



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Newcastle Autumn Day Conference 2016



At the town wall



Blackfriars



Street sign in Chinatown

Photographs by  
Katrin McClure

Report on page 2

## Newsletter NS. 14 Spring 2017

Dear SNSBIans

Perhaps thanks to global warming, things seem to have speeded up somewhat since Chaucer's day, and with the steady lengthening of daylight hours and occasional hints of Spring in the air, our thoughts turn to our annual pilgrimage to the Spring Conference. Full details of this year's programme are included in this issue, as well as notice of forthcoming events of other organizations.

2017 marks an important event in the English Place-Name Society: 50 years at Nottingham. The occasion will be marked by a rather bigger event around the Cameron Lecture, which this year will take place in the winter (date to be confirmed).

The *Newsletter's* editor, Linda Corrigan, is not at the helm for this issue, as she awaits the imminent (or possibly recent, by the time of publication) arrival of her first grandchild, but I would like to express my thanks to her for having done much of the donkey work for this issue and to all our contributors, some of whom have provided material at short notice.

Sadly, rather than new arrivals, the last few months have seen the departure of several long-standing members of the Society who will be greatly missed.

Kate Hardcastle

CHARITY NO. 0177455  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:  
2016 -17

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**Stop Press:** last chance to book

### SNSBI Spring Conference Steventon, Oxon

Owing to cancellations, there are some residential places available, and also it is not too late to enrol as a day delegate. If you are interested in either of these options, please contact Julia Stanbridge without delay: treasurer@snsbi.org.uk.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Conference reports:

**Welsh Place-Name Society Conference Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru** report by **David Thorne**

This year's annual conference of the **Welsh Place-Name Society** was held on 1 October 2016 in **Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi, Denbighshire**.

Visiting different locations in Wales is part of the Society's mission and an opportunity to demonstrate that this area of study appeals to audiences across Wales and beyond. In the past we have welcomed members of the **Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland** and the **Scottish Place-name Society**. Our guest speaker this year was **Aengus Finnegan** from Ireland.

The conference was opened by **Linda Tomos, National Librarian of Wales**. She emphasized the common ground between the Library and the Society and stressed the importance of co-ordinating the efforts of the various bodies involved in heritage conservation.

Papers were delivered on the *Place-names of Fflint* by **Professor Hywel Wyn Owen**; the *Archives of Ruthin Estate as a source for place-name*

*research* by **Kevin Mathias**; *Medical elements in the place-names of north Carmarthenshire* by **Professor David Thorne**; and *Medieval poetry as a source for place-name research* by **Dr Ann Parry Owen** and **Andrew Hawke**.

It was announced at the conference that **Professor Hywel Wyn Owen's** study on *The place-names of Fflint* had been delivered to the University of Wales Press.

**SNSBI Autumn Day Conference: Names of North-East England and Beyond. 15 October 2016, Mining Institute, Neville Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne**  
Report by **Linda Corrigan**  
(photos by **Brian Corrigan**)



SNSBI members and local guests met on a rainy day in Newcastle upon Tyne in the Grade II\* listed **Neville Hall**, which houses the **Mining Institute**. It is a very impressive Victorian Gothic building which provided excellent facilities for our day conference and the opportunity to view the wonderful library at

lunchtime.

After a welcoming coffee, we were given an introduction to the **Mining Institute** by **Simon Brooks**, one of the custodians, which enlightened us about the history and function of the institute. He was followed by **Paul Cullen** who took us on an interesting tour of the *Locative surnames of Northumberland*. Our journey took us from **Booklawes** near **Melrose** in the Scottish Borders, home of the **Buglass** family south to **Coquet Dale** in Northumberland, from where the **Cogdale/Cogdell** family hailed. On the way, we deviated through Cumberland to **Farlam**, where the **Fairlamb** family came from and back into Northumberland to **Stokoe** (home of the **Stoker** family, **Paston** in Kirknewton



(**Paxton** family), **Morpeth, Rochester** and **Beadnell**. **Peter McClure** followed on with *The origins of the north-east England surnames Surtees, Del Strother,*



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*Delafield and Delford*, challenging the view that these are topographic surnames with fused Anglo-Norman preposition and article, as proposed by **P.H. Reaney** and **R.M. Wilson**, in the light of modern evidence not available at the time of their publications. This paper appears in a much larger version in the latest edition of *Nomina*, Volume 38, and the further details are well worth pursuing. Then before lunch Diana Whaley treated us to a very enlightening paper on *The naming of Northumberland forts and castles*, explaining 'the vocabulary of defence' in historic Northumberland with particular reference to Old English *burh* and *ceaster*.

