

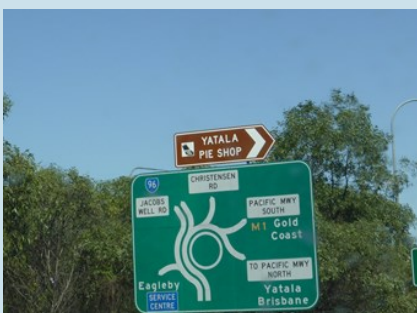


Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Odd shots:

As an inveterate snapper of signs of all kinds, I have been intrigued of late by the differing approaches to drawing people's attention to eating and other possibilities.



Close to Brisbane, Australia 2013 (BT Corrigan)



Bolton, England 2013 (D C Gill)

And then of course there is the frankly baffling— how do they know?

Brisbane (B.T. Corrigan)



Newsletter NS. 8 Spring 2014

Welcome to another new year and to the first SNSBI newsletter of 2014. I am now back in the UK and have taken back the reins from Kate. I'm sure that you will all agree that Kate did a masterful job. For my part I can't thank her enough for stepping in and enabling me to have a wonderful trip to the other side of the world without worrying about the newsletter.

This edition brings news of many and varied conferences, publications and societies which may have relevance to names studies. As members of this society we are all used to thinking of names studies as an interdisciplinary field of study, but it does seem now that a wider range of our colleagues in other historical and geographical fields are including names in their studies.

There is news of members past and present, and also of our 23rd annual conference and its interesting venue. I hope that you will enjoy reading it and that some of you will join us at the conference.

Linda Corrigan (Editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:
2013-14

President:

Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig

Vice-Presidents:

Prof Hywel Wyn Owen
Peter McClure

Hon. Secretary:

Emily Pennifold

Hon. Treasurer:

Julia Stanbridge

Membership Secretary:

Kate Hardcastle

Newsletter Editor:

Linda Corrigan

Nomina Editors:

John Baker
Jayne Carroll
Keith Briggs

Webmaster:

Committee:

Prof Thomas Clancy
Simon Draper
Prof Carole Hough
David Parsons
Paul Tempan
Veronica Smart
Prof Diana Whaley

Stop Press:

World of the Vikings conference 21-23rd March
Department of Archaeology,
University of York and York
Archaeological Trust
See p. 6

SNSBI 23rd Annual Conference Gregynog Hall,
Montgomeryshire, 4-7 April
See P.3



Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Autumn Day conference
Report by Jennifer Scherr.

Our President Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig (Dublin) welcomed a good number of members and friends to the day conference in Bristol on Saturday 16th November. This well-received event was hosted and organised by Richard Coates, Professor in Linguistics at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Richard is the director of the AHRC-funded project on Family Names of the United Kingdom (FaNUK), which is based at UWE under a research team led by Professor Patrick Hanks.

The day's focus was, unsurprisingly, surnames, and concluded with an exciting demonstration by Richard of the draft FaNUK database (containing over 320,000 surnames), from which it is planned in due course to publish some 45,000 of the most frequent. For further information, see

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/cahe/research/bristolcentreforlinguistics/fanuk.aspx>

The first speaker was Dr George Redmonds, who vividly shared his tremendous in-depth knowledge of Yorkshire surnames, based on many decades of local research, in advance of his own planned dictionary. A broader view of surnames and the art of lexicography was given by Peter McClure, in a perceptive and thorough review of previous surname dictionaries and a survey of the methodology and scope of earlier and current researchers. Two members of the Guild of One-Name Studies (which has been collaborating with FaNUK) spoke on their personal research. John Swallow explained the spreadsheet methodology he had devised for his study and Polly Rubery outlined the story of her hunt to track down the minor place-name Rowberry which gave rise to her surname. Jennifer Scherr investigated the surnames (and some personal names), mainly Norman or Anglo-Norman, to be found in Somerset place-names. She had been able to use the draft FaNUK database in preparing the presentation. This had

brought to light a few gaps and inconsistencies: but also proved what an invaluable resource the FaNUK database will be when it is publicly available

Australia musings: (*editor*)

I cannot claim any expertise in the place-names of Australia but as I travelled around in the autumn of 2013, I could not help but feel that to look at its place-names meant turning everything that one had ever learned on the subject upside down. It was almost impossible to gauge the age of an English language name, topography was questionable in many cases and the polyglot names were juxtaposed in an almost mind blowing confusion.



Faced with a huge variety of indigenous naming languages and the superimposition of so many European languages, I can only applaud the efforts of APNS to survey the existing geographical names of this amazing continent.



Names Places People

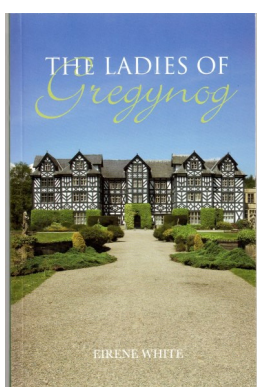
SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Looking forward to Gregynog:

The society's **23rd Annual Conference** will take place at Gregynog Hall, Montgomeryshire, 4-7 April, organizer **David Parsons**.

By the time that you receive this newsletter, most of the places at the conference will be booked. However, there may be some cancellations or opportunities to attend as a day delegate. Further details can be obtained from epennifold@wales.ac.uk

For further information about the venue, a Victorian 'mock-Tudor House' well worth a visit



in itself, there is a book entitled 'The Ladies of Gregynog' by **Eirene White**, University of Wales Press, 2011.

ISBN 9780709324059. It tells the story of the Davies sisters and their association with Gregynog and the Gregynog Press.

Before the main conference and at the same venue, there will be The **Second SNSBI Postgraduate Workshop** on

2-4 April. This event aims to bring together postgraduate students interested in the field of onomastics. Further details can be found at http://www.snsbi.org.uk/2014_Gregynog_postgraduate_workshop.html

Below is a draft programme for the for the main conference. Details will be subject to alteration nearer to the time of the event.

Programme (Draft)

Friday 4 April
Registration (from 15.30 onwards)

Dinner (18.30)

After dinner

- **Prys Morgan**, 'Introducing Gregynog'
- *Committee meeting*

Saturday 5 April

- **Carole Hough**, 'Belt and braces: the body metaphor and beyond in place-names'
 - **Alison Burns**, 'Ghosts, Flukes and Hungry Hills: an overview of field-names from North East Scotland'
 - **Richard Morgan**, 'Montgomeryshire place-names'
 - **John Baker**, the place-names of Shropshire.
- Lunch**, followed by an opportunity to explore Gregynog's grounds

- **Alice Crook**, 'Oddities and ambiguities: methodological issues in the consultation of the Scottish Old Parish Registers'

- **Aengus Finnegan**, 'Mac Fiachra > Feighery, Hunt, a Co. Offaly surname'

- **Graham Collis**, 'Looking for Angles and Saxons in the Lumbres Canton'

- **Paul Cullen**, 'on some Kentish surnames'

Dinner

- Report from postgraduate workshop
- **Peter Kitson**, 'Old English main road-names'

Sunday 6 April

- Annual General Meeting
- Project reports
- **John and Sheila Rowlands**, 'From patronymics to settled surnames in Wales: aspects and influences on transition'
- **Angharad Fychan**, 'Golwg ar rai o'r enwau lleoedd y Canolbarth' [Some place-names from mid-Wales]

Lunch

Coach excursion to Clun, Shropshire taking in Offa's Dyke and 'Welsh' Shropshire

Dinner

- **Thomas Owen Clancy**, 'Saints in the Scottish landscape'

Monday 7 April

Breakfast, followed by dispersal /

- *Committee meeting*



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

News: People

Charles Jeffrey Spittal remembered by Jennifer Scherr.



Charles Jeffrey Spittal (above right), a founder member of SNSBI, died in Kendleshire, South Gloucestershire, on October 27th 2013, aged 89. Jeffrey was the Engineering Faculty Librarian of the University of Bristol from 1949 to his retirement in 1984, by which time he also had responsibility for the Mathematics and Geology library collections, and had built up impressive historical research resources in all these subjects. Jeffrey, as a founding officer of the Frampton Cotterell and District Local History Society, gained the well-deserved reputation of 'village historian'. He was also the first Information Officer of the Avon Local History Association (1978-

85). After retirement he spent over 20 years as Honorary Librarian of the New Room (John Wesley's historic chapel in Bristol), becoming, in the process, an expert bibliographer and biographer of Methodist history. He wrote prolifically on local and family history, but amongst EPNS and SNSBI members he is best known for his major bibliographic contribution, with the late John Field, to *A Reader's Guide to the Place-Names of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland* (Stamford: Paul Watkins, 1990). This was a happy collaboration between two members of the EPNS and fellow retired librarians!

Tribute

At the UWE meeting on 16 November 2013, Hywel Wyn Owen paid tribute to Tomos Roberts, formerly archivist at Bangor University. He was prominent in Welsh toponymic circles, with an incomparable knowledge of historical and oral sources especially those of his native Anglesey and with an uncompromising insistence on rigorous methodology (and little patience with those whom he described as enthusiastic but uninformed meddlers).

News: Societies other than SNSBI

A useful website is that of the **British Association for Local History** <http://www.balh.co.uk/index.html>

It includes many useful links to projects and publications which may be of use to SNSBI members

Lancashire Place-Name Survey

Ordnance Survey Maps

The transcription of the 1840s Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 mapping for Lancashire was completed some months ago. A phase of checking and editing is underway and only 33 of the 116 sheets still need processing.

It is hoped that these data will be made available as a layer on the County Council's MARIO web page, where they will also be of use to those trying to find places and sites – particularly those which were later built over and lost during the development of our industrial towns.

Continued on Page 5



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

LPNS continued from previous page

Tithe Schedules on LANCAT

Leyland Hundred is now complete and on LANCAT. Amounderness is progressing rapidly as are Lonsdale and Blackburn Hundreds. Salford and West Derby Hundreds will follow - more speedily if people volunteer to transcribe them.

Transcribing Tithes

The arrival of more sensitive/powerful digital cameras (and their acquisition by LPNS members) is allowing a transformation of the way in which the Tithe Commutation Schedules are transcribed by volunteers. Some members are now photographing these schedules either to transcribe themselves or for the use of other members. Lancashire Archives has generously waived both the usual £5 per day fee for photography in the Search Room and the rule that limits the photographs to the use of the photographer.

For further information for volunteers either as photographers or transcribers, please contact Jennifer Holt volunteers.lpns@gmail.com

Welsh Place-Name Society

SNSBI members will be pleased to learn that membership of WPNS currently stands at 138. Rhian Parry is supervising the distribution of the £60,000 Heritage Lottery award to support and encourage local Place-Name activities. In November Rhian Parry and Hywel Wyn Owen attended a day conference in Bala dedicated to discussing ways forward in recording oral evidence of minor hill names and to ensuring that existing names are given proper status by expanding leisure agencies.

Introducing other societies

The Guild of One-Name Studies is an organisation which counts some SNSBI members among its numbers. Although familiar to many members, it is less so to others so this item is intended to introduce the guild to non-members.

Some guild events are listed in the forthcoming events on pp. 6-7 but there are many more - far too numerous to list in a publication of this size. Further details of the guild and its events can be found at <http://www.one-name.org/onename.html>

Below is text from the website introducing the concept of One-Name Studies.

The guild defines a one-name study as: **Research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surname and its variants.**

This is distinct from family history, in that it is the surname that is of interest, rather than the family tree of members of the same family with several different surnames. However, it does involve many of the same research skills and techniques as family history, and most one-namers are actively researching both their own family and their one-name study.

People often start one-name studies when they get stuck on part of their own ancestry, and believe that if they were to collect all references they find to the surname then this will lead to a break-through. Often it does. Even if it does not, having collected this data the one-namer becomes an expert on his or her name, even when the name is carried by apparently quite separate family groups.

Continued on page 6



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Introducing other societies *Continued from previous page*

While one-name studies can be quite arduous in terms of data collection, they can also be immensely rewarding, both in their ability to offer new insights into the surname and in being able to assist other family historians around the world.

As well as data collection and analysis, the Guild also encourages members to publicise their study, publish its results and preserve them for posterity.

One-namers build up a unique understanding of their name and its significance both geographically and historically. As a recognised centre of information on the name, they will also receive enquiries from, and exchange information with, members of the public with an interest in the name. Over time, they become the worldwide expert on the name and make new friends around the world.

Forthcoming events: from SNSBI (after the annual conference)

SNSBI autumn meeting
A tribute to Margaret Gelling at the Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury, 25 October 2014.

Forthcoming events from other societies and organisations which may be of interest to SNSBI members

World of the Vikings conference 21-23rd March

Department of Archaeology, University of York and York Archaeological Trust
The conference celebrates 40 years of Viking Archaeology in York, in memory of friend and colleague, Dr Richard Hall.

Dagfinn Skre has agreed to give the keynote lecture, several of Richard's colleagues from York Archaeological Trust will present papers, and other contributors will include Gareth Williams, Neil Price, David Griffiths, John Sheehan, Hannah Cobb, Nela Schola-Mason, James Barrett, Soren Sindbaek and Steve Ashby.

The conference will be based at The King's Manor, University of York, in the centre of the historic city,

Booking details online: <https://worldofthevikings.eventbrite.co.uk>

The British Museum The BP Exhibition **Vikings life and legend**

6 March-22 June 2014

Book online at http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/vikings.aspx

The **Guild of One-Name Studies** Annual Conference & AGM, 11 April 2014, at Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford, TN24 8UX, Programme based on the theme '35 years on — the way forward'.

MANCASS Easter Conference 2014 : Womanhood in Anglo-Saxon England 15-17 April 2014

Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Victoria Park, Manchester, M14 5RR

Topics will include: female identities, historical women, literary creations, laws and penitentials, sexuality and marriage, archaeology and art. Of particular interest to SNSBI members may be two papers on the Wednesday morning 16 April. The first is on *Female names in Old English* by Elisabeth Okasha and the other on *Contextualising women's names on objects* by Elizabeth Coatsworth.

Queries about the conference should be addressed to brian.schneider@manchester.ac.uk



Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

44th symposium of NORNA *Scandinavian Names and Naming in the Medieval North Atlantic Area*

Caen (Normandy) April 23–25, 2014

Subject: The topics of the symposium will include place names, personal names and other types of names.

Temporally it will primarily be limited to the Viking era and geographically to Northern France and the British Isles. Relevant topics of discussion include language contact and culture contact, as well as different types of names and naming patterns. Other issues may involve names and settlement, names and society, etc.

Venue: University of Caen

Collaborators: Centre Franco-Norvégien en Sciences Sociales et Humaines (CFN, MSH), Office Franco-Norvégien d'Echanges et de Coopération (OFNEC – *carré international* – Université de Caen Basse Normandie) and Centre de Recherche Inter-langues sur la Signification en Contexte (CRISCO, EA 4255 de l'Université de Caen)
(continued on p. 7)

Symposium languages: English and French

It may be too late to book for

this symposium by the time this newsletter reaches you but you may like to look out for publications emerging from it.

Between Places and Spaces: Landscapes of Liminality

A Cross-Disciplinary Conference **5-6 June 2014** Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

The recent 'spatial turn' in literary and cultural studies marks an attempt to comprehend the ways in which we conceive of and construct the places and spaces we occupy. It illustrates a complex picture of the changes and consistencies of our experience of space over time, and the relationship between individuals and society at large.

This two-day cross-disciplinary conference aims to bring together a wide variety of perspectives from within the humanities, in order to explore man's composite and mutating relationship to spaces and places. We are interested in the literal and the metaphoric, the real and imaginary facets of space and place. The conference

will probe what it means to be 'liminal', examining those areas and moments in which one is caught between the intimate and the exposed, the familiar and the frightening - between place and space.

Further details can be found at: <http://spacesbetweenplaces.wordpress.com/>

The Guild of One-Name Studies

Sources in the Medieval to Early Modern Periods

Date: 2nd August 2014
Location: Fulneck School, Fulneck, Pudsey, Leeds, Yorkshire LS28 8DS, UK

Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru/Welsh Place-Name Society.

WPNS will hold its fourth annual day conference on Saturday 4 October 2014 at Swansea University. The conference programme is being drawn up by Hywel Wyn Owen and the local arrangements are being co-ordinated by Professor Christine James and staff at Academi Hywel Teifi.

Advance Notice: Lancashire Place-Name Survey: 2014 AGM - provisional dates

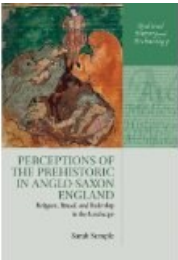
Either 7th or 14th October are the most likely options.



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Publications

Recent :



Semple, Sarah
Perceptions of the Prehistoric in Anglo-Saxon England: Religion,

Ritual, and Rulership in the Landscape (Medieval History and Archaeology).

OUP Oxford (24 Oct 2013)
 ISBN-10: 0199683107
 ISBN-13: 978-0199683109

According to the publishers, this book represents an unparalleled exploration of the place of prehistoric monuments in the Anglo-Saxon psyche, and examines how Anglo-Saxon communities perceived and used these monuments during the period AD 400-1100. Sarah Semple employs archaeological, historical, art historical, and literary sources to study the variety of ways in which the early medieval population of England used the prehistoric legacy in the landscape, exploring it from temporal and geographic perspectives. Key to the arguments and ideas presented is the

premise that populations used these remains, intentionally and knowingly, in the articulation and manipulation of their identities: local, regional, political, and religious. They recognized them as ancient features, as human creations from a distant past. They used them as landmarks, battle sites, and estate markers, giving them new Old English names.

Wells-Furby, Bridget
Medieval property Transactions in Rutland Abstracts of Feet of Fines 1197-1509

(Rutland Local History and Record Society occasional paper no. 10, 2013, 108pp. ISBN 978-0-907464-48 -8) £10

Varey, Sharon M. and Graeme J. White (editors) with an introduction by **Dai Morgan Evans** *Landscape discoveries in the North West*

University of Chester Press
 2012 xvii + 272pp
 ISBN 978 1 908258 00
 £12.99
 From the Chester Society for Landscape History (CSLH). The papers which form the

content of the book were presented at the CSLH's successful 25th anniversary conference in 2011. Includes a brief description of a CSLH field names project.

Forthcoming:

Gelling, M. & Cole, A.
Landscape of Place-Names, a new edition, with small changes and corrections.

Paul Watkins Publishers, Donington. (Due April 2014)

Redmond, George *Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames*, 'a massive 800-odd page book and his life's work!'

Paul Watkins Publishers, Donington. (Due April 2014)

Purchasing details for both from: Shaun Tyas at: <member@pwatkinspublishing.fsnet.co.uk>

It is hoped that both will be ready for the annual conference.

SNSBI Newsletter
 Contact details
 Phone: 01565 654014
 email: linda@corrigan.demon.co.uk
 Website: <http://www.snsbi.org.uk/>

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.