



PontArch

**Newsletter of the Pontefract & District Archaeological Society,
No 50, Spring 2013. Editor: E. Houlder.**

THE ACKWORTH HOARD

Text & images by David Evans, Curator, Pontefract & Castleford Museums.

The Ackworth Hoard was found in July 2011. It consists of an inscribed gold ring, 48 gold coins and 543 silver coins all buried in a pot. The coins in the hoard range in date from 1547 to 1645-6. The whole hoard was probably buried in 1645-6. At the time of the burial the spot where they were found was part of the Ackworth Manor estate.

The ring is a simple light-weight gold band with a rounded exterior. Its significance lies in the inscription, *'When this you see, remember me'*, engraved on the interior of the band. It gives the hoard an intimate, personal side.

The earliest coin is of Edward VI and dates to 1547. The latest coins are those of Charles I with the sun mintmark, dated to 1645-6. These give the burial date for whole Hoard as 1645-6. The early coins are worn from long circulation (nearly 100 years in the case of the Edward VI coins) but are generally well-struck. The more recent coins of Charles I were in circulation for much less time

(some less than 1 year) and so are less worn but are less well-struck (reflecting the huge increase in output of the Tower of London mint from the 1630s). The pot is a standard wheel-thrown one made of hard highly-fired earthenware with a



General view of the hoard



The ring.

dark brown glaze, either late Cistercian ware or Black ware. Although it is in 2 pieces it is complete and easily repairable. Pots of this type were made at Wrenthorpe near Wakefield, 10 miles from Ackworth. The pottery industry here was so significant that the settlement was also known as Potovens.

Before the development of modern banks it was not unusual to bury wealth for safekeeping. In difficult times like the Civil War more valuables are likely to have been concealed for safety in this way, and more of the people who had buried hoards would have been unable to return and claim them. In areas with extensive fighting such as Yorkshire (effectively a front line between the Royalist north and Parliamentary east) there are a lot of hoards. The Ackworth Hoard is a good demonstration that the impact of the war went beyond just the major battles and sieges.

Although Civil War hoards are not unusual this is the only one

known from Wakefield district and it has some interesting features. Firstly it only has larger denominations (the smallest is a sixpence) and overall it has a relatively high face value, £85-12s-0d, which puts it among the larger hoards

recorded for the period. With average pay of 10d a day for an infantry soldier in the Civil War this would represent over 5 years' wages. It also mixes gold and silver coins, which is uncommon. Gold coins were generally too valuable to circulate in the everyday currency. It is therefore probably not the wealth of a small tradesman but of a member of the gentry. The ring makes it very unusual, making it more personal than most hoards which contain only coins.

Finally the hoard has a distinct Royalist association, matching Pontefract's strong Royalist affiliation (famously Pontefract was



Pot with shillings & sixpences

pay their troops. One solution was to use foreign coins. Charles I decreed that ducatoons of the Spanish Netherlands were legal tender with a value of 5s-6d. Finds of these ducatoons are linked to areas of Royalist control (Yorkshire, Oxford, the southwest), and in particular to the movements of the Queen, Henrietta Maria. In 1642 Henrietta Maria was on the Continent raising funds and she is recorded as having sent the Royalist commander in York £500 in ducatoons to pay troops. In 1643 she returned to England, landing at Bridlington and spending some time in York.



The earliest coin: Edward VI

worth Hoard is therefore significant. Alongside this there are fewer coins than might be expected from the latest issue with the sun mintmark,



Irish and Scottish coins.

under the control of Parliament. It is known that the Royalists in Yorkshire (and elsewhere) had difficulty obtaining coinage to

the last Royalist outpost to surrender after the execution of Charles I). Only a few of the Charles I coins are from Royalist mints but in practice only a tiny proportion of the coinage in circulation came from these mints. The small proportion in the Ackworth Hoard is therefore significant.

Alongside this there are fewer coins than might be expected from the latest issue with the sun mintmark, suggesting that the depositor did not have easy access to new coins minted at the Tower of London, which then was

She then went south to join Charles I at Oxford, stopping at Pontefract Castle on the way.

