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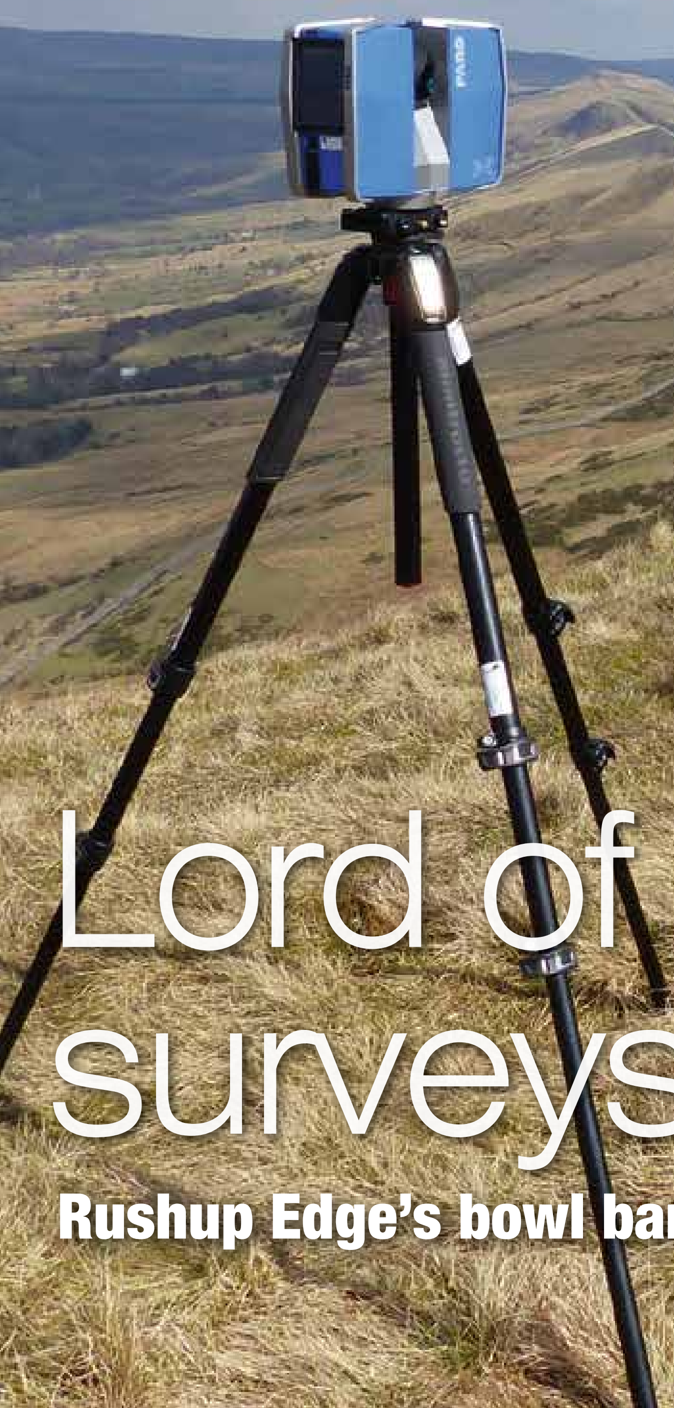
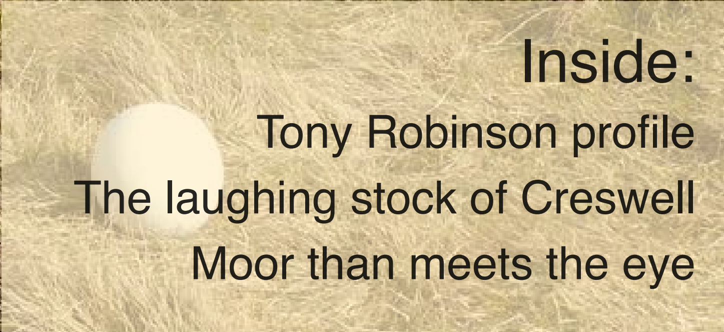
ACID

Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire



Lord of all it surveys

Rushup Edge's bowl barrow



Inside:

Tony Robinson profile
The laughing stock of Creswell
Moor than meets the eye

Plus: A guide to the county's latest planning applications involving archaeology

ACID
Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire

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Cover picture: A laser scanner on the Lord's Seat bowl barrow on Rushup Edge, with Mam Tor (right) and Lose Hill (left) – plus hang gliders – in the background (see story on page 30).

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Foreword:

Discoveries by accident or design

Welcome to our annual round-up of highlights from archaeological and heritage activities in the county during 2015. As usual a great variety of things have happened, some by design others by accident, involving many individuals as a part of their work, education or leisure pursuits.

Archaeology and heritage are essentially democratic in their appeal and the opportunities they offer, a characteristic well understood by Tony Robinson, the subject of this year's revealing profile by our Editor Roly Smith, set against the dramatic background of Kinder Scout. Well-known author David Hey chose to write about another local moorland, the Longshaw Estate, and some of its less well-known heritage features, visible to anyone who knows where and how to look.

The visibility of archaeological features in the landscape is commented on by John Barnatt in his report on the remains of WW1 practice trenches at Burbage near Buxton. He writes that he had crossed that area several times over the years without 'seeing' what now seems obvious. It was Coal Authority Lidar Survey data, seen by staff at Historic England, that led to their discovery.

Airborne laser scanning (Lidar) has also been in use recently at Chatsworth as an aid to better understanding of the surrounding parkland's history, but as Oliver Jessop and Sarah Whiteley report, older archaeological techniques, including excavation, are also needed to investigate the evidence below ground. John Barnatt and Terry Worthington's article on the extent of evidence surviving below ground for large scale mining of chert and Ashford Black Marble in the Bakewell and Ashford area, is an eye-opener of what can sometimes survive below ground.

Two recent excavations are described; one in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site at Darley Abbey on a late medieval mill site, the other at Ticknall, a village south of Derby where, over many years, work has identified the sites of 30 pottery kilns dating from the Middle Ages to 1888. Clive Hart describes a field survey of the scant remains of Horsley Castle, used in the 12th century by King John, of Magna Carta fame.

A Day in the Life… this year features Stella McGuire, a Secretary of State appointed member to the Peak District National Park Authority, and member representative for Cultural Heritage. As Stella describes, this is a challenging role but not without some compensations. Stella has also contributed a fascinating article on the Stanage Pole, a familiar landmark about which we know surprisingly little.

Museum contributions include Ros Westwood's description of how Buxton Museum has used the acquisition of a recent Treasure Trove find of 13th century silver pennies from near Kirk Ireton to explore the making and use of medieval coinage; and Jane Ford, a research student at Sheffield University, explains the significance of Ice Age remains of spotted, or laughing, hyaena from Creswell Crags, including a two to eight month-old skeleton.

More news on museum and excavation activity can be found in the Sherds section and Planning Lists and don't miss Roly's Bookshelf. Enjoy your reading.

Pauline Beswick

Chair of the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee

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Pauline Beswick, chair of the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee

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Going underground

JOHN BARNATT and TERRY WORTHINGTON, of the Peak District Mines Historical Society, report on their research into mines at Bakewell and nearby Ashford.

As part of our extra-curricular activities, we have been surveying Peak District stone mines on Thursday evenings for the last six years. The highlight has been the assessment of extensive workings both for chert and black marble. These are all gated and should not be entered by the uninitiated without expert supervision; they can be dangerous places without appropriate equipment and the experience to avoid unstable areas.

Bakewell chert

The chert mines at Bakewell were primarily dug to provide stone blocks for the pottery industry of Stoke-on-Trent and elsewhere. These were used in circular beds to grind burnt flint, which was added to clay to lighten the fabric. Iron crushers could not be used as the rust turned the fabric brown.

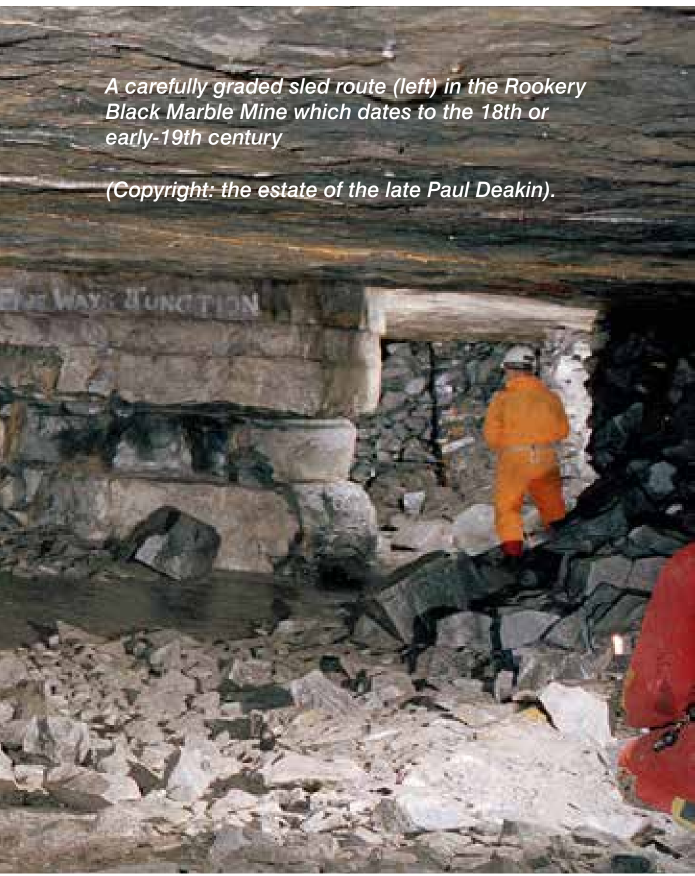
The chert at Bakewell was ideally suited as it often occurs in thin, interweaved beds of silica in a limestone matrix, unlike the tabular or nodular chert beds common elsewhere, which are easily fractured. Chert was first extracted from surface quarries in the later 18th century, when the use of burnt flint was widely adopted by Josiah Wedgwood and others.

As the chert beds were followed from outcrops, when overburden became too great in the mid-19th century, quarrymen started going underground. However, output started to tail off from the early decades of the 20th century as new processing methods were introduced, but the mines limped on into the 1960s.

The underground mines at Bakewell all worked in 'long wall' fashion, with large packs of waste built to support the roof behind the continuous working face. Roadways were left between the packs for transporting the blocks to the surface.

Holme Bank Mine, with over three miles (5km) of passages, was started in the 1850s and produced between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of chert per year when output was at its height in the 1890s. The roadways mostly had ponies pulling flat waggons along tramways to the surface. Pretoria Mine, with about a mile (over 1.6km) of impressive accessible passages, was started in 1900 and was a major producer for over 60 years. It had steeply-tilted beds which required the use of underground inclines with a haulage winch to bring the chert to the surface.

A 1950s trial reworking within Pretoria Mine, with an abandoned overcut prepared in advance of removing the chert beds below (Copyright: Mat and Niki Adlam Stiles).



A carefully graded sled route (left) in the Rookery Black Marble Mine which dates to the 18th or early-19th century

(Copyright: the estate of the late Paul Deakin).

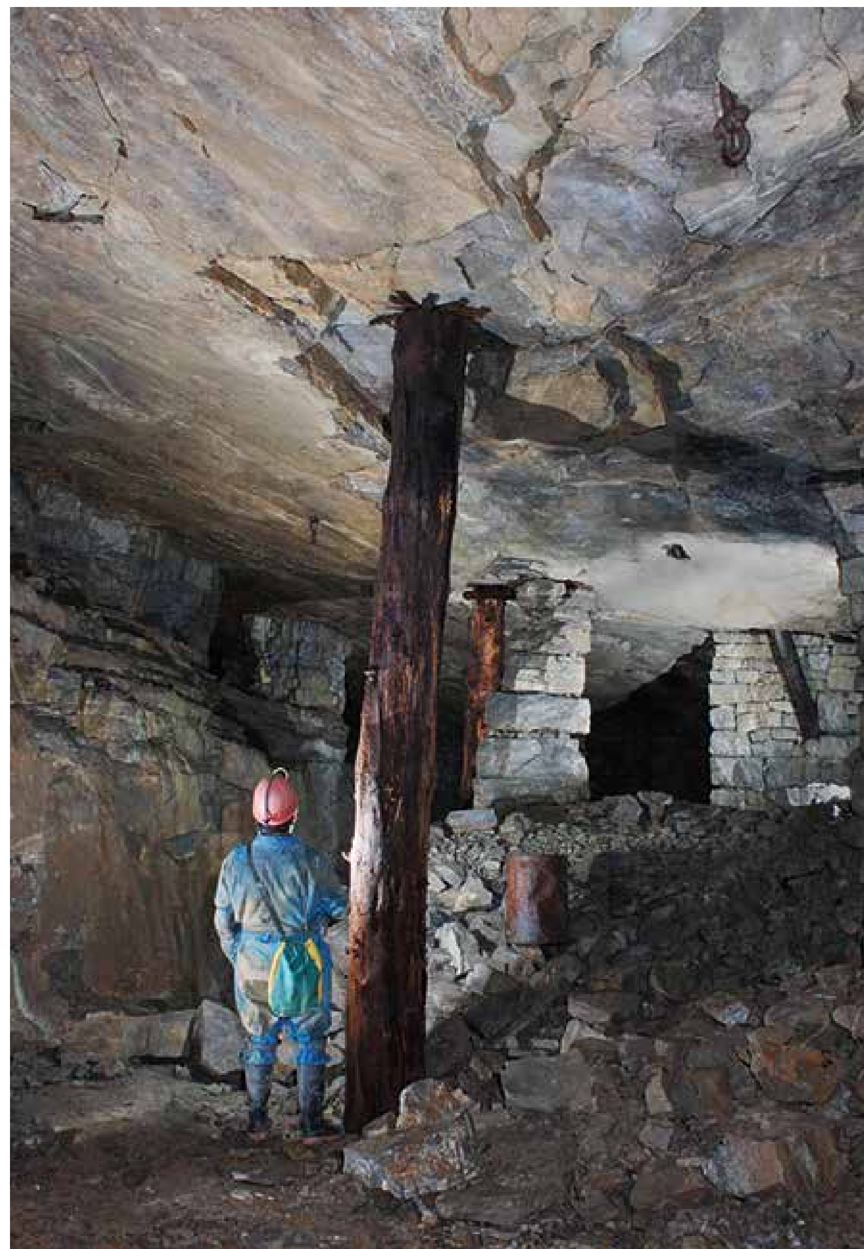
While the Holme Bank workings are commonly explored by guided adventure groups, access to Pretoria Mine is not normally granted, and this has led to the survival of nearly 2,000 recorded artefacts. These have helped interpret the workings, and a revolutionary new dating method was evolved. Disused passages were used by miners for toilet purposes, and many of the squares of newspaper employed had publication dates on them!

