upon-Trent in the 16th /17th centuries and will visit five churches in Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire. The cost to CMS, MBS and Mausolea and Monuments Trust members is £30 (£35 to non-members).

*Booking form via the website*

