

## Dates for your diary

**Friday 29 September, 2.00pm - 3.30pm**

**Visions of Viroconium: An overview of the documents and the interpretation of a Roman town over time**

With Researcher, Sara Downs. Price: £6.00  
Book at [www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events](http://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events)

**Friday 13 October 2.00pm-4.00pm**

**Introduction to House History**

Ever wondered about the history of your house – how old it is or the people who lived there? Join us for an introductory workshop. We'll show you the most useful sources, with tips on how to begin your research at Shropshire Archives.

Price: £12.00  
Bbook at [www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events](http://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events)

**Monday 16 October, 2.00pm**

**Sifting the Ashes: A social history of Wroxeter Roman City from the archives**

A talk by Roger White. Price: £6.00  
Book at [www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events](http://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/events)

## News Extra...

Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history or have any news about Shropshire Archives? If you have, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

**Saturday 4 November, 10.30am**

**Annual lecture by David Trumper 'The Anthony Hector Collection'**

Anthony Hector was land agent with Burd and Evans in School Gardens, Shrewsbury. He was a very skilled and prolific photographer taking photographs from a very early age throughout his life. A number of his photographs were reproduced as postcards.

David Trumper is a retired teacher with a long-standing interest in local history and photography. He has collected more than 30,000 views of Shrewsbury and Shropshire dating from 1842 up until the present day, and has written more than 24 books.

Price: Members £5.00, Non-members £7.00. Booking essential. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided.

**Saturday 2 December, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Friends of Shropshire Archives Christmas get-together**

Come and join us for tea/coffee and mince pies at our free drop-in event this Christmas. This is an informal opportunity to meet and chat with members, volunteers and guests. We will have some documents on display, including new accessions and there will also be an optional paper-based quiz with a local history book prize. **Free drop-in event – no need to book.** Members, volunteers and guests all welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives is edited by Andrew Pattison and designed by Nat Stevenson, Shropshire Archives' Image Services.

There are three issues per year, paid for by the Friends. The contents are provided by friends and well-wishers. If you would like to join the contributors, please contact the editor at [apattison@clara.net](mailto:apattison@clara.net)

DISCLAIMER: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.



# Salopian Recorder

The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives,  
gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

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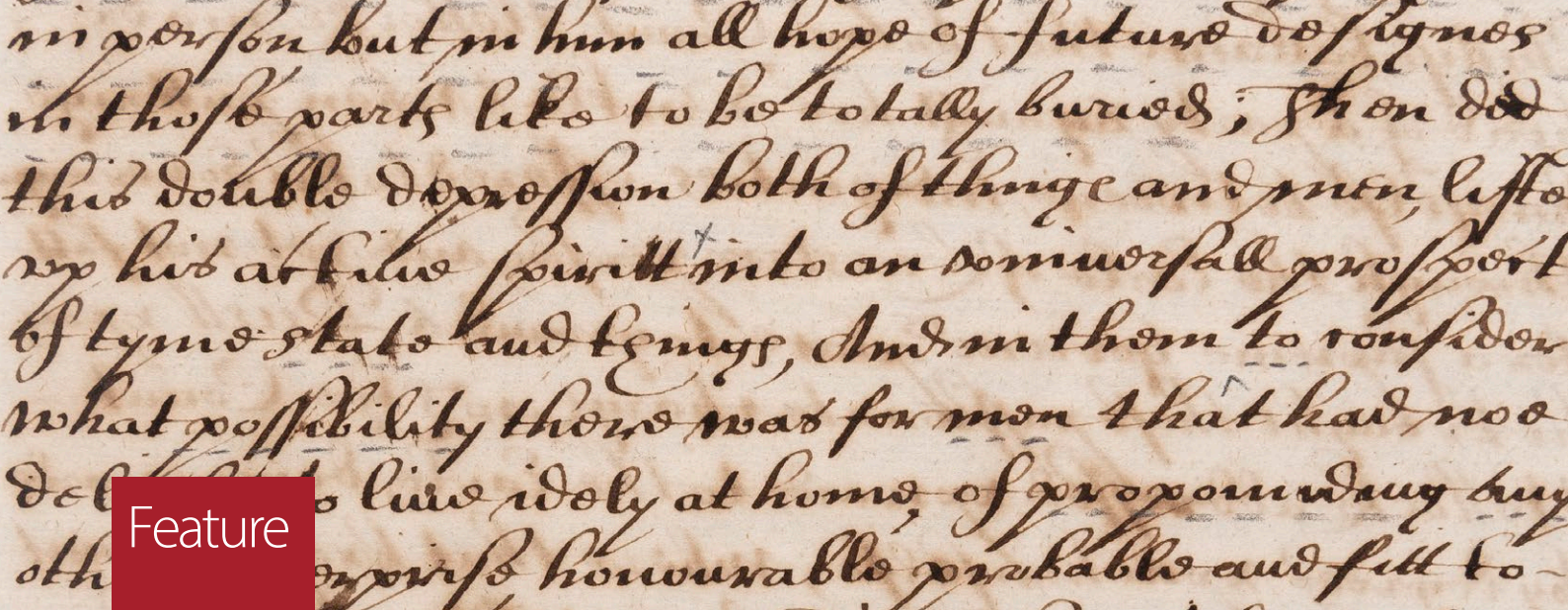
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*Shrewsbury Castle from the North West - in The History of Shrewsbury by Hugh Owen M.A, Archdeacon of Salop. Shropshire Archives ref: 6001/198/67*