A roadway with mid-20th century tramway points, running between late 19th century waste packs in Holme Bank Chert Mine (Copyright: Mat and Niki Adlam Stiles).

Ashford marble

Ashford Black Marble is a dark grey, fine-grained limestone which, when polished, appears black. It was widely used in the Victorian period for inlaid ornaments, and fine examples can be seen in Buxton Museum. However, it has also been used for larger architectural pieces, such as fireplaces and chequered floors, from the 16th century onwards, as seen at Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and Chatsworth.

There are two main mines, at Rookery Plantation at the west end of the village and another over the river at Arrocks Mine. The main marble cutting and polishing works, with some stone sheds remaining, lay between the two. We now know that Rookery Mine and earlier quarries here on the surface, all once on the Commons of Ashford, were the main source of marble until the 1830s, while by the 1850s the main source was Arrocks Mine.



A 'temporary' 1950s roof prop at a trial reworking within Pretoria Mine (Copyright: Mat and Niki Adlam Stiles).

JANE A. FORD of the Department of Archaeology, Sheffield University, reports on her study of hyaena remains at Creswell Crags

Modern spotted hyaena in Tanzania

The laughing stock of Creswell

Hyaenas do not immediately spring to mind when thinking about Creswell Crags, but 40,000 to 60,000 years ago during the Ice Age, they were the most common predator.

The left mandible of an adult hyaena. Pin Hole Cave, 1920s excavations

10 cm

The spotted or "laughing" hyaena is restricted today to sub-Saharan Africa, but inhabited much of Ice Age Europe and Asia, and fossils show that it was considerably larger than its modern equivalent. The earliest evidence of the species in Britain dates back to approximately 700,000 years ago, although it is from around 125,000 years ago that numerous remains appear at many British sites.

The caves of Creswell Crags have yielded large numbers of animal bones from excavations dating back to the 19th century right through to the present, and a wealth of information is locked away in these remains. More than 110 hyaena teeth have been recorded so far, and these show numerous individuals ranging from new born cubs to older adults.

Radiocarbon dating on some of the teeth has shown them to be more than 40,000 years old. Over 170 bones have been found, with a large proportion belonging to one individual.

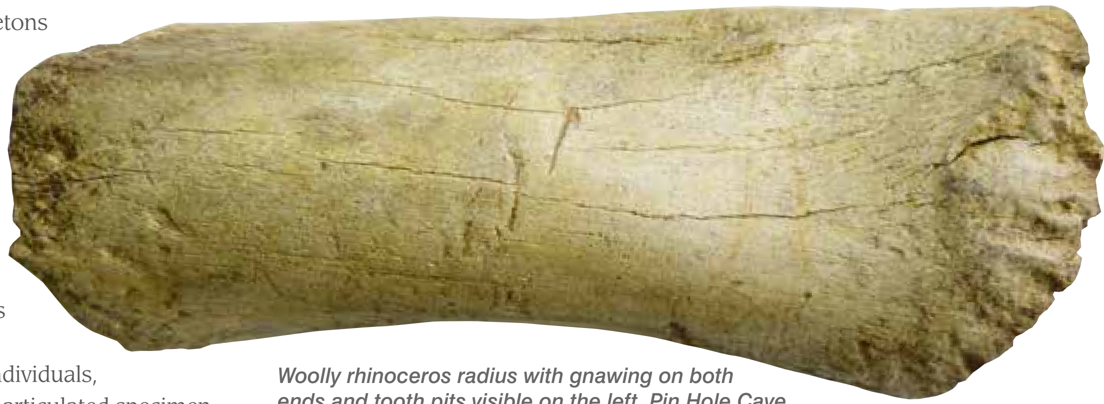
During excavations in Pin Hole Cave in the 1980s, the remains of an articulated juvenile hyaena were discovered with many of the bones still present. This specimen is one

of the most complete juvenile skeletons found so far in Ice Age contexts in Europe and its preservation is exceptional. The eruption of all "baby" teeth indicates that it was between two and eight months old when it died in the cave.

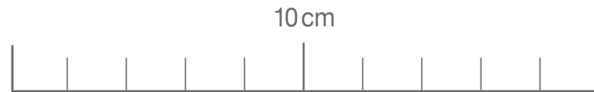
More juvenile elements have been found in the Pin Hole remains including long bones and partial mandibles of at least two further individuals, which were even younger than the articulated specimen. Robin Hood's Cave, Church Hole and Mother Grundy's Parlour also have evidence of juveniles, indicating that the caves were used as dens for raising cubs.

The presence of hyaena coprolites (fossilised faeces) adds to the picture of the caves being used for shelter and consumption of prey. Heavily-gnawed woolly rhinoceros bones are present, together with remains of woolly mammoth and reindeer, which were the main prey species.

Hyaenas have long had a reputation as scavengers, but modern studies have shown that they are skilled and efficient hunters, and as the Creswell gorge was frequented by these large herbivores, it must have provided a rich hunting ground. They did face competition from other predators, including lions, wolves and bears, whose remains were also present in the caves, although in much smaller numbers.



Woolly rhinoceros radius with gnawing on both ends and tooth pits visible on the left. Pin Hole Cave



Perhaps the greatest competition, however, may have come from humans, specifically Neanderthals in the case of Creswell. Scientific analysis from European sites show that Neanderthals and hyaenas were targeting the same prey species, and were very possibly in direct competition when inhabiting the same areas.

Research is on-going, as material from the Creswell caves is distributed among more than 30 museums around the country. But the picture that has emerged so far provides a fascinating insight into the lives of one of the top Ice Age predators.

Complete hyaena skeleton (Shefield Museums)

A penny for your thoughts

ROS WESTWOOD, Derbyshire Museums Manager, describes a medieval silver coin hoard found at Kirk Ireton

In 2012, a metal detectorist working through a field near Kirk Ireton discovered a hoard of over 43 medieval silver pennies. They were taken to the British Museum and were subsequently declared treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act. Buxton Museum and Art Gallery purchased them, where they are now on show.

All but one of the coins are official English silver pennies of the Long Cross type, issued between 1247 and 1279 during the reign of King Henry III, and into the reign of his son, Edward I. The name of the moneyer who made the coins is indicated on the reverse of each coin, alongside the name of the towns where they were minted. These towns include London, Northampton, Norwich, Lincoln, Oxford, Ilchester and Canterbury. There is one contemporary counterfeit coin.

David Tucker forging the Long Cross coins

The completed assembly of the Kirk Ireton coins

All the pennies contain at least 90 per cent fine silver. The penny was the only coin in regular production and use in England at the time. Lesser denominations, halfpennies and farthings, were made by literally cutting the penny into halves and quarters. Some of the smaller fragments in the group may be such cut fractions.

Henry III assumed the throne in 1216 when he was only nine years old on the death of his father King John only a year after he had sealed Magna Carta. During Henry's minority, the regnal responsibility was held by a regent, notably William Marshall. Henry took control in 1227 and reigned until 1272. History suggests his was an unsuccessful reign, with a disastrous foreign policy and continuing domestic strife with the barons. Henry was even taken prisoner by them, and later released by his son. But Henry's control of the currency suggests a powerful administrator.

There were two issues of coinage in 1247 and 1271. The first introduced the Long Cross penny, such as those found at Kirk Ireton. On the reverse of the coins, the cross reached right to the edges of the coin, a device to control the clipping of the coins. Clipping was a good way for coiners to collect suitable quality silver to forge coins and

at the same time, devalue the currency. The obverse shows a full face portrait of the king, and careful study reveals there are three different types.

In the 13th century, the legal tender was in pounds, shillings and pence (£-s-d). There were 12 pennies to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound. Other money in circulation included a mark (14s 4d), noble (6s 8d) and crown (5s). A carpenter in 1247 would earn about two pennies a day, with which he could purchase 16 pints of ale! A goose would cost three pennies, as would five bottles of wine.

Buxton Museum bought the coins in 2013, and was then successful in applying for a grant to the Art Fund Treasure Plus scheme to commission an artist to build a case to exhibit the coins to help interpret them. Firstly, however, they needed to be conserved, and this was done at the Manchester Museum.

The Derbyshire metalworker, David Tucker, won the commission for the display. He built a pile of coins with others balanced on their edges at a scale of about 1:20 (the coins measure about 16 mm, the impressions are 360 mm). So you can see and touch the face of the king, the words written around the coin and the Long Cross on the reverse. Some of the actual hoard is contained inside the case, and can be observed through a magnifying glass.

The museum was also able to arrange two family workshops, one at Wirksworth Library and the other at the museum with a musician and a moneyer, helping all the participants to make their own Long Cross pennies. With instruments, singing and the thump of the hammer, these proved lively, interactive sessions, bringing some of the richness of medieval life into the 21st century.

Alas, we do not know how these coins were lost in the field in Kirk Ireton. But we can make up any number of possible scenarios. Nothing remained of a container or purse, but surely they were all contained in something? Did someone hide their savings, or did they just lose them? Whatever may have happened, their caution or misfortune serves to make our history richer.

The Kirk Ireton hoard

Champion of the underdog

Time Team's Tony Robinson

Editor ROLY SMITH goes for a walk with former Time Team presenter TONY ROBINSON, who tells him about his latest 'cunning plans'

The report of Mr Harris, his history teacher, on Robinson, A. of Form 1B at Wanstead County High School for the term ending July 24, 1958, seemed to sum him up pretty accurately:

A very lively mind – sometimes too lively – it shoots off in too many directions at once!

Placing him third in his class with 79/100, he added:

All the same, his work is good.

"History has always been a passion with me," explains the actor, comedian, writer and TV presenter Tony Robinson, who went on to get his History O-level. Tony is probably best known for presenting the popular Channel 4 archaeological series Time Team for nearly 20 years, and I caught up with him while he was filming for his Walks through History series for Channel 4 at Jacob's Ladder in Edale.

That history teacher's assessment of Tony Robinson from nearly 60 years ago was echoed by the late Prof Mick Aston, his good friend and co-presenter of Time Team, who sadly passed away aged 66 in 2013. "I could kick him up in the air sometimes," admitted the shock-haired prof. "But Tony was vital to stop the programme turning into unintelligible gobbledegook which only professors could understand."

Tony started out as a child actor in 1960, playing the part of the Artful Dodger in Lionel Bart's original stage version of Oliver! at the age of 12, where his understudy was Steve Marriott, later lead singer of the Small Faces.

But Tony found national fame by his portrayal of the dishevelled and dysfunctional batman Baldrick ("the most disgusting individual in the history of human evolution," as he describes him) in Richard Curtis and Ben Elton's classic satirical historical comedy Blackadder, which ran for four series in the 1980s.

Tony revealed that despite its undoubted popularisation of the science, when Time Team started in 1994 it upset some archaeologists. "Some were particularly sniffy about it and criticised our method of doing the digs inside three days," explained Tony. "But it didn't bother me. I'm enough of a professional to know that any kind of publicity is good publicity.

"The truth is that these academics can often take 20 or 30 years to publish their reports on a dig, by which time many of the artefacts which were discovered have been lost or mislaid. At least we told the world what we'd found instantly," said Tony.

"In many ways, Time Team was a radical, even subversive, programme," he added. "But that's what we always intended it to be. We were democratising archaeology, if you like, taking it from being an arcane, dry-as-dust science into something which ordinary people could understand and get excited about." The honorary president of the Young Archaeologists' Club of the Council for British Archaeology added emphatically: "No, I've no regrets at all."