The Ackworth Hoard probably represents the portable wealth of a prosperous member of the gentry with Royalist sympathies, possibly even with links to the Queen's court. It was buried in 1645-6 but the depositor was unable to retrieve it, maybe through death or inability to return to the burial spot. The Hoard is therefore an excellent physical illustration of the Civil War history of the area. Ackworth and Pontefract were strongly Royalist at the start, raising 4 divisions to garrison Pontefract Castle. In 1645 however Parliament had won a major victory at Marston Moor, Ackworth village was occupied by Parliamentary troops and Pontefract Castle was besieged for the second time, soon to surrender. Prominent Royalists were dead, imprisoned, or forced to flee.



Ducatoons

oOo

EDITH DOROTHY ARUNDEL



It is with regret that we announce the death on December 23rd 2012 of Dorothy Arundel at the age of 89.

Dorothy was one of the three surviving Founder Members of the society together with Bill Booth – Vice President, and Eric Houlder – Chairman. When the society

was formed in 1957, the Hon Treasurer was Frances Ridsdale. Within a couple of years marriage and professional commitments took Miss Ridsdale out of the area, and Dorothy was elected Hon Treasurer. She held that post for many years, indeed, well into the 1970s.

As well as being Hon Treasurer, Dorothy's position on the committee enabled her to use her quiet, unassuming manner to influence for the better decisions taken by the whole committee. Her care with the finances enabled PontArc to survive the precarious early years and become the force it is today in local and regional archaeology.

She rarely missed a general meeting, and continued to attend most society functions well into her late 80s. Though still affected by a serious bout of TB in her twenties, Dorothy rarely let this prevent her attending. However, latterly she chose carefully those lectures which matched her own interests.

For many years she did voluntary work in Pontefract Infirmary, and also assisted at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society - together with Doreen Roberts, a past Chairman of this Society - mainly in the library but also generally around *Claremont*. Dorothy was also a seasoned traveller. She had longed to travel the USA for many years and as her husband, John, was not interested she finally took the step and went alone, touring the entire country by Greyhound coach.

One day, during a committee meeting in *Friarwood House*, she told those present that in New York she had always wanted to visit Central Park, so one evening she did just that. On returning to the hotel she mentioned where she had been. The staff were astounded that she had

survived, and concluded that the muggers must have assumed that a woman on her own must be a police decoy! She never mentioned the fact to anyone, but she was interviewed at length about her trip on *BBC Woman's Hour*.



Her funeral followed by a service at St Michael's Carleton was attended by Society President Dr Peter Addyman, by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society President Sylvia Thomas, and by Society Chairman Eric Houlder.

A widow for many years, she is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, a grandson & three great grandchildren.



Above: Dorothy cutting the Society's 50th Birthday cake in December 2007.

Left: Dorothy at the first (and only) Society dinner, 1969.

ST RICHARD'S FRIARY, PONTEFRACT:

On-going Work on the Clay Tobacco Pipes.

Robert B McNaught

During the 2011 excavation season of St Richard's Friary a large number of clay pipe fragments were brought into the finds processing office. These



Fig.1. Burnished stem.

pipes were all p o s t Dissolution but it was thought they would form the basis of a s e p a r a t e study to run in parallel with the main site report and be relevant to the history of the site after the Friary went out of use.

Discussions with West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service staff suggested that this study could be



Fig.2. Bottered and milled rim.

environmental finds was given to members of the Post Excavation team. In March 2012 seven



Fig.3. Variety of stem bore.

its own language and we were introduced to

terms such as Burnishing (fig. 1), Bottering (fig.2), Milling and Stem Bore Diameter (fig. 3). We were also shown the pipe recording forms which are used by most researchers to standardise the results. We left Morley thinking we had enough knowledge to be able to make a start on our own.

Having bought a copy of the British Archaeological Report by Susan White which contains vast amounts of knowledge about Yorkshire clay pipes and also has thousands of profile drawings of previously studied pipes and hundreds of drawings of Pipe stamps, we were

