

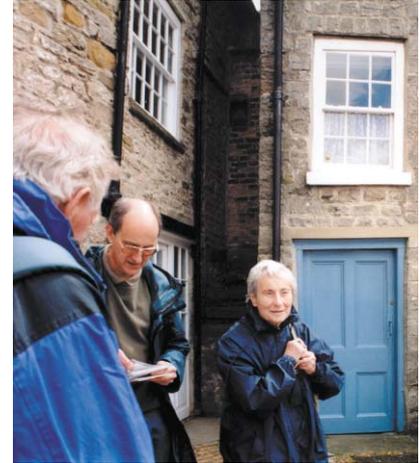
### President's letter



**Dear Members,** welcome to the third edition of our newsletter. The Society continues to offer an interesting programme of lectures and, with Summer approaching, a number of outings. The Society also does much behind the scenes in the cause of the historic environment. An article elsewhere in the Newsletter suggests how you may assist with this valuable work. The County Council's archaeological provision continues to prosper, and we welcome the appointment of Dr David Mason as the new County Archaeology Officer. The first County Archaeology Day on 5th March at County Hall, to which all in the Society should have received an invitation, will provide many members with a first opportunity to meet David. As we welcome a new personality to County Durham, we can also look forward to a conference celebrating one of our founding fathers, Cannon Greenwell. Members are being offered a discounted attendance fee, details of which will be circulated imminently.

**Niall Hammond** President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



On the Richmond trip in July 2004

### Mount Oswald

The Society recently received a request for a copy of an article by Peter Meadows on Mount Oswald, Durham (DAJ 6, 1990) from Mr David Brett, whose great uncle, Mr Cyril Mash, was employed as a chauffeur at the house in the mid 1920s. Cyril was a keen photographer and, in return for the article, we were sent a collection of photographs, copied from glass negatives onto disk, taken in 1924-5.

The house at Mount Oswald, now surrounded by a golf course, was built in 1800 and then after 1828 practically rebuilt to a design by Philip Wyatt. The exterior has changed little since, although a fire ravaged the central section in 1900. In style, it echoes the architect's neoclassical masterpiece at Wynyard Park, near Stockton-on-Tees.

Cyril Mash's photographs provide a lively and very personal view of the house and the people with whom he worked. The collection includes a photograph of the pond at the end of the walled garden, now a 'hazard' of the golf course; an Armstrong Siddeley car, presumably his responsibility; and a visiting brass band. The only photograph of the interior is of the dining room, clad in heavy dark panelling, doubtless installed during the restoration after the fire.

These photographs are reproduced by kind permission of Mr Brett, who would be interested to hear from anyone who has any information about Mount Oswald and the people who lived there at the time. He may be contacted via the Secretary, Belinda Burke.



-  Mount Oswald
-  The dining room
-  Jack performing a headstand
-  The pond

## Members' register of interests

In addition to arranging a lecture programme, organizing outings and publishing the *Durham Archaeological Journal*, the Committee of the Society is also actively involved in lobbying and commenting on archaeological and architectural issues, both regionally and, on occasion, nationally.

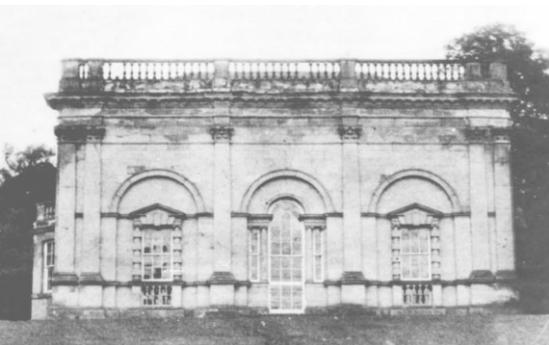
The early Proceedings of the Society contain numerous examples of concern and correspondence over the unsympathetic restoration of churches and other buildings. Today, the Society still has a role in commenting on such issues and has, over recent months, offered comments on issues as diverse as proposals which may reduce the amount of cash available to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the South Tyneside Urban Design

Framework, and archaeological concerns over the widening of the A1 in Northumberland.