The idea for Time Team came after Tony had enrolled on an archaeological holiday being run by Mick Aston on the Greek island of Santorini. The two larger-than-life personalities hit it off immediately, and when Mick was asked by producer Tim Taylor to produce a new archaeology series for Channel 4, he insisted that his friend Tony should be the presenter.

Time Team, the biggest-ever interactive programme on the channel, ran for 300 programmes over 20 series between 1994 and 2013, and attracted a huge cult following. It is still regularly repeated on the History Channel.

Interestingly, Tony reckons that the Peak District was the site of one of the Team's most difficult and dangerous digs. They came to Carsington in 2003 to investigate a cave containing human remains which had been discovered by members of the Pegasus Caving Club of Nottingham.

"The cave was entirely filled with tons of mud, and access and lighting was extremely difficult," recalls Tony. "It was two young women archaeologists – Alice Roberts (who went on to become a key member of the Coast team, and has fronted many other TV programmes) and Katie Hurst – who eventually gained access to the chamber, where they experienced a rather frightening rockfall in the roof of the cave.

"They eventually found it was filled with the bones of young children, dating from the Iron Age, some 2,000 years ago," said Tony. "We never really discovered whether the deposits were sacrificial or ritual after an epidemic or something like that. It was all very strange and had the archaeologists puzzled."

Tony added: "They also found that all the adult skeletons excavated had very long noses. So it looked like we had unearthed a cave of Peakland Pinocchios!"

The Time Team (LtoR) : Phil Harding, Helen Geake, Tony Robinson and the late Mick Aston

Tony Robinson and Roly on Jacob's Ladder, Kinder Scout

Tony admits to being a political ("with a small p") animal, but despite that claim, he served for four years until 2004 on the National Executive of the Labour Party. He left after differences of opinion on fund raising and personal disquiet over the Iraq war. "It confirmed in my own mind that, despite what the national press had implied at the time, I could never be a professional politician."

He was knighted in the 2013 Birthday Honours List for his public and political services. Commenting on the honour, Tony was quoted as saying: "I pledge that from this day on I'll slaughter all unruly dragons, and rescue any damsels in distress who request my help!"

But he added: "I'll use my new title with abandon to highlight the causes I believe in, particularly the importance of culture, the arts and heritage and the plight of the infirm elderly and their carers."

Tony's interest in the elderly infirm was sparked by his moving and painfully-honest Channel 4 documentary about the care of the elderly, Me and my Mum in 2006. It was entirely typical of the man that he chose to illustrate the growing national problem of what we should do about the elderly by using his personal situation and that of his own mother, Phyllis, who sadly died on the final day of filming. He says the programme attracted more public response than anything he'd ever done before.

"I've always wanted to highlight the plight of ordinary people," he explains. "When I was at school, the history we were taught was all about the great and the good; kings and queens, barons and the nobility. But I believe history – and especially archaeology – is really about ordinary things and ordinary people and the way they conducted their lives.

"If we can show what it was really like to live in the past and put that across in our programmes, then I'm happy."

As his farsighted teacher foretold with astonishing prescience in that same school report on "Robinson, A" in 1958:

Full of high spirits, witty and likeable. I hope his outstanding talents will be canalised properly.

They were, Mr Harris, they were.

Cultural Ambassador

Stella McGuire

STELLA MCGUIRE, Peak District National Park Authority member for Cultural Heritage, describes a typical day

A day in my life? I could give you the 'watching-paint-dry' version: hours spent working through alarmingly-thick sets of committee papers, or staring at a computer screen dealing with emails. But I've been urged to go for the 'edited highlights,' and some of them really are highlights.

Inauspiciously, my appointment as a Secretary of State member of the PDNPA began on April Fool's Day, 2014. I'm very grateful to Pauline Beswick (my predecessor on the Authority) who encouraged me to apply to Defra for the role.

The role of the eight SoS members is to 'reflect the national importance placed on protected landscapes', alongside colleagues representing Local Authorities and groups of Parish Councils.

Currently, I'm also the member representative for Cultural Heritage, which means that I work with others to ensure that our decisions and actions reflect the important and inspiring heritage of the Peak District – not only features and buildings from a range of periods, but the way that the region's past is revealed in the landscape.

I try to remind people that the two statutory purposes of the National Park are to 'conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage' of the area, and to 'promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities'.

One of the real highlights has been my involvement with the Stanage/North Lees Steering Group – an excellent bunch of people (representing climbers, mountain bikers, parish councillors, ramblers, fell

Stella with a group of refugees and asylum seekers on a walk to North Lees

Photo: Bill Gordon

runners, birdwatchers and other groups) who have got together with National Park staff to rewrite the management plan for the estate.

I've enjoyed getting away from the computer screen and out into the wonderful Stanage landscape to think about access, archaeology, landscape conservation, wildlife, and interpretation for visitors. As a group, we argue a lot, but we all have in common a love for this area, and its wildness – which survives, despite the visitor numbers.

One of my other highlights was a summer walk from Hathersage to North Lees with a group of refugees and asylum seekers from five different countries, organised with the Northern Refugee Centre: a memorable experience for everyone who took part. Notionally, the walk was about heritage, but somehow it turned into a mobile conversation about buttercups, cows, sheep, Robin Hood, rock climbing, moles, waterwheels and wedding venues.

In contrast, participation in the Planning Committee is not exactly fun – but essential, exhausting and fascinating. Against the background of an extensive set of democratically-agreed policies, planning officers and the Committee have to deal with some eye-wateringly complex issues, where the question of what is right and fair can be finely-balanced, and it's not always easy to arrive at the 'right' decision. Nor is it an easy experience for the members of the public who come along to present a case, or to support or object to a proposal.

The meetings can sometimes be stressful, and they always require a lot of preparation and thought on all sides. At their best, they're marked by courtesy, and a willingness to explore other perspectives.

Aside from my National Park role, I coordinate (as a volunteer) archaeological monitoring on behalf of the Eastern Moors Partnership. All 12 members of the monitoring team seem to relish exploring their allocated patch of moorland or gritstone edge, checking the condition of nearly 6,000 features which date from prehistory to the 20th century.

One of the pleasures of doing this is to get off the footpaths and find our way to spots which are rarely visited, except by deer, woodcock, adders and the other impressive wildlife of these moors. In some cases, we recognise previously unrecorded features and add them to the formal record. In others, we suggest repair, or the removal of encroaching birch and bracken.

All in all, I'm lucky to do what I do – to be involved as a PDNPA member, and as a volunteer, in the conservation of such a superb natural and cultural landscape. I enjoy helping other committed people to make sure that it's there to be explored and loved by future generations of those who live and work here, regular visitors, and those who will rarely get a chance to see places like this.

At the scheduled smelting mill at Jack Flat, managed by Eastern Moors Partnership. Photo: Helen Ullathorne

Moor than meets the eye

Packhorse bridge, Burbage Brook

DAVID HEY, Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History, Sheffield University, describes the background to his new book on the history of the Peak District moors

Walking is my chief recreation and as I have lived for most of my life on the edge of the Peak District moors, I have got to know them well. As a professional historian I am always seeking to understand what I see on my visits, because the pleasure derived from striding across the moors is greatly enhanced by what Bert Ward, the great pioneer of rambling in the Peak District, called "the trinity of legs, eyes and mind."

My book, A History of the Peak District Moors (Pen & Sword Local, £12.99), is an attempt to explain how the Peak District moors have come to be what they are today, from prehistory to the success of the Right to Roam movement. I try to convey the message that today's moors are not, as many people suppose, just the remnant of a 'natural' landscape, formed by the underlying geology, soils and vegetation. They have been influenced by thousands of years of human activity.

I begin with the view from the National Trust's Visitor Centre at Longshaw Lodge, an accessible starting point for a ramble that takes in evidence from many periods of time, starting with the enigmatic Carl Wark and the less obvious Bronze Age cairns below, which show that humans were shaping this environment thousands of years ago.

In the Middle Ages, farmers cleared land to grow crops high above Padley Gorge. We can still find the foundations of one of their longhouses and some of the broken-down walls that enclosed these new assarts.

Millstones were hewn in Padley Gorge in the mid-15th century, and plenty of physical evidence for the trade survives right up to the 1930s, in the form of overgrown quarries, abandoned millstones, piles of debris and the deep holloway that was cut from Millstone Edge to transport millstones about the end of the 17th century. The name Bole Hill is a reminder of another profitable trade – lead smelting.

We can also find plenty of evidence of early transport: the guide stoops of 1709, a packhorse bridge over the Burbage Brook, and milestones that marked the turnpike roads, some of which were diverted when the Duke of Rutland built Longshaw Lodge.

Millstone sledge road

Much of the physical evidence is undisturbed because a huge moorland estate was created around Longshaw Lodge after the enclosure of various commons in order to shoot grouse. Managed estates such as this have made a huge contribution to the historic landscapes of the Peak District, but we also need to recognise the leading role taken by local rambling clubs in the access movement. The Duke of Rutland was forced to sell the Longshaw estate in 1927 because of death duties. Appropriately, in 1931 the National Council of Ramblers' Federations (a body that in 1935 changed its cumbersome name to The Ramblers' Association, and is now known as the Ramblers) held its first meeting at the lodge.

There is much else to see and ponder when wandering around the Longshaw estate. The Wooden Pole marks the ancient boundary between Totley and Hathersage; Sheffield Plantation was a Victorian business venture to grow conifers; the dramatic rock face from Millstone Edge to Bole Hill was largely the result of the quarrying of stones for the Derwent and Howden Dams, and pock-marked rocks are a reminder of military manoeuvres during the Second World War.

Looking across from Longshaw Lodge, we can see immediately how decisions about the management of the landscape have influenced the appearance of the moors. And seeing the spreading silver birch, we can get a sense of how some of the moors may have looked in prehistoric times.

Millstone quarry, Padley Gorge.

Medieval field boundary wall, Sheffield Plantation.

The westernmost wall and row of timbers

There's an old mill by the stream…

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is well known for its industrial archaeology. But PAUL FLINTOFT of Trent & Peak Archaeology reveals an even earlier mill site at Darley Abbey

The pioneering achievements of the 18th century Derwent Valley industries on mechanised production are well documented, and the early mills have been celebrated with the accolade of UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

The industrial heritage of Darley Abbey has recently become even more compelling with the recent discovery of a late medieval straddle mill, which extends the industrial heritage of Darley by almost 300 years. Although no records of fishing or milling rights within this stretch of the River Derwent exist from the medieval period, comparative examples lead us to believe that the mill may have been under the auspices of the Augustinian abbey at Darley.

The remains of the mill were discovered during an archaeological monitoring visit undertaken throughout the construction of a fish pass, which was installed on an artificial island situated towards the south of the historic weir.

The island itself appears to be a late 18th or early 19th century addition to the landscape. Historic mapping from the 1760s shows a promontory of land extending easterly from the town. By the 1820s, there is cartographic evidence which suggest that by this time only a discrete island existed.

The excavation

On the discovery of structural remains, which included sandstone walls and 92 upright timbers, a team of archaeologists from Trent & Peak Archaeology was assembled to excavate the mill.

The upright timbers were almost exclusively oak and were particularly substantial, some measuring almost 13 feet (4m) in length. Specialist analysis concluded that they were split into shape and, in places, finished via hewing rather than sawn.

Dendrochronological analysis of seven of the timbers identified the earliest phase of activity dated to the third quarter of the 15th century. The final phase of use dates to the mid-16th century, and the mill does not appear to have been in use beyond the Dissolution of the monasteries.

The sandstone walls were considered as being in relatively poor condition. Despite their condition, a broadly rectangular footprint can be distinguished. A north-north-easterly aligned recess in between two walls is believed to have served as the wheel pit. An example from an ecclesiastical setting which is similar in size and layout has been excavated at Abbotsbury in Dorset.