**Contact...** For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact:  
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Feature

Seren Fisher

Shropshire Archives reference 6001/295 (formerly MS 295)

## Conservation of 'The Life of the Renowned Sir Philip Sidney' by Sir Fulke Greville

After collating (numbering) the pages, 'taking the binding down', and cleaning the book block, I handed the pages over to Nat to digitise them while they were in their separate folios. Once he'd done that I was able to start the aqueous treatment of the manuscript.

Firstly I carried out a solubility test of the ink and pencil (copy pencils contain a dye which turns purple when wet so it's always prudent to test any pencil annotations to ensure it's safe to introduce moisture).

Following that I sprayed the pages with a mixture of pure water and ethanol - which aids the 'wetting' process - to 'relax' them, making sure the water penetrates all of the paper fibres when in the water bath (fig.1).



**Fig.1:** (left) Spraying the folio with pure water and ethanol

**Fig.2:** (Above right) Float washing the folios in pure water

**Fig.3:** (Below right) Float washing in calcium phytate

**Fig.4:** (Far right) Lining the pages with Japanese tissue and purified wheat starch paste



Each folio was then put into a pure water bath and 'washed' while impurities in the paper washed into the water (fig.2). This meant changing the bath several times until the water ran clear.

The next stage was to test for the harmful iron (II) ions in the paper before floating the pages in successive baths of calcium phytate (fig 3), water, calcium bicarbonate and finally in a bath of gelatine solution. This process is designed to remove excess sulphuric acid present in the ink, treat the free iron (II) ions, and leave a residue of size in the paper, thus preventing further degradation.



Those pages that showed evidence of haloing and 'strike through' of the ink were then lined with Japanese tissue paper adhered with wheat starch paste (fig.4).

While the folios were air drying then pressed under light weights, I dyed a piece of unbleached cotton to match the colouring of the vellum to use as a new 'hinge' for the spine and boards.

Next in the treatment was to re-sew the text block onto tapes. This meant setting up the sewing frame as shown in fig.6, using unbleached cotton webbing tapes and sewing the sections of the pages onto the tapes, using linen thread as in fig.7.

Once the book block was re-sewn, I attached some 'mull' (an open weave cotton) and thicker/ heavier weight Japanese paper to the spine while the book was in the finishing press (fig.8) When the spine was dry, I was able to reattach the boards by inserting the mull and tapes between the vellum and boards, and the original tackets between the boards and the endpapers, before wrapping the whole book in crepe bandages to ensure a uniform pressure and adhesion (fig.9).

This book is now in a better condition than prior to the conservation (fig.10) and should hopefully last at least another 300 years (fig.11)!

**A massive thank you to the Friends of Shropshire Archives for raising the funds to conserve this unique manuscript and also to Seren, whose skill and professional expertise brought this complex project to fruition. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.**



**Fig.5:** (Top left) Air drying the pages prior to drying under light pressure

**Fig.6:** (Top right) Setting up the sewing frame

**Fig.7:** (Left) Sewing the sections onto tapes on the sewing frame



**Fig.8:** (Left) Attaching mull and Japanese paper to the spine



**Fig.9:** (Left) Book wrapped in a bandage



**Fig.10:** (Left) Manuscript before conservation



**Fig.11:** (Left) Manuscript after conservation



## Feature

Sue Cleaves

# Friends' visit to Hawkstone Hall



Above: A spectacular view of Hawkstone Hall.

Our visit to Hawkstone Hall began with a drive of a mile and a half along a gravelled road on a day with frequent heavy downpours. Not a good start, but the view as we drew up outside the impressive front door made up for that.

Our hosts made us feel welcome as they ushered us into "The Snug" with its beautiful furniture and piles of cups and saucers – a good sign for later. We were given a booklet with maps of the layout of the Hall and gardens and an audio guide to give information. Having got the hang of the guide we all went different ways and met each other later with "Have you seen the Chapel/ Saloon/Library?" or most frequently – "The Ladies Powder Room!?"

I had not been since we first moved to Newport in the '90s. Then the Hall was in the occupation of a religious order that opened the gardens one day each summer holiday and let us stand just inside the premises for a cup of tea. The change is remarkable and we learned from our machines about the other guardians through time and who had altered what and when.



Above and left: an ornate fireplace in a room now used for dining

The Hill family owned the land in the 1600s but the house was built between 1701 and 1725 by Richard Hill of Hawkstone (1655 - 1727) who was the second of the Hill baronets of Hawkstone. He had no children and was succeeded by one of his nephews, Rowland Hill (1705 – 1783) who was father of Richard Hill (1732 -1808) and preacher Rowland Hill (1744 – 1833). I wished I had done more homework first, as all the Hills of historical note seemed to be called Richard or Rowland which got confusing.

It was wonderful to learn how all the changes and tweaks had been made over the years. For example, the 1820 staircase survives but had been turned around when the Saloon was expanded. The Chapel, which was designed in the 1930s by artist George Bernard Cox from Birmingham, has been changed (improved?) by removing the orange carpet and laying a marble aisle. The building is impressive and busy now with people coming for events, or staying or visiting for afternoon tea.

After walking around the house and gardens we were treated to a cup of tea and a huge scone just out of the oven. Wonderful – but I think the memory of the view will stay longest.

Below: Hawkstone Hall by John Homes Smith, 1824. Shropshire Archives ref: 6009/293



## Book Review

Hugh Battersby

# Charles Darwin and the Mostyn-Owen family.

## The story of a friendship – Jessie E Hanson

It seems strange to be reviewing a book fifteen years after its publication, but the recent death of Jessie Hanson is a reminder of the research and writing undertaken by Jessie during her long retirement.

The book covers Charles Darwin's life between the death of his mother at the early age of 52 in 1817, when he was only eight years old, and the start of the five year voyage of the Beagle in 1831.

Following his mother's death, The Mount, the Darwin family home, seems to have been a sad and dull place - Charles' father never really recovered from his wife's death. Charles' own sorrow may well have been increased by his being considered too young to see his mother during her last illness. By this time Charles was a somewhat unhappy boarder at Shrewsbury School. The classical syllabus was not to his taste, though he worked hard at it. However, he certainly made good use of the school's excellent library, much of which still survives as the Taylor Library today.

Below: Woodhouse, West Felton from a postcard. Shropshire Archives ref: PC/W/10/6

Charles must have been glad when, in 1819, he was able to ride over to Woodhouse to meet the Darwin family's friends the Mostyn-Owens. Here he became especially friendly with the second daughter Fanny. After frolicking with her in the strawberry beds, in a way then considered both daring and inappropriate, they went on to go hunting together and developed a serious relationship. This seems to have ended with Charles' decision to join the voyage of the Beagle, during which Fanny married Robert Middleton-Biddulph, MP, of Chirk Castle in 1832. Charles later followed the family tradition by happily marrying into the Wedgwood family.

Full marks to the author for finding the part which Charles' uncle Josiah Wedgwood II had in persuading Dr Darwin to allow his son to go on the Beagle expedition and to finance his part in it. It is easy to forget that previously, Charles had been encouraged to become a country vicar, a job which would have left plenty of time for his researches (especially if a curate was employed to take services and do parish visiting etc.), but for which he had little enthusiasm.

The book ends with an account of the future doings of Charles' friends in the Mostyn-Owen family. As late as the 1860s Charles followed his father into money lending and advanced the substantial sum of £20,000 to William Owen, one of Fanny's brothers.

The book is illustrated, and there are useful family trees of the Darwin and Mostyn-Owen families.

Charles Darwin and the Mostyn-Owen family by Jessie Hanson, is published by Bridge Books, Wrexham, 2008. ISBN 978-1-84494-047-9. There is a copy in the Archives at B DARW v.f.





# Shrewsbury Castle

Nigel Baker

Just over a century ago, Shrewsbury Castle began a new phase in its long life. Its principal surviving building, having been in use as a private dwelling since the castle was de-munitioned in 1686, became a public building, being given in 1925 to the Borough of Shrewsbury as a meeting hall, set in extensive landscaped gardens – in other words, the earthworks and walls of the medieval castle. During the remaining three-quarters of the twentieth century it was the subject of limited historical research but remained almost completely untouched by the emerging discipline of archaeology.

This began to change thanks to the interest of a charitable body, the Castle Studies Trust, who realised that this shire-town, Conquest-period, motte-and-bailey castle was (it seemed) unusually well-preserved, but academically neglected. In 2019 they awarded the writer a grant for a season of geophysical survey and excavation which, with the permission of Shropshire Council, the site owners, and Historic England, its legal guardians, took place in May and July 2019, with a team of volunteers and staff and students of University Centre Shrewsbury. The results were most unexpected.

Resistivity survey of the inner bailey revealed that the lawn in front of the principal building, ‘the hall’, containing the Soldiers of Shropshire Museum, overlay a spread of hard, dry material thought to represent the rubble of demolished buildings. Excavation here in

...this shire-town, Conquest-period, motte-and-bailey castle was (it seemed) unusually well-preserved, but academically neglected.

July that year told a very different story. Immediately under the turf was natural glacial gravel – the top of the hill on which the castle had been built. Someone in the past had scraped the surface bare, removing most of the archaeology, and suspicion immediately fell upon the young Thomas Telford who, from 1786 to 1790, lived in and ‘restored’ the castle for its owner, Sir William Pulteney, M.P. for Shrewsbury. However, archaeological strata were found to have survived within cuts into the natural gravel, and two of these were of major significance. The first to be



*Excavating through the lawn of the inner bailey in 2019. Volunteers and U.C.S. students exposing the natural gravel of the hilltop and the pits, flower-beds and the motte ditch cut into it*

pottery. One of them was ‘Stafford-type ware’ named after the only place kilns making it have been found, but distributed widely across the emerging towns of the region and well represented in Shrewsbury. The other pottery was of a limestone-tempered fabric known as TF41a, never before seen in Shrewsbury, which had been made in or close to Gloucester and probably imported up the Severn; both date to roughly c.900-1050. In short, there was now definite evidence of activity on the site of the castle before the Norman Conquest. What was it? Occupying a knoll on the end of the ridge that runs through the Shrewsbury river loop, the site of the castle would always have been crucial to the defensibility of the town. The Domesday Book records that, by 1086, there was a church of St Michael within the castle. This has always been regarded as referring to a newly-built castle chapel, but the possibility that St Michael’s church, a royal free chapel, was already there and was part of the pre-Conquest site (like the church of St Guthlac within Hereford Castle) cannot be dismissed. Although it is, at this stage, pure speculation, it is possible that Shrewsbury Castle was a re-working by the Normans of the hall and church of the pre-Conquest sheriffs.

The Domesday Book records the destruction of 51 tax-paying tenements to build the castle. These probably lay along the main through-street - present-day Castle Street and Castle Gates - being swept away for the castle’s outer bailey which itself disappeared in the course of the 13th century as the town grew back

identified was the edge of a previously-unknown 12-metre wide medieval ditch around the base of the motte. Its depth remains unknown, but medieval cooking-pot sherds of late 11th-13th-century date were found in the lowest excavated layers, along with two armour-piercing quarrel-heads shot from a crossbow.

The second significant find was of a pit containing in its fill a piece of decorated bone and two types of pre-Conquest (Saxon)

over it – though its outline can be traced from written and physical evidence.

Excavation resumed in the autumn of 2020 with a trench dug through the west rampart of the inner bailey. The rampart turned out not to be medieval in date: it had probably been created by Telford from the rubble of demolished buildings and from scraping flat the interior of the bailey. Beneath it, intriguingly, there was no sign within the trench of the natural gravel of the hill top which had been found close by in 2019 at a depth of just a few centimetres. The explanation may be that the bailey was enlarged between the Norman period and the later medieval period, by dumping soil and levelling-up behind the curtain wall overlooking Castle Gates.

A final season of excavation took place in 2022 on the top of the motte and outside the north curtain wall. Telford was known to have demolished ruined medieval buildings on the top of the Norman motte and replaced them with the surviving two-storey summerhouse in the Gothic style, known as Laura’s Tower after William Pulteney’s daughter. The motte-top excavations showed that Telford’s activities had



also removed most of the archaeology but that the foundations of medieval timber buildings (beam slots, post pads, post holes) survived where they had been cut into the motte material; no definite trace was seen of the ‘great wooden tower’ which is documented on the motte top until its collapse in 1269-71.

While this archaeological research was in its final stages, an independent programme of architectural survey and research began for a conservation-management plan commissioned by Shropshire Council. This led to the first ever stone-by-stone survey of the complex fabric of the curtain walls, as a result of which the earliest masonry used at the castle has been tentatively identified – a slabby, friable green sandstone obtained nearby from the river bed.

The long process of publishing the mass of new archaeological, architectural and historical information is just beginning, but revelations are not yet at an end and, as this article goes to press, newly-confirmed musketry damage to the castle from the Parliamentary assault of February 1645 is under examination.

## Bibliography

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- **Baker, N, 2021** ‘An excavation on the western rampart of Shrewsbury Castle, 2020’. May 2021. Unpublished contractor report, available via the county Historic Environment Record
- **Baker, N, (forthcoming August 2023)** ‘Excavations on the motte and the north curtain wall at Shrewsbury Castle, 2022’. Unpublished contractor report, available via the county Historic Environment Record
- **Colvin, H M, Brown, R A and Taylor, A J, 1963** *The History of the King’s Works*, HMSO
- **Worton, J, 2012**, ‘The strongest works in England?’ *The defences of Shrewsbury during the Civil Wars, 1642-1651*, Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society 87, 95-112

*Excavations on the motte-top in 2022 showing the beam-slots and post-holes of medieval timber buildings cut into the orange motte material*



## Feature

Andrew Pattison

### Visit to Fordhall Farm

Fordhall Farm near Market Drayton was a complete change from our usual visits. It is a far cry from being a historic or stately home, but in many ways just as significant. It became England's first community-owned farm in 2006 and all the farm's records are stored in the Archives at reference X8035.

True to form this summer, the heavens opened on our way to the farm, but fortunately the worst of the rain soon passed over. We were welcomed with a drink and biscuit followed by a long but fascinating talk by Charlotte Hollins, the general manager (pictured above right). She explained how her father Arthur had inherited the tenancy of Fordhall, a 140-acre mixed farm, and after the Second World War he had been one of the earliest to adopt organic principles. In this he followed the pioneering work of another Shropshire man Sir Albert Howard (1873-1947). As well as running the farm, Arthur was very resourceful and made and sold naturally-produced yoghurt on a large scale before it became

*View from the remains of 'Fordhall Castle', thought to be a Norman ringwork-and-bailey castle*

well known. Later he was elbowed out of the market when the large corporations entered the field and he couldn't compete. Arthur also took pleasure in inviting groups and individuals onto the farm, often for special events.



Charlotte and her brother Ben inherited the tenancy of the farm when they were just 21 and 19 years old. Soon afterwards the landowner threatened them with eviction as he wanted to sell the land for development. But Charlotte and Ben were determined to continue Arthur's legacy, both by farming according to organic principles and in involving the community. They couldn't afford to buy the farm themselves, so they set up a charity and sold £50 non-profit shares to around 8,000 people from all over the world, as their plans became widely publicised. They raised the money in the nick of time, so the farm is now community owned, with Ben

as the tenant farmer and Charlotte the general manager specializing in community involvement. They have a well-stocked farm shop selling all their own meat and other ethically produced products and a café. There are farm trails open to all, children's activities, and regular groups for those with learning disabilities and young people with mental health needs. Many volunteers help to run these activities, as well as doing practical work about the farm, such as learning hedge-laying. They are also a popular wedding venue – we saw a yurt being erected for a forthcoming event.

Charlotte then led us on an interesting walk and we saw some of the farm and activities going on. I was particularly interested to view the remains of 'Fordhall Castle' which is thought to be a Norman ringwork-and-bailey castle. This gives wonderful views over the River Tern, which marks much of the farm's boundary (below).

We were ready for soup and sandwiches for lunch, before going home. I left inspired by the story of the farm, especially their long-term vision for both farming in an environmentally friendly way and involving as many others as possible on the journey. ■

## Obituary



### Jessie Hanson

We were sorry to hear recently of Jessie's death aged 98. She had been a Friend of the Archives for many years and for a while was on the committee, including a spell as vice-chairman. Her daughter wrote this appreciation, which is a fascinating reminder of life growing up in rural Shropshire.

My mother was born Jessie Howells on 24th April 1925, the only daughter of Lena and Tom Howells. She was born at Perry Cottage, Milford, Baschurch; her great grandfather, a waggoner, had moved to the cottage to be near Milford Mill. He had 6 horses that pulled a wagon laden with ground corn to Shrewsbury twice a week.

Jessie went to school at age 5. She walked from Milford to Baschurch. She passed the exam for the Priory School (then the Girls' Grammar School in Shrewsbury) in 1936, although nobody in the family had passed since 1919! To get to the Priory she would cycle to the station and leave her bike in the pump house, a sandstone building nearby. She would then catch the train to Shrewsbury.

Jessie was lucky that her father believed in educating women. He also agreed to her going to the Teacher Training College in Hereford. The course was for two years and her parents had to pay for it. After leaving college in 1945, she first taught at Ruyton, and then Bridgnorth. It was there that she met my father Arthur Hanson, a chartered electrical engineer who was working on the development of radar. Jessie came back to teach at Baschurch in 1947. Classes were large, with up to 48 pupils. She taught infants who came in knowing nothing and were expected to leave reading, writing and knowing their tables.

Jessie and Arthur were married at Baschurch and then had a spell in Nigeria. After they came back to the UK they moved to Berkshire, where she and Arthur spent the rest of their working lives, before retiring to Llansillin. Arthur sadly died soon after, but Jessie developed her great passion for local history research after she went on a course for writing and researching local history, led by Barrie Trinder. Jessie put this knowledge to good use and wrote three books: one on the early life of Charles Darwin [see review], another on the Darbys of Little Ness and the last one on Baschurch School and its founder Eleanor Harris. ■

## New accessions

We continue to receive new donations and deposits. A selection of those received this year is:

- M19905/1 Diary of a Market Drayton woman, 1892
- P246 Shifnal parish vestry book, 1851-1982 and cock fund minute book, 1888-1889
- 9916 Isaiah Jones photographs of Wellington RDC and colliery plans
- 9917 Much Wenlock Civic Society Records, 2004-2024
- 9918 Telford Community Arts records, 1974-1989
- CP30 Records of Leebotwood, Newcastle on Clun and Bettwys-y-Crwyn parish councils, 1980-2021
- 9920 Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge Records, 1947-1980s (access subject to data protection)
- 9927 Oakes family letters, Broseley, mostly for 1914-1919
- M19928 Chetwynd Estate map, 1802
- 9930 Trevor Hill Collection, 20th-21st centuries



## From the Chair

Jill Ming

### Events

Our AGM on 13 June at Shropshire Wildlife Trust in Shrewsbury was well attended on a very warm summer's day, the venue proving delightfully cool with easy access. After the essential business was completed, local archaeologist Nigel Baker entertained us with a delightful illustrated talk of his research and recent discoveries at Shrewsbury Castle. Nigel is an engaging speaker and we learned a lot about the history of the castle and its origins as well as the various archaeological investigations he has led [see separate report].

Our country house visit this year was to the Grade 1 listed Hawkstone Hall in Weston. This was slightly different to our usual arrangement in being self-guided using hand-held audio devices, however this enabled everyone to explore the building at their own pace and we were fortunate in having the whole property available. Freshly baked scones accompanied our tea and coffee afterwards which we enjoyed in the Snug, one of the many comfortable reception rooms [see report]. Another difference this year was the visit to Fordhall Farm [see separate report].

### Friday 29 September

#### Visions of Viroconium

An overview of the documents and the interpretation of a Roman town over time. With Researcher Sara Downs

**Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm, Price £6.00**

**Booking for both events at**  
**[www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk](http://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk)**

### Looking forward

We are delighted to welcome local historian David Trumper to deliver our annual lecture which will be held at Shropshire Archives on Saturday, 4 November at 10.30am. A booking form is enclosed and can be downloaded from our website - [friendsofshropshirearchives.org/events](http://friendsofshropshirearchives.org/events).

As a thank you to our members, we are hosting a Christmas social at Shropshire Archives on Saturday, 2 December from 10:30am - 12:30pm. It's a free drop-in event for members, with tea/coffee and mince pies and the opportunity to meet and mingle. Do come along and join us.

### Purchases

The Friends have recently purchased four new PCs for the Reading Room at Shropshire Archives to replace the 10+ year-old existing machines which were extremely slow. Archives Team Leader Sarah Davis has reported that visitors can now access FindMyPast and Ancestry much faster than before and the PCs are fully compliant with the latest security software. As always, we are grateful for your support that enables us to provide Shropshire Archives with some of the resources they need. ■

### Monday 16 October

#### Sifting the Ashes: A social history of Wroxeter Roman City from the archives

The recent publication of *Ashes Under Uricon*. A Cultural and Social History of Wroxeter Roman City explores the many characters and people associated with Shropshire's most important Roman site. Drawing on the rich archival material relating to Wroxeter, Roger White acts as a guide to the wealth of information he was able to gain about Wroxeter and its people from the county's archives.

**Time: 2.00pm - 3.30pm, Price £6.00**

## News

Sarah Davis



### Archives update

The reorganisation of Shropshire's Culture Leisure and Tourism Department is now largely complete. For the Archives this has involved a few changes, so it seems time for an update on staff members and a little bit about their roles:

- **Archives and Museums Manager** – Fay Bailey. As well as the Archives, Fay is responsible for Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery, Shrewsbury Castle, Coleham Pumping Station, Much Wenlock Museum and the Museum Resource Centre in Ludlow.
- **Archives Team Leader** – Sarah Davis looks after the Archive Service as a whole and will be working with the Museums team on outreach and education.
- **Senior Archivist** – Sal Mager. Sal is responsible for cataloguing and taking in new collections. Sal is also our longest serving staff member - having just celebrated working for Shropshire Council for 30 years!
- **Reprographics Manager** – Nathaniel Stevenson. Nat will also have wider responsibilities that cross the Culture Leisure and Tourism Department.
- **Archivist** – Kerry Evans. As well as overseeing the public search room, Kerry co-ordinates our volunteer work alongside the Museum Volunteer Co-ordinator Becky Benson.
- **Librarian** – Andie Lloyd. Our local studies collection is a vital part of our service and Andie looks after this. Andie also manages our social media and alongside her work is researching for a PhD looking at early newspapers in the West Midlands.
- **Senior Archives Assistant** – Karen Young. Karen is mostly to be found on our enquiries desk and also oversees our remote enquiries and copying services.

- **Archives Assistants** – Alison Mussell and Clare Brown. You'll find Alison and Clare on our reception desk, but they also deal with financial and admin matters as well as cataloguing and writing blog posts.
- **Caretaker** – Kev Roberts. Kev's remit is very wide including responsibility for the building, document production, retrieving items from our out-store and helping repackage documents.
- **Cataloguing Assistant** – Laura Wickens. We're pleased that our archives intern, Laura, now has a permanent post. Laura will be studying for the MA in Archive Administration by distance learning alongside her post here. Laura's priority will be cataloguing the council records.
- **Reprographics Assistant** – Alison Mussell. Alison will be helping with day to day copying orders and linking images to our catalogue.
- **Archives Intern** – we will be recruiting for this post in due course.
- **Researchers** – Clare Brown and Sara Downs. Clare and Sara can look into house and family history for you. Sara is also working on her PhD and cataloguing the Bridgewater collection "The status and economic agency of women landholders in the lordships of Ellesmere... Whitchurch, 1760-1860". Clare is working towards a genealogy qualification with the IHGS.

Our Records Management service is being looked at separately and will include a Digital Archivist with responsibility for council and external digital records.

As we no longer have an in-house conservator we will be investigating alternative approaches to covering this important part of our work. ■

Please send any comments to:

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