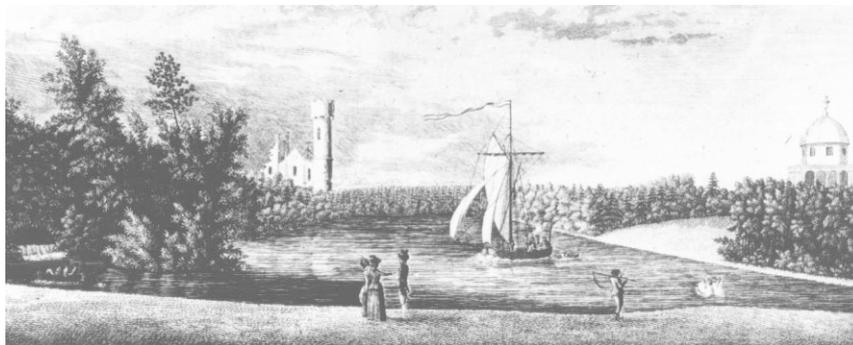
In order that we can offer informed comment and reflect the views of the membership, it has been suggested that we maintain a register of members' interests. We would therefore like to hear from you if you feel you have expertise on a particular historic period, a specific archaeological or architectural theme or, indeed, feel you know your village or home town well. If so, please contact the President or the Secretary and, with your permission, we will put your name on our register of members' interests. Should the Society then receive a consultation on, for instance, a planning matter pertinent to your expertise, the Committee would then informally approach you for an informed opinion on the issue.

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## AGM 2005 at Hardwick Park



Hardwick Park Banqueting House



Hardwick Gardens in 1781

The AGM for 2005 is to be held at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, on Saturday, 21 May. This fascinating 18th-century landscape is currently the focus of a multi-million pound restoration by Durham County Council. Members will have the pleasure of a guided tour of the park and accompanying archaeological investigations in the morning, in the informed company of Tony Smith and Catherine Grezzo of the County Council. The Grade II\* park was laid out by Newcastle merchant John

Burdon in the 18th century, with classical and gothic buildings designed by, amongst others, James Paine. Through a gentle slide into obscurity, the park saw little alteration in the 19th century and, despite suffering some demolition and division of ownership in the late 20th century, still retains its original form and many of its structures. In the afternoon, the AGM will be held in Sedgefield village, thanks to generous assistance from the Friends of Hardwick Park, allowing members

to explore this fascinating medieval settlement with its notable church and elegant Georgian buildings. Members will also remember the recent lecture by Fiona Macdonald on the *Time Team* excavations in the East Park, which revealed an extensive Roman industrial settlement, an accessible area to walk over even if the remains are safely buried. The 21 May promises to be an excellent day, out combining the best of County Durham architecture and archaeology.

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## The enduring fascination of Boadicea

On 12 February, the Society was regaled with an engaging review of the story of Queen Boadicea, or Boudica, as it has been retold through the ages. Society member, Dr Richard Hingley, co-author with Christina Unwin of the newly published book *Boudica: Iron Age Warrior Queen*, led us from Tacitus' and Cassius Dio's stirring accounts of her rebellion in AD 60 to 61, through archaeological evidence, literary sources and pictorial representations, to her significance today. He explored how the queen of the Iceni was seen as a savage barbarian, pitted against the

'civilizing' force of Rome; or as a noble British heroine, seeking vengeance for the pain and humiliation visited on herself and her daughters by brutal invaders; or, later, as a feminist icon, adopted by the suffragists.

Her imagery varied from the wild and savage, to the regal – with insignia akin to that of Elizabeth I – to the heroic, as portrayed in Thomas Thorneycroft's statue on the Thames Embankment by Westminster Bridge, of which Faye Weldon recently remarked, 'I like to think she's advancing on Parliament'.