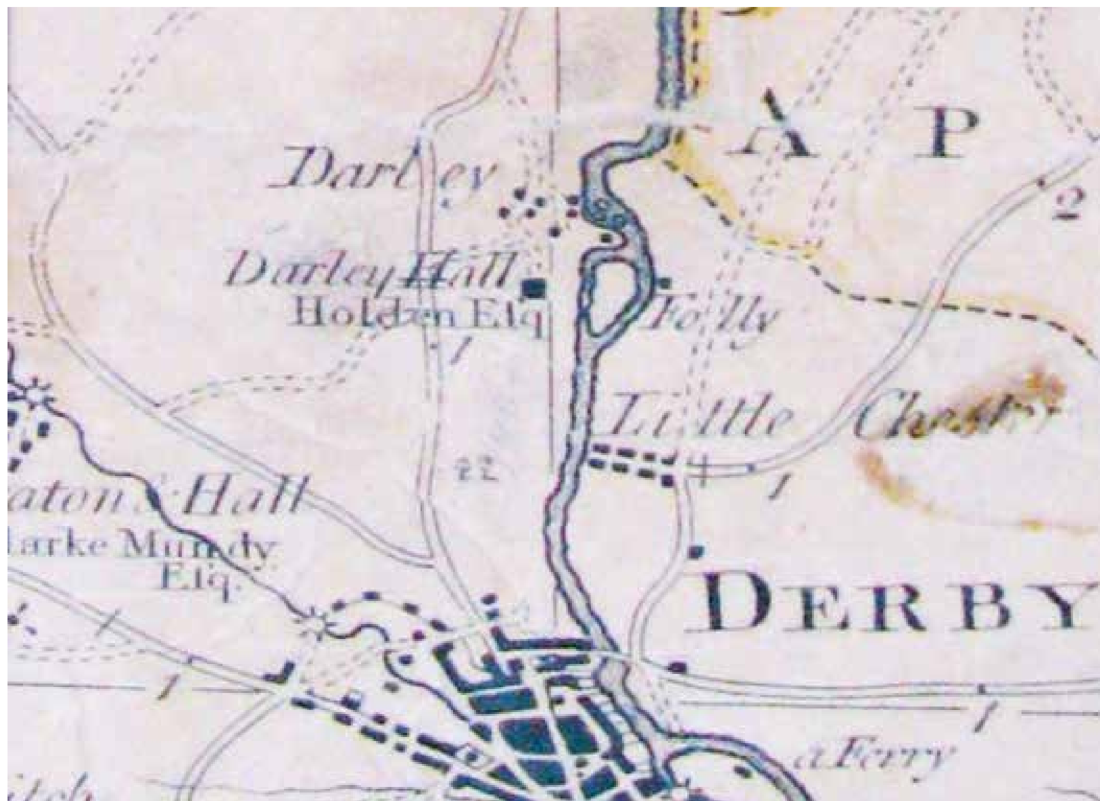
An interesting observation from the excavation was the absence of mill furniture and equipment. This may have been the result of the selling-off of materials to entrepreneurs, who by this time were profiting from milling industries.

The mill in context

Straddle mills were common on monastic sites and have been recorded at Fountains Abbey, Baysdale Nunnery and Glastonbury Abbey. Generally speaking, straddle mills which have pit wheels in this kind of configuration are usually undershot, meaning the wheel was powered by water flowing beneath the wheel.

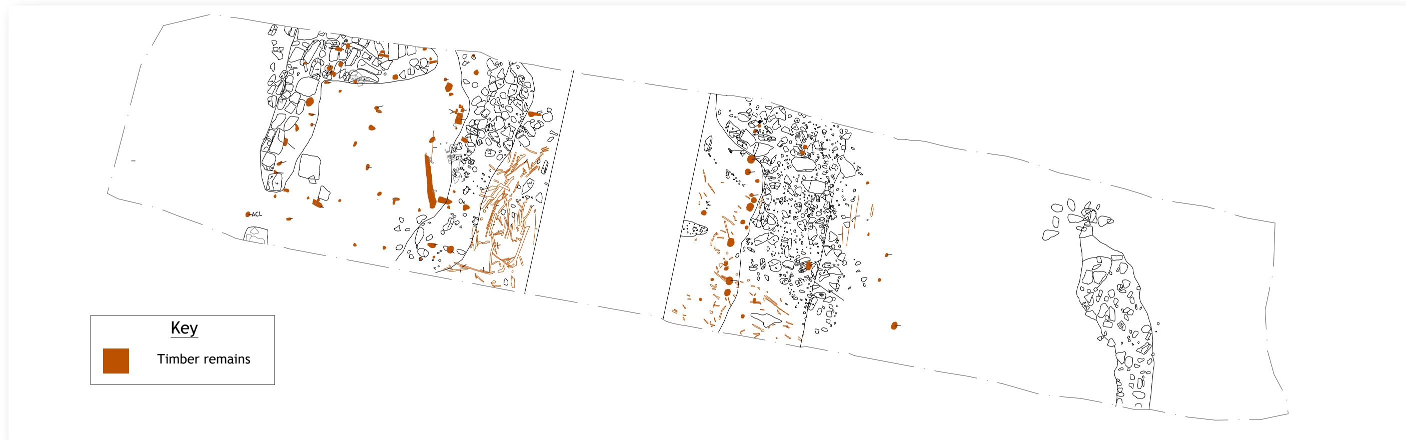
The abandonment of mills around the time of the Dissolution was not uncommon. The mills at Baysdale in North Yorkshire and Glastonbury in Somerset were also abandoned during the Dissolution. These examples demonstrate that the relinquishment of the mills to the Crown, presumably for the stripping of useful assets, appears to be a common occurrence and this may explain the demise of the Darley example.

The mill is the earliest instance of a structure built for the purpose of mechanised production which has been identified in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The Darley Abbey Fish Pass structure adds an important new chapter to the development of a place which is regarded as being the origin of mechanised manufacturing.



The promontory of land extending east on the 1760s map

Site plan showing the location of the timbers



Pole to Pole

STELLA McGUIRE, who represents the Peak District National Park on the Stanage Forum Steering Group, tells the chequered history of Stanage Pole

Stanage Pole, taken down in 2015 (Bill Gordon)

No-one knows exactly when the first Pole was put up high on the gritstone escarpment of Stanage Edge, above Hathersage. Its modern successor was taken down early last year, after it had started to lean at a dangerous angle.

The Pole was set in a group of earthfast gritstone boulders at the point where a significant west/east route crosses an ancient boundary line coinciding with the county, manor and parish boundaries, following a line roughly parallel to Stanage Edge. It is possible that this long-standing boundary may perpetuate the line of the pre-Conquest frontier between the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria.

A group of gentleman at the Pole, possibly in the late 19th century (Picture Sheffield)

The broadly west/east route on which the Pole stands forms part of a main highway which ran from the Hope Valley to Redmires in Sheffield and beyond, and had its origins in the medieval period, if not before.

The Pole's ridgetop location makes it a prominent landmark when viewed from the north and east, and travellers on a number of tracks and holloways would have used it as a guide and reference point. However, it is set back from the Edge itself, and so cannot be seen as you approach from the Hathersage direction up Long Causeway or other old tracks which lead up towards the Edge. Does this mean that the Pole's main role was as a boundary marker, rather than a guidepost?

When was it first erected? We know that, on August 7, 1656, the ancient limits and boundaries of the Manor of Hathersage were "viewed set forth and ridden" by various gentlemen and jurors. The account of their ride refers to many significant marker points along their route – but intriguingly, not to a pole on Stanage Edge.

The earliest map depiction of a pole at Stanage that Bill Gordon, warden at the National Park's North Lees/ Stanage Estate, has been able to find is dated 1723. By the late 18th century, accounts of boundary perambulations referred to "a place called Thurstone Pole but of late called Stannage Pole".

The boulders surrounding the Pole are covered in a fantastic array of graffiti of various dates. Some of them – as John Barnatt pointed out in his 1991 archaeological survey – have large, deeply-inscribed letters and numbers, whose style indicates an early date; for example TM 1631; HH 1697; FN 1740. The earlier dates to which John refers (1550 and 1581) were recorded in about 1875 according to GHB Ward, but have not been seen in modern times.

In *Peakland Roads and Trackways*, AE and EM Dodds suggest that the inscriptions could be the initials of parish road surveyors who renewed the Pole – although, as we have seen, we don't have evidence that there was a pole in place before the early 1700s. John suggests that they might relate to successive perambulations of the county, manor and parish boundaries, like the journey the "gentlemen and jurors" undertook in 1656.

One of the earliest photographs I have been able to find shows a group of men in what seems to be rather formal, probably late Victorian dress, gathered around a pole which looks very like the current Wooden Pole at Longshaw: a roughly-trimmed tree trunk. This, and other photographs from the period and through the 20th century, show Stanage Pole as a regular gathering point and "photo opportunity".

Minutes from Sheffield's Highways and Sewage Committee for 1915/16 reveal another stage in the ever-changing career of Stanage Pole. It was reported that in September 1915, the Pole had been removed "by persons unknown", and that Messrs Brown, Bayley's Steel Works had offered to supply a pole "made of the new stainless and rustless steel, turned and polished in any way desired." But the full council, supported by the Hunter Archaeological Society, was having none of it, and instructions were issued for a new wooden pole.

Streams of visitors take their toll on the landscape – as they did a century ago. A remarkable photograph from the 1920s or 30s, taken by Phil Barnes and held in the South Yorkshire archive of CPRE, shows a depressingly large collection of litter at the Pole.

Inscriptions at Stanage Pole (Bill Gordon)

Litter at Stanage Pole in the 1920s or early 1930s, photographed by Phil Barnes

When the most recent incarnation of the Pole was taken down in 2015, it appeared to be similar to a telegraph pole, with a metal core. Rebekah Newman, PDNPA's Property Manager for the North Lees/Stanage estate, has asked local people and representatives of visiting groups, what kind of replacement they would like.

A number of people, including Chris Wells of Stannington and Carl Baxby of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers, contributed ideas on the design and erection of a new pole, and Hope Construction Materials offered help with the construction of a metal socket. The PDNPA plans to provide commemorative text to mark this latest renewal of the Pole, in the tradition of those who have carved initials and dates into the rock since the 1600s.

The new pole should be in place by the time this article is published, and it's good to know that Stanage Pole, in its latest incarnation, will continue into the 21st century.

Many thanks to all who provided information and images, including Andy Tickle (Sheffield CPRE); Bill Gordon, Rebekah Newman and John Barnatt (PDNPA); Sheffield Central Library (Local Studies) and Robin Hughes.

The Watford Moor practice trench clearly visible in thick snow, showing a traverse and the south-eastern firing bay.

Digging for victory at Burbage

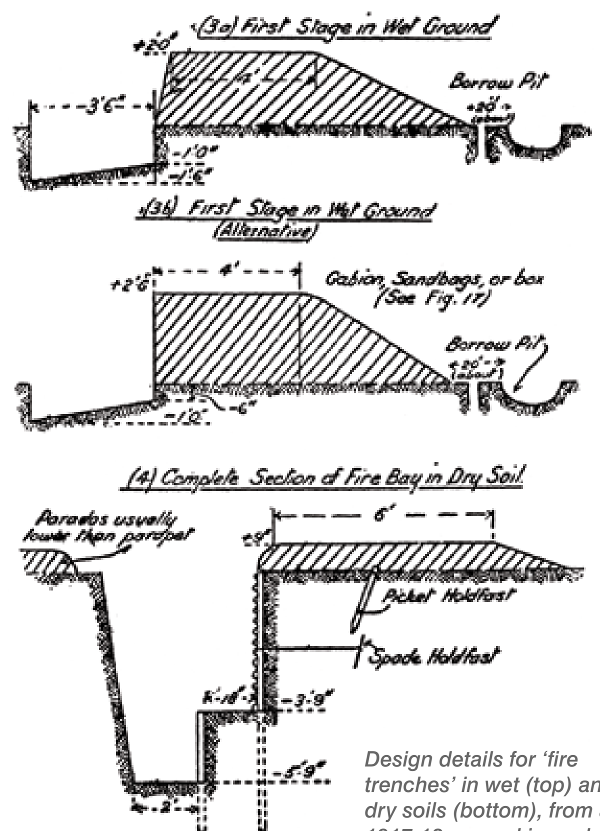
Peak District National Park Senior Survey Archaeologist JOHN BARNATT reports on the discovery of World War I practice trenches above Burbage

In 2014, Simon Crutchley of Historic England identified distinctive trenches among Coal Authority Lidar survey data commissioned to monitor old coal mining remains at Burbage, near Buxton.

A large part of the main site is on Open Access moorland, just north of the old road from Burbage to Derbyshire Bridge, in a ruined enclosure which I had crossed several times over the years without seeing what now seems obvious. Following a press release, two local residents contacted Historic England, saying that they remembered playing in these trenches as children.

From February to April 2015, a detailed survey was made of the trenches, by kind permission of the landowners. What has emerged is a site that rivals the only other extensive World War I practice trenches in the Peak District, the Scheduled remains at Redmires, above Sheffield.

The main site at Burbage Edge has extensive, if low, earthworks on the coarse grassland behind the scarp, with further remains nearby on private farmland with no public access. The shallow trenches and low banks are only partially visible from above using satellite and Lidar imagery, so in this instance there has been no substitute for careful examination on the ground. In contrast, a single trench just over a mile away on Open Access moorland on Watford Moor is much more obvious.



Design details for 'fire trenches' in wet (top) and dry soils (bottom), from a 1917-18 manual issued by the War Office.