After a splendid lunch, **Fiona Edmonds** treated us to a discussion of the somewhat neglected *Gaelic place-names and personal names in Medieval north-east England* during which she investigated the links between north-east England and the kingdom of the Scots and the ecclesiastical connections to explain the presence of Gaelic names which are more often

associated with the north-west of England. **Simon Taylor** extended the links with Scotland still further by discussing *Busses and Carrs: Some rock- and island - names in the Firth of Forth* in a paper as full of puns and entertainment as it was full of interesting insights into the naming of rocks and islands. The sedentary part of the day was then concluded by **Leonie Dunlop** who followed Simon's theme by talking about *Beasts of the earth and birds of the sky: motivation and narrative in the coastal names of Berwickshire*. Her paper discussed the possibility that there may be multiple factors in play in the formation and reinterpretation of whole groups of names of topographical features in this dramatic coastline.

The day was completed with **Colm O'Brien's** walking tour providing an *Introduction to Historic Newcastle*. This was much appreciated for its interest, the opportunity for exercise after sitting down all day and its culmination in a local pub. All in all, a

wonderful day organized by Diana Whaley with her usual care and flair, for which everyone was very grateful.

On the way back to the hotel we found yet another interesting Newcastle street sign



The **26th Annual Spring Conference** will take place at Milton House Hotel, Stevenston, Oxfordshire, on 24th-27 March 2017

The conference celebrates the work of Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole on the place-names of the area. It also marks the publication of the *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*, with talks by editors and contributors, and the opportunity to consult the dictionary during the conference.

### Programme

*Friday*

5.30 pm registration

6.30 pm dinner

8.00 pm opening lecture Ros

Faith: Farming in woodland

landscapes



Names Places People

## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### **Saturday morning**

9.15 Introduction

9.30 Katie Hambrook and Jane Harrison: Land use in East Oxford: comparing the test-pit and field-name evidence

10.00 Kishli Laister: Place-names and the study of the medieval wool trade in Gloucestershire

10.30 break

11.00 Simon Draper: Place-names in Anglo-Saxon estates in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire  
12.30 lunch

### **Saturday afternoon**

2.15 Harry Parkin: Change in the By-names and Surnames of the Cotswolds

2.45 Patrick Hanks: Surnames of the South Midlands

3.15 pm tea

11.30 John Baker: Place-names and the evolution of administrative geography on the Chiltern dip slope

12.00 Rob Briggs: Investigating *-ingas*: a fresh look at Old English group names and the social groups behind them

3.45 pm Paul Cullen: Locative surnames in Oxfordshire

4.15 pm Kay Muhr: family names in Irish Townland

4.45 pm time to socialize/  
walk in hotel grounds

6.30 pm dinner

### **Saturday evening**

8.00 Dagmar Wodtke: Foreign names in Medieval Irish  
20.30 Justin Ó Gilasáin: MeithealLogainm.ie: crowd sourcing minor place-names  
21.00 Daphne Nash Briggs: Pre-Roman language(s) in East Anglia

### **Sunday morning**

9.00 AGM

10.00 Ann Cole: South Oxfordshire place-names

11.00 break

11.30 Jeremy Harte: Talk of the Devil: Devil's in English place-names

12.00 Jennifer Scherr: From Birnbeck to Boatstall and beyond: some names of coastal features in Somerset  
12.30 lunch

### **Sunday afternoon**

1.45—6.00 coach excursion around South Oxfordshire and the Chilterns, led by Ann Cole (relevant maps for the trip are 1:50,000 Landranger 164 Oxford and 175 Reading and Windsor, or the old 1 inch (1:63,360) maps 159 The Chilterns and 158 Oxford and Newbury)

6.30 dinner

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6.30 dinner

### **Sunday evening**

8.00 Carole Hough: "All that glisters": gold and silver in English and Scottish place-names  
8.30 Simon Taylor: Dating medieval Scottish place-names: from Balbuthie to Stevenston  
9.00 Oliver Padel: English place-names in west Cornwall

Shaun Tyas will be providing the bookstall at the conference venue

### *Suggestions for Friday pm:*

**Steventon**, a picturesque village, with a medieval causeway and timber-frame houses is about 30 mins walk from the hotel.

**Bennett & Kerr**, Steventon, OX13 6SW, specialists in antiquarian, rare, and scholarly books on the Middle Ages and Renaissance. On 24th March they will be offering tea and cake for members who visit their shop as well as rides back to the hotel for anyone arriving on foot or by taxi.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Mary Atkin (1928-2017)

We remember with great affection, Mary Atkin, formerly of Levens, Kendal, who has died, aged 88.

I first met Mary and her husband Bill in 1981, at the Hull conference of the Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland (this society's fore-runner), and then at every conference thereafter, for decades! Mary was a professional geographer, teacher, and lecturer. Her Inspirational papers, many published in *Nomina*, were rooted in the

landscape of her beloved north-west of England. Her fieldwork, together with her historical geographical approach, brought us new scholarly insights — and a breath of fresh air to the then sometimes dry theoretical research world of place-names study.

