



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Photo Gallery:



Continuing our run of amusing names related photos—many thanks to Julia Stanbridge who forwarded this splendid picture of the sign for **Cowgate** in Edinburgh.

Thanks also to Pam Combes who has found an interesting vein of pseudo Latin street-names. As she says: "I had a very fruitful day in St Leonards last Saturday and since the name **Lavatoria** is no longer in use I was pleased to find a large scale OS showing it. I suppose if you are the type of person who calls some of your children Septimus, Octavia and Decimus – **Lavatoria** and **Mercatoria** as street-names are perfectly normal. The **Bohemia** photo in the header strap comes from the same sequence.



Please do continue to send photos for this slot as well as more general ones. There appears to be much scope for humour.

### Newsletter NS. 6 Spring 2013

*Welcome to another New Year of the SNSBI Newsletter. We have now reached issue 6 and it is hard to imagine that this new series has been running since the Autumn of 2010.*

*As planned, we have a new set of photos as our strap banner at the head of our pages. I am indebted to **Jillian Hawkins** for the photo of the **Kent** county boundary sign and to **Pam Combes** for the **Fonthill Farm** sign and that for **Bohemia Road**. The sign for **The Gordon Bennet Route** is one of my own, taken on our trip to the annual conference in Ireland last year. I am very pleased to have received all these contributions but do please continue to send them. There is always a need for more photos.*

*As you may remember from the last newsletter, I expect to be out of the country for much of the autumn this year. I am delighted to tell you that **Kate Hardcastle** has agreed to step in as guest editor for the Autumn 2013 issue. I will forward to her any material for the autumn issue which reaches me before I go away. However, I'm sure that she will be grateful to receive any contributions and if you need to contact her nearer the time, her email address is: <kappa.kh@ntlworld.com>*

*I hope that you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter and look forward to returning to my editorial role in 2014.*

Linda M. Corrigan (editor)

**Stop Stop Press:**  
**Cameron Lecture 2013**  
**Postponed (see page 6)**

CHARITY NO. 0177455  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:  
2012-13

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(Conference Secretary)  
Dr Veronica Smart

#### Stop Press: last chance to book

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be too late to book for the full SNSBI annual conference in Glasgow, 5-8 April 2013. There may be space for day delegates. Please contact Carole Hough <Carole.Hough@glasgow.ac.uk> for further details.

#### Ploughing Ahead

Technological, socio-economic and environmental developments in Old World ploughing. **One-day colloquium at Rewley House, University of Oxford** Friday 15th March 2013. **Organisers:** Mark McKerracher and Lisa Lodwick <http://farmingunearthed.wordpress.com/ploughing/>  
[ploughing.ahead@gmail.com](mailto:ploughing.ahead@gmail.com)





## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Conference Reports:

**SNSBI Autumn Day Conference**, 17 November 2012, at **The Cheshire Record Office**, Chester. Organised by **Chris Lewis**. Report by **Alexander Rumble**

SNSBI members, together with other local history and landscape enthusiasts, met in the Cheshire Record Office for a varied programme which provided new insights into both social and topographical contexts of onomastics. Shaun Tyas once again exhibited (and sold) a very good selection of books, while the Chester Society for Landscape History put on a display of photographs and maps which explained their activities. After a welcome from **Peter McClure**, who acted as chair, there were four papers before the break for lunch. The first was an analysis of 'Football club nicknames' by **Shaun Tyas** which was both carefully researched and presented with energy and humour. The nicknames were skillfully categorised in relation to either the club itself or its locality. Examples of the first group included *Ziggers*, *Y-Fronts*, *Invincibles*, *Trickies* and *Sheik City*; of the latter, *Hatters*, *Squirrels*, *Motormen*, *Martyrs* and *Bears*. Even non-footy fans found much to enjoy in this paper.

*(Below) Members and guests enjoy the papers.*



The second slot was taken by **Jennifer Holt** who gave a report on The Lancashire Place-Name

Survey's collection of field and minor names being undertaken by local volunteers in the county, to be included in the projected EPNS volumes edited by John Insley.

This was followed by an account, by **Tom Swales** from the Chester Society for Landscape History, of his work in organising local members in fieldwork investigating the physical context of particular field names listed in John McN. Dodgson's EPNS volumes for the county. Both these lectures are reminders of the important resource represented by local enthusiasts prepared, when coordinated under a dedicated and expert leader, to give freely of their time and individual abilities to help major research projects under way in their particular part of the country: a much underrated aspect of the P.M.'s 'Big Society'.

The fourth paper by **Chris Lewis** on 'Street-names and urban history in Chester' was introductory to the afternoon's guided walk around the city and preceded a break for lunch when delegates were free to investigate the numerous eateries in the vicinity of the Record Office. The ensuing perambulation took in many notable features of the city of Chester from Roman amphitheatre to Saxon cathedral (St John's), from the former medieval religious houses overlooking the Roodee to the gates, walls, Rows and Abbey/Cathedral which are more familiar to modern visitors. Despite opposition from a biting wind and crowds of Saturday shoppers, many significant sites, buildings and street-names were expertly contextualised by Chris, drawing on many years of research undertaken for, and published by,

the Victoria County History.

Altogether, many thanks are due to **Chris Lewis** both for organising the event and for taking such an active part in it.

The SNSBI committee took the opportunity to meet before the Autumn Day Conference. Thanks are also due to Chris Lewis for finding a place for this meeting.

*(Below) Committee members take a break from their deliberations. NB. Some committee members arrived later due to transport difficulties.*



### Lancashire Place-Names Survey AGM: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012

The 2012 AGM (see report Page 3) was followed by a talk by **Professor Andrew Breeze** who started his discussion on 'Fertility Goddesses in Pagan Celtic Lancashire' in an unexpected way with a picture of the river Medlock as it is today. As an introduction to his subject and some of Lancashire's river names it made everyone sit up.





Names Places People

# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Project updates

### Lancashire Place Name Survey

*The following is based on the report given by **Jennifer Holt** (Co-ordinator of Volunteers) at the 2012 Annual General Meeting: some parts have been extended here for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the LPNS.*

This report discusses two complementary aspects of the LPNS - the rationale behind the Survey's creation and a parallel opportunity which will exploit the huge amount of data being collected.

Initially, **Mary Higham** established the Survey in 2000 to supply **John Insley** with the evidence he needs in order to edit the new EPNS volumes.

### Ordnance Survey Maps

The Ordnance Survey is (in place-name terms) a bit on the late side. In addition, it doesn't give the field names and other minor names. But it does allow us to generate a Lancashire Gazetteer with a 100% coverage. This work is nearly completed.

### Tithe Apportionment Schedules

These maps and schedules mainly date to between 1830 and 1855. They do give the field names and so forth which complement the Gazetteer and give the finer detail we need. However, in large parts of Lancashire, tithes were not chargeable so no maps and schedules were ever made. This is a very useful source but it has lots of geographical gaps in the coverage township-sized and smaller. Both these sources (whilst invaluable) are too late for more than a tiny percentage of place names to still be in their original form. We need to go earlier to track clues backwards in time. There is another factor which needs to be

borne in mind - a great deal of Lancashire was re-organised at field level between about 1750 and 1850. During this process, old field names went missing.

### Estate Maps and Estate Rentals

Many eighteenth century landowners had maps drawn of their estates but, even when they no longer exist, we sometimes find the schedules which were created alongside and it can be these which are actually critical. And if we know in which township a place lies - we can use the data. The most valuable estate records of all are pre-1600 - though maps of this date are rare, there was a widespread creation of rentals which can be enormously detailed, listing each field and its name. This third component may cover some of the same territory as the Tithe Schedules but, clearly, it is even more valuable when the data complement the Tithe data and serve to fill in some of the gaps. The fourth component is all the pre-1500 data. This will be episodic, with a scattering here, a concentration there, and huge gaps. But the time-consuming pursuit of this will be worth it. Indeed, it is essential if **John Insley** is going to have enough early word-forms to write what is, in effect, the unknown history of Lancashire.

### Excerpting

Most of the published sources have already been trawled and we now need to move onto manuscripts. Few of us can read pre-1500 hand writing with confidence - which brings me to digital photography.

### Digital photography

This can be used for recording word-forms within all kinds of documents and for copying early maps and rentals. Not all archives are fully catalogued and not all relevant archives are stored in

Lancashire Archives or other official repositories.

### The help we need includes:

Identifying and locating estate maps and rentals and the other material referred to here. These resources may be found in many places which have no obvious link with Lancashire for larger estate archives can include records of estates which were sold decades (even centuries) ago.

### The Other Function

While some of the data collected are a bit too late to really be useful for the EPNS volumes, this does not mean they have no value. At the least, they can direct us to localities where there are concentrations of potentially early word-forms. In addition, the transcription of the Tithe Schedules continues and these are now being edited in order to be uploaded onto LANCAT (the online catalogue of Lancashire Archives). More than a dozen schedules are already on this. Making the data from the schedules available online provides important resources for both local historians and those researching family history, which are not available online elsewhere.

Furthermore, it would be good to see the LPNS evolve into a forum for discussing place names. So much of the published information which is readily available is poor or even borderline rubbish. It continues the gibberish that so many Victorian antiquarians generated and which needs suppressing.

This report only covers some aspects of the LPNS work. If you want to know more, there is an (electronic) Newsletter available to anyone interested and intended to keep volunteers and others up to date with developments. If you would like to receive it please email [holt.haslingden@gmail.com](mailto:holt.haslingden@gmail.com). LPNS thanks all its volunteers.



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Research Projects & Websites:

**Websites:** which may be of interest

### The Essex Society for Archaeology and History

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/>  
The Essex Society for Archaeology and History is the county's major society for those interested in any aspect of the past. To be a member is to join a long line of enthusiasts dating back to the 40 or so who met at the old Town Hall, Colchester in 1852 to form a society (then called the Essex Archaeological Society) "for the purpose of reading papers, exhibiting antiquities, discussions etc."

This website introduces the society and has a section on the Place-Names of Essex. The contact for general enquiries at the society is SNSBI member, John Hayward [johnzhayward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnzhayward@yahoo.co.uk) who also runs a Twitter feed [@esah160](https://twitter.com/esah160)

### LANCAT

<http://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk/calmview/>

**LANCAT** is the online catalogue for Lancashire Archives in Preston and the North West Sound Archive in Clitheroe.

It contains over 900,000 descriptions of archives which you can search by keyword using the 'Search' field above. You can also browse through collections by clicking the Reference Number in individual search results. This is the site mentioned on page 3 where the transcriptions of the Tithe Awards from the Lancashire Place-Name Survey will be uploaded.  
<http://>

### Barrow-in-Furness Civic and Local History Society

[www.barrowhistorysociety.org.uk/page2.html](http://www.barrowhistorysociety.org.uk/page2.html)

News: which may have escaped your attention

### **NZ judge orders 'odd' name change**

A judge in New Zealand made a young girl a ward of court so that she could change the name she hated—Talula Does The Hula From Hawaii. For more information see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/7522952.stm> Lest you should be in any doubt about what is allowed under New Zealand's legislation, our treasurer Julia Stanbridge emailed the NZ department of Internal Affairs to enquire and received the following link in reply. [http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1995/0016/latest/DLM359369.html?search=ts\\_act\\_births\\_resele&sr=1](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1995/0016/latest/DLM359369.html?search=ts_act_births_resele&sr=1) It seems that the relevant clause is as follows: "If, in the opinion of a Registrar...it may be undesirable in the public interest for the person to bear it, the Registrar shall notify the Registrar-General of the name or combination of names concerned, and shall not include it unless directed by the Registrar-General to do so."

### **What's in a name?**

The Observer Sunday 6 January 2013 **Eva Wiseman**  
The year's most popular baby names tell us something about who we are, and what we want to be. But will 'vintage' names stand the test of time – and changing fashions?

The most popular baby name of 2012 was Eva. Which (see top of page) is my name. This makes me feel the following things: like I am but a grain of sand on a beach at mid-tide, un-unique. Like I've been diluted. Like I'm questioning my very identity. Like, some misplaced

pride, too. As if I'm being congratulated on a best-dressed list, getting props for the fearless way I combine textures. But how much of us is our name? And what does it mean when a name becomes popular?

This is a generation of Vivians and Violets, Noahs and Alfies. A generation of babies born not only looking like grandparents but answering to their names, too. Also on [babynames.co.uk](http://babynames.co.uk)'s top 20 list are Jacob, Alice, Isla and Jack – they call them "vintage" names. Vintage and biblical names have replaced the made-up ones of the early 2000s, when celebrity culture was at its peak, and thousands of Britneys and Jaydens were born in Britain.

For the full article see

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2013/jan/06/what-is-in-a-name>

**Named and Shamed: Kent's usual suspects.** Current Archaeology, 271, September 7, 2012, p.11  
Archaeologists have deciphered the names of 14 people who lived in Kent almost 2,000 years ago. Inscribed in capital letters on a tiny sheet of rolled lead, the list was found by Maidstone Area Archaeological group while excavating a Roman Farmstead in East Farleigh, and is thought to date from the 3rd Century AD - probably the earliest written record of the area's inhabitants...

For further information see the full article or see: <http://www.maaq.btck.co.uk/Excavations/LeadScroll>

SNSBI Newsletter

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## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Publications

Please note that this is simply a listing of items of potential interest to members. Listing here does not imply any opinion regarding quality, academic rigour etc. Where appropriate, reviews will appear in **Nomina** in due course.

### Recent Publications:

**Markus, Gilbert** *The Place-Names of Bute* 630 pp. (July 2012) Publisher: Shaun Tyas (20 Jun 2012) ISBN-10: 190773015X £24 (post-free within the UK). Overseas £28 (within Europe) from Shaun Tyas. Order by email, telephone (01775 821542) or post (1 High Street, Donington, Lincs, PE11 4TA). credit cards accepted. (announcement by **Bill Patterson**)



Pictured at the launch of *The Place-Names of Bute* are (L-R): **Paul Duffy**, Discover Bute project manager for archaeology; **Dr Gilbert Markus**, the book's author; **Jessica Herriot**, who will be responsible for looking after the *Discover Bute* learning resource into which a copy of the book is being placed; **Patricia McArthur** from Rothesay Library, which hosted the book's launch and is also hosting the *DBLPS* learning resource; and **Bridget Paterson**, Discover Bute's project co-ordinator. This latest contribution to the legacy of the Discover Bute

Landscape Partnership Scheme has been written by Dr Gilbert Markus from the University of Glasgow who has produced an authoritative book which reveals the often fascinating human stories behind many of the town, village and farm names on the island. "I've very much enjoyed working on the book," **Dr Markus** said at the official launch of the book at Rothesay Library.

"It's been a great opportunity, and an opportunity to do much more than I had anticipated - I originally saw it as running to about 150 pages, and it's now got to around 630.

"The idea was to use the island's place names to shed light on the island's history and archaeology. These place names are not just names - they are a window through which we can investigate the way people lived in the past."

**Paul Duffy**, Discover Bute's archaeology project manager, said: "Dr Markus's book is a valuable addition to the *Discover Bute* legacy and a fantastic piece of scholarship which every household on Bute can enjoy."

A copy of *The Place-Names of Bute* has been placed in the Discover Bute learning resource at Rothesay Library, an archive gathered during the four years of the project which will be open to the public as a source of research

### Taylor, Simon and Gilbert Markus

*The Place-names of Fife: Volume Five: Discussion, Glossaries, Texts*. Paul Watkins Publishing (31 Jan 2013) ISBN-10: 1907730087 £24 available from Shaun Tyas (For purchasing details see column 1)

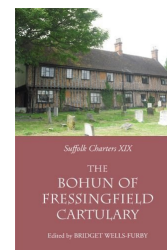
**Brusey, Ben** *Pu Pu Hot Pot: The World's Best Restaurant Names*. Publisher: Viking (Oct 2012) £8.99 ISBN10: 0670921823 Submitted by Julia Stanbridge (after hearing a radio review)



### *The Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 6

Vol. 6 of *The Journal of Scottish Name Studies* is now available online; access and download is free. <http://www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS.html>

**Wells-Furby, Bridget** (editor), *The 'Bohun of Fressingfield' Cartulary*. Boydell Press, December 2011, 240pp. ISBN 9781843836902



The documents edited here tell a story of aspiration and social mobility in late medieval Suffolk. Edmund Bohun, the younger son of a prosperous yeoman from Fressingfield,

managed through good contacts and good luck to obtain a position in the centre of administrative and political power in London, thence achieving armigerous status as well as acquiring considerable amounts of land, both in and round the village itself and elsewhere in Suffolk.

...This edition of the cartulary is presented with a detailed introduction which analyses its contents and places it in its historical and social context; it also includes other charters concerning Fressingfield which are preserved in the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich.



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# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Forthcoming events:

**Guild of One-Name Studies**  
forthcoming seminars:

**Trade Union Records Seminar**  
18th May 2013

Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL  
The venue chosen is full of surnames from the records deposited by companies and trade unions. We shall have two talks on what can be found in this venue, followed by pieces on Friendly Society records, and finishing with what can be found in the Freemasons Library.

**The Art of ONS Seminar**

10th August 2013  
Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 6AJ  
Two years on and we return to Amersham for the latest version of "How to do it" - how to run your one-name study, of course. Having listened to the Guild membership we shall try to obtain speakers who have a particular specialism in aspects of researching an ONS, especially following the Guild's "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" maxim.

**Colonial Sources Seminar**

16th November 2013  
The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU  
Many Guild members have found persons with their ONS name in the former colonies of the British Empire. Together with The National Archives specialists, we have put together a set of talks on finding that missing person, or new holder of your study surname, who may appear in the remote and not so remote colonies.

For further details and booking see:  
<http://www.one-name.org/events.html>

## MANCASS

Easter Conference 2013 **The Vikings in the North-West**  
12th-14th April 2013, University of Manchester. Speakers confirmed include: **Paul Cavill, Gillian Fellows-Jensen, David Griffiths, Charles Insley, Chris Lewis.**

There are still some spaces for speakers, so anyone wishing to offer a paper of c.30 minutes in length that deals with the history, culture and archaeology of the North-West during the Viking Age (c.800-c.1100) should contact **Dr Charles Insley**, Department of History, School of Arts, Language and Cultures, University of Manchester

([charles.insley@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:charles.insley@manchester.ac.uk))

## Society for Medieval Archaeology Conference.

Transformations and Continuities in the Eleventh Century: Archaeology of the Norman Conquest.  
20-22 September, at The University of Nottingham.

Organisers: **Victoria Bryant**  
[VBryant@Worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:VBryant@Worcestershire.gov.uk)  
and **Chris Dyer** [cd50@le.ac.uk](mailto:cd50@le.ac.uk)

## NB. Postponed from January due to snow warnings.

### 2013 Cameron Lecture:

*Explaining English Surnames* The University of Nottingham Room a48, Sir Clive Granger building.  
Friday 8th March 2013 (18:00-19:30)

Mr Peter McClure, Vice-president of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, will be discussing the research methodology of surname study in the 2013 Cameron Lecture. Some of the discussion will centre around Nottinghamshire names and the forthcoming dictionary 'Family Names in the United Kingdom'

## The Lancashire Place-Names Survey

The **2013 AGM** will be held in Preston on 8<sup>th</sup> October when **Dr. Maggie Scott** has agreed to give the post-AGM talk. There will be a small charge.

## And finally...

### Confused...you will be...

This section has been added at the suggestion of our treasurer **Julia Stanbridge** who was much taken member **Keith Briggs's** posting on the EPNL email list:

"This must be a strong contender for *Most Baffling Entry in a Place-name Reference Work*: **Leadon Court** (684466) [...] Named from the river Frome. [...]! Keith notes that later in the text, the **River Leadon** is named. The full reference is available, but the editor prefers not to point fun at other authors. Julia suggested a regular section on confusing or erroneous name derivations in print. What do you think? Have you some to offer?"

We have also received several photos (see one below) from **Bob Cumberbatch** of **The Guild of One-Name Studies**, showing "a little village place in Cheshire that gave rise to a surname that I [sic] am



particularly close to."

Have you got a similar eponymous photo? Perhaps you'd like to share it with us.