Layout of fire, supervision and communication trenches from a 1917–18 War Office manual

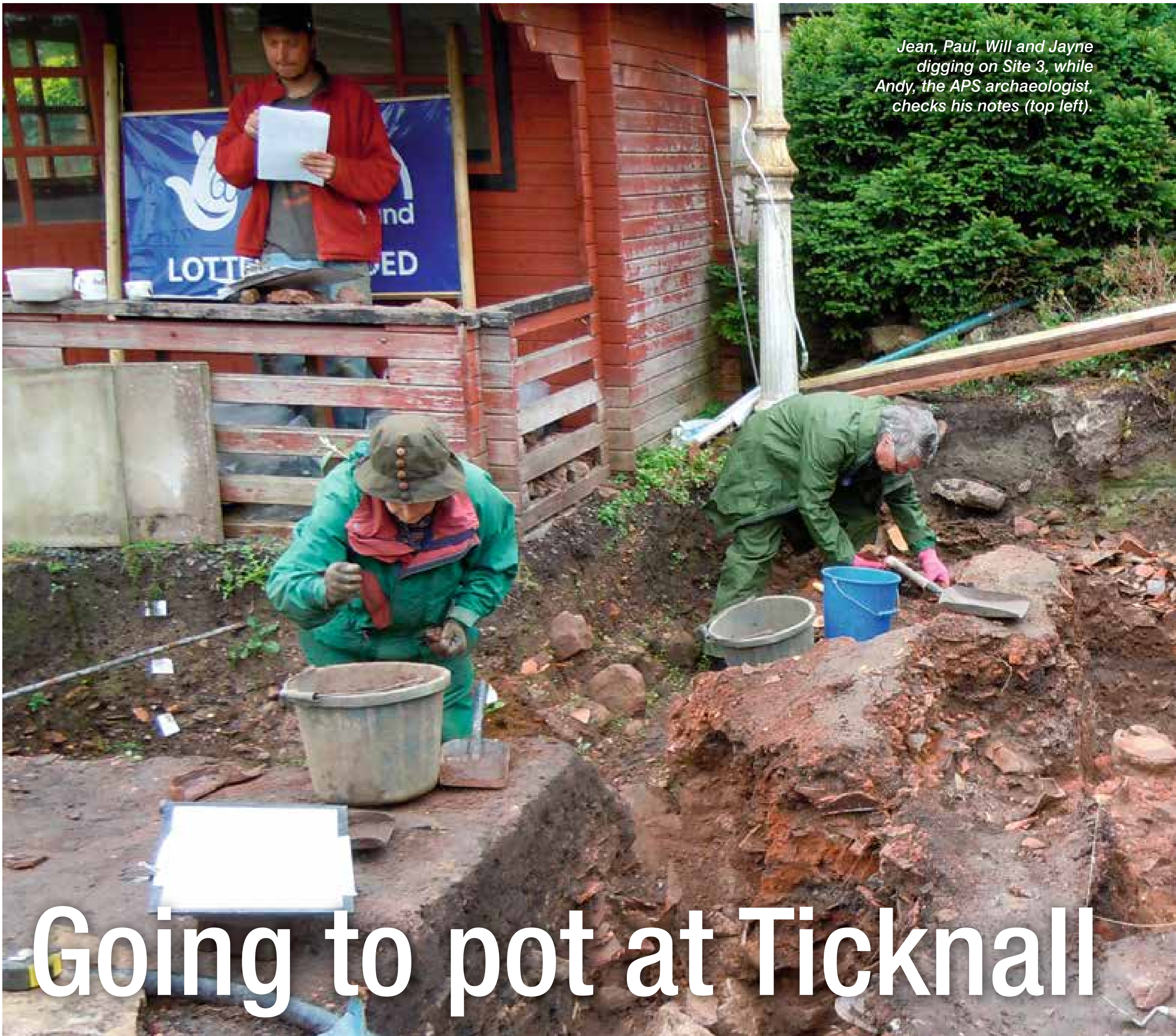
It is believed the trenches were dug by the Royal Engineers who were stationed in Buxton from 1915 and were learning their trade here, for example, building pontoon bridges across the lake in the Pavilion Gardens. While many Canadian troops were also present in the town, these men were recuperating at the hospital facilities established by the Canadian Red Cross in various hotels, with the Canadian Discharge Depot at the Empire Hotel.

Seen in plan, the most distinctive features are crenellated. These 'fire trenches' were designed as front-line infantry positions. They have 'bays' for several men to fire from and 'traverses' between each which were designed to stop the enemy, should they reach the trench, having a clear line of fire along it.

Each trench, when intact, had a 'parapet' bank in front, with a 'parados' bank behind to protect men from shrapnel. There are also communication trenches approaching the front-line earthworks from behind. Other recognisable features are machine-gun or lookout posts in front of the 'fire trenches' and two oval 'redoubts' designed as local front-line command and supply posts.

The distribution of the earthworks gives the impression that they were dug over time, with some parts out of use before others were created, rather than the whole being an integrated front-line training ground. On Burbage Edge the trenches and flanking banks are very slight; what is unclear is the extent to which they have silted or been purposefully slighted as they became redundant. They may have always been shallow, as a response to wet ground, or elsewhere because of bedrock close to the surface. However, on Watford Moor the trench is deeper and both banks are clear, suggesting those on Burbage Edge had indeed been slighted. We also don't know, for example, if the trenches were dug by the Royal Engineers purely for practice or if they were experimenting with trench design.

Surveying at the intact 'fire trench' on Watford Moor with sub-metre accuracy GPS



Jean, Paul, Will and Jayne digging on Site 3, while Andy, the APS archaeologist, checks his notes (top left).

Going to pot at Ticknall

JANET SPAVOLD and SUE BROWN of the Ticknall Archaeological Research Group investigate four centuries of pottery making at Ticknall

Ticknall is a rural village seven miles south of Derby. Few traces survive of its industrial past, which was in limeburning, pottery and coalmining. There are 30 known pottery sites, operating from the Middle Ages to 1888. They made Coal Measure, Midland Purple, high-quality Cistercian, Yellow, Black and other wares.

Excavations and observations on six sites show how the kilns developed. Two sites were excavated by the Ticknall Archaeological Research Group as teaching digs under professional direction, as part of an HLF-funded project. The excavated sites showed all the types of kilns used here.

Site 2 made mainly Cistercian and Midland Purple wares (1450-1550). Under a pot tip, we found kiln evidence in the burnt earth and the remains of a pedestal support in the centre, but there was no trace of a substantial structure. This kiln pre-dated the Cistercian wares dumped above it, and there was evidence of at least one other kiln position close by.

Our excavations on Site 3 showed that the kiln was worked between c1550-1650. It was formed on a clay foundation using upturned butterpots with a channel around them, and evidence of coal-fired flues at intervals. Crumbly fired clay showed that the butterpots were covered with clay for the chamber base. Some pots were fired in saggars or butterpots, while others were stacked in rows. Pads and larger squeezes of clay were used to support and separate pots. Site 3 made all types from Medieval to the kiln's closure date of 1800. Site 12 was a working pottery before 1682, when the potter Thomas Tetley died. Three generations of the

Blore family then took over, working the pottery until the 1770s. This kiln evidence came to light during building work, but neither excavations nor dating were possible. However, the positions of similar kilns could be seen.

A line of five (possibly six) kilns showed on a magnetometer survey done by Archaeological Project Services on Site 6. They lined up alongside the southern boundary, away from the house. It was the rear part of a croft facing the road, and the kiln area is now a field. They are probably sequential kilns with only one working at a time. Medieval, Cistercian, Midland Purple and some Yellow wares suggest working dates from pre-1400s to the late 1500s.

Site 20 is at Heath End. James Tetley worked there in the 1660s, followed by three successive generations of his family. Joseph Tetley's kiln is marked on a 1735 map, and is probably the kiln excavated in 2013 with Mercian

Kiln base, Site 3

Archaeological Services. A brick structure with a clay floor, it was an 18th century Type 3 kiln, 1.83m (6ft) diameter with eight 0.3m (1ft) wide flues. Fine mottled wares were fired in saggars stacked in the centre, with coarser wares stacked around the floor. Outside was a working surface and coal store and beside it was the waste dump.

There was a regular pattern of waste dumps close to the kiln, identified by their loose structure, and often with partly-fired orange clay running through wide gaps between sherds. Site 14's dump shows this structure.

Our thanks are due to all private landowners and the National Trust for excavation permissions; the Heritage Lottery Fund; Archaeological Project Services and Mercian Archaeological Services.

The 1730s kiln on Site 20

Trench to examine the possible site of the medieval mill
© The JESSOP Consultancy.
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Rediscovering Capability's Chatsworth

OLIVER JESSOP and SARAH WHITELEY explain how new surveys are being used to rediscover Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's Chatsworth

In 2012 the Chatsworth Estate entered into a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England to manage its parkland, moorland and farmland for optimal ecological, landscape and historic landscape conservation.

As Chatsworth is a Grade I designated historic park, the preparation of a Parkland Management Plan (PMP) was required as part of the HLS scheme. The purpose of the PMP was to research and document the park's landscape and historic features, in order to achieve a greater understanding of it. It also assessed how it is used and experienced by visitors.

The Plan was produced by Historic Landscape Management Ltd (HLM) and drew on existing information and studies on the archaeology and biodiversity of the site. An advisory team was drawn together, from Chatsworth Estate Land managers, representatives from Natural England and Historic England, Peak District National Park Authority staff from Countryside & Economy and Cultural Heritage teams.

A detailed archaeological field survey had been produced for the estate in the late 1990s by the PDNPA Archaeology Service. All the features recorded in this document were condition-assessed as part of the study.

On the basis of this comprehensive research, a strategy for future conservation and management was produced. Part of this was recognition that the River Derwent required its own assessment and management plan.

This was produced in 2013 and included proposals for restoration of eroded sections of river bank. This was impacting on archaeological deposits in certain locations, notably Queen Mary's Bower, where the archaeological remains of the former Elizabethan gardens were being lost.

Other proposals included the possibility of removing accumulated silt from sections directly in front of the House, which had been widened by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The reason for this was to produce a 'pond' effect to reflect the grandeur of the House.

To provide additional evidence that would complement the previous landscape survey of the parkland by the PDNPA, a series of new archaeological studies were commissioned.

The most extensive was an airborne laser scanning (Lidar) survey of the whole parkland, covering an area of approximately 7.6 sq km (about three square miles). Lidar surveys produce a detailed record of the ground surface, highlighting very subtle earthworks, even below areas of trees or light scrub. The results were impressive and established that the archaeological features within the park were more complex than previously understood.

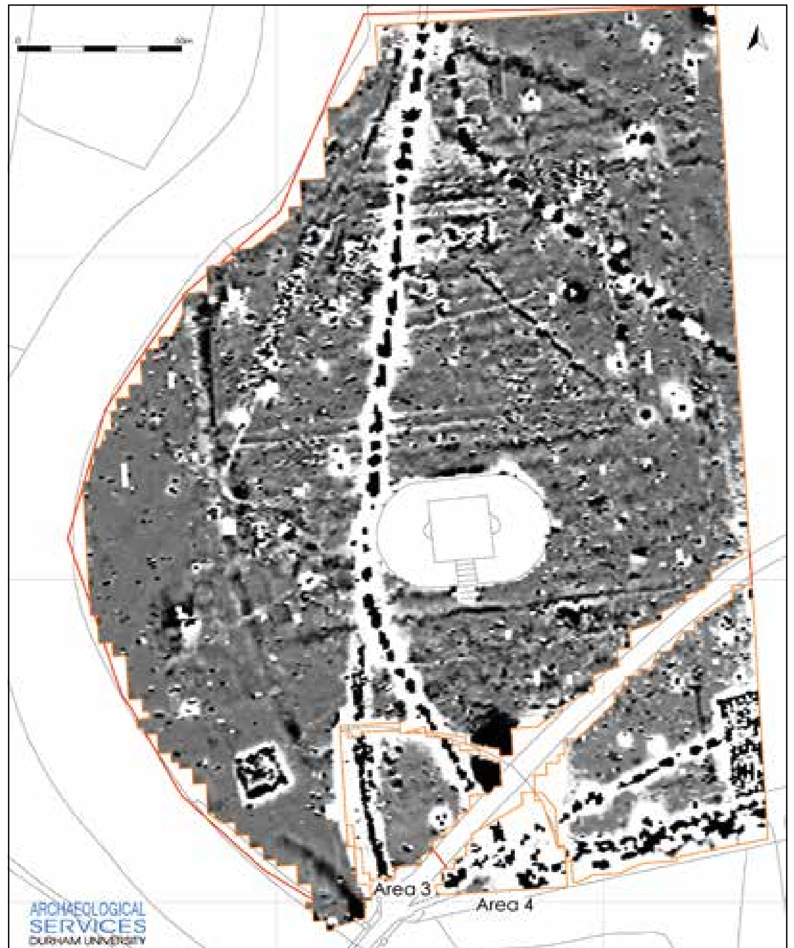
A secondary stage of survey was necessary to check the results on the ground – a technique known as 'ground truthing'. In conjunction with the ground truthing, an archaeological walk-over survey was undertaken by The JESSOP Consultancy of the river banks and land on either side, to ensure that all archaeological features of potential significance were identified and allocated a unique reference number to aid with future decision making regarding the use, repair and management of the river.

One such feature is the apparent use of stone walls to form an edge to the river banks, interpreted as dating to the 18th or 19th centuries. The walling is not continuous, but surviving sections can be seen on the opposite bank to the cricket pitch, and close to Paine's Mill.

A second programme of archaeological investigations took the form of non-invasive geophysical survey using magnetromentry, undertaken by the University of Durham. Three areas were examined, around Queen Mary's Bower, on the east bank above the Upper Weir, and to the north of Paine's Mill.

The results from Queen Mary's Bower have further added to our understanding of this part of the garden. Later drains and tracks have been identified, an early 20th century golf tee, along with the rectangular outline of one pond dating to the 16th century, which formed an extensive water garden along the banks of the Derwent. The existing pond surrounding the bower dates to the 1830s, when the architect Jeffry Wyatville remodelled the setting.

Extract from the Chatsworth Lidar survey to the north of the House © Alison Deegan. Reproduced with permission of the Chatsworth House Trust.



Magnetrometry plot from geophysical survey around Queen Mary's Bower. © Archaeological Services Durham University. Reproduced with permission of the Chatsworth House Trust.

The second area of geophysics examined the east bank of the river where it is proposed to remove the silts to recreate the landscape setting envisaged by Brown. This area is believed to have been the site of the medieval mill, and a decision was taken to examine this possibility in more detail.

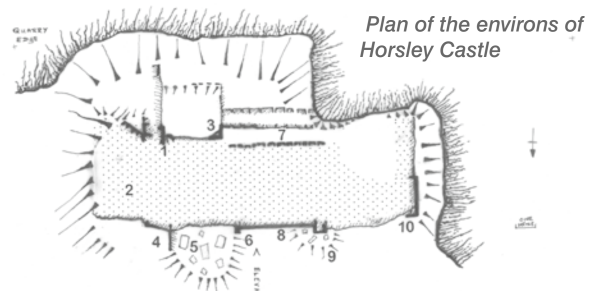
A series of long excavation trenches were cut across this part of the floodplain, one 50m in length. However, only 1960s building rubble was identified, presumably an earlier attempt at raising the ground level to prevent waterlogging. The medieval mill has still to be located and further survey may be necessary to establish what remains survive, or whether it was totally removed when the river was widened in the middle of the 18th century.

The final survey to the north of Paine's Mill was not as extensive, but confirmed the routes of the buried mill race and possible rectangular buildings along the edge of the mill pond. To accompany the geophysics, a detailed archaeological record was made of the standing remains of the mill, which was severely damaged after a storm in 1962.

The various archaeological investigations have provided a much greater understanding of the development of the Chatsworth landscape, and helped unravel more of the complexity of the setting to the House. But they have also raised many more questions which are still to be answered.

Ashlar-faced remains of the wall of the keep

King John's Derbyshire Retreat



Plan of the environs of Horsley Castle

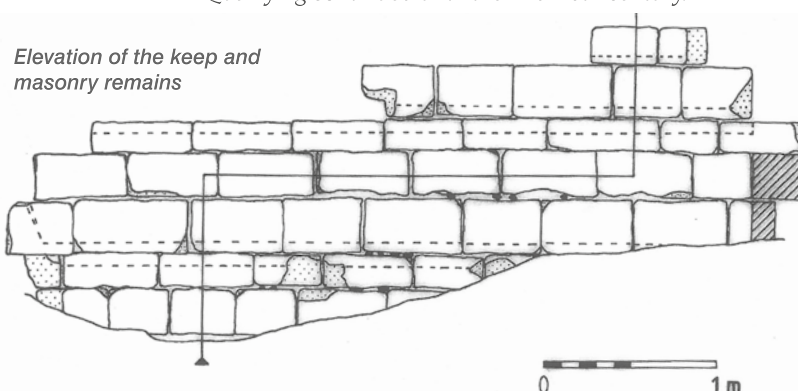
As celebrations of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta continue, CLIVE HART uncovers evidence of King John's favourite Derbyshire castle

The 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta last year was marked by several re-assessments, events and publications. So it was appropriate that during the same year, a new survey of King John's favourite Derbyshire castle, Horsley (or Harestone) Castle, was completed by a survey team which consisted of Clive Hart, Barry Crisp, Mike Butler, and Sue and Ian Woore.

Situated five miles north of Derby and one mile south of Horsley village, the castle (a scheduled ancient monument) is scarcely visible today. Located on a steep-sided hill with wild woodland and foliage cover, the remains are well hidden on private land.

The castle was built in the 12th century by the de Burun family, and granted by Peter of Sandiacre to King John in 1198, who did extensive work on it between 1200 and 1203.

The hill on which the castle was built has been worked extensively for its fine quality gritstone and is covered in deep stone quarries which have impinged on the fabric of the castle. The medieval masonry from the castle has been recycled in many local buildings, including nearby 18th century Kedleston Hall, designed by Robert Adam. Quarrying continued until the mid-20th century.



Elevation of the keep and masonry remains

This has left a short stretch of castle keep wall stranded between post-medieval stone pits and only slight remains of medieval earthworks. The remaining considerable mass of masonry wall is of a Norman-style keep with some ashlar facings remaining, and poured mortar and rubble wall core elsewhere.

Projecting to the north from the keep wall there are hints of protruding round towers, robbed long ago for the quality ashlar. The keep wall is battered, rising at approximately 68 degrees from its base. Between the ashlar facing stones there are flat black, water-rolled pebbles acting as spacers for pointing the joints. A slighter wall extends at a right angle southwards from the keep wall, suggesting that there had been a turret here originally. This was excavated and left exposed in 1852 by the Rev Chas. Kerry (DAJ 1888, Vol X). In addition, there are slight traces of a narrow wall running internally parallel to the massive north wall of the keep. Regrettably the hillside south, east and west has huge, deep stone pits that have wiped away the medieval castle features. Beyond these quarry pits on a steep southerly escarpment there is a crescentic low bank. Could this regular bank be a courtyard, bailey palisade or barmkin enclosure for Horsley Castle?

To the north of the castle is the ancient Port Way running east to west, and between the Port Way and castle keep are the remnants of a great, wide and deep, castle ditch. In the second winter season of survey, this ditch was recognised as having a well-built drystone revetment on its southern wall.

So as we continue to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, let us also remember "bad" King John, who died at Newark-on-Trent Castle the following year, but who must have enjoyed his hunting forays into the Derbyshire countryside from Horsley, well away from the politics of power.

Eyam's two sacrifices

WW1 exhibit in Eyam Museum

KEN THOMPSON of Eyam Museum tells the award-winning way the village commemorated the centenary of the First World War

The Duke opens the exhibition

Eyam 1914-1918: A Second Sacrifice is the title of the award-winning World War One Exhibition at Eyam Museum. It was inspired by a parish calendar for 1916 compiled by Francis Shaw, the rector at the time, who compared the two sacrifices of the plague and the war.

The calendar carried the names of 73 men from the village who had enlisted by the end of 1915, 50 of which were accompanied by photographs. For two years, volunteers from the museum researched the background of these men, and also collected 50 more who had enlisted between 1915 and the Armistice in 1918.

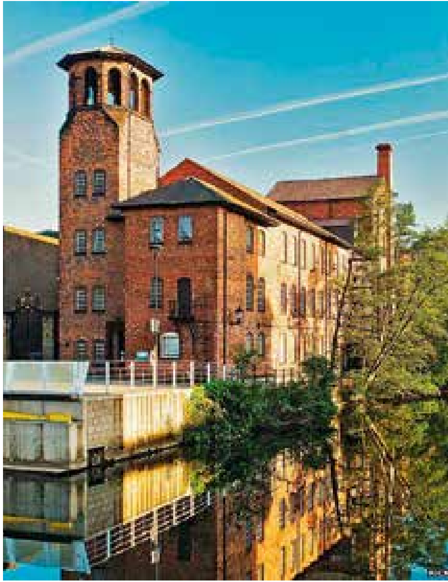
We then searched for any information about the village at that time in parish magazines, newspaper archives, and family stories, and gathered artefacts, all of which were used to design the exhibition. The exhibition was opened in June 2014 by the Duke of Devonshire.

We received two prizes – highly commended in the Best Volunteer Project and joint first in the Best Inspirational Project category – in the 2014 Derbyshire Heritage Awards.

The 350th anniversary of the arrival of the plague in Eyam was celebrated by the village in various ways last year. The museum had an Open Weekend on the August Bank Holiday, with dressing up and other activities.

Other events were organised by various groups in the village, including a production of Don Taylor's 1970 *Roses of Eyam* play, adapted by Nicola Wright, in June. This was a promenade production which told the story of the Plague in the streets and cottages where the events actually took place. There was also a production of David Rudkin's play *Here we Stay* by the New Perspectives Theatre Company on July 18.

Eyam Museum



Derby Silk Mill – a new museum in the making

Derby Silk Mill, formerly known as Derby Industrial Museum, has scooped a £9.4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The money will be used to restore the museum, renamed Derby Silk Mill – Museum of Making, which is housed in what was the world's first mechanised factory.

This project will also sustainably redevelop Derby Silk Mill, part of the UNESCO Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. It will create an inspirational new museum, revealing the whole building for the first time; re-introduce manufacturing to the site, and celebrate the manufacturing heritage of Derby through its internationally, regionally and locally significant collections.

This will be done by:

- Revealing outstanding collections
- Involving people in making the museum – raising aspirations of future generations of innovators and makers
- Fostering pride and attracting new and diverse audiences to Derby's heritage
- Providing a southern gateway to the UNESCO Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, and a focal point for the city of makers.

The new museum is scheduled to open in 2020.

Development funding of £817,300 has also been awarded to help Derby Museums progress their plans to apply for the full grant at a later date. The earmarked funding means the project meets HLF criteria for funding and that HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for money.

The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so this is an endorsement of outline proposals. The project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to secure a firm award.

Peter Smith, chairman of Derby Museums Trust, commented: "I am delighted that we have been successful in our bid; it demonstrates the confidence that HLF has in the Trust. The new Museum of Making will be a place to celebrate the essence of our city and will deliver significant social and economic impacts for Derby."

HLF supports Creswell Crags

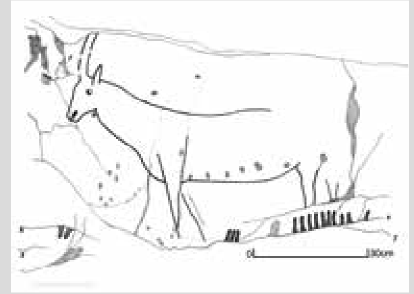
Creswell Heritage Trust has received £51,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the 'Creswell Crags: a World Class Future', project, designed to help the organisation become more financially sustainable.

Working with outside experts, the project focuses on reviewing the governance and staffing of the Heritage Trust, developing a financial plan, support for fundraising and income generating initiatives, and building on the financial skills of staff, volunteers and trustees.

The project will also help the Trust re-assess its important educational work with primary schools at the Creswell Crags Visitor Centre.

The six-month project will help ensure that the organisation is able to survive and thrive at a time of rising costs and falling grant aid. This will mean that the beautiful countryside location of the Creswell gorge and its internationally significant archaeology continue to be safeguarded for residents of the surrounding villages as well as the site's many visitors from further afield.

Introducing Frank and Alan



Invitees to the opening of the 'Humans in Ancient Britain' exhibition at Creswell Crags were introduced to Big and Little Frank and Alan when they went on a tour of Robin Hood and Church Hole caves.

Guide Hannah Boddy, Crags exhibitions and promotions manager, explained these were the lighthearted names given by staff to the examples of rock art discovered in the caves.

Hannah explained that Big Frank (above) was the celebrated engraving of a red deer stag – first thought to be an ibex – discovered near the entrance of Church Hole Cave in 2003, and Little Frank was another deer further into the cave. "Alan is the name we gave to the profile of a bison," explained Hannah.

The rock art found at Creswell Crags is thought to be the oldest artwork yet found in Britain, dating from the end of the last Ice Age around 13,000 years ago.

The exhibition, staged jointly by the Crags Trust and the Natural History Museum, showed examples of some of the NHM's ancient treasures, including the 400,000-year-old Neanderthal Swanscombe skull, and a beautiful eight-tanged bone harpoon point around 14,000 years old, found at Kent's Cavern, Devon.

Opening the exhibition, Peronel Craddock, head of central development at the NHM, described Creswell as "an incredibly significant site" for its early examples of rock art. Alex Burch, head of visitor experience and learning at the NHM said: "We feel it is important that we forge new partnerships with other museums across the country, and Creswell is an excellent example of that."

The lady with the plaque

Derbyshire Council County's last planned blue plaque to celebrate important people and places in the county was unveiled in honour of Crimean War heroine and founder of the modern nursing profession, Florence Nightingale.

The plaque to commemorate Nightingale's remarkable life was unveiled on the Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall in Holloway. The hall was built in 1932 on land donated by the Nightingale estate, and is a stone's throw from Florence's childhood home of Lea Hurst.

This is the final blue plaque that the County Council is planning to erect. It was unveiled by Florence Nightingale's most direct living descendant, Margaret Povey, her first cousin twice removed.

Florence had been nominated jointly by John Rivers of Cromford and John Slaney of Whatstandwell, and was chosen to be honoured with the blue plaque following a public vote.

DCC's Strategic Director of Health and Communities David Lowe said: "I am delighted that we are celebrating a woman who committed her life to helping others and revolutionising nursing practices worldwide.