Mary served on SNSBI's committee from 1994-97, contributing her previous experience as a council member with humour and wisdom. In 1993, she and her great friend (and pupil) Mary

Higham organized the first conference in England of the new society, at Alston Hall, Preston — a weekend which is still warmly remembered.

Mary's enquiring mind, lively personality, encouragement of others, and above all her good company enriched the society's gatherings and helped to establish the welcoming atmosphere we still enjoy today. She is much missed. *Jennifer Scherr*

### Duncan Probert (1961-2016)

Duncan died in December 2016 after a short but devastating illness. He will be remembered as a brilliant and unconventional soul with a kind heart.

Like so many who attend university in later life, he did not flourish in his early education, though a young teacher realized that the disruptive little boy in her class was very bright but bored. She gave him a book about the Anglo Saxons and set him a project on place-names, at which point we might say the die was cast, but the road to onomastics was not direct. Duncan left school before finishing his A-levels, trained as a bio-mathematician, and after a

variety of other jobs he entered Birmingham University in 1995, where he met Steve Bassett and Margaret Gelling. After completing his doctorate in 2002, he spent three years at Birmingham as a British Academy Fellow. He became a council member of the English Place-Name Society, and was involved in two large projects: the 'Profile of a Doomed Elite', based at King's College, London, and the Family Names of the UK, based at the University of the West of England.

Duncan was a keen gardener and naturalist as well as a skilled cook and jam maker, and he had a great love of classical music. He could identify most birds by their song and was intrigued by the phenomenon of bird dialects. He never earned much, but would still feed the birds in his garden when he could hardly afford to feed himself.

He met fellow medievalist Alison in 2007, and with her enjoyed a happy and enduring partnership founded on shared academic interests and enthusiasm for all manner of things. *Shaun Tyas*

Sadly, we have also received news of the death of **Ivan Levey** of Edinburgh, who had been a member of SNSBI since 1995.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### News: Other Societies

#### Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress

At the 2016 Congress A.G.M. held on Saturday 25th June, the ongoing difficulties related to the running of Congress, and options for its future, were discussed.

It was the unanimous decision of the meeting that Congress should be dissolved, and that its key functions, including the staging of Symposia, the publication of the Panel of Speakers, and the co-ordination of the various local societies falling within the remit of Congress, will pass to ESAH (Essex Society for Archaeology and History).

With effect from Tuesday, 20th September, the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress ("Essex Congress") was removed from the Central Register of Charities and ceased to exist as a body corporate. For any enquiries please contact <http://esah1852.org.uk/index.php>

While the Essex Society for Archaeology and History is in the process of re-development to reflect this and other changes, it may be necessary to contact officers directly.

#### Lancashire Place Name Survey Annual Lecture, report by Jennifer Holt

The Lancashire Place Name Survey AGM and annual lecture took place on 25 October, 2016 at Preston Record Office. Both were well attended.

The lecture was given by Dr Jayne Carroll who focused upon her work editing the more recent EPNS volumes for Shropshire. Jayne's talk was wide ranging and many of the points she made were picked up by her audience in the discussions which followed, particularly around the advantages of digital publication. Altogether an inspirational evening, where the content was very relevant to the LPNS and prompted some thought-provoking discussions.

#### Forthcoming events

##### English -Place Name Society

The next **Council meeting** will be held on Saturday 11th March at Nottingham, and the **AGM** is to be held in London on Tuesday 19th September, at the British Academy

SNSBI Newsletter  
Contact details  
Phone: 01565 654014 email: [newsletter@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@snsbi.org.uk)  
Website: <http://www.snsbi.org.uk/>



#### Lost Landscapes: Reconstructing Medieval Essex

Medieval Essex was a land of rich variety, including estuaries and marshland, coastline and rivers, royal forests and ancient countryside. The landscape around us can seem like a fixed and permanent thing but it is, in fact, ever-changing, shaped by both natural and human forces. This event will bring together expert speakers to explore how the landscape of medieval Essex shaped the lives of the people who lived there, and how they in turn shaped the environment around them. For further details please see [www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/events](http://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/events)

Saturday 18 March 2017, 10.30am-3.30pm  
Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT  
Tickets: £20 including refreshments and lunch, please book in advance on 033301 32500

In partnership with the Essex Place Names Project and the Essex Society for Archaeology and History



**Final Notice:** This conference noted in earlier issues of this newsletter will take place on **Saturday 18 March 2017, 10.30am-3.30pm** at the **Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT**

Full details available from [www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk](http://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk)  
Phone: 033301 325000

#### The 38th Conference and AGM of the Guild of One-Name Studies

31 March—2nd April 2017  
Port & Starboard  
Winchester Road  
Boorley Green  
Southampton SO32 2UA

For booking and further details see

[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)

The **25th Congress of Onomastic Sciences** will take place this year at Debrecan in Hungary, from 27 August to 1 September. By the time you receive this newsletter the programme is due to have been finalized and online registration will have opened.