## Trip to Gibside and the Tanfield Railway 21 August 2005



The Chapel at Gibside

*Woods, venerable in their growth, and magnificent in their extent, sweep from the height of the hills to the brink of the Derwent, intersected by deep, irregular ravines, and relieved by plots of open pasturage. The whole landscape, to use a painter's phrase, is touched in a broad free style, and the few artificial objects introduced are sufficiently grand and distinct not to disgrace the noble scenery which surrounds them. Across the Derwent a cultivated country, sloping to the water, and variegated with enclosures and scattered woodland, forms a bright contrast to the deep forest masses which almost darken the southern bank.*

Surtees, R (1840) *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham*

The sumptuous pleasure grounds of the Gibside Estate were laid out in the first half of the 18th century by George Bowes and, while the hall is now ruinous, the structured landscape with its walks, vistas and architectural features, has survived remarkably well. Harry Beamish, Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust, has kindly agreed to lead our tour, and will guide us around the Chapel, walled garden, orangery, bath-house site, house ruin, stable block (which will be

restored and newly opened at the time of our visit), Octagon Pond and Column of Liberty. He will also describe the restoration of the buildings and landscape to date and proposals for the future.

In the afternoon we will enjoy a trip on the Tanfield Railway, embarking at Andrews House Station, where a volunteer from the Tanfield Railway Company will give us a brief description of the Railway and its history. Our journey will take us alongside the gorge of

Causey Burn, with views of Causey Arch, which, built in 1725–6, claims to be the oldest surviving railway bridge in the world.



The Column of British Liberty

## Bastles of Northumberland Society outing July 2005

There are few more evocative buildings than the bastle houses of the borders. These fortified farmhouses, built in response to the lawless reiving times of the 16th and 17th centuries, represent an attempt by better-off farming families to protect their livestock in a vaulted ground-floor byre, whilst providing a secure living-space above. Massively thick walls, single monumental doorways with drawbar-holes and intriguing details, such as quenching-holes, make a study of such structures worthwhile. Following the Union of the Crowns in 1603, many were modified to more comfortable living conditions, some became simple farm buildings, while others were abandoned and became ruined.

In July, members have the opportunity to visit a number of bastles within the Northumberland National Park and the MOD Ranges at Otterburn, including a splendidly restored example at Woodhouses, and the Raw, scene of a famous murder in 1791, the last time the bastle was lived in. On the weekend of 23 to 24 July (final date to be decided), members will be able to see several bastles in various states of survival, from ruined to upstanding, on and around the Otterburn Army Training Estate.



High Shaw bastle house



and its interior

A booking form will be circulated in due course. Alternatively, contact the Secretary of the Society for more details, including arrangements for coach travel from Durham City.

**Programme**  
May to December  
2005

All lectures will be held at Elvet Riverside, Room 141 New Elvet, Durham, at 2.30 pm (except where noted). Everyone is welcome to attend

- Saturday 21 May **AGM at Sedgefield/Hardwick**
- Saturday 18 June **The Carolingian abbey of Farfa in Sabina: an early example of a monastic aqueduct**  
**Professor Roberta Magnusson** University of Oklahoma
- Saturday 10 September **Joint AASDN / Heritage Open Day event** at Brancepeth Castle, 2.30 pm  
**Converting a Castle, from the time of Matthew Russell and John Patterson Dennis Jones**  
Followed by a tour of the castle, by kind permission of Mrs Margaret Dobson. Anyone requiring a lift to Brancepeth, please contact the Secretary.
- Saturday 8 October **The Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman Castles of 'Aqaba, Jordan**  
**Professor Denys Pringle** University of Cardiff
- Saturday 12 November **An Iron Age and Roman site at Faverdale, Darlington** **Robin Taylor-Wilson** Pre-Construct Archaeology
- Saturday 10 December **Members Meeting**

**Excursions**

- Sunday 21 August **Visit to the Gibside Estate and the Tanfield Railway**
- weekend of 23/24 July **Bastle Houses on the Otterburn Army Training Estate**  
date to be confirmed

**Other local events**

- Saturday 5 March **County Durham Archaeology Day** at County Hall, Durham
- Friday 15 April **Canon William Greenwell and his contemporaries**  
to Sunday 17 April **The history of British archaeology in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries**  
A conference at the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham
- Saturday 14 May **Yesterday Belongs to You 7 Local History Fair** at County Hall, Durham  
A great opportunity to find out about the activities of all the local societies. If you would like to help on the AASDN stall, we would be delighted to hear from you

For further information on any of the above events, please contact the Society Secretary

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