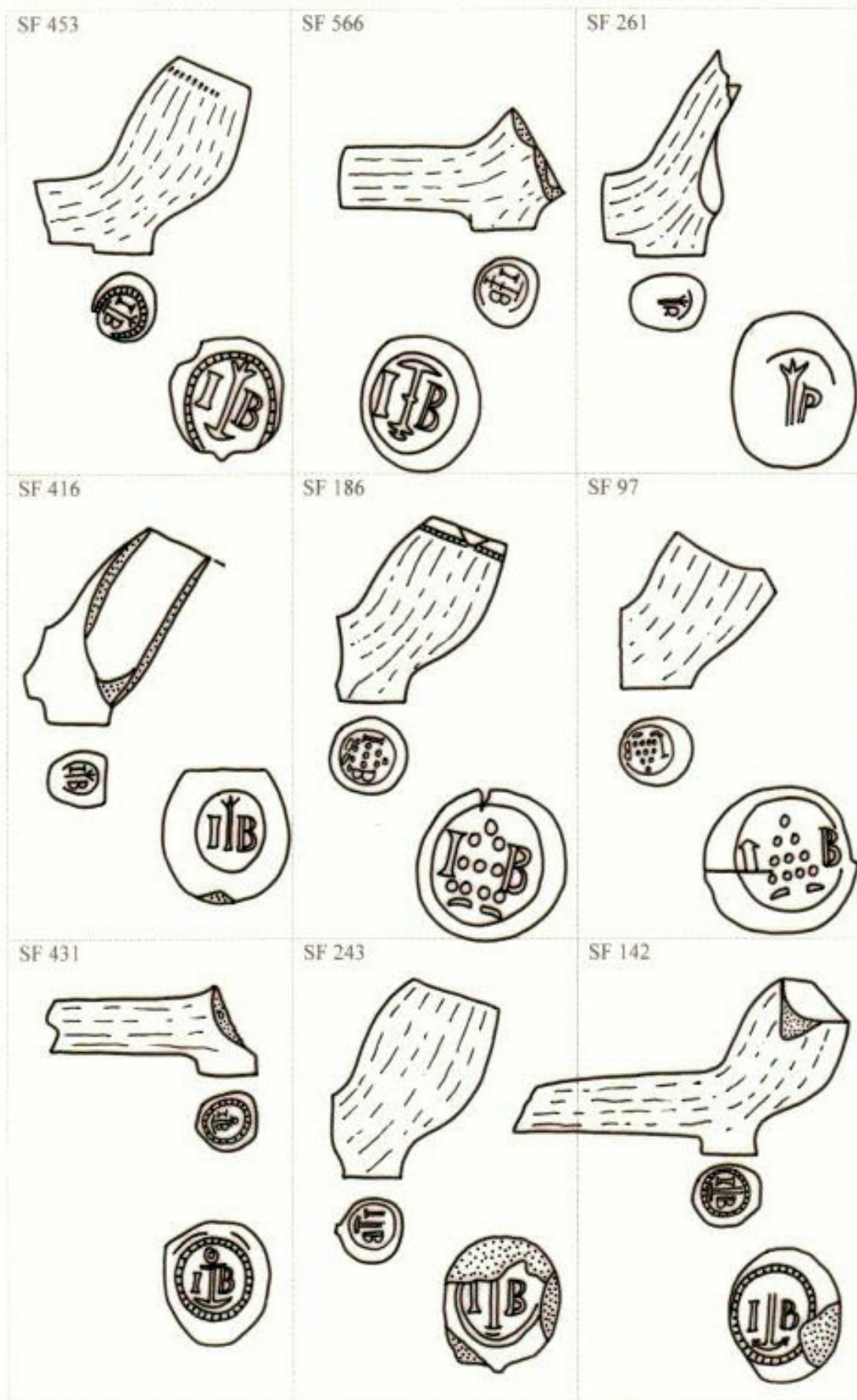


Fig.4. Selection of Civil War pipes.

ready to begin.

At the end of March 2012 a team of three sat round the dining room table to make a start, we looked at all the bags of pipes and began to formulate a plan of action. We decided to start with the pipe stems as these formed the bulk of the finds and we thought that this would move the project along while we were still full of enthusiasm. Each piece was measured both externally and the stem bore internally and the results added to the recording forms. As we worked through the bags of stems context by context we could re-classify some of the stems as bowls or small finds because of knowledge gained during our training at WYAAS? This 'quick' process took us until July.

Now we were ready to start on the bowls, this we hoped would be the more interesting part of the



St Richard's Friary Pontefract: Clay Pipe Report

Fig.5. Profile and stamp drawings ready for publication.

project. As all the bowls had been given a small find number and individually bagged, we could lay them all out together and sort them into types, Heel Type Bowls, Bowls with Stamped Bases, Patterned Bowls and Marked Stems. We had also identified four collections of pipes in our reference book to use for comparison purposes which were most likely to contain pipes similar to the ones in our collection. The collections chosen were WYAAS, Pontefract Museum, Woodhall Moated Manor Womersley and Wakefield Museum.

Each bowl was selected and the profile and base drawn full size on film in pencil, this was then laid over the pages of drawings in our reference book to find a comparable shape and an approximate date of manufacture. As each pipe bowl was examined we recorded the general type, the presence of any burnishing on the fabric, the finish of the rim whether it had a bottered or cut finish, the presence of any milling on the base or round the rim and the stem bore diameter. This description of the pipe was then added to the catalogue of all pipes in our collection. When we began working on the bowls with heel stamps the stamp was drawn to a scale of 2:1 to show the detail of the stamps. At this stage the team had reduced to two, one to draw and write the catalogue and one to find a comparison in the reference book, and an average day would see us recording between ten and fifteen pipes.

After each session of pipe recording I undertook to redraw each pipe to publication standard on film in ink; unstamped pipes were drawn twelve to a page and stamped pipes nine to a page (fig. 5), and the catalogue was typed up on computer to insert into the final report.

As we gained knowledge by looking in detail at the stamps used on the heel of the pipes we identified many of the symbols used such as stylised tobacco plants, anchors, stars, fleur-de-lis, crown over rose, castle and the various initial letters of the names of pipe makers.

Part way through our research we were offered a visit to the National Clay Pipe Museum at Liverpool University by Dr Susan White, the part time curator and author of the reference book we had been using. Joan, Janet and I made the journey to Liverpool in November along with our pipes and part completed research, to be greeted by Susan and Dr David Higgins. They were very interested in our work and also very complimentary about our methods and results so far. While we were looking at the vast collections of pipes held in the National Collection, David



Fig.6. Castle stamp.

undertook to record all the stamps on our pipes using a system he had developed. Each stamp was impressed into blocks of plasticene which would be filled with a fine plaster to make a positive impression of the stamps. All the pipes found at St Richards Friary will then be included in the National Clay Tobacco Pipe Stamp Catalogue (NSC). During our visit we were able



Fig.7. Mulberry stamp.

to identify two pipe stamps that were not previously recorded and the earliest known pipe with a stamped heel.

We left Liverpool with renewed enthusiasm and confidence that our work was up to the standard of the professionals and also with the kind offer of help with any future problems.

Back in Pontefract we returned to our research, we continued on the pipes with the maker's stamps on the heel including the one example of a pipe with a stamp showing a stylised castle keep (fig. 6) which we had learned from Liverpool had only ever been found from an area within ten

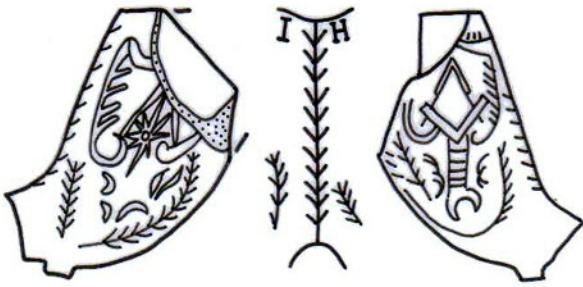


Fig. 8 . Detail of moulded design.

miles of Pontefract. Our other previously unrecorded pipe stamp is a mulberry flower and flanked by the initials I B (fig. 7).

On completion of the Stamped Heel pipes the next group to work on was the pipes with

SF 309

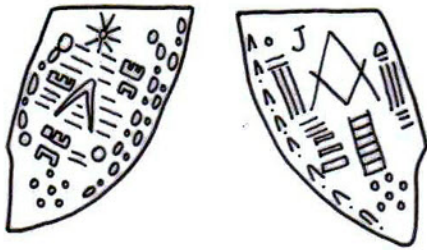


Fig.9. Moulded Masonic design.

moulded patterns on the bowls; these pipes were manufactured in the 18th and 19th Century. As with the previous groups we sorted the pipes into groups with similar patterns: masonic, nautical, acorns, rose and thistle, fluted and ferns, and we chose to work on the masonic group first (fig. 8 & 9) It became clear as we began that these would be more difficult to draw as they contained much more detail and in some cases both sides and the seams had to be drawn to show the different symbols.

When the moulded pipe bowls have been drawn and catalogued there are two other groups to start on before the 2011 report can be completed. The two groups contain the patterned stems (fig 11), and mouthpieces (fig 10); fortunately there are fewer samples of each.

Once the recording of the 2011 collection has been completed we will begin on the pipes excavated during the 2012 season. The results

from both assemblages will be collated ready for publication and the stamps recorded in plasticine and sent to the Liverpool archivists for permanent copies to be produced so that our St. Richard's Dominican Friary catalogue becomes publicly available to help future researchers.

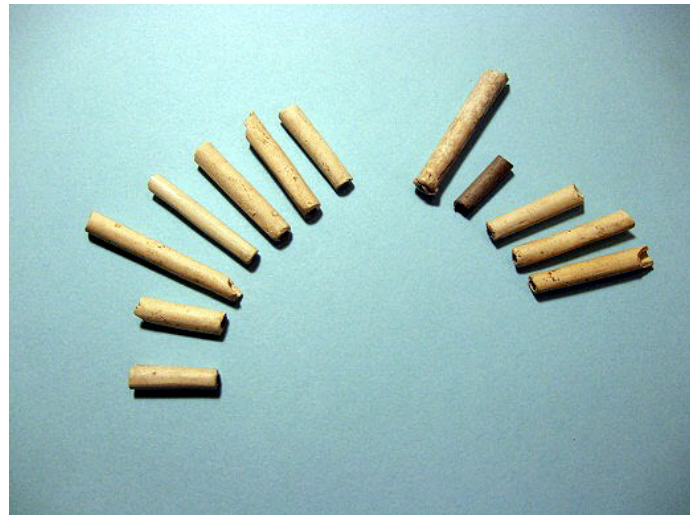


Fig.10. Mouthpieces.

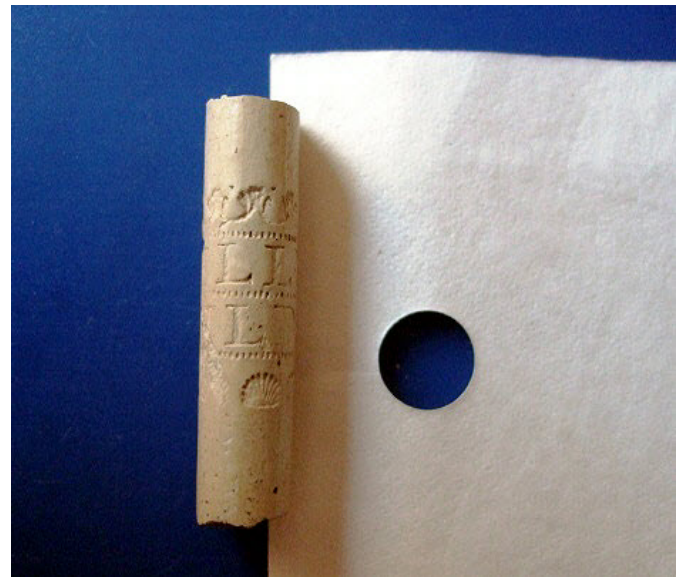


Fig.11. Marked stem.

Volunteers are welcomed to help in all aspects of post excavation work, as described here. If you would like to take part, please have a word with Robert or Janet McNaught at a meeting, or contact either via an official whose details are in the contact details on your membership card.

EDITORIAL

Writing in the aftermath of the discovery of Richard III's burial, we find that this monarch and his discoverers have achieved a new popularity for archaeology and its related history. Richard had, of course, many connections with Pontefract. His father and elder brother were buried here following the Lancastrian triumph at Wakefield. Later, as Duke of Gloucester and Lord President of the Council of the North he often stayed here, and during his short reign it was one of his favourite locations for the court; indeed, many proclamations are date-lined Pontefract castle. He was probably a familiar sight around the town. We know that he granted a local woman, Alice Burgh, a pension of £20 per annum for certain 'considerations' and that one of his illegitimate children was called John of Pontefract. He also got Alice a plum job, as nurse to his brother Clarence's son! Read into this what you will, but it does suggest more than a dalliance. Sadly, John was later executed by Henry VII in 1491. Richard also chose Pontefract to dispose of the inconvenient members of his late brother's wife's family, the Woodvilles, Now that Richard's DNA is known, it is at last possible to attempt to identify the mysterious unknown tomb-chest in Sheriff Hutton church. This is alleged to be the grave of Richard and his wife Anne Neville's only son Edward of Middleham, who died –probably of peritonitis – at Sheriff Hutton on April 9th, 1484. This boy died the Prince of Wales, and though a tomb was planned in York Minster, events overtook him, so to speak. If permission is given to take a sample, another great mystery of history could be solved.

This brings us conveniently to the summer dig of 2012, when our active members under Field Director Simon revealed more of the Blackfriar's church alongside Bluebell Steps. Post excavation work on this dig and that of the previous summer is going ahead, under the leadership of Janet McNaught, as we go to press.



Going back over forty years, the first official re-union at Sutton Hoo was held last March. Readers will remember that Chairman Eric and six other members took part in this work, though only three from 'Ponty' were at the re-union - two of them are now dead! However, we all got a magnificent write-up in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, (March 24th) with your Chairman and his wife Joan in colour on the weekend insert's front cover! The 2011-12 winter exhibition in the visitor centre at Sutton Hoo consisted of photographs by Eric and then-member Derek Thorpe. Sadly, this had been taken down before our arrival, but the centre manager kindly put it up again in a temporary display just for us.

The PontArc website has been re-launched to wide acclaim during the last year. For this we have to thank our Webmaster Jane Hawkins and Committee Member Paul Harris. A lot of work has gone into this, and members are



A monumental task!

Left: How many people get chance to hold this? Joan Houlder with the famous belt buckle. EH



strongly urged to visit it often, as it is by far the most efficient communication device we have. As part of this work, Jane and Anne Hawkins have scanned every single newsletter we have ever produced, going back to 1958. This has been a monumental task, and one of immense value to current and future members. We venture to suggest that this will be of inestimable value to future historiographers of archaeology. All this

data will eventually become accessible to all paid-up members, as well as to *bona fide* researchers.

Finally, my grateful thanks to all our contributors to this issue. I feel that the variety and quality of the articles reflects the activities and talents of the membership of this wonderful society.

Eric Houlder, Chairman and Editor.

RICHARD III, LAST PLANTAGENET KING OF ENGLAND

Dr Janet McNaught.

Last summer an excavation was undertaken by a team of archaeologists from Leicester University, in a car park, where not one, but two skeletons were excavated along with other artefacts such as decorated floor tiles. We are led to believe that the recovery of Richard III's skeleton was almost by divine intervention, if the *Richard III Society's* writings and interviews are to be believed, yet the burial site of Richard III is cited by Salter (2010) as being in the church of the Grey Friars in Leicester.

Born the 11th child of Cecily Neville Duchess of York and Richard Plantagenet 3rd Duke of York, it was recorded that he was a breech delivery; no

excavations and later studies in the laboratories that scoliosis of the spine was present. Scoliosis causes lateral curvature of the vertebral column; it also forces rotation around its own anatomical axis (*figure 2*) as it fights the constraints of the bony thorax/chest to allow room for growth during subadult years and degenerative changes in later adult years, McNaught (2006) and Rhodes (1977). The skull wounds were consistent with those of a soldier in battle who has lost his head protection.

The excavated skeletal remains have been declared to be those of Richard III, stating that *the balance of probabilities* would suggest this is so. No rigorous scrutiny has been undertaken by the scientific world upon the results and their conclusions as they are not yet completed or written up.

The balance of probabilities:

- Skeleton found in the chancel of the Grey Friars church, Leicester ✓
- Scoliosis was visible during excavations ✓
- Fine or gracile stature was observed in the limbs and elements of the pelvis ✓
- Known to be of short stature; this is not given X
- Head wounds were consistent with battle wounds ✓
- MtDNA or mitochondria; only forty strands or pairs of the 16,000 pairs have been studied and results given, studies are on-going, although the final results may not necessarily change the outcome ✓/X

MtDNA is maternally inherited and is passed on to both daughters and sons. Therefore every child (male or female) of a particular woman has an exact copy of his or her mother's mitochondrial DNA this means that every individual within the same maternal lineage will possess the same MtDNA. The mother's sisters children would also

other information such as deformity of the spine or unequal limbs was recorded until five years after his death, Rous (1491). It is not for me to support the Shakespearean imagery of a hunch back with withered arm and shortened leg, nor to support the modern image of a king, sound of limb, battle hardened and, a fair and just man.



Fig.1. Skeletal remains of Richard

First reports of finding Richard III's remains were centred upon the scoliotic spine (*figure 1*) and later upon the battle injuries of the skull. It cannot be denied from the evidence recorded during

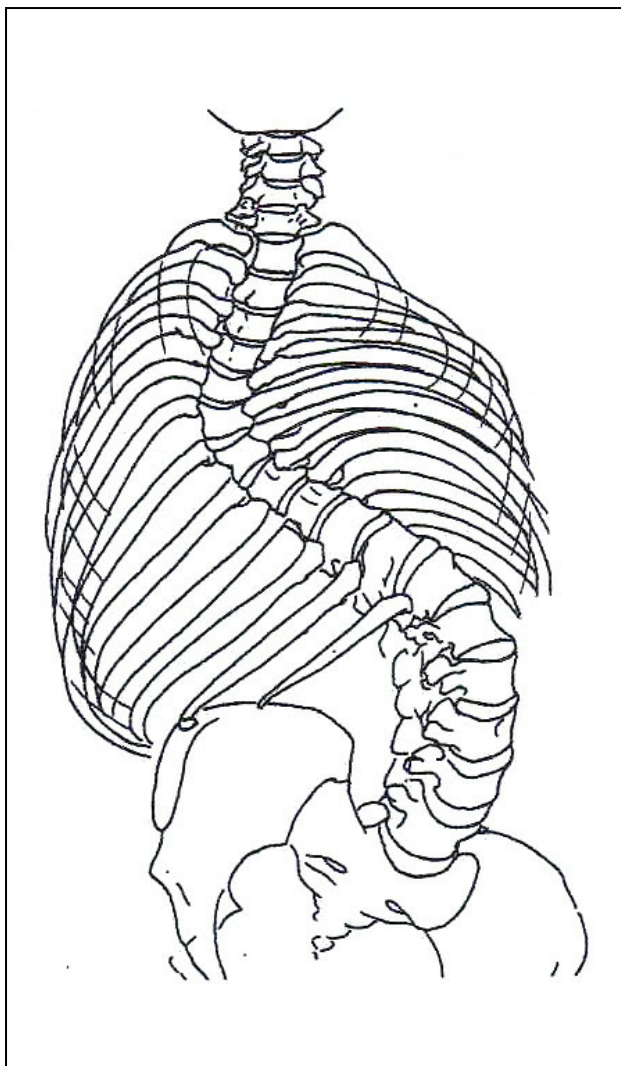


Fig.2. Scoliotic spine.

carry the same MtDNA.

This thriller has had the press enthralled for months, giving us snippets of information as they were received and culminating in the film 'Richard III: King in a Car Park', presented by Channel 4 television. Leicester wishes to retain and inter the king's mortal remains while York wishes to bring them back to the north where he lived for over a decade Does this not strike you as typically Medieval, i.e. whoever has the best relics gets most pilgrims/visitors and therefore the greatest revenue?

I would like to believe it is the king, but a little bit of me wonders if any other person buried within the friary church has similar skeletal features. After all battle injuries are not exclusive, but inclusive making it possible that the wounds could be found on several if not many soldiers' skeletal remains.

OOo

McNaught, J. M. (2006) A Clinical and Archaeological Study of Schmorl's Nodes Using Clinical Data to Understand the Past. Durham unpublished.

Rhodes, P. (1977) Physical Deformity of Richard III, *British Medical Journal* 2, 1650-1652.

Rous, J. (1491) 'Historia Regum Angliæ', manuscript in the British Museum.

Salter, M. (2010) Medieval English Friaries. Folly Publications pp 62.

ANCIENT ROUTES THROUGH PONTEFRACT

Eric Houlder.

A moment of revelation over twenty five years ago has finally reached fruition with the publication in December of *Ancient Routes Through Pontefract: from Roman Roads to the Broken Bridge*, by Chairman Eric Houlder.

The revelation occurred one day whilst standing in the Booths during the final stages of the excavation of the Saxon church and cemetery. I had the camera on a tripod on the footpath pointing at the ruined church, and noticed that the bridge carrying Monkhill Lane under the railway near Monkhill Station was in direct line with the Saxon church. On turning around, it was clear that Baghill Lane was also originally in alignment with the church before its diversion into the castle's south gate. As the latter diversion could not possibly date from before c1069, it

became clear that the route must be pre-Conquest.

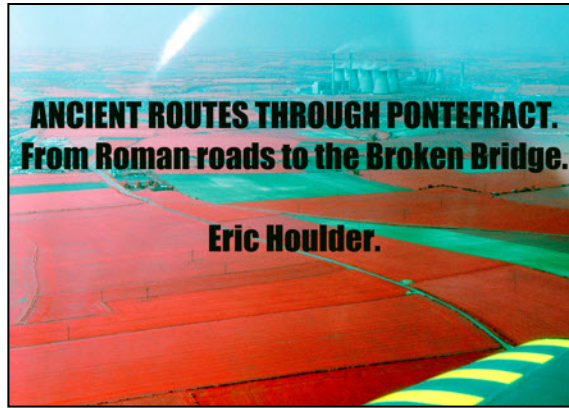
To carry this reasoning further, Baghill is the northern continuation of a route that crosses the Went at Wentbridge; ergo, the route in question is very obviously the original Great North Road. I mentioned this discovery to many members over the years, and incorporated it in my *Broken Bridge* lecture, but was still surprised that many people had no idea about its meaning for pre-Conquest Pontefract.

A long telephone conversation with Michael Wood prompted me to put it into print. Michael was working on a paper on a 'new' location for the battle of Brunanburh, 937AD. This will shortly be published in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, but it is sufficient to say here that he

believed it was fought close to Wentbridge.

As Wentbridge is not on Roman Road M28b he asked me if there was a route/road through Wentbridge before the modern concept of the Great North Road was originated. He became quite excited when I explained my theory. He urged me to put it into

print. Much later, he read through the relevant chapters, and made valuable suggestions for additions and alterations. Whilst doing this I went through my documentation of the Broken Bridge



location at Bubwith House, and came to the conclusion that, based on the latest climate charts, the Broken Bridge was actually on Pontefract's first by-pass. The finished text with images - all in colour - was accepted by Pontefract Groups Together, and CBA Yorkshire kindly gave a generous subvention

towards the final costs. So, the story finally reached print. It is available from Pontefract Museum for £7-50, or at our meetings for £7. As Yorkshire folk, is there any choice!

SAINT RICHARD'S FRIARY 2012

Following the brief season of excavation last summer. It at last became possible to confirm the plan of the friary church's east end with some accuracy.

Not only was the south wall of the structure located, but part of an external buttress too. Using the pier-base gap as a basis, our Field Director Simon was able to predict what this would look like, and insert a trench to locate it through masses of brickwork, concrete and drains. The depth of overburden is such that the

archaeology is quite safe from modern deprecation. Accordingly, the Society has no plans for further work on the site, and all efforts are now going into the Post Excavation work and the final report. The plan below shows the probable extent of the church, whilst Ron Wilson's painting overleaf gives an idea of the appearance of the priory.

New plaques are shortly being erected with Ron's pictures and brief acknowledgements of the contributions made by various organisations.





Ron Wilson's latest reconstruction painting.

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE

The original full colour painting by Ron Wilson, reproduced above, suitably mounted and framed, forms the grand raffle prize featured in our next few meetings.

As it is of much greater value than the general run of our raffle prizes, committee felt that the chance to purchase tickets over several meetings would be more appropriate than allowing it to go for 'peanuts.'

For those who have not seen it before, it depicts St Richards Priory, or Pontefract Blackfriars as it

was known in medieval times, in its final form viewed from an aerial viewpoint above the Valley Gardens.

This would make a wonderful addition to any home, particularly the home of a history or archaeology enthusiast.

Tickets will go on sale at our next meeting and subsequent ones.

AGM REMINDER

Please remember that the Annual General Meeting is approaching. Our rules stipulate that nominations for Committee members and

Officers be submitted in writing at least one month before the AGM, signed by the nominee and the proposer.

PontArc is published by the Pontefract and District Archaeological Society, and is supplied free to members in monochrome printed format. It is viewable in colour on the Society website www.pontarc.org.uk . Membership details are also available on the website.

All content is copyright © the contributors. Permission to quote or reproduce may be obtained from the Editor, erichoulder@yahoo.com.

Contributions from members are welcomed. Please contact the Editor initially with a proposal before setting anything out.