*University of Debrecan*

Full details of travel and accommodation (there is a wide range, from student hostel at 34 euros to hotel at 119 euros per night for a single room) have already been posted (accessible via [www.icosweb.net](http://www.icosweb.net)). The events programme includes a banquet on 1st September (included in conference fee), a choice of three one-day excursions (cost: 65 euros per person), and a choice of three 3-day excursions to

various parts of Hungary from 2-4 September, ranging in price from 210 -227 euros per person.

For the indefatigable onomastic enthusiast, the option then arises to continue to Baia Mare in Romania for **ICONN4**, the 4th International Conference on Onomastics Name and Naming: Sacred and Profane, which runs from 5-7 September. Baia Mare also has some spectacular ecclesiastical buildings, which are well worth visiting.

For further information, visit [www.onomasticafelecan.ro](http://www.onomasticafelecan.ro).



*Baia Mare*

## Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society

The Archaeology of Anarchy? Landscapes of War and Status in 12th century England

Oliver H Creighton (Exeter University)

Tuesday 7 March at 7.30

for full particulars email: [yas.mediealsec@gmail.com](mailto:yas.mediealsec@gmail.com)

## Council for British Archaeology members' tours

### The Archaeology around Newcastle

**12 - 14 May 2017**

highlights include tours of Segedunum, Ouseburn tunnel, Arbeia, and Jarrow Hall, and Dame Rosemary Cramp talking about Bede and the monastic sites of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow

For booking or further details: <http://www.andantetravels.co.uk>

## The Essex Archaeological & Historical Congress Symposium

will take place on 4 November, 10 am-4.30 pm at Christchurch URC Chelmsford.

Further details from: <http://esah1852.org.uk/index.php>

## SNSBI 27th Annual Conference

6-9 April 2018  
Blackwaterfoot, Arran



More photos at <http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arran/blackwaterfoot/>



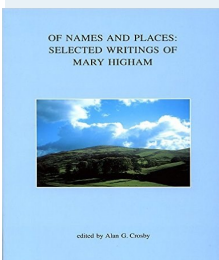
## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Publications which may be of interest to members:

#### Previously published:

The committee would like to draw members attention to :

***Of Names and Places: Selected writings of Mary Higham***, edited by Alan Crosby. 1st



ed.(2007) Paperback: 208 pages

ISBN10: 0904889777

ISBN-13: 978-0904889772

SNSBI published this celebration of Mary Higham's work jointly with the EPNS and has a considerable number of copies still available either through Amazon or directly from Shaun Tyas

[shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk](mailto:shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk)

#### ***Voprosy Onomastiki***

(Problems of Onomastics)

The editorial board of the journal ***Voprosy***

***Onomastiki*** is pleased to inform colleagues of the publication of **Vol. 13 (2016), Issue 2**. The issue is available on the journal's website:

<http://onomastics.ru/en/content/2016-volume-13-issue>

Please note listing here does not imply any opinion regarding quality, academic rigour etc. Where appropriate, reviews will appear in ***Nomina*** in due course.

### Recent Publications:

***Shropshire Place-Names ending in "-ford"***, by Susan Laflin



ISBN-10: 1326237225

ISBN-13: 9781326237226

Paperback – 17 Sep 2015  
£7.50

In 2000, as part of an M.A. course in Birmingham University, the author made a study of place-names in Shropshire ending in "-ford". The resulting dissertation has now been edited and presented in this booklet. It describes the 64 place visited with place-names ending in -ford and discusses their relevance to the road system and the settlement pattern. Since the relation of these place-names to the Roman roads in Shropshire is an important part of the study, a summary of what is known about Roman roads in Shropshire is also included.

***The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland***, Patrick Hanks, Richard Coates, and Peter McClure

ISBN: 978-0-19-967776-4  
(4 volume set): £400, available from OUP and Amazon (carriage free)

The free access to the online edition initially granted to SNSBI members having been withdrawn by OUP, the best way of accessing it now is through a local government or university library, assuming that they have a subscription to it. If they haven't, members should ask their library to purchase it.

### Forthcoming publications:

The ***Place-Names of Shropshire Part 7*** (the Hundred of Stottesdon and the Borough of Bridgnorth), is scheduled for publication in the spring; publication of ***Part 8*** (The Hundred of Overs, the Lower Division of the Hundred of Munslow, and the Borough of Ludlow), is planned for later this year.

The ***Place-Names of Kinross-shire***, Simon Taylor, Peter McNiven and Eila Williamson (eds) ISBN 978-1-907730-58-0, will be published soon after the Spring conference. Email Shaun for latest news and SNSBI member special price: [shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk](mailto:shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk)