

BATTLE OF HATFIELD INVESTIGATION SOCIETY



Does The Heritage Of The Welbeck Estate Include A King Killed At Cuckney?

COMMUNITY BOOK
MARCH 2016

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Foreword

The Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society ("BOHIS") was formed in March 2013 by Joseph Waterfall and Paul Jameson to examine whether skeletons discovered during subsidence operations in December 1950 and into 1951 relate to the 632 AD Anglo Saxon Battle of Hatfield.

Since then it is estimated that BOHIS have expended over 6,000 free hours covering topics such as research, permissions and seeking funding opportunities amongst others.



PICTURE : COURTESY PAUL JAMESON: JOSEPH WATERFALL OF BOHIS WITH ANDY GAUNT OF MERCIAN NEAR THE SITE OF ST. EDWIN'S CHAPEL JUST OUTSIDE EDWINSTOWE.

In those pre funded days (well.. two years !) we worked closely with Andy Gaunt, Sean Crossley & David Budge from our archaeological partners, Mercian CIC and at January 2016 we have still not received an invoice for their costs associated with about a dozen meetings.

In July 2015, BOHIS were awarded £15,600 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to investigate various elements associated with St. Mary's Church, Cuckney and the Welbeck Estate for which we are very grateful.

The project was formally launched at the BOHIS Fund Raising Barbeque held in Norton on Saturday 17th July. This was attended by over 80 Community members and raised over £400 to put towards the £500 we were required to contribute to the project.

This has involved bringing together 3 local villages (Cuckney, Norton & Holbeck) plus other interested parties in a spirit of community to research, document and display its rich but hidden history.

A questionnaire was hand delivered to each of approx. 180 houses in the 3 local villages of Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck.

Two local schools were also contacted (Cuckney (up to 11 years) and the Meden School, Warsop (11+).

Additionally, 50 questionnaires were deposited at Warsop Town Hall and the Newark & District Young Archaeologist Club plus some other interested individuals were also contacted.

The results showed that there was quite an even appetite for each subject offered.

159 people (including Schools) expressed an interest in taking part.



PICTURE : COURTESY MIKE TUSKA : BOHIS CHAIRMAN PAUL JAMESON EXPLAINS WHAT EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR THEIR HLF LOTTERY FUNDED EVENT

DOES THE HERITAGE OF THE WELBECK ESTATE INCLUDE A KING KILLED AT CUCKNEY?

The HLF project title



Project Scope

This Heritage Lottery funded Community book celebrates the people involved and the discoveries made via the 3 Match funded (by Mercian) Community Days, Community Workshops, Fieldwork and school visits that all took place between 26th September and 6th December 2015.

Please note that our book is not intended to cover topics in great depth due but it will hopefully provide a deeply flavoured and warm experience that the Community can refer to in subsequent years if they wish to be reminded of this unique local event.

Greater details, such as those contained in technical reports and the 300 photos from the Bob Needham collection will however be committed to the BOHIS and Mercian websites and Facebook where appropriate, as agreed with the HLF for 5 years free of charge.

Additionally, 2 photo albums containing the Bob Needham collection will be presented to Cuckney History Society.

The results of the questionnaire helped decide that our brief would encompass :

- Cuckney Castle
- Cuckney Church
- The Bob Needham Photo Collection
- Buildings, Field and Street Names
- The Skeletons Discovered in 1950/51 – Do they Relate to The Battle of Hatfield ?

PLANNING OUR EVENTS

This initially involved a 4 hour meeting with Mercian where we looked at all workshops required, who would run them and when; then largely involved booking various slots at Cuckney Village Hall with the kind assistance of Judith Reynolds from the Village Hall Committee and multiple hall unlockings from warden Sheila Worthington.

As we needed a base for daily Fieldwork operations the same logistical process was involved.

Additionally, Church Warden Sheila Brailsford opened the church on each of the 10 fieldwork days, to ensure that operations could take place within the church (such as Ground Penetrating Radar) and to allow school children access.

THE ORDERING OF EVENTS

The 1st Community Day was held on Saturday 26th September 2015 and was intended to, "set the scene" for the forthcoming events. This was then generally followed in the order, firstly, of the Community workshops, then the Fieldwork days, and finally summarised via the 2nd and 3rd Community "Findings so Far" Days.

The exceptions to this ordering were the Cuckney Castle workshops which came right at the end (the 5th and 6th of December). This was because we realised that the new information about the castle would not be available until we had completed the Fieldwork on Friday 13th November.

ACTUAL OVERALL ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

There were 401 actual attendances (which included quite a lot of welcome re-visits). When the revisits were excluded, this still meant that 236 Community members had taken part.

When compared against our discreet "budgeted" figure of 159 this was very pleasing.

EVENT	Attendees (including re-visits)
3 Community Workshop Days	74
Workshops	98
Fieldwork - Schools	95
Fieldwork - Other	84
In School	50
TOTAL	401

EVENT	Attendees
Community Days/Workshops/Fieldwork	91
Fieldwork - MEDEN School	95
In School Brief - Cuckney	50
TOTAL	236



Why I'm Excited By This Project

A WELSH PERSPECTIVE ON COMMUNITY TIES AND THE BATTLE OF HATFIELD



WHEN CYNICS SAY THAT HISTORY HAS NO RELEVANCE TO TODAY, THINK AGAIN. SINCE THE MINERS STRIKES AND THE CLOSURE OF COAL MINING HAPPENED IN THE 80S, PEOPLE SPOKE OF A COMMUNITY THAT HAD FORMED, WHEN COAL MINING IN THE MIDLANDS, DREW PEOPLE FROM OTHER COALMINING COMMUNITIES, IN CORNWALL AND WALES.

There was a sense of a community whose origins did not exist before coalmining and who therefore lost all their roots, when they closed.

Yet this is not true. If you look back to the Middle Ages, when there was a Hermitage to St. David's Cathedral, in Mansfield. Or to when King John, kept a Welsh Princess captive in Sherwood.

Look back further to the dark ages, in 632 AD, If Cadwallon, Former King of Gwynedd and known as "King of the Britons" came to this place, with his army of Celtic Britons (Gwynedd, Powys, possibly Irish and Gauls), fought alongside men of Mercia and beat the Northerners (Danes and Saxons).

So the story of North Nottinghamshire's community is one that repeats itself time and again. Our communities have been at the heart of Great Britain's creation, religion, wealth, being, since the written word has recorded and mis-recorded who and why we are.

This battle was a major turning point. Penda, a pagan king, fighting alongside Cadwallon, a Christian King with a less than Christian attitude fighting Edwin who had converted only a few years before. The last breaths of Paganism. The first breaths of a new Christian realm.

Celtic Christianity would also disappear, over the next 500 years, as Cistercians and Benedictines followed their new masters, the Normans, in conquering the lands and psyche of their Celtic predecessors.

The Dark ages were a time of such a change in power, that religions that followed in the wakes of kingships, found themselves in desperate straits. Christianity, being written down, took hold alongside those successful kings who funded their churches and monasteries, in return for written words of praise.

Celtic Christianity existed in a culture in touch with the energy of nature, both kind and harsh, which still knew the stories of their ancestors, which were rich

in Pagan culture and their spirits and God's.

As the Kings of The Britons lost ground and power and became puppet kingdoms well into the Middle Ages, Celtic Christianity lost its funds to maintain its chapels, churches and Monasteries. Sites such as Glastonbury and Ystrad Marchel in Wales, were falling into crumbling disrepair.

So their Abbots, perfectly versed in the tongue of fantastical and rich Celtic Christian poetry and bardic songs, created rich tales, half based on real hero's, half fiction, attaching these stories to their sites. They travelled to wealthy potential patrons with these tales in the hope of raising funds. This is the culture we are now translating and it is our culture, which has always been here.

So the Dark Ages are coming to light. Professors such as John Koch and learned folk such as Patrick Thomas (following the studies of his more recent ancestors) in his book, "Celtic Earth Celtic Heaven", have now



PICTURE: COURTESY PAUL JAMESON: CHARLES IN DISCUSSION WITH MERCIAN'S ANDY GAUNT DURING NOVEMBER'S FIELDWORK

begun to unveil the curtain of confusion caused by this time of change.

Old poems and stories written during this time were redacted and added into the works of Bede, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Gildas and Nennius (History of the Britons) long used as our main sources of literature on our history.

New evidence brings to question locations of battles and even those who were actually involved. These medieval historians had their own reasons for subtly changing these details.

Former translations of these ancient poems, much like Christian literature are now being better understood. Poems and references in ancient tongues are now revealing themselves, where battles and events that were thought to have occurred all at the same time, are now being understood to potentially cover hundreds of years, which better allows us to understand the course of events.

Only fifteen years before the Battle of Hatfield, there was another Britannic Kingdom, called Elmet, located between Mercia and Northumbria, which was taken by Edwin and written out of History in 617. Elmet had,

until that time kept The Saxons and Northumbrians from joining with the Saxons of the South.

The poet Taliesin (a court poet from Powys the land of my ancestors) wrote of Elmet and its leader, Guallauc, who almost brought an end to the English and caused havoc across the North. Although the southern tip was said to be the River Sheaf and the River Don, this kingdom was said to be fluid and it is quite possible that our site was within its borders.

Before his demise, his Kingdom was said to have a southern boundary of Whitwell Gap, which would have been walking distance from Cuckney and makes a strong case for my argument of the emotional linkage of this lost British Kingdom to Cadwallon.

John Koch has suggested that a reference to a Battle site thought to be on the edge of Powys, against the Northumbrians, could have actually been a site within this former kingdom, which used the same language and culture as the Britannic Kingdom of Powys (Elmet) and thus could have had a settlement of the same name. Perhaps these two battles were closer or even linked than originally thought.

Where better for a British King, Cadwallon, to fight the English, than in the Last British Kingdom to be lost to Edwin?

Guallauc better explains the links with the North, having fought alongside other northern British Kings against the Saxons and ravaging the North, and as far west as mid Wales.

Unlike Powys, Guallauc burned himself out with fighting and eventually lost a battle trying to retake Catterick, having assembled in Edinburgh. Guallauc, like Cadwallon got carried away with ravaging across the country, rather than having a more careful approach to keeping the lands for the British people.

So as the Dark Ages become less dark, we are revealing a whole new history. The site at Cuckney, if proven to be the Battle of Hatfield, could be one of the most significant sites in the History of the British Isles.

The date 632 AD has only one other significant claimant. This was also said to be the date of the death of the Prophet Muhammad!

Community Day 1

By Paul Jameson

26TH SEPTEMBER 2015 - SETTING THE SCENE

The first community Day was a chance for BOHIS to explain in detail what was going to happen and when. It was motivational in that it meant that dates for both the Community Workshops and Fieldwork had to have been agreed and also booked via Cuckney Village Hall Committee and the Oaklands Centre, Warsop.

It was advertised in ample time by leafleting the villages of Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck and also via our web site and Facebook page.

We explained that the Community Day had no entrance fee and that all were welcome.

We also explained that attendance could be for the whole day or just be on a, " drop in and attend what is of interest on the agenda".



HONORARY PRESIDENT, JOSEPH WATERFALL, DISPLAYS OUR COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS AND WORKSHOPS FLYER.



BATTLE OF HATFIELD INVESTIGATION SOCIETY
DID KING EDWIN DIE AT CUCKNEY?

Community Open Days
CUCKNEY VILLAGE HALL AND OAKLANDS CENTRE, WARSOP

We have been awarded Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) support to explore and share the history of three villages on the Welbeck Estate, North Nottinghamshire.

The project aims to bring together local people from Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck plus other interested parties to discover more about some of the key moments in the area's past.

PART OF THE PROJECT IS THE DELIVERY OF 3 COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS

As a prelude to any activities, a 1st Community Open Day will be held between 10am and 4pm on the 26th September at Cuckney Village Hall.

This will help "set the scene" for the all Workshop and Fieldwork activities and it would be ideal if you can attend this.

As a summary of activities and findings, a further 2 Community Open Days will be held between 10am and 4pm on the 28th and 29th November at the Oaklands Centre, Warsop, Notts.

PART OF THE PROJECT IS THE DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS SPANNING VARIOUS DAYS

The interactive workshops are aimed at fostering a spirit of community involvement and enhanced enjoyment!

They will all take place at Cuckney Village Hall - starting on the 28th September and ending on the 6th December 2015.

Please feel free to attend any Community Days or Workshops that you are interested in.

It is important that you REGISTER AN INTEREST by sending us your contact details. Please see reverse for further details. Proposed Community Days & Workshop delivery dates could change and we may need to contact you to let you know.

Supported by **The National Lottery** through the Heritage Lottery Fund

www.mercian-as.co.uk



Whilst we did not desire too formal a structure via “death by Powerpoint” (presentations) it was also clear that some events had to be scheduled. It is difficult to be wholly informal and say, “just drop in at any time between 10am and 4pm” because at least some people may rightly want to “cherry pick” subjects that appeal to them. Indeed in reinforcement, some people were already asking about the structure of the day.

Hence we decided upon a mix that allowed an informal, “meet the team over coffee” based start between 10– 11am followed by a formal presentation. After lunch, which allowed further informal community collaboration, another formal event explained what was to happen operationally during the project.

We ensured this finished around 3pm allowing for a group walk around the churchyard afterwards and some astute archaeological observations from Andy Gaunt of Mercian CIC.



TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

10–11am - “Kick Off”

Meet The Team -
An Informal 1 on 1 Question & Answer session.

11:30am – 12:30pm

“The Battle of Hatfield” – A little bit of history - Paul Jameson will re-present his talk originally given at Sutton Hoo on 19th September & take questions at the end

12:30pm – 1:45pm

Lunch and Talk to The Team

2 - 3pm

“What’s Going to Happen?”
A presentation explaining the timetabling of all events :

- Explain Community Workshops content, format and dates
- Explain Fieldwork – Dates & What Will Be Happening on each day
- Explain that the Fieldwork timetable will be distributed & also posted to the Web / Facebook shortly
- Explain Purpose of Other 2 Community Days - Present Findings So Far
- Community Question & Answer Session



PICTURE: COURTESY: MIKE TUSKA: A 1ST COMMUNITY DAY GROUP SHOT - ABOUT TO LISTEN TO THE BATTLE OF HATFIELD PRESENTATION

THIRTY TWO PEOPLE ATTENDED DURING THE DAY, MOST STAYING FOR THE FULL 6 HOURS, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS A GOOD LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Topography and Graveyard Survey

TRAINING FOR FIELDWORK VOLUNTEERS



Between the 2nd and the 13th November 2015, as part of the HLF funded, BOHIS award, Mercian Archaeological Services CIC undertook a Topographic survey of the churchyard at Cuckney, and the surrounding fields. They also undertook a survey of the gravestones in the churchyard. The surveys were undertaken with volunteers who were trained in the archaeological techniques.

The topographic survey used a Differential Geographical Positioning System (DGPS) device to record a number of points on the ground. These were accurate to within 1cm in three dimensions.

The device uses signals received from satellites to record its location, and also makes that location more precise by using a correction sent from a base receiver to produce high accuracy readings. These points were the control points for the survey.

Volunteers were then trained in how to set up another device known as a Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) Total Station over one of these control points, and to orientate the device by taking readings to one or more of the other control points around the site. The Total Station uses a laser which is aimed at a prism on a pole. The prism pole is held over a place on the ground that is to be recorded.

The Total Station then fires the laser beam, and uses a Theodolite to measure vertical and horizontal angles, and then the EDM to record the distance to the target. The pole on which the prism is set is at a known height, and the device measures the angles and distance and the height of the target above the ground, and records the location of the point being recorded.

This device was used by volunteers to record features on the ground, using both a standard

and a robotic Total Station, to undertake a subjective and objective survey. The robotic Total Station recorded points every 25cm as the volunteers walked around the site to give a 3D map of the area through objective surveying by recording points whilst walking an arbitrary grid.

Volunteers were trained in using all of the technological equipment as part of the project.

Volunteers were then trained in how to record earthworks as part of a subjective archaeological survey. For earthworks on the ground the tops and bottoms of slopes were recorded to produce a 2D map of the features, volunteers were taught how to identify and record these individual earthworks. Volunteers used this technique to map earthworks that formed part of the castle including ditches and banks and the mound of the castle Motte.

PICTURE: COURTESY MIKE TUSKA: NICOLA WRIGHT USES THE TOTAL STATION TO RECORD POINTS IN THE LANDSCAPE, HELPED BY PENNY WILSON WITH ADVICE FROM MERCIAN'S "BE-CAPPED" SEAN CROSSLEY

Alongside the topographic survey volunteers were also trained in recording gravestones. They used the Total Station to map the location of graves, and also learned techniques in recording and photographing gravestones to create a record of the memorials in the graveyard.

All work was undertaken by volunteers who were trained in all techniques by archaeologists. Many of the volunteers learned enough skills to become extremely proficient in the techniques and were able to supervise new volunteers.



PICTURE: COURTESY NICK MASON: SANDY SAUNDERS ADJUSTS THE TOTAL STATION AIDED BY MERCIAN'S DAVID BUDGE

Basic Principles of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Magnetometry

In Ground Penetrating Radar surveys, electromagnetic waves of frequencies between 50MHz and 1.5GHz are transmitted into the ground or structure.

This energy is reflected back to the surface when it encounters significant contrasts in dielectric properties. A radio wave transmitter (TX) is used to generate a short (<20ns) pulse of radio waves of specific frequency (depending on the antenna selected).

These radio waves penetrate into the subsurface. Some of the energy carried by these waves is transmitted to greater and greater distances, while some of the energy is reflected back towards the receiver (RX) whenever a contrast in electrical properties is encountered.

The amount of energy reflected is dependent on the contrast in electrical properties encountered by the radio waves.

GPR can be used to detect responses associated with human burials in several ways. It may detect the disturbed soil of the grave shaft, or a break in the natural soil profile. It may also detect the coffin, bones or other articles in the burial. Reflections may be caused from air voids within the coffin or skull.

These features within the otherwise homogeneous structure of the ground may constitute a contrast in dielectric (electrical) properties, and generate anomalous reflections within the radargrams.



PICTURE: COURTESY PAUL JAMESON: ANDY GAUNT PERFORMS MAGNETOMETRY



PRINCIPLES OF MAGNETOMETRY

Geophysical Magnetometer survey uses a sensitive device to measure changes in the earth's magnetic field caused by buried features in the soil.

The earth is surrounded by a magnetic field generated by convection currents inside its molten iron outer core, around its solid iron inner core. The magnetic field protects us from Solar winds which would otherwise destroy the earth's atmosphere, it can also be used to show archaeological features buried below ground.

The magnetic field generated by this phenomenon is measured in Nanotesla (NT). Globally the effect can be measured between 20,000 and 60,000 Nanotesla. Features such as pits and ditches can cause the magnetic enrichment and variation in the earth's magnetic field.

Topsoil is usually more magnetically rich than the lower subsoil. A pit or ditch cut into the subsoil in the past, that has since filled with topsoil is therefore usually more magnetic than the surrounding sub-soils. Burning in fires and kilns also changes the magnetic signal by causing the re-alignment of minerals to the magnetic pole. These variations are usually in the region of + or - 5NT, so very sensitive equipment is needed.

Mercian used a Bartington Grad601 Fluxgate Gradiometer to measure these variations, and record them for mapping. The device has two sensors set 1 meter apart, one above the other.

They both measure the magnetic field at their location. The one at the bottom if closer to the ground and therefore is affected by variations in the soil. The difference between the two sensors (the gradient) is recorded as +/- NT.

The readings are taken on a grid and plotted on a computer, when a whole area is mapped, high and low magnetic features can be seen across the area.

A greyscale colour ramp can be applied to the data (low light, high dark), in this way pits and ditches that produce positive magnetic readings and can therefore be seen as darker features in the survey map.



PICTURE: COURTESY PAUL JAMESON: LIAM WILLIAMS OF RSK STATS SETS UP A MOBILE GPR DEVICE

By Nick Mason

Volunteer's View



PICTURE: COURTESY PAUL JAMESON: NICK MASON WIELDS GPS DEVICE



Firstly a little background. I come from a life spent in IT as a software engineer and Project Manager managing large IT projects but have always had an interest in history, particularly English history and am an avid reader on the subject. Early retirement means I can finally get involved and get my hands dirty.

Just over a week before the work started at Cuckney, and one day before I departed for Malta to visit some of their wonderful museums and fortifications I had a chance meeting with a fellow history enthusiast.

During the conversation they told me about the upcoming

investigative work and told me there might be the chance of volunteering if I was interested and gave me a contact email for Mercian Archaeological Services. At such short notice I was doubtful I'd get a place so, more in hope than anticipation, I emailed Mercian expressing my interest in joining the project as a volunteer and got on the plane to Malta.

All week during my visit I kept an eye on my email but, alas, nothing came from Mercian, ah well, another time maybe. However, I was in for a pleasant surprise, on the Sunday evening, the night before the work was due to begin, the email I'd been

waiting for arrived with an apology for the lateness, due to internet problems, asking me if I was still interested and if so could I make it the next morning at 10.00 ?

I responded immediately that I'd be there.



My old English teacher once told us that if we started a piece of work with 'It was a dark and stormy night.....' that he'd beat us about the head with a heavy dictionary, so.....

.... It was a cold and foggy morning when I arrived in Cuckney on the first day of the fieldwork.

Right from the start I was involved in the surveying. I was shown how to set it up and operate it and along with other volunteers we started to plot the area being surveyed.

We surveyed the earthworks in the field to the north of the church as well as the churchyard. In addition to the topographical survey we also plotted the position of all the headstones in the cemetery, photographing each one and, where possible, noting the name on the stone.

This was to allow the archaeologists to map and record the cemetery.

Whilst this was going on, other people were walking over the surveyed area with a GPS device which also recorded position and altitude accurately, however, this did not go as smoothly as it could. Due to our location and the heavy cloud cover, satellite coverage was sketchy and to add to the problem mobile phone coverage, required by the GPS for additional accuracy data, was also poor.

As a volunteer there was always the option to try something different and I had a go at some of the other jobs during the investigation.

I spent several hours walking up and down with the GPS.

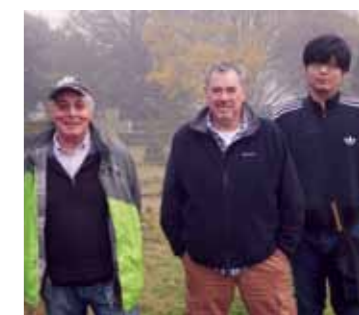
However, there was always more surveying to be done and as the person, other than the archaeologists, who could operate the equipment I was happy to return to it.



PICTURE : PENNY, SUE AND BOB TOO ! - GRAVEYARD SURVEY - CATALOGING EACH GRAVESTONE IN THE UNTENDED PORTION OF THE CHURCH YARD



SUE LONGDEN AND PENNY WILSON



ANOTHER OF THE VOLUNTEERS WAS ONG, A POST GRAD ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT FROM DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Private AC Willies

While surveying and plotting the graves in the cemetery we came across a war grave from WW1, that of Private AC Willies who was serving in Gallipoli when he was badly wounded.

He was shipped home but sadly died from his wounds. His grave is looking a little shabby and we decided that as one of our fallen he deserved a bit of a wash and brush up.

So, I sent an email to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with a short account of what we were doing and photo of the grave asking them to come and tidy it up.



PICTURE FROM WORKSOP GUARDIAN 1915

Volunteers come in many guises and while some of us were out in the field there were others doing equally important work in support. Like most people I enjoy a cup of tea but never has one tasted so good, or been more welcome, than the one put into my cold hands by one of the other volunteers when I walked into the village hall for a break on one of the colder days.

Later on in week one and into week two Andy Gaunt did a geophysics magnetometer survey and the volunteers helped with the measuring and marking out of the 20m grids that Andy would walk.

During the work we were visited regularly by groups of school children who were told what we were doing and why. They were told about the history and spent time looking at what we were doing and where possible having a go. Hopefully what they saw will inspire some to a lifelong interest in the history of their country and the lives of the people who shaped what we are today.

As well as the children we also had a visit by a reporter from the CHAD. He interviewed the archaeologists and took pictures including a group photo in front of the church. He also interviewed some of the volunteers, me included, about what we were doing. I had to explain about the surveying and the equipment we were using.

I think I almost sounded like I knew what I was talking about.

For the most part the weather was kind, we had some rain but it wasn't bad and it never really impaired the work. As unlikely as it sounds we also had some unseasonably warm days when it was a pleasure to be outside.



FOR ME IT HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC TWO WEEKS, A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND ONE THAT HAS LEFT ME WANTING MORE. I HAVE LEARNT SO MUCH AND I SHALL BE VOLUNTEERING FOR OTHER DIGS AND SURVEYS.

HOWEVER, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF WHAT THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND WHEN THE DATA IS ANALYSED REQUIRES FURTHER INVESTIGATION I SHALL BE FIRST IN THE QUEUE TO VOLUNTEER TO COME BACK TO CUCKNEY.

SOME OF THE HEADSTONES PRESENTED US WITH A BIT OF A CHALLENGE. HERE ONE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS, SEAN CROSSLEY, IS SEEN GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY



BOB LONGDEN, HOLDING THE STAFF OF POWER AND VERY REGAL TOO



How to attract and maintain an audience - By Mike Condon

Get Social Networking



It was always important that the geographically local community were an essential part of this project. We wanted to engage local residents, schools and stakeholders into greater understanding of their local area. However, community has a much broader meaning

and we wanted to engage a community that wasn't constrained to geographical locations.

If one of our objectives was to engage a community then the subsequent challenge would be to highlight 'where' this community is and how to engage them. We were quite clear that while word of mouth and traditional forms of advertising our project were still essential to engage a local audience we needed to turn to online communities to help spread word of our project and social media was an obvious platform for us to utilise.

Unlike traditional forms of publicity such as flyers and posters, social media promotes two-way communication – in essence, a 'conversation', and conversation is the foundation of any community. Social media would give us the opportunity to reach out to a potential audience, but more importantly, allow them to talk back to us. Relying on a geographically local community to push the project forward may have had limited impact but by engaging with online communities we were able to access a much wider reach.

The beauty of social media is that it allows regular and real-time updates to be fed to your audience without them needing to search for the information off their own back. We were able to utilise this to our advantage by regularly posting updates of how the project was progressing and inviting people to our society meetings.

A common misconception of Facebook is that it represents a modern or abridged form of a website but in reality social media differs massively in its function from that of a website. Websites work on the basis of relying on the end user to visit your website to find information for themselves whereas social media channels feed the news directly to your audience. However, Facebook works on a complex algorithm that works out which news it feels is most relevant to you. Big Brother's watching you eh? This may come as a surprise as the belief of many social media users is that merely posting an update will instantly be received by all of your followers. Unfortunately, it's not that

easy. Facebook (in all its wisdom) works out which news to 'feed' you by analysing what content you regularly engage with. If you never show inkling of liking the news you're fed then Facebook will soon stop displaying it to you. The main challenge of running a social media account is ensuring that you not only gain but maintain an audience. Unless you can ensure your message is being pushed out to as many people as possible it can be a bit fruitless even having a social media presence.

The key to making social media work for you is developing content that is engaging. Simply posting a formal text status is unlikely to provoke enough reaction amongst your followers. Careful consideration needs to be given to the construction of posts so that the content has elements that are likely to promote 'likes', 'comments' or 'shares'. The more people who engage, 'like' and 'share' your content the more this reaches new audiences and the cycle continues.



TOP TIP

Naturally we engage more with items that are visual. Use visually stimulating photos or video as much as possible in your posts and use supporting text that prompts a reply. Try not to publish long posts – keep your posts short and snappy and allow images to do the speaking. If you need to convey a longer or detailed message make sure you link to this on your website, this will help drive traffic to your website and thus increase your website ratings on search engines. If you feel you need to give your posts a 'helping hand' then the 'boost post' feature on Facebook can be an effective way of pushing your post out to your target audience for a very reasonable budget.

FACEBOOK IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR SHOWCASING VISUAL CONTENT SO USE THIS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

By Paul Jameson

A Picture Paints A Thousand Words

AN APPRECIATION OF BOB NEEDHAM'S PHOTO COLLECTION



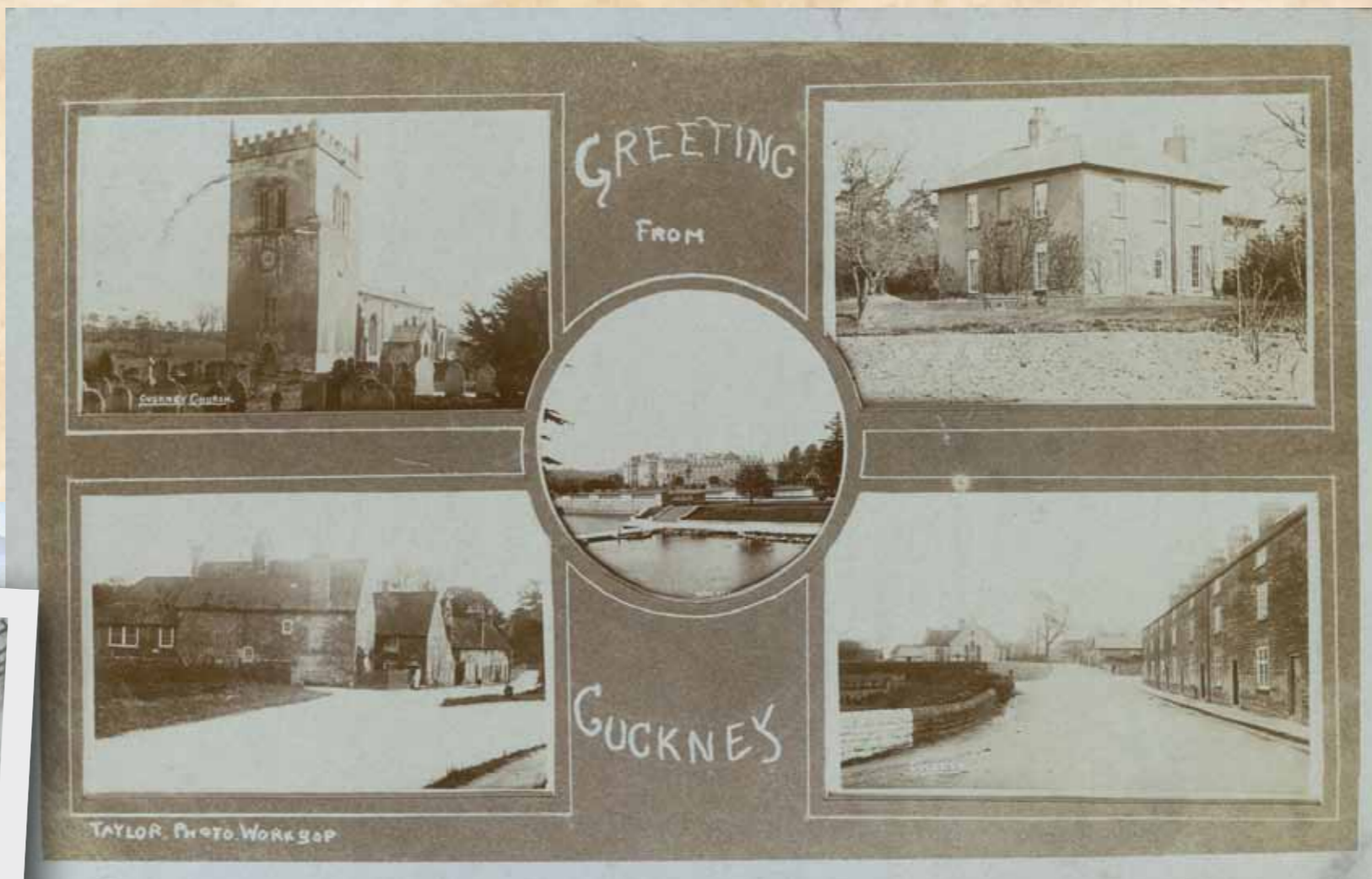
PICTURE: COURTESY OF PAUL JAMESON

Although BOHIS had heard about Bob Needham in 2013, we were not initially aware of his 300 strong photograph collection mainly covering c. 1890 to 1930.

In 2014, when Joseph Waterfall and I first interviewed Bob and his wife, it was purely to discuss any recollections he may have had about the c. 200 skeletons found in burial pits at St. Mary's in 1950/51.

Yet when our 2nd HLF bid was expanded to include a "umbrella" of subjects (culminating in our April 2015 bid), Bob's photo collection became very relevant. This is partly because it represented something from a wholly different era to most of the other subjects involved in our bid (eg. Church and Castle - 12th Century, Battle of Hatfield - 7th Century etc..).

It also represented nearly a lifetime's passion for collecting old postcards and photographs from market stalls, fairs etc... that deserved wider attention.



AMAZINGLY THEY EVEN ONCE PRODUCED GREETINGS POSTCARDS OF CUCKNEY

I hope that Bob will not object to me saying that due to his advanced years he was also slightly concerned that his collection should become more publicly visible and remain in safe hands, something with which we whole heartedly agreed.

As to viewing a physical copy of the collection, the 300 photographs have been placed in two albums and are being presented to Cuckney History Society.

Viewing the whole collection on line is wholly and freely available via our website.

See "Bob Needham's Welbeck Photo Collection" and "Bob Needham's Cuckney Photo Collection" via the link below.

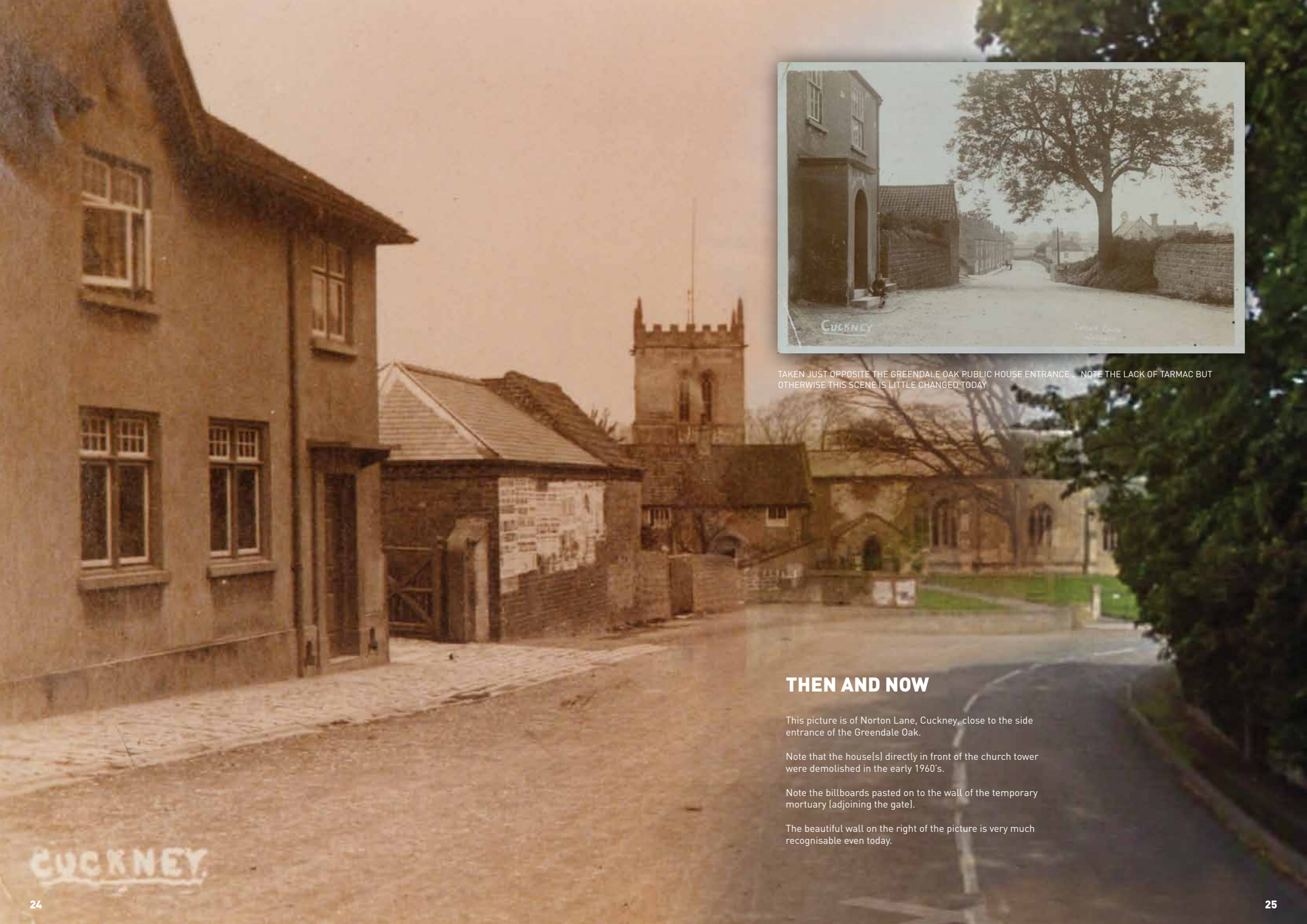
<http://battleofhatfield.webs.com/apps/photos/>



WELBECK ABBEY TAKEN FROM THE ROSE GARDEN C. 1920'S



WELBECK ABBEY - THE TITCHFIELD LIBRARY C. 1920'S



TAKEN JUST OPPOSITE THE GREENDALE OAK PUBLIC HOUSE ENTRANCE ... NOTE THE LACK OF TARMAC BUT OTHERWISE THIS SCENE IS LITTLE CHANGED TODAY

THEN AND NOW

This picture is of Norton Lane, Cuckney, close to the side entrance of the Greendale Oak.