"She was determined to use her position of privilege to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Here in Derbyshire we are particularly indebted to her for the charitable work she did in Holloway and Whatstandwell, and the blue plaque is a fitting tribute to her."

John Slaney said: "I am delighted that Florence Nightingale has received the public's support to be honoured with a blue plaque. She made such an impact on this locality and far beyond and thoroughly deserves this recognition."

Margaret Povey said: "I am so proud to be related to such an incredible woman and to see her great work and dedication being recognised by the people of Derbyshire."

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy in 1820, while her parents were travelling in Europe. The following year they returned to Derbyshire living in Holloway. In 1825 they bought a house in Hampshire, which became their main residence, and Lea Hurst became their summer home.

Florence could have enjoyed a life of privilege but developed an early desire to help people less fortunate than herself. Over the course of her life she made a huge contribution to nursing and health care both nationally and internationally. Less well known is her charitable work in the villages of Holloway and Whatstandwell. She always remained interested and involved with the villages up until her death in 1910 at the age of 90.

Life at the edge of the world

Opening the 'Life on the Edge: Ice Age Frontier' exhibition at Sheffield's Weston Park Museum, Kim Streets, chief executive of Museums Sheffield, described how Creswell Crags had been the northernmost frontier of settlement during the last Ice Age.

"Just 20 miles from Sheffield, the limestone caves of Creswell were then literally at the edge of the world," said Kim. "The exhibition offers visitors a window in to the lives of the region's earliest inhabitants, from the long-extinct animals they hunted and the harsh conditions they faced, to the tools and art they created," she added.

Roger Shelley, director of the Creswell Crags Heritage Trust, said: "The exhibition gives people the chance to see how people lived at the very dawn of time – right on their doorsteps."

The exhibition was co-curated by Museums Sheffield and the Creswell Heritage Trust and ran from April to September. It explored the remarkable archaeological legacy of Creswell Crags and the lives of our ancestors who lived there, through a host of archaeological objects they left behind.

The displays included a pair of five feet (1.5m) long Late Pleistocene woolly mammoth tusks (left), as well as bones and teeth from other animals that were indigenous to the region, such as the complete skeleton of a baby hyaena found in Pin Hole Cave. Visitors also discovered the ingenuity of the Crags' Ice Age occupants through examples of the tools and implements they crafted, and the famous cave engravings they made to depict the world around them.

The exhibition also showed how the secrets of the Creswell Crags area have been unearthed, from the Victorian archaeologists who made the first discoveries to the contemporary research by modern archaeologists.

Lord of all it surveys

Rowan May and Anna Badcock

ArcHeritage were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a survey and Conservation Management Plan for the Lord's Seat barrow on Rushup Edge. Lord's Seat is a well-preserved example of a bowl barrow which, unlike many of the other Peak District barrows, does not appear to have been excavated in Victorian times.

Comparison with excavated examples of similar monuments suggests it is likely to be of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date. It forms a notable landmark along Rushup Edge and commands extensive views from its summit. The site is a Scheduled Monument but because of its prominent location it is suffering from inadvertent erosion by visitors who are attracted to it as a vantage point over Edale and Hope Valley; it is also sometimes used as a launch point for paragliders.

After carrying out background documentary research, the site was surveyed using laser scanning technology which allowed us to capture the variations in the ground surface caused by the visitor footfall and animal erosion. A statement of significance was prepared and a number of conservation policies were devised to help guide the National Trust, landowners and stakeholders in the long-term management of the site.

Urgent conservation is required to repair the erosion on the top and sides of the barrow where the turf has been worn away exposing bare earth. Some animal burrowing has also occurred. Regular monitoring will include an assessment of the stocking levels of sheep on the land to ensure that this is not contributing to erosion of the monument.

Longer term, the provision of on-site interpretation will be considered, to enhance the visitor experience of the barrow and its landscape and to increase awareness about its historic significance. The project was part-funded by Natural England.

A topographical plan of Lord's Seat

'A Bright Future' for Weston Park

Museums Sheffield has received a £697,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve and develop Weston Park Museum. The grant will support 'Weston Park Museum: A Bright Future', a major £1 million plan to transform several of the museum's public areas.

The plan will see the creation of new displays in the museum's About Art and History Lab galleries, updates to the Sheffield Life & Times and What on Earth? display spaces, and improvements to the upstairs picnic space. The re-development will allow Museums Sheffield to change displays more frequently, sharing more of the city's extensive collections of archaeology, natural sciences, social history and visual art with visitors. Acting on feedback from visitors, Sheffield's archaeological finds and sporting history will play a greater role in the permanent displays on view.

In addition to the primary funding from the HLF, 'A Bright Future' has been supported by a number of charitable organisations across the UK, with a final phase of fundraising scheduled for this year. Work on the improvements began in late 2015 with the last of the new-look galleries being unveiled in October 2016.

Since a major £17 million redevelopment funded by Sheffield City Council and another HLF grant, the museum has attracted over 250,000 visitors a year and won the Guardian's Family Friendly Museum of the Year award.

Kim Streets, Chief Executive of Museums Sheffield, said: "We're hugely grateful to the HLF for supporting our plans for the redevelopment of Weston Park. The museum has been a huge success, but has the potential to be even better. The redevelopment will enable to us to share even more of the wonderful stories in Sheffield's collections and provide the best possible experience for visitors."

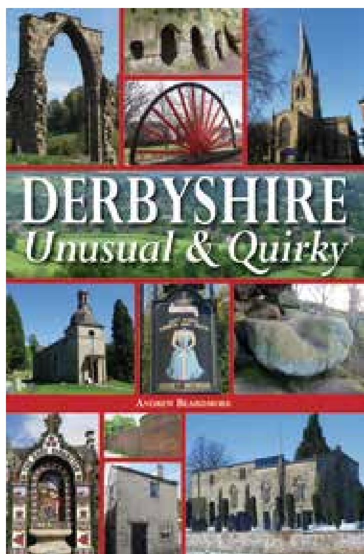
Death, disease, and decapitation in Castleton

Last year we reported the finding of a burial ground on the site of the medieval hospital scheduled monument in Castleton. These burials are probably those of poor locals or travellers who died at the hospital between 1100 and 1500.
Excavations continued in May 2015, revealing the wall of a possible chapel, along with further burials to the north and east of this structure. Four of the excavated individuals were buried within the putative chapel; these could have been 'higher status' burials than those outside in the cemetery. Osteological analysis has revealed that they included two infants as well as adults of all ages. Signs of poor health include dental disease, congenital spinal deformities, osteoarthritis, and a probable case of chronic gout.

Deformity to the lumbar vertebrae (lower back) of an older individual buried in the hospital cemetery.

In addition to the hospital burials, three isolated skulls uncovered during excavations have now been analysed. One of these individuals, an older male, had several severe injuries caused by at least two bladed weapons, probably a sword and a dagger, and showed evidence of him having been decapitated. Notches in the teeth showed he habitually smoked a clay tobacco pipe, indicating he lived in the post-medieval period. Samples have been taken for radiocarbon dating from the isolated skulls as well as the burials to clarify the dates of the two sets of remains. As ever, excavation on the Spital Field has raised yet more questions for us to answer about Castleton's past.
Anna Bloxam

Derbyshire Unusual & Quirky



By Andrew Beardmore
(Halsgrove, £19.99 hb)

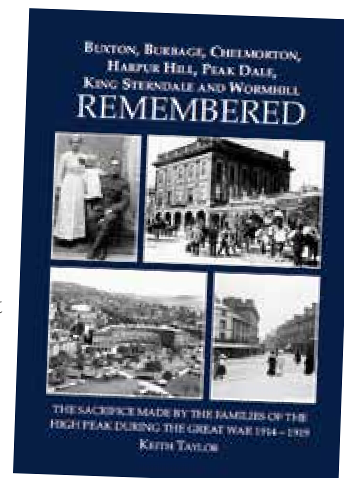
The title says it all: this is a most unusual and quirky book. After a conventional account of the history of the county, the author then provides a self-penned so-called "Shire-Ode" doggerel poem, which brings in as many county placenames as possible.

It also tells the story of two fictitious characters called Brad and Mel. Brad, who surely bears some resemblance to the author, is afflicted by the need to incorporate placenames into his everyday speech, while Mel is a cook.

In the major part of the book, which is titled a "Derbyshire Shire-Ode Almanac," the places in the poem are described in greater detail. Each entry has additional paragraphs on historic trivia and quirky facts about the featured places.

In his introduction, the author says that he thinks his book calls to mind Arthur Mee's classic pre-war county travel books known as The King's England, in that there have never been any others like it. That's certainly true of this strange, eccentric and highly idiosyncratic volume.

Buxton, Burbage, Chelmorton, Harpur Hill, Peak Dale, King Sterndale and Wormhill Remembered



By Keith Taylor
(Country Books, £12 pb)

Our village war memorials tell the sad story of the loss of young mens' lives during the Great War of 1914-18. The number of men lost in that horrific conflict is usually at least twice that of those lost during the Second World War.

In this book, the author set himself the massive research task of tracing through words and 560 photographs the lives and deaths of all 365 servicemen and women whose names are inscribed on the war memorials of Buxton and the six villages which surround it.

The result is a poignant and chilling reminder of the enormous loss of life which the Great War inflicted on these communities, and one is left to wonder what the modern world would have been like had they lived. A good example is pioneering rock climber 2nd Lt. Stanley Jeffcoat, of Buxton and Great Longstone, who died at the age of 34 during the Battle of Oppy near Arras in April, 1917 and was recommended for a Victoria Cross.

The Home Front is not forgotten, and other photographs show the way of life in the villages before the coming of mechanisation on the farm and motorised transport on the roads.

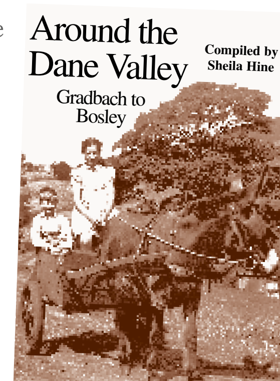
While the quality of some of the photographs is patchy – hardly surprising given some are more than a century old – the book offers a compelling social history of the generation which died on Flanders Fields.

Around the Dane Valley: Gradbach to Bosley

Compiled by Sheila Hine
(Churnet Valley Books, £12.95 pb)

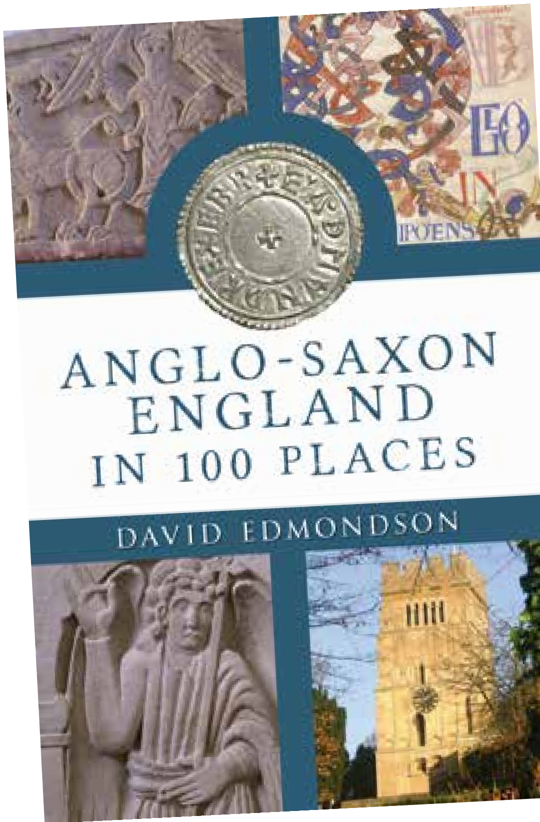
The name of Meerbrook farmer Sheila Hine will be known to ***ACID*** readers for her groundbreaking photographic study of Peak District field barns (see ***ACID*** 2014).

Now she has turned her hand to compiling and editing the memories and photographs of villagers in and around the valley of the River Dane in the far west of the Peak District, in a valuable and insightful piece of rural social history.



While faithfully recording the memories of nearly 40 villagers and farmers in this beautiful yet unsung part of the National Park, Sheila has carefully and sympathetically edited their comments to make for a highly readable account of what life was really like for them in days gone by.

The book formed part of the Dane Valley Woodland Project, which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Peak District National Park Authority.



Anglo-Saxon England in 100 Places

By David Edmondson
(Amberley, £12.99 pb)

Derbyshire merits six entries in this whistlestop tour of the England of the Anglo-Saxons. The favoured local sites are Derby, Repton, Eyam and Bakewell, Wirksworth, and "the lows", but how these usually Bronze Age burial mounds managed to sneak in, apart from the fact that their name comes from the Old English hlaw, remains unexplained.