Note that the house(s) directly in front of the church tower were demolished in the early 1960's.

Note the billboards pasted on to the wall of the temporary mortuary (adjoining the gate).

The beautiful wall on the right of the picture is very much recognisable even today.

CUCKNEY

By Paul Jameson

Church History and Our Ancestors

OVERVIEW

St. Mary's, Cuckney is a Grade 1 listed church (since November 1966) that is part of the Diocese of Southwell.

Discovering more about St. Mary's church Cuckney involved both practical and educational elements. One strongly practical item was the strimming of 5 acres of untended churchyard. I'd estimate that about eighty hours were "consumed" during this tiring but pleasurable process.

This helped enable Mercian (our archaeological partners) and some Fieldwork volunteers to do an unhindered Graveyard Survey which documented each grave and recorded its exact position using GPS (satellite technology).

Educational activities have included visiting the Notts. CC Archives, Nottingham Central Library and with the help of BOHIS diarist, Jennie Johnson, research at Worksop Library, where some excellent historical and contemporary information was uncovered.

Disappointingly, we did not discover any further historical information about Cuckney Church from the Church records or from the Diocese of Southwell. Additionally, no further Church data was available from the Welbeck Estates library.

Dialogue took place between BOHIS and Welbeck curator Gareth Hughes but revealed nothing of interest, possibly

due to a large sale of books and manuscripts via Christies (Auctioneers) in 1953. This was prompted by the imminent foundation of the Army training College at Welbeck later the same year and the need for extra space.

We are also indebted to the Archaeological thesis prepared in 2000 by Catherine Wells on St. Mary's Church and Churchyard and also to Churchwarden, Sheila Brailsford for informing us that she had completed such a project.

Colvin's book, "The White Canons of England" records Thomas (De) Of Cuckney as the founder of St. Mary's Church Cuckney. He had 2 carucates of land as a consequence of being the son of Richard who was awarded land by Henry the First.

During the anarchy years of Stephen & Mathilda (1139 -54), Thomas is recorded as having built a unlicensed (adulterine) Castle and having been a man of war throughout the whole conflict. The Castle was probably used as a base of operations and for storing his ill gotten gains.

Thomas is recorded as having sided with the ultimate loser, Stephen. Hence when Mathilda's son, Henry the second, came to the throne in 1154, Thomas may have felt compelled to, "include gifts of land in Cuckney and the church of St. Mary ... in the foundation of Welbeck Abbey some time between 1154 and 1160" (Wells).

Although the Domesday book (1086) provides evidence of a Saxon church in Cuckney, there is no real evidence of the presence of Saxon elements at St. Mary's, although a "Saxon" cross is embedded into an inside (North Westerly) wall.

Interestingly, St. Giles church at Carburton some 2.5 miles away is of Saxon origin and the Domesday book chroniclers were known for occasionally being imprecise, especially in their recordings of items of no great value for taxation and other purposes.

Of course, one thing that could have exposed this theory is a separate reference to St. Giles Church, but according to the, Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project, "There is no mention of a church in Domesday Book".

However, as Wells points out, the cross is unlikely to be Norman because they, "had no use for crosses and .. broke them up in large numbers and re-used them as building materials".

Additionally, at least one other current archaeological opinion is that it is not in the shape of a Saxon cross and this further accords with Wells' own instincts, "In fact I have been unable to find any Saxon crosses that look like the one at Cuckney".

One small counter argument is that the "Saxon" cross in St. Mary's is broken and is possibly being re-used as part of the fabric in the middle of a wall which may not have been part of the original church built by Thomas of Cuckney, as a North aisle was added perhaps in the 15th or 16th century which removed a large part of the original external north wall of

which the Saxon cross portion may have been included.

However, the broken cross could have been re-used as part of the original wall or further re-used in the 15th or 16th century.

Whether this was the site of the original Saxon church is therefore in some doubt.

However, the Castle does form the westerly part of St. Mary's church yard. As Professor Frank Stenton concludes, "the church of Cuckney .. stands within a small earthwork which has been badly mutilated but preserves the essential features of a motte and bailey castle ... and which may be the remains of Thomas Of Cuckney's 'adulterine stronghold'.



PICTURE: "SAXON" CROSS INSIDE ST. MARY'S, CUCKNEY. COURTESY OF CATHERINE WELLS

Colvin says, "In any case the foundation charter of Welbeck clearly expresses the penitence of a twelfth century baron for his lawless conduct when it states that Thomas has endowed the canons not only, 'for my soul and the souls of my father and my mother and my ancestors' but also for the souls 'of all those that I have unjustly plundered' ".

Thomas' charter was addressed to Roger, Archbishop of York (1154 - 1181) in whose Diocese Cuckney was then situated (now under the Diocese of Southwell).

Since Roger was not consecrated as Archbishop until 10th October 1154, then it might appear that Thomas' bequest cannot have taken place before then.

As Colvin (p. 65) states, "The terms of the charter make it quite clear that at the time it was written the abbot and convent were already in possession of the site and had at least begun the erection of their church".

However, Colvin (P.64) also appears to contradict this by saying that its founder was Thomas of Cuckney.

This may be interpreted as the retrospective recording of his bequest which took place about a year before and this seems to be borne out by Thomas' own words, "I have given ... the site of their abbey of Welbeck ..." (ie. past tense).

Also of much interest is in his continuation of his listing of gifts to the abbey, "the church of St. Mary of Cuckney, the church of St. Helen of Etwall, and the church of Whitton, which are founded in my fee".

This seems to suggest that he already founded St. Mary's, Cuckney, and used his funds.

Given that the anarchy may have effectively been ended by the Treaty of Winchester in the Summer of 1153 then Thomas may have been compelled to tear down his Castle (or had it removed) soon afterwards and this could have given him at least a year to erect St. Mary's.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRUCTURE



St. Mary's comprises a nave, chancel, tower, aisle and porch. As Wells indicates, "... the tower was built in two stages, the lower stage being constructed from ... rubble and the top stage being of ashlar.

The earliest parts of the church are the lower part of the tower and the inner porch doorway, which has a chevron patter and thick cable moulding ending in two beakhead ornaments".

ROBERT PIERREPONT TOMBSTONE

According to Cox's, "The Churches of Notts", in the chancel is a .. "large black marble slab; supposed to be Robert Pierrepont, Viscount Newark, created Earl of Kingston-upon-Hull 1628, killed in Civil War 1643".

After asking others where this might be, we searched the church and upper part of the nave, remembering that the "new" chancel was added at some point and being slightly unsure as to when.

We looked under a piece of red carpet in the "new" chancel, just before the first step to the high altar, and found what we believe is his grave stone.

As you can see, it is very badly damaged and we could not make out any lettering to help confirm our belief.



PICTURE OF PROBABLE PIERREPONT GRAVE STONE: COURTESY OF PAUL JAMESON

DATED FEATURES

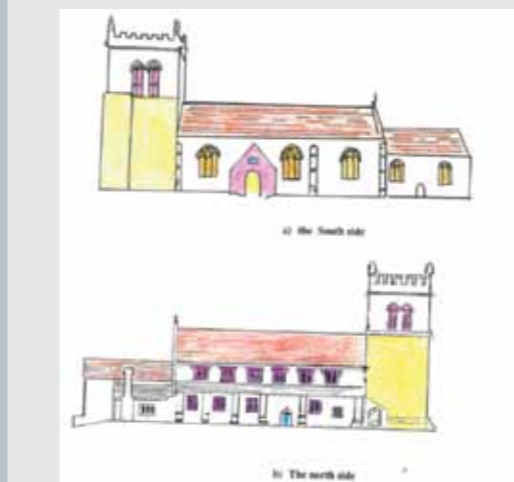


IMAGE: COURTESY CATHERINE WELLS



PICTURE OF SHEPPERTON GRAVE STONE: COURTESY OF PAUL JAMESON

The Oldest Recognisable Grave Stone in the Churchyard ? At the very front of the Church (South side) just the other side of the wall is this remarkably well kept slate grave stone. It is clearly inscribed with "Shepperton" and dated 1727.



PICTURE : COURTESY OF HISTORIC ENGLAND



A picture of St. Mary's taken in the year that skeletons were first found in mass burial pits. These may represent casualties from the Anglo-Saxon, Battle of Hatfield (632 AD). Note the now demolished housing (in the early 1960's) at the very left of the picture

Courtesy of Historic England

COURTESY : WORKSOP GUARDIAN (ARTICLE DATED 13/05/1983)



MORE MODERN ISSUES

In researching the Church at Worksop library, our diarist Jennie Johnson indicated that there was a box dedicated to Cuckney. The two pictures reproduced below help highlight operational issues that impact the church – that of Finance and keeping the clock mechanism in working order.



COURTESY : WORKSOP GUARDIAN (ARTICLE DATED 09/10/1998)

By BOHIS Diarist, Jennie Johnson

Read All About It

DIARIST JENNIE JOHNSON TALKS ABOUT DELVING INTO THE ARCHIVES

Newspaper articles can provide incredible detail about recent or historical facts and peoples' lives.

We are lucky here in Nottinghamshire that our Major and some Level 1 libraries store on micro film their local newspapers and most from their first date of publication. Many of these articles are indexed or stored as cuttings as a hard copy.

Make sure you join your local library; just take I.D. with your name and current address and you have your passport to success. A library card holder also has access to the British Newspaper Archive which is a free resource online in Nottinghamshire libraries. This resource has local and regional newspapers e.g. Nottingham Post, Mansfield Chad and Worksop Guardian, and some papers are complete up to the 1950s.

Always ring the library of choice first and book a film reader or scanner for a couple of hours and make sure they have the papers you think will be relevant. Always search by Google before you start just in case you can take a short cut.

My task was to look for an article in a local paper remembered by two gentlemen which appeared in c. 1962 which described the tidying of Cuckney Church yard by a group of young people possibly YOPs. These young people were reported finding Saxon artefacts and human remains. By a process of elimination they then narrowed the dates as being 1961 to 1965 (April until the end of October).

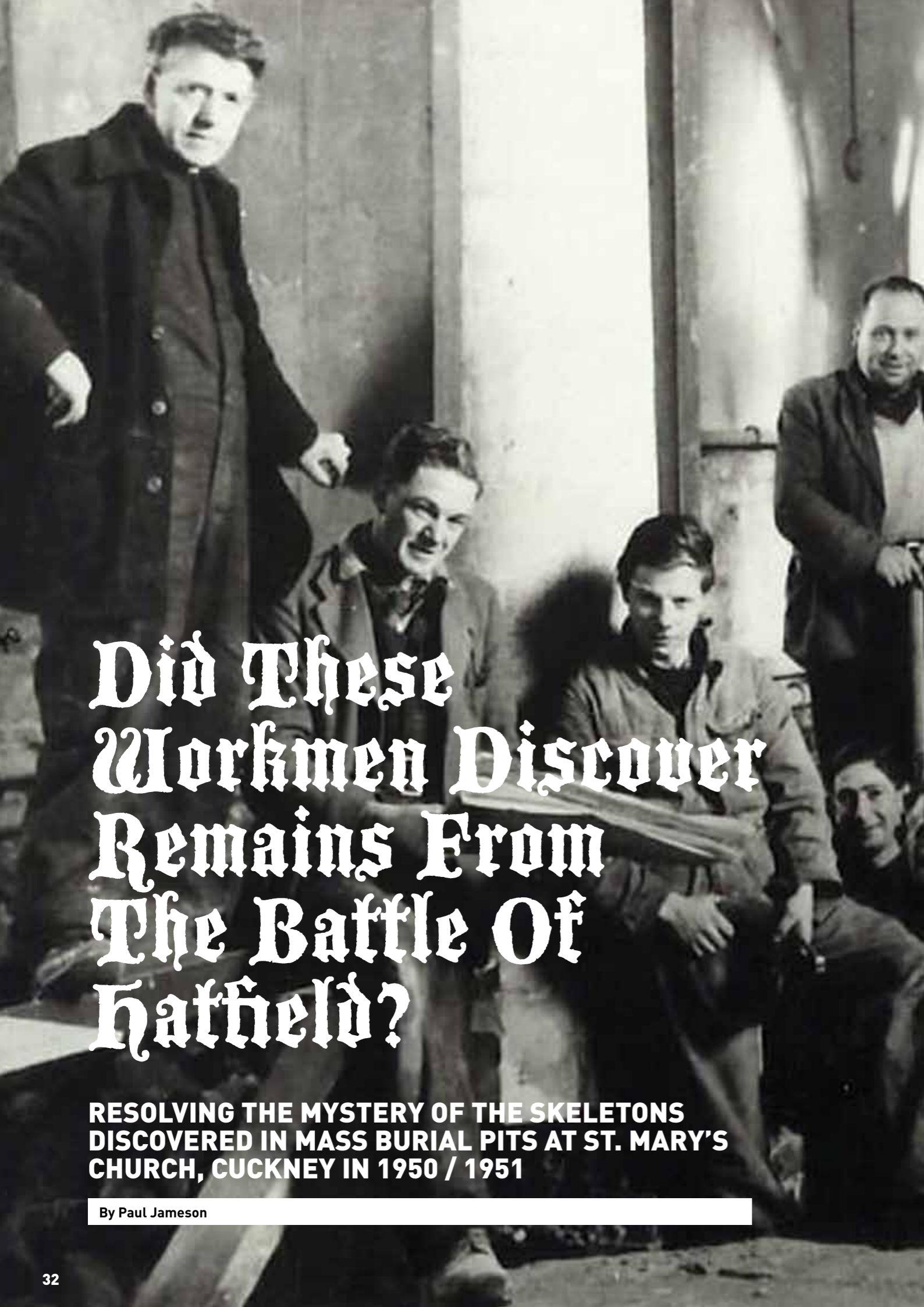
It takes many hours to search newspapers from this date as their headlines are very small compared to those of today and local papers publish 3 editions of one date to cover all their local area. After 4 weeks of searching in the two local papers which seemed to me most relevant (Worksop Guardian and Mansfield Chad) I have found nothing but ever hopeful I will carry on until my task is complete.



One of the many interesting newspaper articles



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AS MANY RELIABLE DETAILS AS POSSIBLE BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR SEARCH. UNFORTUNATELY TIME CAN CLOUD MEMORY AND SOMETHING YOU ARE SURE ABOUT IS SO DIFFERENT TO HOW YOU REMEMBERED, ESPECIALLY THE TIME SCALE!



Did These Workmen Discover Remains From The Battle Of Hatfield?

RESOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE SKELETONS DISCOVERED IN MASS BURIAL PITS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CUCKNEY IN 1950 / 1951

By Paul Jameson

In anticipation of a proposed coal seam being sunk under St. Mary's, a local Warsop based company called Adam Eastwood & Sons were engaged to underpin it. This was necessary as the church dates from c. 1150 AD, and had no foundations.

The first discoveries of about 50 skeletons were made in the week preceding Saturday 16th December 1950.

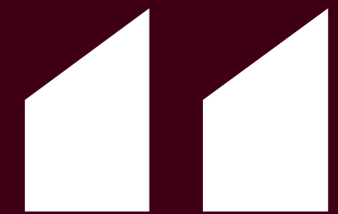
Over 200 skeletons in 3 or 4 mass burial pits were discovered but investigations were minimal. Archaeologist Maurice Barley only attended the scene for 1 day and no analysis of the bones took place before they were reinterred.

There seems to be no official record of where the reinterments were made or of any photographs of the skeletons although the Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society ("BOHIS") have searched extensively for them.

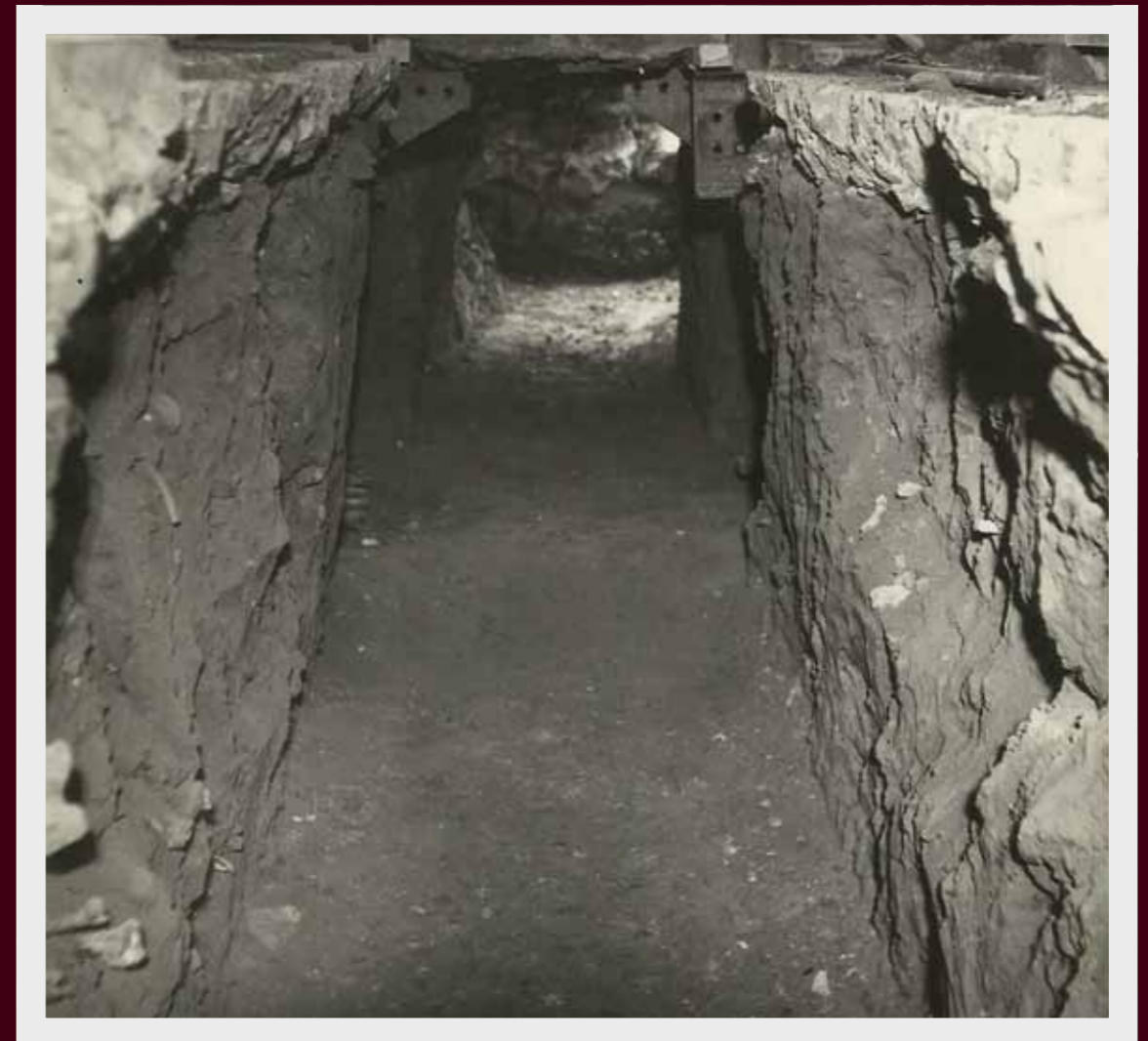
However, we have obtained written depositions from 2 local people that have helped.

Alan Egley says that 20 to 30 skulls were on display for 2 to 3 weeks on a window ledge and appeared to have "pick type" damage which he doesn't believe was caused by the Eastwood's workmen.

Jim Skelton (an ex villager now living in Scotland) identified the North East corner of the church yard as a site for at least some of the reinterments.



ARE OVER 200 SKELETONS FIRST UNEARTHED DURING SUBSIDENCE OPERATIONS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH CUCKNEY IN 1950, THE LOCAL ST. EDWIN'S CHAPEL AND THE VILLAGE OF EDWINSTOWE TESTAMENT TO A DARK AGES SAXON BATTLE IN NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ?



PICTURES: COURTESY: STAN STRICKLAND

SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE BATTLE:

The England of 632 AD was one where regional kings jostled for power. It was a time of shifting, uneasy alliances, convenient marriages and treachery even amongst relatives. It was a world embarking upon a division into those following a sometimes more enlightened Christian doctrine versus the still dominant force of Paganism.

Edwin was born in 586 AD and was the son of King Aelle of Deira (1 of the 2 provinces of Northumbria, the other being Bernicia – until unification).

It is unclear if Edwin was 1st in line to the throne, but Aethelric assumed the kingship & it may be that he handed this to Aethelfrith (possibly his son) by no later than 604 AD and that by then both provinces had been united as Northumbria.

Aethelfrith was intent on murdering Edwin (who was exiled immediately) possibly firstly in Gwynedd under Cadwallon's father. Geoffrey of Monmouth cites Edwin as Cadwallon's foster brother.

Edwin then asked for joint kingship of the Britons but was refused by Cadwallon.

Edwin then left and came under the protection of King Raedwald of East Anglia (c. 610 AD).

Aethelfrith tried to bribe and threaten Raedwald into giving up Edwin.

Raedwald raised a great army and slew Aethelfrith at the Battle of the River Idle (616 AD).

Possible Routes To Battle – Cadwallon & Penda Travelling North East from Exeter en route to York ?

Geoffrey of Monmouth says that Cadwallon & Penda plus Armorican Briton soldiers (from Gaul in France) were coming from Exeter.

It would seem logical to utilise the Fosse Way from Exeter to Bourton On The Water, Gloucs to join Ryknild (Icknield) Street to get as far as Templeborough South Yorks. but the road may have finished before then.

There were alternative, more easterly, routes available through Lindsey but that was enemy territory whilst this would have kept them travelling in Penda's Mercia.

There is a suggestion that the road finished just South West of Chesterfield possibly meaning a necessary diversion North East via Leeming Lane in Mansfield (which is now the A60) and leading to Warsop and logically up Cuckney Hill to what is now Blyth (A1) to join Ermine Street (which ran from London to Lincoln and York).

Did Edwin know that Penda & Cadwallon would have to come that way?



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Possible Routes To Battle – Edwin Travelling South West From York ?

Who was possibly travelling?

Edwin & Godbold, King of The Orkneys plus soldiers from treaties with, "Petty Kinglets" possibly starting from York and gathering soldiers in Lindsey (Lincolnshire).

A Logical route to battle?

Follow Ermine Street from York past Doncaster. At Bawtry take what is now the A1 through Blyth to join what is now the A614 towards Ollerton. There was a known Roman camp at Gleadthorpe so perhaps Edwin approached Cuckney Hill via Meden Vale.

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO THE BATTLE?

Geoffrey of Monmouth (writing in the 1130's) was a known embroiderer of the facts but gives the most information but from a Welsh (British) perspective.

He says that Cadwallon visited Salomon, King of the Armorican Britons in Gaul, France who had the same ancestor.

Brian (an adherent of Cadwallon) killed Pellitus in York then went to Exeter (which Cadwallon has already fortified) to lead the defence.

Penda besieged Exeter but Cadwallon landed with, "10,000 Armorican Soldiers".

Penda was captured and only then agreed to support Cadwallon to save his own life.

Cadwallon and Penda then, "marched against Edwin in the direction of Northumbria ... This was reported to Edwin. He made a treaty with the petty kinglets of the Angles."

However, in the book "Four Welsh Poems and Britain 383 – 655" translated by John T. Koch, the chapter called "Moliant Cadwallon" offers different perspectives.

"Tidings of slaughter in "Gwynedd's land" (suggesting initial aggression by Edwin and a retaliatory reason for the sacking of York by Cadwallon later), were supposed to have reached Cadwallon but it is unclear where he was at the time.

However, a small island off Angelsey called Priestholm (aka Puffin Island) is mentioned by Koch.

There is also the suggestion that if Bede is to be trusted & that Edwin had control of Angelsey and the Isle of Man, that, "it would make sense for Cadwallon to avoid Gwynedd and to return by the Severn Estuary to prepare his counter attack" – ie. return via South rather than mid Wales – but return from where ?

If he did this but landed in England it would only be about 100 miles further south to Exeter which although in the wrong direction could be seen as a way of gaining a power base prior to more aggressive moves.

Alternatively, Koch suggests that, "Ireland would be a likely deduction" and that a Welsh poem says, "the warband of

Cadwallon .. who were with him for seven years in Ireland".

Koch also reminds us that Gwent was, "not far from country that had recently fallen under Penda's dominance". So it is possible that Cadwallon, buoyed by Irish soldiers fought and defeated Edwin's forces around Angelsey and then joined up with the ever more powerful Penda.

This would then have seen a Westwards approach towards York but it could still have meant arriving via Chesterfield and still involved coming up Cuckney Hill.

There is a nagging question as to why Cadwallon and Penda would have continued Eastwards towards Chesterfield when it is more logical to divert northwards towards Manchester before then.

However, perhaps Edwin controlled that territory more tightly and the option of continuing East towards Chesterfield would probably have meant staying in friendly Mercian territory.

LOCATIONS & NUMBERS INVOLVED

Per Geoffrey of Monmouth there were "10,000 Armorican soldiers" fighting with Cadwallon. This is highly unlikely (Harold only had about 8,000 at Hastings).

Was Edwin aware that Penda's forces had joined Cadwallon?

Edwin had time to prepare, "made treaties with petty kinglets .." plus Godbold, King of The Orkneys came to his aid.

Cadwallon & Penda could have started at Exeter and York would be a likely target (c. 250 miles). They are recorded as having sacked York after Edwin's defeat.

Alternatively, Cadwallon could have come from Angelsey to Cuckney and picked up Penda along the way (about 163 miles).

Marching speeds are likely to be c. 20 miles per day – hence c. 12 days from Exeter to Cuckney or 8 days if coming from Angelsey.

If Edwin was travelling from his capital, York to Cuckney then that is c. 68 miles ie. about 3.5 days travelling.



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE BATTLE ITSELF?

Very little is known about the battle ...

Bede (writing in 731 AD) in his 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People' only a century after the death of Edwin, merely refers to a "fierce battle fought on the plain called 'Haethfelth', and "Edwin was killed on 12 October in the year of our Lord 633."



EDWIN MARCHED OUT TO MEET CADWALLO IN A FIELD CALLED HEDFIELD... THE FIGHTING WAS QUICKLY OVER. EDWIN WAS KILLED AND SO WERE ALMOST ALL THE PEOPLE HE HAD UNDER COMMAND, AND HIS SON OFFRID, TOGETHER WITH GODBOLD, KING OF THE ORKNEYS, WHO HAD COME TO HELP THEM

Geoffrey of Monmouth



WHO CHOSE THE SITE OF THE BATTLE ?

It is likely to have been Edwin – he could have issued a challenge or most likely looked to block them at a point he knew that they would have to travel through (like Harold at Hastings) – ie. blocking an approach from the South attempting to climb Cuckney Hill.

Also Edwin only had 68 miles to travel and knew the area quite well.

Cuckney Hill is an excellent vantage point & if approached from the South offers a fairly steep climb.

THE BATTLE ITSELF

Peters' speculates that Edwin's lookouts may have been fooled by the clever practice of both Cadwallon & Penda's forces following in a single line of approach.

If the weight of unexpected numbers caused Edwin's forces to relinquish the high ground, then equidistant between Cuckney Hill at its A60 bisection point & High Hatfield is a direct, obvious, downwards route to where Cuckney Church is today.

The River Poulter would have stopped any escape in that (easterly) direction as well as to the North.

This would have left Edwin's routed forces mainly encircled by the River Poulter, in the marshy land represented today by the meadow below the Church perimeter.

The possible 800 bodies are likely to include more of Edwin's men.

It is worth considering that the bodies might only represent those fighting and dying in that tight enclave.

The burial site may merely have represented the first land that was suitable after the marshy area, as it would not be practical to transport larger numbers of dead & heavy bodies very far.

It is possible that Edwin had already been killed on the high ground around Cuckney Hill. Bede says that Edwin's son, Osfrith, "was killed before his father" but makes no mention of any geographical circumstances.

The killing of Edwin may have provoked a breaking of Edwin's remaining ranks and a logical fleeing downwards towards the area now represented by the church.

Legend has it that Edwin's body (if not his head) was transported by some escaping elements of his forces eastwards (probably

the only direction left away from the line of the battle) for a few miles to what became known as Edwinstowe (Edwin's holy place or resting place).

His head was supposedly finally taken and buried in the church of St. Peter at York.

However, certain sources say that Edwin's head was taken by the victors and displayed on the ramparts at York as trophy evidence to Edwin's people. It is possible that the head was later recovered by friendly forces and given a burial.

Yet it may not have been possible to rescue Edwin's body if he had been trapped in the area around what now contains the church.

When the same Penda killed King Oswald of Northumbria at the Battle of Maserfield, (only nine years later in 641 AD), his captured body was dismembered, his head and limbs being placed on stakes.

PICTURE (LEFT): COURTESY PAUL JAMESON. CUCKNEY HILL – A REMINDER OF THE GRADIENT CHALLENGE IF APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTH. THE HILL ALSO HAS A CONSIDERABLE PLATEAU WHICH WOULD GREATLY AID IN THE MASS STATIONING OF TROOPS.



PICTURE (ABOVE): DID THE RIVER POULTER HALT RETREAT FROM THE BATTLE?

WHAT GEOGRAPHICAL CLUES DO WE HAVE TO SUGGEST THAT CUCKNEY MIGHT BE THE SITE OF THE BATTLE OF HATFIELD?



THIS CROSS MARKS THE LOCATION OF THE HERMITAGE ERECTED IN MEMORY OF ST. EDWIN WHICH EXISTED AS A BUILDING ON A MAP UNTIL AT LEAST 1601

There is place name evidence linking "Hatfield" to Cuckney since at least 1086 via the Domesday Book ("Cukeney upon Hattefeild") (per Thoroton's Nottinghamshire)

The battle took place at, "Haethfelth", which merely means heath field or unattended land, also referred to as Hatfield. In an age of dense forestation (that lasted right up to the early 19th Century) the open land afforded by heath would represent an ideal clearing for a large conflict.

It is unlikely that Cuckney (Cuchenai) (meaning Cuca's island in a marshy area) existed in 632AD hence the battle not named after it.

St. Edwin's Chapel at Edwinstowe (Edwin's Resting or Holy place) is less than 4 miles to the East of Cuckney, is known to have existed until 1601 and recent Mercian archaeological activity has revealed its footprint.

GREGORY THE GREAT

"Gregory the Great" (a book written by an unknown monk) was discovered in the 1880's in Switzerland and thought to have been written about 680 AD. Although the book is primarily about Gregory, the monk fortunately digresses, revealing interesting observations about Edwin's initial burial place and his body's subsequent recovery from there to Whitby Abbey.

Observations regarding what, "Gregory The Great" says about Edwin's burial place

- It uses the term "District known as Hatfield Chase" – ie. wider district not place.
- It says "Go to such and such a village in Lindsey" (to seek Teoful) – this seems to mean an established (named) village probably near to where Edwinstowe now is - "Ask him about the place and he can show you where it is".
- "Lindsey" – eg. Littleborough (nr. Sturton Le-Steeple) was in Lindsey and is only about 21 miles from Edwinstowe.
- Eanfled (Edwin's daughter) "was still living and in the monastic life" which dates the fetching of the bones to between 670 (her entry to monastic life) and around 685 (her death).
- Elfflead (Eanflead's daughter) died in 714 so the book must have been written prior to that.
- It says that the bones are now buried in St. Peter's Church, York (York Minster) on the South side of the altar dedicated to St. Peter and East of the altar dedicated to St. Gregory – could this specific area be investigated in the near future?
- That "The priest afterwards lived for a time by the holy site of the first burial" – did he found the Chapel and name the village (Edenstou)?

WHAT CLUES DO THE SKELETONS DISCOVERED IN 1950/51 REVEAL TO SUGGEST THAT CUCKNEY MIGHT BE THE SITE OF THE BATTLE OF HATFIELD?

- During the 1950/1 excavations, no artefacts were found to help date the bodies.
- The bodies "must antedate the building of the church."
- No dating of the skeletons took place.
- A 7 feet long stone coffin was also discovered (was this from the same period?).
- The bodies were discovered in the region of the Church nave in "3 or 4 trenches."
- The trenches were dug North to South but wide enough for the bodies to be buried with their feet to the East.
- The bodies were in 3 layers or tiers.
- The bodies were discovered at a depth of between 1 and 7 feet below the surface.
- The burial trenches extended under the North aisle & North wall of the church & for at least 7 feet outside.
- They "appeared to be the bodies of men" (Revill P47).
- The skulls had "perfect sets of teeth."

Revill also provides further reasoning to elucidate Peters' remarks that there may be 800 bodies suggesting that, "It must be assumed also that the unexposed areas between the National Coal Board trenches had their quota".

By Paul Jameson

Community Fieldwork Diary & Follow Ups

PRIOR TO FIELDWORK STRIMMING WAS A NECESSITY

Prior to Fieldwork came the daunting and pressing need to trim all of the untended portion of St. Mary's - which was most of its 5 acres.

This was a major task and required volunteers.

Overall I'd estimate that about 80 hours were expended over the whole month of October ... I used 3 gallons of petrol & lots of strimmer wire myself.

If all hours were paid at £7 per hour that would equate to £560, plus around £50 for petrol equals just over £600 of Match funding to retrospectively mention to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The photo above was taken at our 1st Community Day on the 26th September 2015. It helps to show the extent of the task and the extent of my worries.

MANY THANKS TO THE STRIMMERS SQUAD



PAUL JAMESON



STEVE HORNE



LES SMITH



DAVID COLLINS



SIMON CARR

STEVE PARRISH



STEVE STRAW

ALL PICTURES IN THE FIELDWORK DIARY COURTESY OF PAUL JAMESON EXCEPTING THAT OF SIMON CARR, COURTESY OF HAMISH SPENCER OR UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

FIELDWORK OBJECTIVES

Before launching into the diary I thought it might be appropriate to summarise the Fieldwork objectives.

- To perform Ground Penetrating Radar & Magnetometry to pinpoint likely locations for reinterments and original burial sites of the skeletons discovered in 1950/1 that may relate to the Battle of Hatfield and also to help in revealing the Castle and other interesting features
- To utilise GPS to analyse the topography of the church & abutting fields to build up 3-D pictures of the landscape and to help interpolate Cuckney Castle and other interesting features in the landscape
- To carry out a Graveyard Survey - Utilising GPS to pinpoint the site of each grave in the untended portion of the church yard and recording the inscription on each head stone

THE MEDEN SCHOOL, WARSOP - PARTICIPATION IN DEDICATED WORKSHOPS FOLLOWED BY FIELDWORK

Administered by Mercian's Sue Rodgers, over 5 days, totalling 9 visits, the Meden School delivered 95 children via minibus to Cuckney Village Hall for indoor workshops utilising materials like maps, prior to on site visits around St. Mary' church yard and inside the church itself.

Dressing up materials were also provided as part of the occasion !

Despite entreaties, Cuckney School were not able to attend the Fieldwork operations. However, they were glad to welcome

Mercian's Sean Crossley and Andy Gaunt to the school on Thursday 3rd December.

Sean was pleased to recount that the visit had gone well and passed on the comments below from the teacher.

Since they were concentrating on an Egyptian theme in their history lessons, Mercian were also asked to include this as part of their delivery to the 50 pupils concerned !

Dear Sean,

We really enjoyed your visit to our school. The children learnt a lot from you and Andy and enjoyed sharing with you what they knew. There were 26 children in my class aged 7-9 and 2 teachers [Egypt]. In the other class there are 24 children aged 6-8 ...



THE STUDENTS WERE VERY ENGAGED AND EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THE BATTLE OF HATFIELD INVESTIGATION. THE STUDENTS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE BATTLE AND WERE VERY INTRIGUED TO LEARN THAT SOMEWHERE SO CLOSE TO THEIR HOMES AND SCHOOLS WAS A BIG PART OF HISTORY. STUDENTS LOVED LEARNING ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARE VERY EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF BEING INVOLVED IN THE NEXT PHASE.

Charlotte Wild, Teacher - Meden School

PICTURE : COURTESY MEDEN SCHOOL : OLIVER, ELLIS, ASTON AND REGAN PREPARE FOR BATTLE !



PICTURE : AS PART OF THE GRAVEYARD MAPPING PROJECT, VOLUNTEER SUE LONGDEN TRIES TO DECIPHER A HEADSTONE INSCRIPTION HELPED BY HUSBAND BOB AND MERCIAN'S SEAN CROSSLEY



PICTURE : RSK'S MATT STRINGFELLOW AND LIAM WILLIAMS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF FIELDWORK DAY 1



PICTURE : MATT AND LIAM SURVEY THE SITE (AS IDENTIFIED BY JIM SKELTON) NEAR THE END OF FIELDWORK DAY 1

FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 1

NOV 2015

2

Most 1st days are slow starters and this was no exception. It has to be said that I only live down the road but I thought I'd arrived late at 8:40am for a 9am start.

Never fear – there was nobody there but the Village Hall was open and the heating was already on.

I then discovered that Sean would be detained by having to take his dog for another emergency operation.

My 1st company was John Halewood and it was he who accomplished the most significant task of the day because ...

John popped off to the local shop and bagged the last 4 pint pitcher of milk, although he then blotted his copy book by producing a bag of caster sugar that he'd proudly paid £1.59p for ... (guide price 90p John !)

Too late the deed was done.

Next to arrive was Ong – a Malaysian post grad. Archaeology student from Durham University.

The previous day, he'd been in Manchester but got a train to Chesterfield and then a bus to Langwith and then finally walked a mile or so to Boon Hills Farm & Bed & Breakfast.

Arriving in the dark he then proceeded to fall over and his only pair of glasses were separated from his head, ending up at the bottom of the cattle grid.

Doug Palmer, the farmer who runs the B&B then had to come to his rescue.

RSK Stats, the company doing the Ground Penetrating Radar ("GPR"), arrived about 9:30am.

Retired software Engineer Nick Mason then arrived and seemed to really enjoy his 1st day. I asked him if he would object to writing a short article for the Community book and he said that he would be happy to do. Since then he has delivered on that promise and it has become a welcome addition to this book.

Mercian archaeologists Sean Crossley, Andy Gaunt and David Budge (their finds specialist) then arrived and worked commenced about 10am.

Mercian began by plotting (mapping) the graveyard utilising GPS whilst RSK used GPR to examine the graveyard.

The day was punctuated by the welcome sound of Welbeck Estates strimmers, which were used to de-nettle & de-bramble what might have been a large portion of the castle moat in the fields just beyond the church boundary walls.

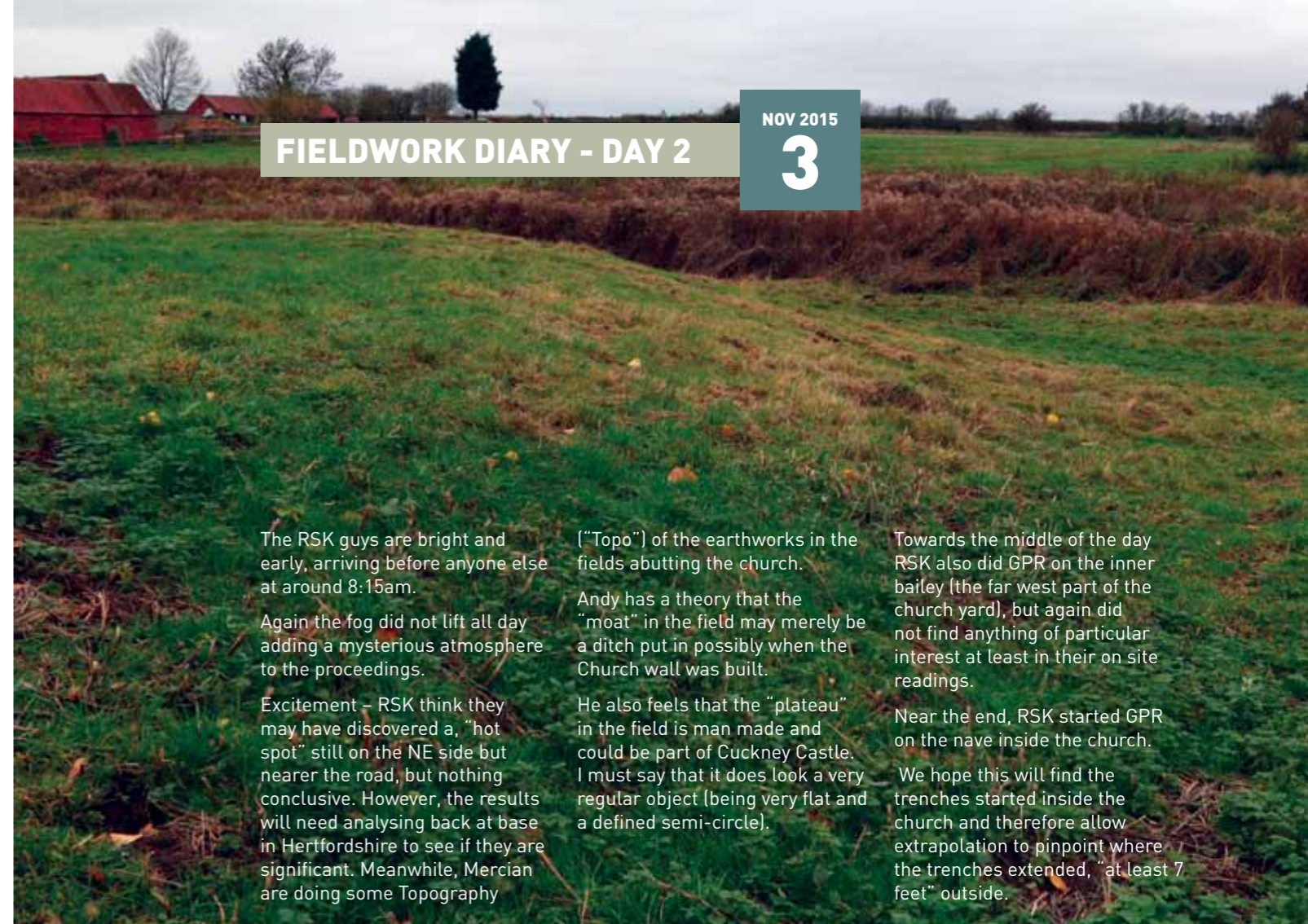
At about 3pm RSK did GPR over the NE corner of the graveyard, as identified by former choirboy, Jim Skelton, as a reinterment site.

Disappointingly, nothing was found.

However, finds specialist David Budge finds 2 fragments of pottery, 1 of which he believes pre-dates the 1150 church.



PICTURE : MERCIAN'S ANDY GAUNT & DAVID BUDGE (2ND LEFT AND FAR RIGHT RESPECTIVELY) IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GPS REPAIR TECHNICIANS



FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 2

NOV 2015

3

The RSK guys are bright and early, arriving before anyone else at around 8:15am.

Again the fog did not lift all day adding a mysterious atmosphere to the proceedings.

Excitement – RSK think they may have discovered a, "hot spot" still on the NE side but nearer the road, but nothing conclusive. However, the results will need analysing back at base in Hertfordshire to see if they are significant. Meanwhile, Mercian are doing some Topography

("Topo") of the earthworks in the fields abutting the church.

Andy has a theory that the "moat" in the field may merely be a ditch put in possibly when the Church wall was built.

He also feels that the "plateau" in the field is man made and could be part of Cuckney Castle. I must say that it does look a very regular object (being very flat and a defined semi-circle).

Towards the middle of the day RSK also did GPR on the inner bailey (the far west part of the church yard), but again did not find anything of particular interest at least in their on site readings.

Near the end, RSK started GPR on the nave inside the church.

We hope this will find the trenches started inside the church and therefore allow extrapolation to pinpoint where the trenches extended, "at least 7 feet" outside.

PICTURE : COURTESY MIKE TUSKA :AT LEFT - A POSSIBLE PLATEAU .. & BOTTOM RIGHT REPRESENTS A POSSIBLE COURSE FOR THE MOAT RUNNING FROM THE FIELD TO THE NORTH OF ST. MARY'S AND BISECTING TODAY'S CHURCH YARD INTO TWO FAIRLY EQUAL PARTS.

FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 3

NOV 2015

4

With volunteers including Sandy Saunders from Derby, Mercian continued their Topography survey using the GPS to map the contours of the fields adjacent to the church.

Before 11am I caught up with RSK who had some exciting news – they thought they had discovered a, "hot spot" behind the oil tank on the North side.

Interestingly, local resident Fernie Palmer said over a year ago that he believed that area was where some reinterments may have occurred.

RSK then asked us to remove the non fixed pews in the arcade of the nave which we did about 5pm in preparation for Day 4.

We also provided two A1 size laminated technical drawings from Caroe & Partners (architects) which showed the proposed concrete rafting positions.



PICTURE : COURTESY MEDEN SCHOOL : UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A TEACHER (PICTURED) AND MERCIAN'S EDUCATION OFFICER, SUE RODGERS, MEDEN SCHOOL CHILDREN EXAMINE ANCIENT MAPS OF THE AREA IN CUCKNEY VILLAGE HALL, PRIOR TO VISITING THE CHURCH AND CHURCH YARD FIELDWORK OPERATIONS. THE VISITS WERE NORMALLY A TWICE DAILY OCCURRENCE AND ENCOMPASSED 5 OF OUR WORKING DAYS.

AT FAR LEFT, SIXTH FORM MEDEN PUPIL AND FIELDWORK VOLUNTEER, LUCY SMALLEY, WATCHES WITH INTEREST.



FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 4

NOV 2015
5

In the morning, RSK do GPR in the arcade part of the nave inside the church.

Meden school children & others gather to witness this any many photographs are taken to celebrate 1 of the key moments of their analysis.

They have now finished their investigations and depart for good about 1pm.

BOHIS ask them to deliver a few interim results for our 6th Meeting and A.G.M. on the 20th November and push for the full written report for use at our Final 2 Community Days at the Oaklands Centre, Warsop on the 28th & 29th November.

PICTURE : MATT & LIAM (OF RSK) USE GPR TO ANALYSE THE ARCADE PORTION (MOST NORTHERLY) POINT OF THE NAVE

FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 6

NOV 2015
9

Andy explains the benefits of the Magnetometer, in 1st time use for this project today. It complements the GPR.

Unlike GPR it can distinguish between materials (eg. rock or wood) but goes haywire near metal so will probably not be any good at spotting anomalies outside along the nave where some original burials may still be in situ.

Andy does not find evidence of the moat running along the south side of the church which contradicts the "Historic England" Scheduled Monument details.

Mercian also have a major push regarding the Graveyard Survey with 200 graves mapped during the day using GPS, photography & recording of names on each grave.....



PICTURE : COURTESY MIKE TUSKA: AS PART OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, ONE DISPLAYS HIS RECENTLY ACQUIRED TOTAL STATION KNOWLEDGE WATCHED BY VOLUNTEERS



PICTURE : COURTESY MEDEN SCHOOL : (AS PART OF THE DEDICATED WORKSHOPS PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THEIR FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE) A PUPIL DISPLAYS ONE OF THE PROVIDED MAGNIFYING AIDS, PRIOR TO PRACTICAL PICTORIAL USAGE !



FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 8

NOV 2015
11

PICTURE : KEV. ROGERS ASKS VOLUNTEER NICK MASON TO EXPLAIN HOW HE HAS LEARNT TO USE EQUIPMENT TO HELP BUILD UP COMPREHENSIVE 3-D IMAGES OF THE TERRAIN



At 11am we gain a visit from the CHAD's Kev. Rogers. He speaks to BOHIS members about our progress and our aims and also to Community Fieldwork volunteers. Kev's mobile phone is pressed into service as a camera.

Kev. then fails to check on site if our group photos have come out OK, necessitating a reconstructed group shot after he has left !!

However, we are soon to be rewarded with double page articles in the CHAD & Worksop Guardian plus offshoot articles in the Yorkshire Post, Sunderland Echo, the Lytham St Annes Express and the Hucknall Dispatch.



PICTURE : VOLUNTEERS VENTURE IN FROM THE FIELDS AND GATHER ROUND THE BOHIS BANNER FOR A GROUP SHOT ON WEDS. 11TH NOVEMBER

FIELDWORK DIARY - DAY 10

NOV 2015
13

I have a recorded radio interview with Mansfield 103.2 FM's Tony Delahunty about the fieldwork and the Battle of Hatfield.

Mercian's Andy Gaunt does a Magnetometer survey of a possible reinterment site already identified by RSK's GPR in Week 1. This corroborates RSK's findings.

Andy shows me the results on his PC which are 3 small white cubes clustered together.

He says, "it might be the most exciting thing I've discovered in the whole 2 weeks".

SPOOKY GOING-ONS AT CUCKNEY CHURCH

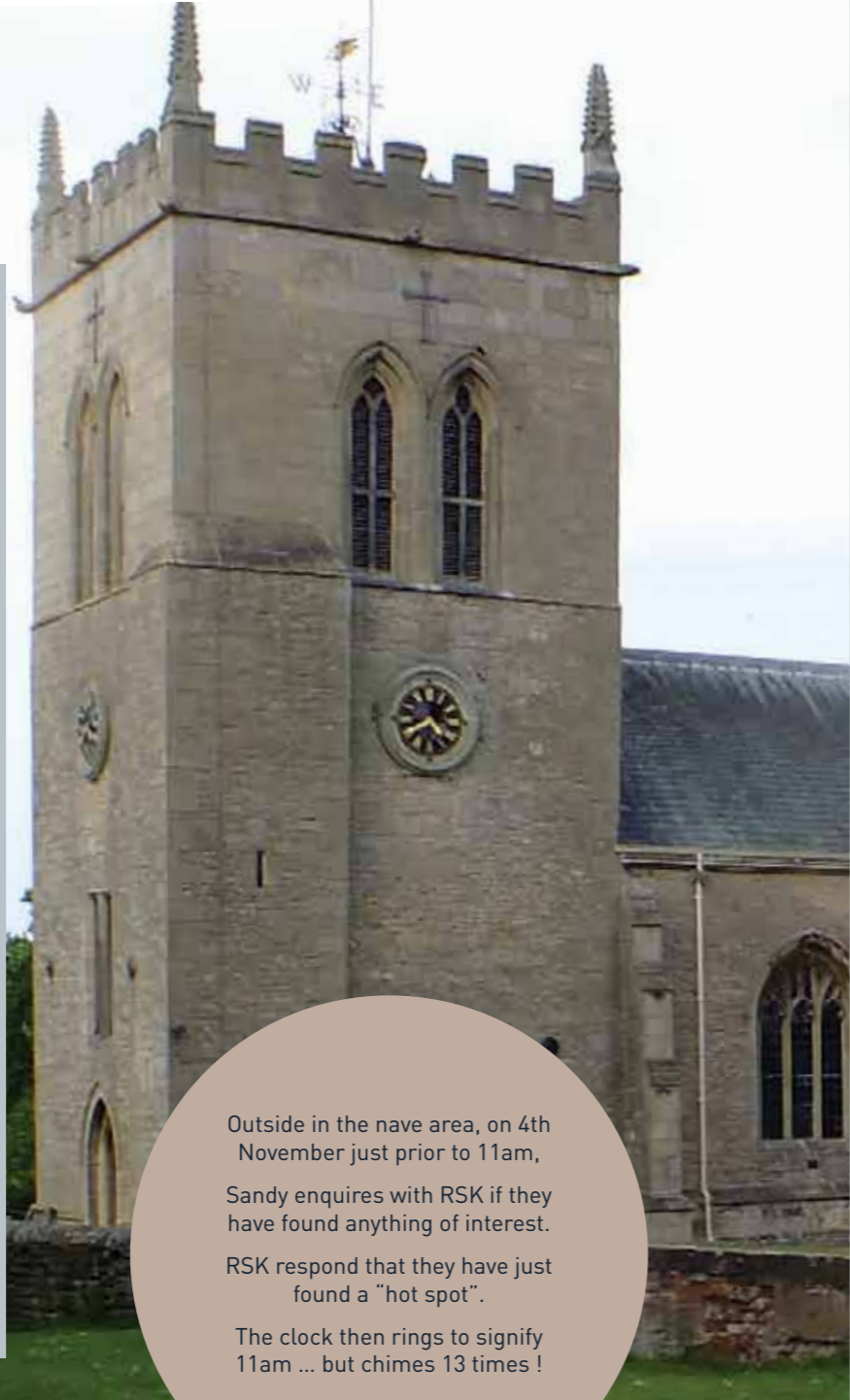
Having transferred some Fieldwork photos to my Apple Mac, the "Photos" utility has an area called "Faces" which auto compiles a list of faces – which included this one which appears to be a skeletal hooded monk with a crooked Staff !



I checked all the 6 gargoyles in the eaves of St. Mary's church but none came close ... dismay !

I returned to my Apple Mac and clicked the "face" and it sent me to an apparently unrelated photo of Mercian's Sean Crossley in the Greendale Oak ... even spookier !!

UNTIL I SUDDENLY NOTICED THAT THE APPLE SOFTWARE WAS SUGGESTING 2 "FACES" IN THE PHOTOGRAPH SEAN'S AND A LOG FROM THE GREENDALE OAK'S LOG STACK (RINGED) MYSTERY RESOLVED!



Outside in the nave area, on 4th November just prior to 11am,

Sandy enquires with RSK if they have found anything of interest.

RSK respond that they have just found a "hot spot".

The clock then rings to signify 11am ... but chimes 13 times !



THE ALEX BREWSTER STORY WERE SAXON ARTEFACTS DISCOVERED AT ST. MARY'S, CUCKNEY IN THE 1960S?

On Fieldwork Day 8, Alex Brewster tells us that between c. April to September '61 – 63 that the CHAD ran an article about a "volunteer" scheme discovering Saxon artefacts (sword hilts were mentioned) and bones at St. Mary's, Cuckney.



PICTURE : ALEX BREWSTER WITH VOLUNTEER MOLLY BURGESS

We are excited by this story and it is corroborated by his friend Jim a few days later.

Jim adds that it could be as late as 1964.

Whilst Alex is adamant that he only read the CHAD he remembers reading the story on a bus from Worksop to Mansfield, which could indicate that it may have been the Worksop Guardian.

Jennie Johnson from BOHIS has now researched each weekly edition of the CHAD between 1961-5 but nothing has been revealed. Consequently Jennie also fully researched the Worksop Guardian but again no articles were forthcoming. I re-contacted Jim whose final lead was that the only other paper they occasionally took was the Derbyshire Times.

At February 2016, Jennie is considering how she might approach this last major research task !

However, Jennie did uncover an interesting story about finds from Scratta Wood (near Worksop). I re-contacted Alex and Jim but both were clear that they did not think that this could have been the story they read all those years ago.

What I found slightly interesting was that next to the article on the same page (although a different story entirely) is a piece about a "Quarterly Meeting at Welbeck" which references Cuckney and Norton.

I wondered if it was possible that the association with "finds" and the Cuckney area could have been the result of a fusion of the two stories. Yet Alex and Jim are extremely lucid and it is more than probably wise to dismiss my avenue of thinking.



PICTURE : COURTESY WORKSOP GUARDIAN (JPRESS): SCRATTA WOOD DISCOVERIES FROM 1964

Community Workshops Overview

As already acknowledged, the first Community Day (26th September 2015) represented a great opportunity to properly explain the Workshops' content and generate extra enthusiasm for them prior to the 1st ones taking place just two days later.

They were also advertised well in advance via leafleting the villages of Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck and also via our web site and Facebook page. The Workshops were designed as interactive experiences and there were no formal (Powerpoint) presentations. Research materials were displayed attractively on tables and people were invited to interactively view and handle these documents, to ask questions and to share their own experiences or introduce their own documents.

The Workshops were held at Cuckney Village Hall and delivered by Mercian primarily via their Education Officer, Sue Rodgers assisted by Mercian archaeologist Sean Crossley.

BELOW: SUE RODGERS AT THE GREENDALE OAK EXAMINING SOME OF THE MATERIALS ON DISPLAY
RIGHT: PUBLICITY FLYER FOR THE EVENT

There was an impromptu exception where for a single workshop covering, "Pictures From The Past", Mercian gained permission to utilise the Greendale Oak Public House. Don't worry, a note was pinned to the Village Hall door directing people about 50 metres to the new venue !

The five subjects covered were

BUILDINGS AND STREET NAMES

PICTURES FROM THE PAST

FIELD NAMES AROUND CUCKNEY

CHURCH HISTORY AND OUR ANCESTORS

CUCKNEY CASTLE

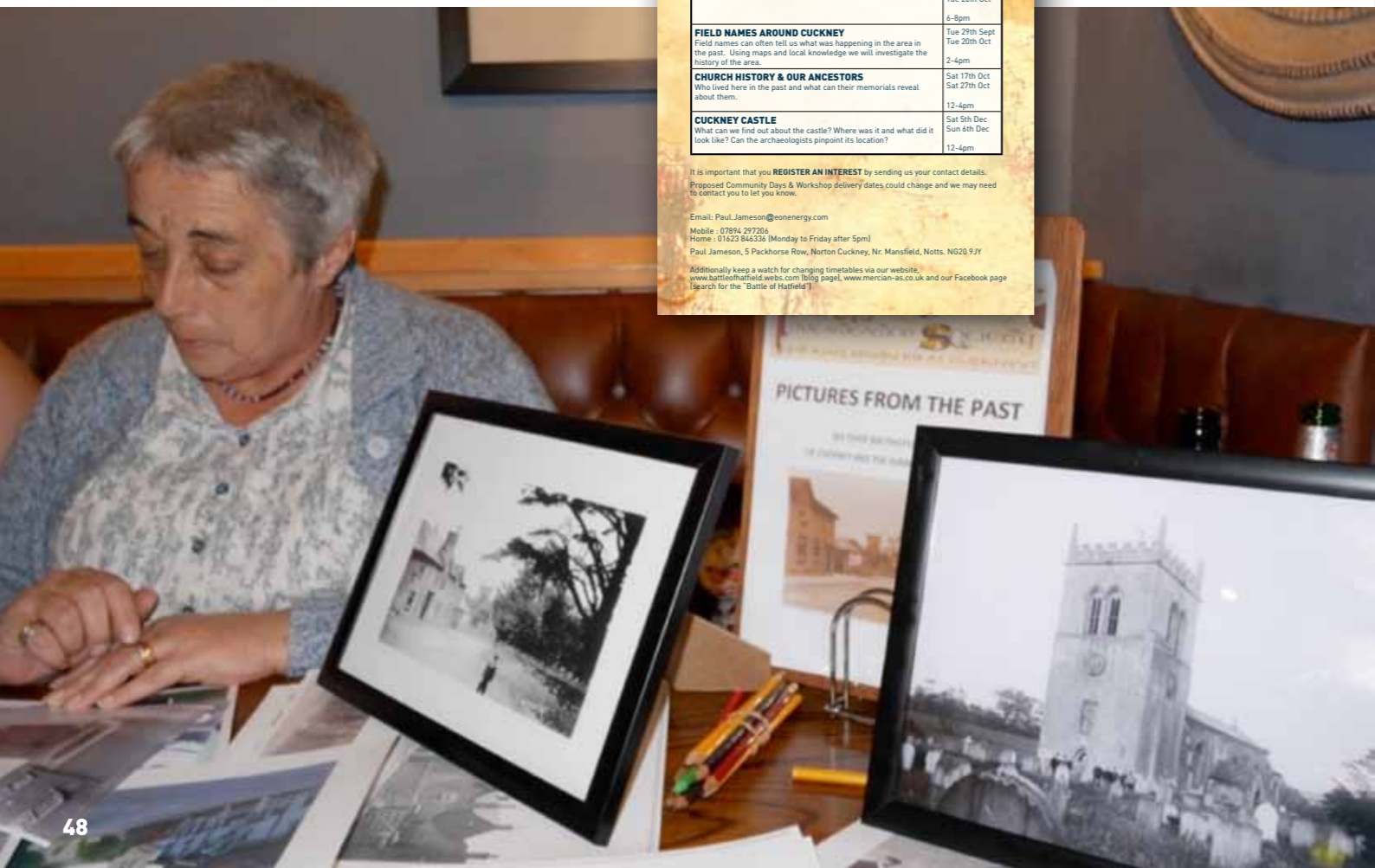
Workshops

BUILDINGS AND STREET NAMES Learn about the villages of Cuckney, Norton & Holbeck using old maps, documents & local knowledge.	Mon 28th Sept Mon 19th Oct 2-4pm
PICTURES FROM THE PAST View over 300 photos of the area from the past and create an archive of then & now images for future residents.	Mon 28th Sept Tue 29th Sept Mon 19th Oct Tue 20th Oct 6-8pm
FIELD NAMES AROUND CUCKNEY Field names can often tell us what was happening in the area in the past. Using maps and local knowledge we will investigate the history of the area.	Tue 29th Sept Tue 20th Oct 2-4pm
CHURCH HISTORY & OUR ANCESTORS Who lived here in the past and what can their memorials reveal about them?	Sat 17th Oct Sat 27th Oct 12-4pm
CUCKNEY CASTLE What can we find out about the castle? Where was it and what did it look like? Can the archaeologists pinpoint its location?	Sat 5th Dec Sun 6th Dec 12-4pm

It is important that you **REGISTER AN INTEREST** by sending us your contact details. Proposed Community Days & Workshop delivery dates, could change and we may need to contact you to let you know.

Email: Paul.Jameson@eenergy.com
Mobile : 07894 297204
Home : 01623 846336 (Monday to Friday after 5pm)
Paul Jameson, 5 Packhorse Row, Norton Cuckney, Nr. Mansfield, Notts. NG20 9JY

Additionally keep a watch for changing timetables via our website, www.battleofhatfield.weeb.com (Blog page), www.mercian-as.co.uk and our Facebook page (search for the "Battle of Hatfield")



WORKSHOP ATTENDANCES... EXCEEDED TARGETS SUPPLIED VIA HLF BID

The 12 workshops attracted 85 community members (of which there were a few repeat visits) but generally the average attendance was 7. It is worth noting that this did not (and was not intended) to involve formal schools participation although children were of course most welcome at all workshops. Many people attended for most or all of the (2 or 4 hour) session durations.

The attendances actually exceeded the weighted average "budgeted" figures. This is derived from figures supplied to the HLF which totalled 64 and if divided by 12 (workshops) is a budgeted average of just over 5 persons per workshop.

FIRSTLY... AN APPRECIATION OF CUCKNEY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Chairman of Cuckney History Society, Morven Harrison, has been extremely helpful generally during the whole experience but special mention must go to his generous provision of about 80 photographs largely of Cuckney and Cuckney school and mainly covering c. 1900 to 1940 but with some being more modern.

This happily morphed "Pictures From The Past", allowing it to go beyond Bob Needham's 300 photographs.

It also highlights that a project can be a two way learning experience.

ENJOYING RESEARCH... A PERSONAL VIEW

Via Sue Rodgers, Mercian were also contracted to provide Workshops research but I could not resist the chance to add to the materials made available, hence a visit was made to the Nottingham Central library plus two visits to Notts CC Archives and a couple of visits to J E Wright's (printers) in Nottingham.

At the archives I discovered an impressive field map of the Cuckney, Norton and Hatfield areas from 1797. This is referenced as CU 2L.

The status of this map was initially, "Not Available to be copied" and it was suggested that I might like to take a tracing of this large and detailed drawing, which I politely declined.

Later we gained permission to have this scanned by the archives and used in this Community book from the map owner, the Welbeck Estates Co. , via curator Gareth Hughes.

BOHIS also purchased 2 other maps of the area (from 1884 and 1921) and found another more stylised one from 1629 and 1900.

Additionally, we purchased 15 local photographs from Picture The Past and 3 from Historic England.

We realised that the vast majority of new information about Cuckney Castle would emanate from the November Fieldwork, hence those workshops were the last to be delivered in early December.

BUILDINGS AND STREET NAMES

Quite a few of the main buildings in the 3 villages were public houses. At Notts CC Archives I found original Public House Yearly license agreements relating to the 10 Pubs existing in the villages in 1822 / 23.

Detailed below are the licensees and the Public House names.

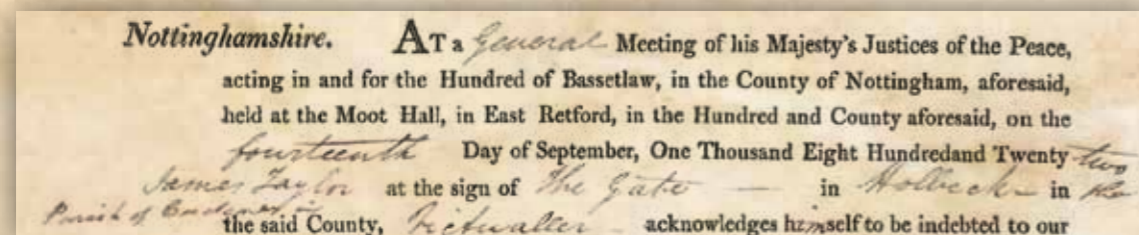
HOLBECK

The Blue Bell - Josiah Beckley

Fox - Sarah Frost

The Gate - James Taylor

(license agreement pictured below : Courtesy Notts CC Archives)



CUCKNEY

The Star - Robert Parker

Greendale Oak (the last surviving public house of the 11 detailed) - James Pearce

Red Lion - Benjamin Thirkhill and John Parker

NORTON

The Plough - John Parkin

The Packhorse Inn - John Parkin

The White Hart (Closed c. 1837 apparently due to licensing infringements!) - John Parkin

The Horse Tiresias - Benjamin Smith

Additionally, in Norton, there may have been a brewhouse that serviced some of the other pubs and possibly dispensed drinks to customers, called the, "Tivitania" which became the Doctor's house / surgery in more recent times until being converted to a private dwelling called, "Norton House" around the 1960's.

IN FOCUS ... "The Horse Tiresias"

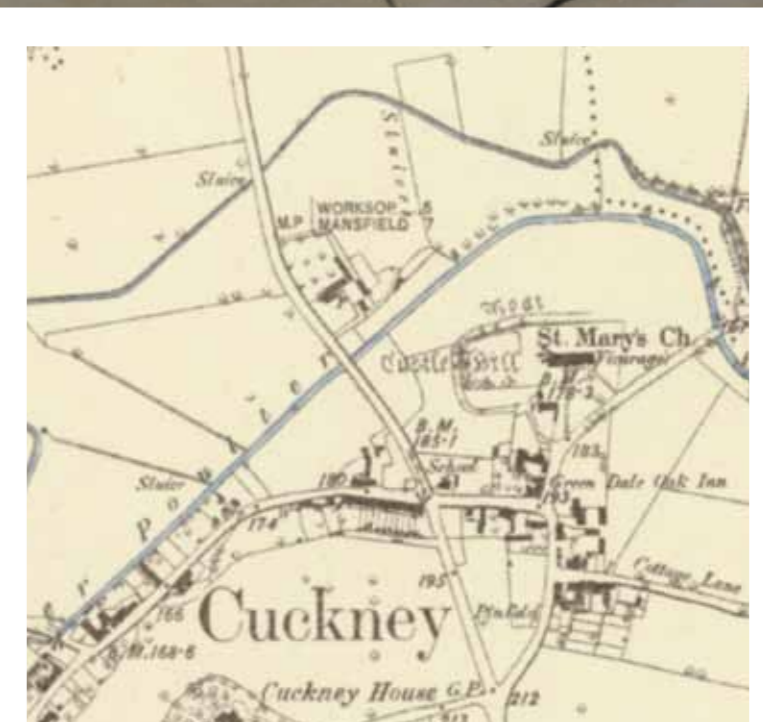
This is now a farmhouse in Norton occupied by Mr. Philip Willison. I contacted him and asked if I could view the extensive cellars (utilised when it was a public house). Philip kindly agreed and I spent about an hour with him.

The cellars were large and obviously once part of a major Public House. There were old barrel marks in the wall, a wine rack and 2 Belfast style sinks. Having once worked at the Greendale Oak, Cuckney, I would say that the cellars were of a similar size.

Philip explained that, "The Horse Tiresias" was named after a prize Welbeck Estates racehorse from the early 19th century. The public house was apparently for those who could afford superior accommodation, whilst their servants and horses were billeted at the Packhorse Inn about 100 metres away.



PICTURE ABOVE : COURTESY WELBECK ESTATES COMPANY LTD. A VERY SMALL AREA OF THE EXCELLENT 1797 MAP (NOTTS. C.C. ARCHIVE REFERENCE CU 2L)



PICTURE ABOVE INSET: COURTESY NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND. SOME DETAIL FROM A SMALL AREA OF THE 1884 MAP.

THIS MAP WAS ALSO WHERE I FOUND THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE ROYAL OAK PUBLIC HOUSE EVER HAVING EXISTED. IT DOES NOT RE-APPEAR ON THE UPDATED 1921 VERSION AND IT MUST BE PRESUMED TO HAVE CLOSED BY THAT DATE.

FIELD NAMES AROUND CUCKNEY

Four major maps were discovered. My favourite (reference CU 2L) is from 1797, which I found during one of my two visits to Notts. C.C. Archives. This primarily contains field names but also displays roads in Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck.

As part of the project we also purchased 2 books to help explain the types of Field Names we were encountering and to self aid Community members with particular interests.

Of the other 3 maps, 1 is split between a view of Welbeck Abbey and Gardens from 1629 and "Around Welbeck" from 1900. Of the other two, the first is a view of the area from 1884 and essentially an updated view from 1921.

Close study helps to reveal features that one never knew existed, such as the, "Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan)", (shown in picture below, to right) which seems to be have been situated on the far bank where the old mill used to exist (see Old Mill Lane, Norton)

Funding Quest

THE BOHIS EXPERIENCE

As members of the Community might like to start their own projects, we considered that it might be appropriate for, "ADVICE SLOTS" and that one of those might be about our funding quest. This quest began soon after BOHIS was formed in March 2013 and ended with our successful Heritage Lottery Fund ("HLF") bid, notified in July 2015.

Hence, after nearly two and a half years of sporadic efforts along with other pressing needs such as Permissions from the Diocese of Southwell and the Welbeck Estates Company Ltd. plus lots of research, mainly done by only 2 people, we achieved a tangible (financial) reward.

The advice does not suppose that I am ideally suited to give it or of course that we went about our application in an optimal way but it does consider various types of funding and provide recommendations based on our experiences.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1

SEEK ADVICE STRAIGHT AWAY

In your early days (and being buffeted by circumstances !) you should seek funding advice from trusted persons to ensure you don't end up, "re-inventing the wheel" (ie. your spending time deriving good "original" solutions only to discover that they were invented many years ago & available for re-use). There are many solutions or approaches that you can co-opt and you may well not need to win a painstaking and time inefficient prize for originality.

Your creativity may better relate to applying the right solutions to your circumstances from the many already available to your project.

However, always have the confidence to say "no" to advice. If you trust your own judgement and have ensured that you are in receipt of knowledge to confirm that judgement, then be prepared to politely reject advice. Well meaning advice is not necessarily good and you do not wish to waste time.

If unsure about advice then seek further advice !

2

DO YOUR HOMEWORK FIRST TO AVOID WASTING EVERYONE'S TIME

In the beginning, it's tempting to deploy a "scattergun" approach to funding opportunities by looking at lots of possibilities quickly using slight methodology allied to an over excited mind set.

This may ensure that you enjoy a temporary adrenalin rush and associated feel good factor regarding your progress but it will soon become evident that you need a more rational, targeted approach.

For example, we were excited by an opportunity that seemed to offer £50,000 funding but a review of their conditions a couple of days later quickly revealed what we could have found out at the start of Day 1 of our discovery. Their small print said that they did not fund archaeological projects.

We spent a better use of time looking at funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council ("A.H.R.C.") .

Whilst they were sympathetic to archaeological project funding, the project would have had to be led by a major academic at a University. As we were not prepared to cede control of the project then we did not pursue this opportunity.

3

RING YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL TO SEE IF ANY SPECIAL GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE

For example, I was luckily told of a 1 off opportunity of £28,800 being made available to Cuckney, Norton and Holbeck from a Solar panel company called SOLARCENTURY.

This information was also in the local Parish newsletter so don't forget to keep looking at such avenues to include local newspapers (many of which are only published once a week).

I completed the 500 word online form, asking for the maximum £10,000 allowable for an individual project. Their decision will be made early in 2016.



TYPES OF COMPANIES TO CONSIDER APPROACHING

APPROACH LOCAL SMALL / MEDIUM SIZED COMPANIES

A possible advantage of local companies is that they may be more sympathetic to your cause and / or you know someone who is employed there. They may be able to have a word on your behalf or give you the name of a person to approach. You are also unlikely to have to complete an onerous application form.

The corollary is that the local company is probably unlikely to be as large as some others and that therefore their generosity may well be tempered by a smaller donation.

APPROACH LARGE COMPANIES (PREFERABLY WITH A TRACK RECORD OF GIVING)

Although you are unlikely to know anyone at this sort of company who can give you an introduction, the advantage of large companies is that they may be more able to give large donations which you may be hoping will account for 100% of your needs. They may also have ring fenced corporate budgets for community grants. This is indeed seductive.

However, just like finding a job via the internet – the choice and opportunities are there in abundance but lots of other people will also be aware of these possibilities. Similarly, the large company may have a very defined approach to grant allocation and you may struggle to tick all of those boxes.

So this can be a very competitive and time consuming process even though, again, you are unlikely to have to endure an onerous application process.

As a typical example, we approached Severn Trent Water who we were told had budgets for projects like ours. We got a very nice, professional and timely letter politely declining our request.

As an untypical example, via an introduction obtained via Joseph Waterfall of BOHIS, Joseph had two meetings in London with LIDL's Managing Director, who ultimately, over an extended period, also opted to decline to offer funding.

APPROACH BODIES OR ORGANISATIONS THAT MAY BE RELATED TO YOUR SUBJECT AREA AND HENCE SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR CAUSE

For example, we approached the Council for British Archaeology ("C.B.A.") and were given encouragement. After completing a short form we were awarded £1,000 (this was the maximum available).



BE CREATIVE, RIGOROUS, PERSISTENT AND REALISTIC IN YOUR SEARCH.

Paul Jameson

THE BOHIS EXPERIENCE

I believe that applying for an HLF grant represents one of the best ways of obtaining funding as they have large amounts to distribute to a large variety of causes.

There are various categories of HLF Funding and as our bid was for £16,100 then this meant it was part of the, "Our Heritage" scheme. This covers bids between £10,000 and £100,000.

However, you will have to complete a rigorous on line application form.

The maximum word count allowed over all the questions asked is currently 6,000 (so about 20 sides of A4 paper if you were writing it out!).

This of course ignores all the planning you will have to do to be able to put down nearly 6,000 quality words that will best resonate with the HLF.

I would estimate that our 2nd (successful bid) took 80 to 100 hours of concentrated effort.

Below is the BOHIS experience gained from 2 HLF funding applications, the 1st of which failed.

VISIT THE HLF OFFICE THAT WILL ASSESS YOUR FUNDING APPLICATION

It is important to generate a relationship with the HLF so that they can better understand your project and also so that you can understand their requirements and way of working.

To do this it is essential that you book an appointment to see them. Typically the interview may be by 2 persons and last up to (a strict) one hour. They will only wish to see a maximum of 3 persons from your organisation.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR YOUR OWN PROJECTS



A VISIT TO THE HLF IN NOTTINGHAM (JANUARY 2015) REGARDING OUR PLANNED AND ULTIMATELY SUCCESSFUL 2ND BID

READ THE HLF ADVICE DOCUMENT FIRST

It will help you immensely if you firstly read the HLF advice (which is available for each HLF on line application form question) in the on line Application Guidance.

COMMUNITY

A word that runs through the HLF advice is, "Community" and they also stress its importance early on. Ensure your application answers keep focussing on this key word and that you also use the word itself fairly frequently (if only to remind you that it's all about the customer experience).

"VALUE FOR MONEY"

In my opinion, to the HLF, "Value for Money" means – Is the amount you are requesting justified by the value of the Community based project outcomes?

I do NOT believe it is purely cost specific. It does NOT therefore mean - have you procured the best possible goods or services at the most competitive price?

Yet remember the HLF will assess the price of each item you have requested and you may have to obtain 3 quotes in certain circumstances. We also needed to provide receipts for items costing £250 or greater, with a detailed spreadsheet summary of lesser ones.

If you are unsure about the value of the item you are requesting then the HLF make provision for you to explicitly add, for example, a 10% contingency. Alternatively, you could ignore an explicit contingency but build a sensible one in to your request.

Never underestimate your financial needs as the HLF will not allow extra funding to be considered once you submit your Total funding Request (as part of the on line bid submission process).

However, if you do gain a grant and overspend on one item but underspend on another, you should contact your allocated Case Officer to ask for their permission in writing to transfer funds. It is at their discretion as to whether this is allowed.

MATCH FUNDING

This means either financial funding from sources other than the HLF that you can put towards the total cost of your project or the imputed value of services given freely in lieu of payment.

I would highly recommend that if you are unsure of getting financial Match funding that you do not reveal it in the HLF form because it is very likely to be deducted from the total amount you have requested.

An example of services given in lieu might be that one of your partners (that you may pay for other services), offers a free Community Day. You may then fairly impute that this is worth for example, the 6 hours provided * £100 per hour labour cost for 2 persons = £600.

The HLF advice says that Match funding is not compulsory and that they recognise it may not be appropriate in some circumstances but getting some shows you have made an effort and may contribute towards the success of your bid.

Finally ... DO NOT OVER PROMISE

It is tempting to over promise your outcomes to, "get you over the (funding) line". This can then become a serious problem when you realise that you either do not have the skills and / or the project time to deliver.

For example, we contracted to produce this Community book but it has taken a lot of time and effort. However, we considered it worthwhile that a formal document (to celebrate the event and allow people to look back at the personalities and themes involved) was produced.

Assess the qualities and quantities of your members available to satisfy mooted promises and if there are only a few people who want to get involved, who have minimal skills or no real desire to learn, then question making that outcome one of your deliverables.

The HLF allow the employment of paid professionals (Full or Part time) as part of your bid and it may be sensible to consider this as an option.

Community Days 2&3

28TH & 29TH NOVEMBER 2015 - OAKLANDS CENTRE, WARSOP

The 2nd and 3rd Community Days represented a great way of explaining what had occurred operationally and (as part of £500 awarded via the Big Warsop RoLo funding) to appeal to an even wider audience at a different venue (about 3 miles from Cuckney).



Both days were advertised in plenty of time via leafleting, our web site & Facebook page and at Warsop Town Hall. Again there were no entrance fees and community members could attend for the whole day or just parts that interested them.

Specifically, the days were to explain the results obtained from the Fieldwork for the Castle and the search for the original burial and reinterment sites that may be associated with the Anglo Saxon Battle of Hatfield (632 AD).

This was also another chance to review the educational materials produced for the Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society ("BOHIS") Community Workshops covering 3 villages on the Welbeck Estate (Cuckney, Norton & Holbeck) & elements of the Estate itself and to provide a public project closure.

The days were especially motivational as BOHIS needed some or all of the GPR results to be returned by RSK Stats. and for Mercian to deliver data pertaining to Cuckney Castle.

Considering that RSK only departed St. Mary's on Thursday 5th November, they did a magnificent job, producing some preliminary results for our A.G.M. on the 20th November and then presenting their excellent Final written report on Friday 27th November.

Credit then goes to Mercian for very quickly summarising the details of RSK's report in a Powerpoint presentation for use the very next day !

Strangely, as per Community Day 1, 32 people attended on Saturday and about 20 on Sunday. Again most stayed for the duration, and there was a different mix of attendees which I also feel was a success.

DISCOVERING CUCKNEY CASTLE

Firstly, let's consider what Historic England (previously English Heritage) say about Cuckney Castle via excerpts from their 1953, "Record Of Ancient Monuments" (Monument number 13393).

"The monument includes the motte, outer bailey and part of the inner bailey of the twelfth century motte and bailey castle at Cuckney. Originally, the inner bailey extended further east into the area now occupied by the parish church of St Mary and the churchyard to the south. Although archaeological remains will survive here, these areas are not included in the scheduling as they are in current ecclesiastical use.

The outer bailey may also have extended further south into the built-up area south-west of the church. This area is not included in the scheduling as the extent and state of preservation of the remains is not sufficiently understood.

The inner bailey is a sub-rectangular platform orientated east to west. It measures 90m from north to south and 150m east to west. Only the western 80m are included in the scheduling. The motte occupies the north-west corner of the inner bailey and consists of a flat-topped oval mound, 4m high and measuring 45m from north to south by 20m east to west. Both the motte and the scheduled part of the inner bailey are occupied by the now disused graveyard associated with the church.

The perimeter wall of the graveyard occupies the inner edge of a 10m wide ditch that encircles the west side of the motte and encloses the inner bailey on the north side. Originally, it would also have enclosed the south side of the bailey but has been filled-in to the south of the church so that, on this side, only the area south of the motte remains open.



PICTURE : COURTESY : MIKE TUSKA : IN THE FIELDS ABUTTING ST. MARY'S CHURCH : (AT LEFT) POSSIBLE CASTLE PLATEAU; (CENTRAL & RIGHT) SHOWS POSSIBLE MOAT THAT MAY HAVE EXTENDED FROM THE FIELD AND INTO TODAY'S CHURCHYARD JUST TO THE WEST OF THE CHURCH ITSELF.

The remainder will survive as a buried feature in the unscheduled part of the inner bailey. The ditch does not appear to have extended along the east side of the inner bailey, which also lies in the unscheduled area.

This indicates that the original entrance would have occupied this side.

Encircling the inner bailey on the north and west sides is a 40m wide ribbon of open ground which functioned as an outer bailey. This is partially encircled by a double bank and ditch which lies roughly parallel with the River Poulter and is approximately 15m wide. The river would have formed another line of defence on this side and, in addition, could be commanded from the castle.

The castle was built by Thomas de Cuckney during the reign of King Stephen (1135-54)

The castle may therefore have been an adulterine fort; that is, one built without the king's permission. During the underpinning of the church in 1951, up to 200 burials were found which antedate the building of the church in c.1200. it is assumed that the bodies were casualties from a skirmish associated with the Maudian rebellion.

Excluded from the scheduling are the boundary walls crossing the monument and the graves on the motte and within the scheduled part of the inner bailey, although the ground beneath these exclusions is included."

© Historic England [2016]. The National Heritage List Text Entries contained in this material were obtained on [22 02 16]. The most publicly available up to date National Heritage List Text Entries can be obtained from <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

FIRSTLY, HISTORIC ENGLAND SAY THAT :

"Encircling the inner bailey on the north and west sides is a 40m wide ribbon of open ground which functioned as an outer bailey. This is partially encircled by a double bank and ditch which lies roughly parallel with the River Poulter and is approximately 15m wide".

The pictures (above and below) seem credible evidence in support of an outer bailey portion in the fields to the North of the church perimeter wall.



PICTURE : COURTESY : MIKE TUSKA : IN THE FIELDS ABUTTING ST. MARY'S CHURCH : (AT LEFT) HEIGHT OF POSSIBLE CASTLE PLATEAU IS BETTER EMPHASISED. MERCIAN'S DAVID BUDGE (AT RIGHT) WALKS IN THE MUCH LOWER AREA WHICH MAY BE THE DITCH MENTIONED.



PICTURE : COURTESY : PAUL JAMESON : IN THE FIELDS ABUTTING ST. MARY'S CHURCH : A DEFINED SEMI CIRCULAR PLATEAU POSSIBLY REPRESENTING PART OF THE OUTER BAILEY BASE.

SECONDLY, HISTORIC ENGLAND SAY THAT:

"Originally, the inner bailey extended further east into the area now occupied by the parish church of St. Mary and the churchyard to the south. Originally, (the ditch) would also have enclosed the south side of the bailey but has been filled-in to the south of the church so that, on this side, only the area south of the motte remains open".

Andy Gaunt's magnetometry did not uncover evidence that the inner bailey extended to the South East portion of the churchyard or that the moat extended to it. This was reinforced by the results of the GPR from RSK Stats who noted that, "No significant anomalies were detected in this area".

Further, Mercian considered that the moat like structure that seems to exist from the South West portion (near Cuckney Village hall) round the fields to the North West (near to where the church begins) should not be automatically accorded, "moat status" and that at least some of it may possibly be a much later era ditch. This argument appears to have credibility, otherwise if the plateau like structure were an extension of the castle, then the moat / ditch would cut it off from what could be considered the other part of itself inside the church perimeter.

THE WEST SIDE INNER BAILEY

It is a little unclear where the Historic England scheduling of the inner bailey of the castle finishes at its western perimeter. This may be where the ditch or moat begins in the abutting fields or it might extend slightly further into the fields.

With regard to the inner bailey at the western edge of the churchyard, RSK Stats stated that, "No features indicative of buried structures from the former castle were recorded in the data".

Curiously, the height of the fields west of the church perimeter may be artificially enhanced, perhaps as part of an extended inner bailey, for many metres, indeed nearly to the western edge of the A60 road. Possibly compellingly, RSK Stats GPR further revealed, "two areas of disturbed ground .. which may indicate the presence of buried obstructions or a burial pit".

It is slightly frustrating of course that the fieldwork brief could not yet extend to invasive work which would have tested some of the theories and possible discoveries thoroughly. However, in my opinion, any future works ought perhaps to consider a final resolution for the castle as part of any package put forward to potential future funders.

THE SEARCH FOR THE SKELETONS ORIGINALLY DISCOVERED IN DECEMBER 1950.

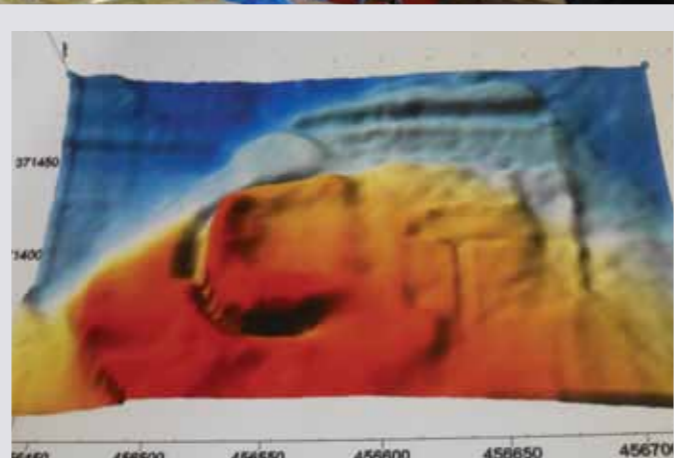
DO THEY REPRESENT THE DEAD FROM THE ANGLO SAXON BATTLE OF HATFIELD (632 AD)?

Whilst RSK Stats did get involved with the castle investigations, another part of their brief was to, "carry out a geophysical site investigation at St Mary's to locate anomalies that may relate to burial pits that could be associated with .. the Battle of Hatfield". (RSK Geophysical Report). One of the articles in this HLF funded Community book already covers the possible history of the battle and suggests reasons for the siting of the burials.

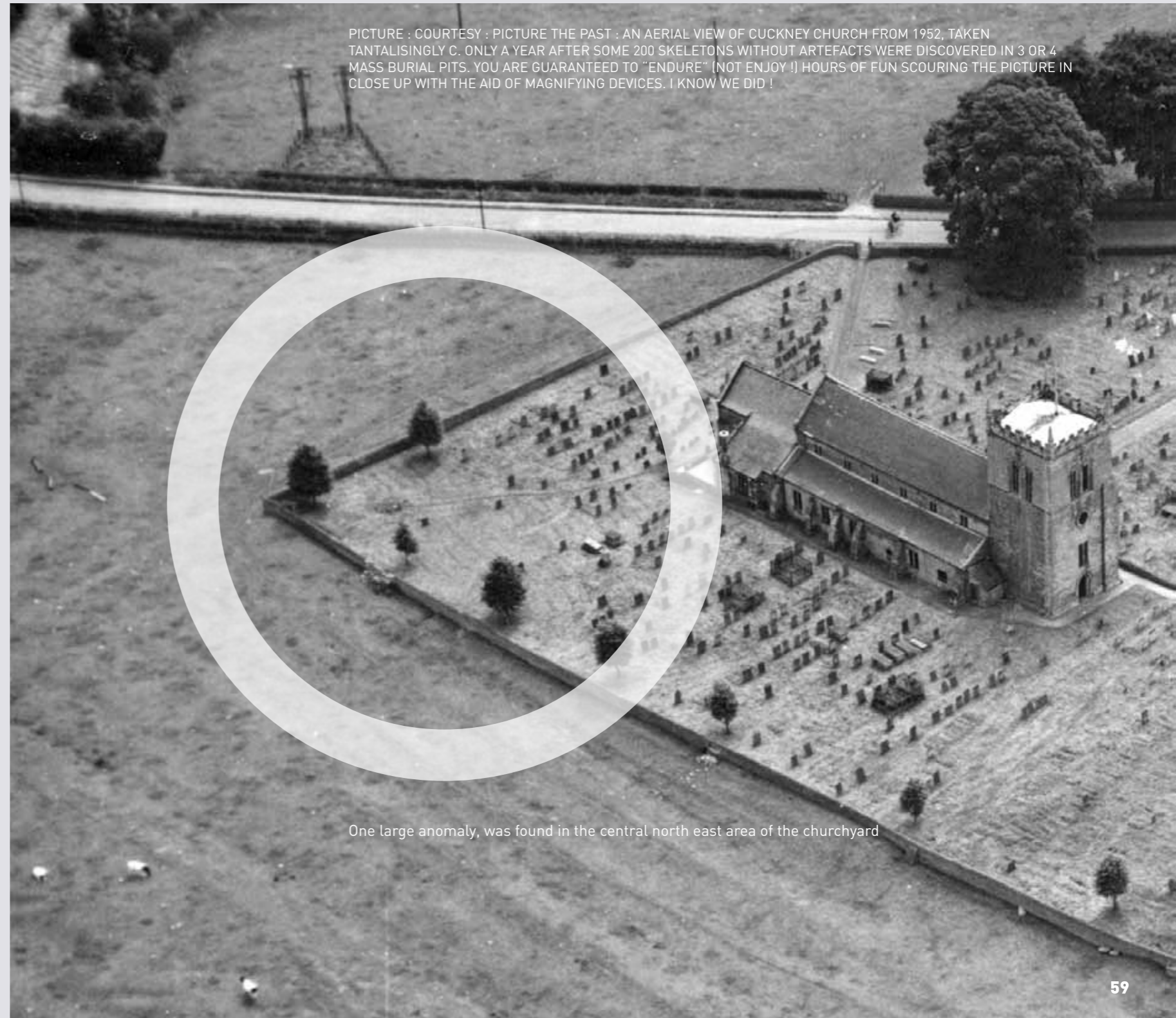
Here we are concerned with the results from the RSK investigations (which we have in full).



PICTURE (ABOVE) : COURTESY : PAUL JAMESON : MERCIAN'S SEAN CROSSLEY (POINTING) DISCUSSES THE PICTORIAL TOPOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CASTLE AREA - COMPUTER DERIVED FROM MANY HOURS OF FIELD SURVEY READINGS, AT ONE OF THE CUCKNEY CASTLE WORKSHOPS. ROBERT GEESON (LEFT), JENNIE JOHNSON, LUCY SMALLEY AND STUART WHITTLE (RIGHT) LOOK ON WITH INTEREST.



PICTURE (ABOVE) : COURTESY : MERCIAN CIC / PAUL JAMESON : (IN CLOSE UP) THE REDDER AREAS REPRESENT GREATER HEIGHT AND ARE AT THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE CHURCH BOUNDARY. THE PLATEAU IS SHOWN AS THE JUST LEFT OF CENTRE LIGHT BLUE PORTION SEPARATED BY THE GROOVE (PART OF WHICH IS POSSIBLY A MOAT OR LATER DITCH).



PICTURE : COURTESY : PICTURE THE PAST : AN AERIAL VIEW OF CUCKNEY CHURCH FROM 1952, TAKEN TANTALISINGLY C. ONLY A YEAR AFTER SOME 200 SKELETONS WITHOUT ARTEFACTS WERE DISCOVERED IN 3 OR 4 MASS BURIAL PITS. YOU ARE GUARANTEED TO "ENDURE" (NOT ENJOY !) HOURS OF FUN SCOURING THE PICTURE IN CLOSE UP WITH THE AID OF MAGNIFYING DEVICES. I KNOW WE DID !

One large anomaly, was found in the central north east area of the churchyard

WHAT DID RSK STATS DISCOVER AND WHAT ARE THEY RECOMMENDING?

Before we consider what RSK did discover via their GPR analysis, it is worth summarising where nothing was found and what has not been recommended for future investigations.

To the South and West of the church and in the Castle mound in the West of the church grounds, no significant anomalies were detected. However, the GPR did detect 2 disturbed areas within the churchyard, West of the Clock tower, roughly in line with the pits discovered just outside the Northern perimeter of the church in 1950/1. Additionally, in the South West of the churchyard another anomaly was found at a depth of 0.7 to 1.7m.

Finally, to the West of the Churchyard, 2 further areas of disturbed ground, "have been detected which may indicate the presence of buried obstructions or a possible burial pit." (RSK).

Presently, I am unsure as to why these have not been added to the 6 anomalies recommended for further analysis (below). Perhaps they are not regarded as significant. However, this requires clarification from RSK before they are formally excluded as avenues for future investigation.

RSK HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT 6 ANOMALIES SHOULD BE, "INVESTIGATED FURTHER BY TARGETED INTRUSIVE METHODS".

- **IN THE CENTRE OF THE EASTERN CEMETERY AND IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE LAST OF THE MODERN BURIALS.**

"The strong reflections indicate a change in ground conditions. This could be the result of ground disturbance from a possible burial pit (such as a re-interment of the 1950s bodies)." (RSK).

The anomaly is 8 by 2 metres in extent and discovered at a depth of 1.2 to 2m.

This was re-affirmed by Mercian, as Andy Gaunt's magnetometry when computer analysed also displayed 3 closely concentrated white blocks at this site.

- **A DISTURBED ZONE CONSISTING OF 6 AREAS IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF THE CHURCH. THIS MAY REPRESENT THE AREAS NOT DISTURBED BY THE TRENCHING OF 1950/51 AND HENCE MAY BE ORIGINAL BURIALS POSSIBLY STILL IN UNDISTURBED PITS. THE GPR DETECTED THESE AT A DEPTH FROM 0.5 TO 2M IN DEPTH WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS FROM 1950/51.**

"It is noted that the disturbed ground does not extend more than 3m northwards of the church." (RSK).

In the Thoroton Society article, "Cuckney Church and Castle" (1951) author Maurice Barley says, "The burial trenches extended under the north aisle and the north wall of the church, though how far they continued outside is not known" (courtesy : Estate of Maurice Barley).

Stanley Revill's 1975 article (also for the Thoroton Society) says that the bodies, "extended outside the church for at least 7 feet".

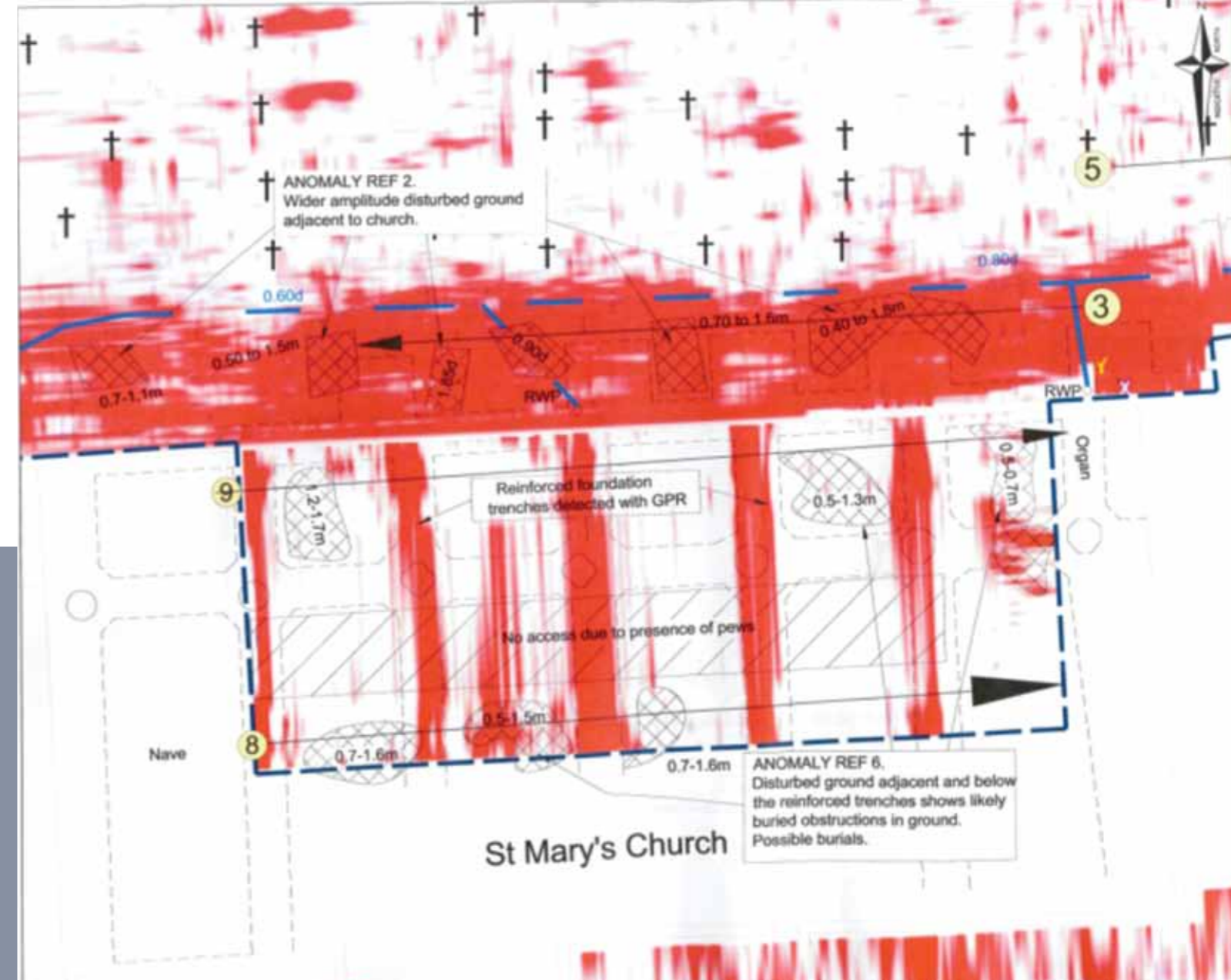
Now, thanks to the RSK GPR, we know that the answer is that they do not appear to extend further than 3m from the church perimeter (9.84 feet).

- **A MOUND JUST SOUTH OF THE OIL TANK WAS IDENTIFIED IN 2014 BY CUCKNEY RESIDENT, MR. F. PALMER AS A POSSIBLE RE-INTERMENT SITE. "THE NATURE OF THIS FEATURE SUGGESTS A FLAT OBSTRUCTION IN THE GROUND. GIVEN ITS SMALL SIZE, IT IS UNLIKELY TO REPRESENT A LARGE BURIAL PIT" (RSK) BUT IT IS PROBABLY AN OBSTRUCTION.**

- **A FEATURE NEAR THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY (OF THE CHURCH). "DATA SUGGESTS AN AREA (2.5 BY 3.5M) ... AT SHALLOW (0.5M) DEPTH (WHICH) .. MAY INDICATE THE EDGE OF A BURIAL PIT OR SIMILAR". (RSK).**

- **AGAIN NEAR THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY, "AN AREA (3 BY 4M) OF DISTURBED GROUND .. IT IS NOTED THAT THE SURROUNDING GROUND SURFACE CONTAINS A SMALL DEPRESSION WHICH SUGGESTS SOME GROUND SETTLEMENT HAS OCCURRED." (RSK).**

- **"POSSIBLE BURIED OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE GROUND BELOW THE CHURCH FLOOR ... SOME OF THE FEATURES IDENTIFIED LINE UP WITH FEATURES IDENTIFIED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY TO THE NORTH WHICH SUGGESTS THE FEATURES MAY EXTEND BELOW THE NORTH CHURCH WALL. THESE WERE MODERATE AMPLITUDE FEATURES AT DEPTHS BETWEEN 0.5 AND 2M LOCATED BETWEEN THE BEAMS IN 6 AREAS" (RSK).**



COMMUNITY DAYS 2 & 3 - CONCLUSION

There are plenty of possibilities that can be explored and perhaps parcelled together as options to present to the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) and ultimately to the Diocese of Southwell.

In my opinion, it would be unwise to merely bundle just 1 set of choices (for example 3 of the 6 recommended by RSK) and present them as our only Invasive option.

The danger is that if this option is in any part disagreeable to the P.C.C. or Diocese then that could preclude a further approach for perhaps another 10 years which would effectively be the end of the Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society and possibly any future invasive proposals. However, it is not the remit of this HLF funded Community book to dwell upon such matters in any further detail as they are outside the scope of the HLF grant purposes.

Conclusion

Running a project can be rather like being in a political party. It involves co-ordinating with a lot of people to help, "get the job done". Due to work pressures, differing personalities, approaches, standards and ethics there will be times when you wish you were not part of that party!

Externally you will deal with people in your guise of researcher, leaflet distributor, permissions or funding seeker (etc.) that you do not appreciate and have the sinking feeling that you will never appreciate. They may then offer your society a small donation and ask you out to lunch to discuss a possibly more substantial donation.

You dread knowing their real motivations but manage your best, engaging, if weak, smile.

Don't worry, not all of the above has happened as we have progressed, but beware, it could happen to you if you help organise and run a project.

The point is that you cannot "burn bridges" and by the way, you WILL be attending that lunch.

Counterbalanced against all the frustrations is the sheer amount of enjoyable effort that Joseph & I put in for the first 2 years and latterly myself since about February 2015. Whilst Joseph is no longer operationally involved on a day to day basis, I still regularly seek his advice and he is our Honorary President.

Jennie Johnson our Secretary has also been excellent from inception and has performed sterling research to try to uncover evidence from the exciting Alex Brewster story, utilising her Librarianship.

In a sense fortunately, I believe that the more work that is put into a project the lower the inclination to walk away from it.

Just to enable this non invasive project to gain an HLF award has taken over 4,000 hours of unpaid administrative effort and that's without performing the project itself. Andy and Sean of Mercian were also supportive and have demonstrated their genuine lack of financial motive throughout which deserves recognition. Further credit goes to their Education Officer, Sue Rodgers for hosting & contributing to all those Workshops.

Thanks must also go to The Reverend Simon Cash for his quiet practical support and to Sheila Brailsford for keeping the Church open during the Fieldwork operations. Additionally, praise is due for Cuckney & Norton History Society Chairman, Morven Harrison and Bob Needham for enabling us to use their wealth of photos and to Sarah Seaton for setting up our website now way back in 2013.

Charles Cannon also deserves a mention as a true "project friend".

I have been working with Mike Condon our Facebook Developer in order to create this HLF funded Community Book. Mike has artistic inclinations and great experience of the Desktop Publishing arena and I believe his visual flair has added a crucial 3rd strand. It has greatly complemented and equally partnered the words & pictures in this book.

One of the major frustrations surrounding the events of the discovery of the mass burial pits in 1950/1 at St. Mary's was the sheer lack of documentation and we were determined not to let that happen to this HLF funded project.

Hopefully from more than my standpoint, the project was regarded as a great success but I suppose the results of the Evaluation Survey will better determine the answer.

Our efforts have revealed the wealth of history generated near or as part of the Welbeck Estate, whose history stretches back to just after 1150. Whilst Bob Needham's photo collection also gained a welcome and timely avenue for publicity, we greatly benefited by being able to add another distinctive subject to our umbrella of events (true symbiosis).

It cannot be denied however that the project has also been a crucial building block for any potential future invasive phases concerning Cuckney Castle and the mass burial pits that may relate to the Anglo Saxon Battle of Hatfield. Yet that does not mean that they cannot also be true Community celebrations.

This project formally finishes at the end of March 2016 and then we are free to fully review the considerable options now available to create a compelling invasive bid in 2016.

I don't believe we should take a break from operations, otherwise we may lose momentum, but expectations around the timescales of future deliveries need to be tempered by an understanding of the sheer weight of complexities involved. Please remain positive and ask how you might help expedite matters.



Paul Jameson, BOHIS Chairman

Suggested Reading

"The Ancient Village of Cuckney" (1989) and "Ancient Basset-law" (1990) by Capt. Roy Peters (North Trent Publishing)

"The History of The Kings of Britain" (1136) by Geoffrey of Monmouth (specifically Geoffrey's sources P14-19 and "The Saxon Domination" P262-284).

"The White Canons in England" (Colvin) (specifically the piece on Welbeck Abbey P63-70)

"Cuckney Church and Castle" (1951) by (Maurice Barley) (Thoroton Society article)

"Ecclesiastical History of the English People" (731 AD) by Bede (specifically Edwin before the Battle of Hatfield P117-39 and Edwin killed P140-142).

"The Earliest Life of Gregory The Great" (c. 680 to 715 AD) by an Anonymous Monk of Whitby (translated by Bertram Colgrave) (P95-105) (information regarding St.Edwin's Chapel and the removal of Edwin's bones to Whitby)

"King Edwin and the Battle of Heathfield" (1975) by Stanley Revill (Thoroton Society article)

BATTLE
OF
HATFIELD
INVESTIGATION
SOCIETY



PICTURE : COURTESY OF HISTORIC ENGLAND



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The National Lottery[®]
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