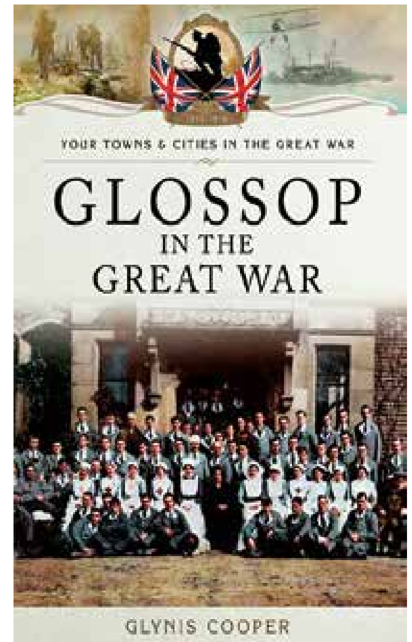
The brief entry for Derby seems to hinge on its Norse name. The author's explanation is that its earlier, Old English, name was Northworthy, but there's only a fleeting mention of "carved stones and other artefacts" in the city's museum from its Mercian days.

Repton, of course, has pride of place because of its role as a Mercian royal capital, and as the site of the over-wintering of the Viking army in 874. The Saxon preaching crosses at Eyam and Bakewell merit a brief mention, while Wirksworth church's wealth of Saxon carvings receives similarly superficial coverage.

Glossop in the Great War

By Glynis Cooper
(Pen & Sword Books, £9.99 pb)

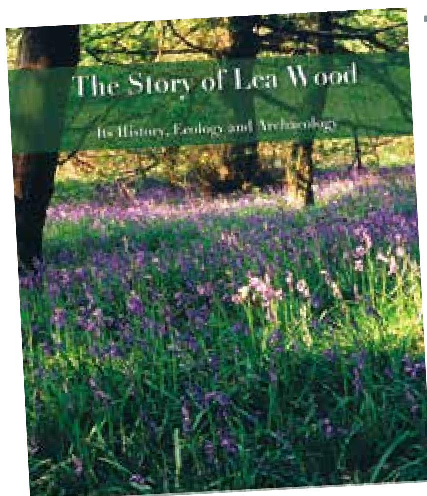
Private Joseph Cooper of Glossopdale and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was one of the lucky ones who returned home after fighting in the Dardanelles during the First World War. He was severely wounded however, and had to have a metal plate inserted in his skull.



His best friend Colin Barton from Marple was not so lucky and did not return, killed by a Turkish sniper's bullet in Gaza in 1917. On Joseph's repatriation he was greeted with the tragic news that his wife, Rose, had died in the influenza pandemic of 1918.

However, the story of Joseph as told in this fascinating account by his grand daughter has a happy ending, because two years after his return, he married Colin's widow and they ran a grocer's shop in town until his death at the age of 88.

This interesting, well-illustrated survey unusually focuses on the economic and social conditions which existed in the milltown of Glossop during the war, chronicling subjects such as the morale of the townsfolk, and their stoical determination to support the war effort.



The Story of Lea Wood: Its History, Ecology and Archaeology

By The Lea Wood Heritage Community Project
(Solstice Heritage, £2.50 pb)

ACID readers and the audience at last year's Derbyshire Archaeology Day will be familiar with the fascinating story of Lea Wood, on the banks of the Derwent near Holloway.

This beautifully-designed booklet produced by ex-ARS stalwart Jim Brightman in his new manifestation as Solstice Heritage, presents a detailed and comprehensive overview of the project. It was perhaps most notable for the outstanding contribution made by the local community, particularly from the Dethick, Lea and Holloway Historical Society, whose members did much of the excavation and research.

Although now managed by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as a local nature reserve, the 75-acre semi-natural mixed woodland turns out to have a surprisingly industrial past. There are strong links to the Derbyshire lead industry through the production of so-called "white coal" – that is, kiln-dried wood used to fuel ore hearths for lead smelting during the 18th century. More than 40 pits and hollows were identified in Lea Wood, of which 18 were so-called "Q-pits", used to produce white coal and named after their plan form.

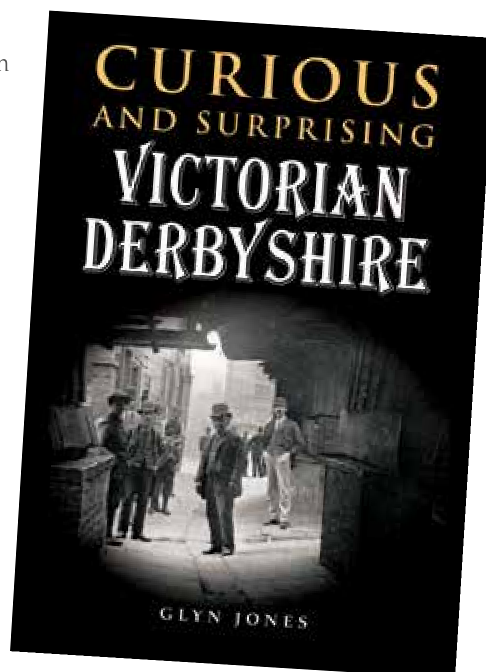
Curious and Surprising Victorian Derbyshire

By Glyn Jones
(Halsgrove Publishing, £9.99, hb)

Nothing was impossible and everything seemed possible during the Victorian era, which was notable for its innovations and manufacturing and engineering breakthroughs. But this quirky look by a former Chesterfield teacher at some of the more bizarre happenings in the county during the 19th century records many more curious and unlikely events which never made the history books.

Take the short-lived national craze for velocipedes, a forerunner of the bicycle, for example. In July 1869, one of these four-wheeled iron and wood contraptions was being propelled at speed down the hill past The Royal Oak public house in Old Tupton when it overturned and one of the four passengers was thrown out and seriously injured.

The author even recounts an example of velocipede “road rage” in Derby when labourer William Chapman tried to slow two speeding machines. He became involved in an altercation with one of the cyclists who struck him repeatedly and he subsequently died.



In this mainly crime-based potpourri, there are also tales of Napoleonic officers on parole in Chesterfield, riots in Clay Cross during the 1868 General Election, and tales of transportation, elopement, murder and some still unsolved mysteries.

Archaeological Projects: 2014–15

Steve Baker (Development Control Archaeologist, DCC)
David Barrett (County Archaeologist, DCC)
Sarah Whiteley (Former Senior Conservation Archaeologist, PDNPA)

The list below shows archaeological fieldwork arising from the county council’s and national park authority’s development control archaeologists’ advice to the local planning authorities, and the county archaeologist’s advice to the county council as minerals planning authority. This is not a comprehensive list. Where developments have involved several phases of work then some of the archaeological work may have been undertaken prior to 2014-15. Further information on these sites can be obtained from the Historic Environment Record.

Contractor/Agency Abbreviations:

AOC	AOC Archaeology
AMEC	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK
ARS	Archaeological Research Services
CA	Cotswold Archaeology
COA	Centre of Archaeology (Staffordshire University)
NIA	Nature Improvement Area Partnership
OA	Oxford Archaeology (North)
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
TPA	Trent & Peak Archaeology
ULAS	University of Leicester Archaeological Services
URS	URS Engineering
WA	Wessex Archaeology (Sheffield)
WYAS	West Yorkshire Archaeological Service

Location	Archaeological contractor	Type of work undertaken (DBA = Desk Based Assessment)
Amber Valley Borough Council		
Duffield Hall, Duffield	GK Heritage/WA	Excavation, watching brief
Inns Lane, South Wingfield	TPA	Evaluation
Lander Lane, Belper	TPA	DBA
Red Lion, Fritchley	ARS	Watching brief
Thorntons, Belper	TPA	DBA
Eachwell Lane, Alfreton	PCA	Excavation
King Street, Belper	TPA	Watching brief

Location	Archaeological contractor	Type of work undertaken (DBA = Desk Based Assessment)
Bolsover District Council		
Seymour Colliery, Staveley	TPA	Evaluation, excavation
Broad Lane, Hodthorpe	ULAS	Evaluation
Oxcroft Lane, Bolsover	ARS	Geophysics
Rowthorne Hall	TPA	Watching brief
The Sycamores, South Normanton	Witham Archaeology	Evaluation
Chesterfield Borough Council		
Staveley Hall	Archemis	Excavation
Dunston Grange	GSB Prospection	Geophysics
Derby City Council		
Little Chester SM	OA	Evaluation
North Avenue, Darley Abbey	ARS	Evaluation
Cathedral Road	WA	Evaluation, excavation
St Helen's Street	TPA	Evaluation, excavation
Stepping Lane	ARS	Building appraisal
Derbyshire CCC	ULAS	Evaluation
Markeaton Park	TPA	Excavation
Boulton Moor	ULAS	Evaluation, excavation
Rolls Royce, Osmaston	Waterman	Building recording
Darley Abbey fish pass	TPA	Excavation
Lodge Lane/Willow Row	ULAS	Evaluation
St Peter's Church	ULAS	Watching brief
Derbyshire Dales District Council		
Ladyhole Farm, Bradley	Stratascan	Geophysics
Griffe Grange wind farm (proposal)	WA	Evaluation
Cromford Mill Building 17	CA	Watching brief
Knockerdown, Carsington	ARS	Geophysics
Wheeldon Way, Hulland	TPA	Geophysics
Aston House Farm, Sudbury	CA	Geophysics
Erewash Borough Council		
Erewash Museum, Ilkeston	ARS	Excavation
Henson Ltd, Ilkeston	TPA	Building appraisal
Ilkeston Station	URS	Building recording
Bartlewood Lodge, Ockbrook	Headland Archaeology	Geophysics, evaluation
Breadsall Priory	ARS	Watching brief
Town Street, Sandiacre	TPA	Watching brief
Old Tithe Barn, Morley	TPA	Watching brief
Trent Farm Quarry	ULAS	Watching Brief

High Peak Borough Council		
Shepley Street, Glossop	AOC	Evaluation, excavation
North Road, Glossop	WYAS	Evaluation
Forge Works, Chinley	ARS	Watching brief
Dinting Lane, Glossop	ARS	Evaluation
Robin Hood, Buxton	COA	Evaluation
Hallsteads, Dove Holes	WA	Evaluation
Brierlow Quarry	ARS	Watching Brief
Dove Holes Quarry	ARS	Watching Brief

North East Derbyshire District Council		
Old Barn, Dronfield	ARS	Excavation
The Bungalows, Killamarsh	CA	Building recording
Derby Road, Wingerworth	ARS	Geophysics
Biwater, Clay Cross	WYAS	Evaluation
Narrowleys Lane, Ashover	ARS	Geophysics
Angel Hotel, Eckington	ArcHeritage	Watching brief
Hazlehurst Farm, Lightwood Lane	ArcHeritage	Watching brief

South Derbyshire District Council		
The Mease, Hilton	Humble Heritage	Building recording
Rosehill Works, Woodville	TPA	Excavation
Aston Hall Hospital, Aston-on-Trent	TPA	Excavation
Blackwell Lane, Melbourne	AOC	Evaluation
Swarkestone Road, Chellaston	ULAS	Evaluation, excavation
Willington Quarry	TPA	Geophysics Evaluation
Willington Quarry	ULAS	Watching Brief

Derbyshire Dales District Council (within National Park)		
Dale View Quarry, Stanton in Peak	ARS	Watching brief
Stanton Moor Quarry, Stanton in Peak	ARS	DBA & walk-over survey
Tearsall Quarry	Wardell Armstrong	Watching brief
Ashford Mill	The Jessop Consultancy	DBA & building appraisal
Edge Moor, Eyam	ARS	Evaluation
Hartington Creamery, Hartington	WA	Heritage appraisal
Hey Farm, Wardlow	ARS	Topographic survey
Park Farm, Chatsworth	The Jessop Consultancy	Building appraisal
Pike Hall Farm, Pikehall	Brigantia	DBA & walk-over survey, evaluation
Tissington LV undergrounding scheme	SLR Consulting Ltd	Watching brief
Monsal Tunnels cycle path	SLR Consulting Ltd	DBA & walk-over survey
Elton/Winster (Severn Trent Water mains renewal)	WA	Watching brief
Little Longstone (Severn Trent Water mains renewal)	WA	Watching brief

High Peak Borough Council (within National Park)		
Edale to Ollerbrook (Severn Trent Water mains renewal)	WA	Watching brief
Bradwell moor extension project, Hope/Bradwell	ARS	DBA
Woodhead ventilation shafts	NIA	DBA & walk-over survey
National Grid OHL tower refurbishment, Longdendale	AMEC	DBA & walk-over survey
Callow Bank fuel pipeline restoration, Hathersage	WYAS	Watching brief

Picturing the past:
STANAGE POLE

Stanage Pole, standing half a mile back from the gritstone escarpment of Stanage Edge above Hathersage, has been a prominent moorland landmark for at least three centuries.

Situated at the commanding height of 1,437 feet (438 m), it marks the border between the counties of Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, and stands on the ancient packhorse route between Redmires and the Hope Valley and Hathersage, above the Long Causeway which bisects the edge.

As it can be seen for miles around, it must have served as a useful navigational aid for travellers crossing the bleak Hallam Moors, long before the days of compasses and GPS.

Stella McGuire tells the chequered story of Stanage Pole on pages 18-19.

Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire is published by: