



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Book Early for Arran

SNSBI 27th Annual Conference, 6-9 April, 2018, Blackwaterfoot, Arran. <http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arran/blackwaterfoot/>



Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde, and is

easily accessible by public transport, with Glasgow the main staging post for those coming by train or plane. The Kinloch Hotel, our venue, is located in the village of Blackwaterfoot, on the west side of Arran, 11 miles from the island's main port of Brodick. It is in a beautiful location, looking out directly onto a sandy beach and well-situated for walking. The hotel will provide us with accommodation, conference facilities, meals and leisure facilities all within the one building.

More details and instructions for booking are available in the first circular included with this newsletter, as well as on the SNSBI website. Please do book early (and by 20th November at the latest) as space is limited. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Arran!

Ellen Bramwell

'Call for papers' on p. 6.

Newsletter NS. 15

Autumn 2017

Hello again, and welcome to the 15th issue of this newsletter.

As has become usual, I have changed the banner photos with the new official SNSBI year. Three of this year's photos were taken by Brian Corrigan; 'Denton Chare' in Newcastle upon Tyne, 'Greensted' in Essex and 'Land of Green Ginger' in Hull, during our travels in 2016. Carter's Lane was drawn to my attention by several cycling aficionados, who found it on one of their blogs. It seems to be in Hertfordshire.

This year, we welcome a new president on our usual three-year cycle. Professor Carole Hough, is well known to society members and has already served a three year term as vice-president. Carole introduces herself on p.6.

At the AGM in Steventon this spring, I announced my intention to stand down from the editorship of this newsletter, when my term of office ends in 2019. If there is anyone out there who would like to take it on, I would be happy to talk with them about what is involved and also to share with them the production of my final 3 issues, so that they can take over seamlessly, while taking the opportunity to put their own stamp on what seems to be a useful and, I hope, enjoyable asset for members. If you are interested, please do get in touch. My contact details appear at the end of the newsletter.

Once again, I would like to thank all those members who have supplied information and news for this issue and to encourage all members to send me news and photos on any onomastic topic or about society members.

Linda M. Corrigan (editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:
2017-18

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Stop Press:

Last chance to book for:

- **SPNS/SNSBI Autumn Day Conference, 4 November, 2017, Glasgow**

- **Essex Society for Archaeology and History Symposium, 4 November 2017, Chelmsford**

(more details of both on back page)



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Conference reports:

SNSBI

26th Annual Conference,
Milton Hill House Hotel,
Steventon. 24-27 March, 2017
Report by **John Briggs**
(Photos by *Katrin McClure* unless
otherwise stated)



It was a warm and sunny spring afternoon as we arrived at **Milton Hill House Hotel** for the SNSBI Annual Conference (the postgraduates had gathered earlier for an informal meeting rather than their usual workshop).

The only sign of the hamlet of **Milton Hill** is **The Packhorse** inn, beside the sleepy country road that was once the A34. The hotel shares a campus with the research laboratories of *Infineum* – a name which conceals the fact that it is a joint venture of **Exxon-Mobil** and **Shell**. **Milton Hill** is some distance from the village of **Milton** and its industrial park, and is now separated from them by the new (and busy) A34. It is, in fact, closer to the village of **Steventon**, with its 14th-century church and



timber-framed cottages (see photo above) and the splendid warehouse of specialist booksellers **Bennett & Kerr**. Many of us took advantage of their kind invitation to tea and cake on Friday afternoon.

Milton Hill House was built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, but was completely refurbished in the early 20th century for the **Singer** family (of sewing-machine fame), and has had institutional uses since then. With its many meeting rooms (our lectures were held in the “Singer Suite”), the hotel must mainly cater for corporate training events, but it is also popular (as we were to discover) with wedding parties.

Since 1974 **Milton** and **Steventon** have been in **Oxfordshire**, but historically

they were in **Berkshire**.

Margaret Gelling had edited the **EPNS** volumes for both **Oxfordshire** and **Berkshire**, so her scholarly legacy was the principal theme of the conference - a subsidiary theme was marking the publication of *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*. Our conference packs each included a printout of our own names.

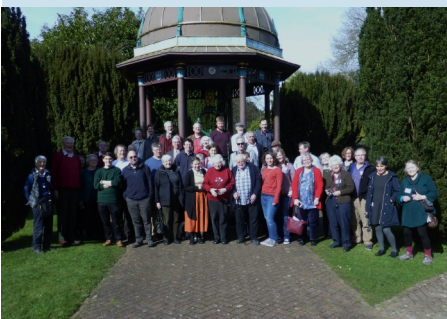
Ros Faith gave the opening lecture on Friday evening discussing farming in woodland landscapes, with particular reference to the place-names of Oxfordshire. We were soon to discover that the hotel bar was perhaps the most expensive in Christendom – that may have been the reason the evenings were largely occupied by lectures. The determined sought out **The Packhorse**.

Keith Briggs opened proceedings on Saturday with a short personal tribute to **Margaret Gelling**, illustrated with examples of how she had helped some of his own research. By an onomastic quirk, he was one of three speakers that day with the surname “**Briggs**”! The morning papers dealt with aspects of the place-names of the region, with family names taking over in the afternoon. (continued on page 3)



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Sunday was one of those occasions when the AGM had to compete with the confusion caused by the clocks going forward. There were tributes to **Duncan Probert** and **Mary Atkin**. Afterwards **Ann Cole** discussed the topographical and geological features affecting the place names of **South Oxfordshire** – a prelude to our onomastic coach trip that afternoon, when we travelled through the former part of **Berkshire**, before crossing the **Thames** and exploring the **Chilterns**. We stopped briefly at **Stoke Row**, where we admired the splendid cast- and wrought-iron well head, resembling a miniature bandstand (1864, the gift of the **Maharajah of Benares**, recently restored) (see photo below by Brian Corrigan)



and then longer at Henley (see photo next column) before returning for dinner and the final lectures.

All too soon it was Monday morning, and time to leave. It had been a very successful conference, focusing on its twin themes, but embracing papers on **Ireland**, **Scotland**



(houses in Henley) and **Cornwall**, as well as the difficult-to-categorise “*Foreign names in Medieval Irish*” and “*Pre-Roman language(s) in East Anglia*”.

New President and Treasurer enjoy working in the sun at Steventon. (photo by L. Corrigan)



As usual, a more formal report and papers from the conference are expected to appear in Nomina in due course. (Ed)

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland Edited by **Patrick Hanks, Richard Coates, and Peter McClure** Published: 17 November, 2016
 Hardback: £400.00
 2016. 3,136 Pages
 276 x 219mm
 ISBN: 9780199677764

- Covers over 45,000 family names in the UK, including immigrant names
- Each entry includes the current and 1881 frequencies of the name, its main GB

location, and its language or culture of origin

(Dictionary as mentioned in previous report. Photo of Harry Parkin, with publicity material, taken by J.Scherr)



- Each main entry explains the name's origins and history, supported by a selection of early bearers taken from a wide range of sources such as wills, tax records, court records, parish registers, Nonconformist circuit records, and many other documents
- Entries for variants direct the reader to the main entry where the history and etymology of the name is covered
- Contains a full list of published and unpublished sources consulted
- Introductory essay explains the origin, history, and typology of family names in Britain, Ireland, and elsewhere in the world, the research methods used, the sources used, and some of the problems encountered in researching family names Explains many surnames never previously explained and corrects many widely believed errors in the light of new evidence



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Other conference reports:

Lost Landscapes:

Reconstructing medieval Essex. A Conference held at the **Essex Record Office**, 19 March 2017. Report by **Andrew Smith**.

This well attended Conference was the fruit of at least a year's planning by the **Essex Record Office** in partnership with the **Essex Society for Archaeology and History** and the **Essex Place Names Project (EPNP)**. The Society has been a keen supporter of **EPNP** since its foundation over 20 years ago.

Framed around presentations about the **EPNP** by **Dr James Kemble** and **Paul Mardon**, four expert speakers considered how the landscape of medieval Essex shaped the lives of people who lived there, and how they in turn shaped the environment around them.

Dr Jim Galloway, an independent researcher specialising in medieval economic and environmental history, took as his subject '*Storms, floods and fisheries: the Thames marshes in the later middle ages*'. He considered human activity from the **Foulness** coastline to the capital, charting the reclamation and embankment of salt marshes for agricultural

purposes in 1198 at **Tilbury**, 1199 at **West Ham**, and the obligation upon **Rainham** residents in 1203 to defend the marshes. However, declining temperatures and failed harvests brought famine between 1315 and 1319. This climate change caused frequent storm surges. In 1374/75 considerable loss was caused to the land at **Barking** and **East Ham**. Where breaches of sea walls occurred, the land was used instead as fisheries, and records suggest overfishing at **Barking** in 1386. Land use also changed in the **Wennington** area to supply sheep at **Romford** market. In a survey in 1421 it was reported that fish kiddles, dams for catching fish, had recently been erected at **Stanford-le-Hope**, **Mucking**, and **Leigh**. In 1424 there were more fish weirs and kiddles at **Foulness**. During the fifteenth and sixteenth century attempts were made to drain marshes but at **Stratford** in 1538 it was recorded that 1000 acres were by then under water.

Graham Jolliffe, Research Data Manager at the **Institute for Social and Economic Research** at the **University of Essex**,

considered his parish of **Stebbing** in a talk entitled '*Reconstructing an Essex medieval deer park*' which is the product of research with **Professor L. R. Poos** of the **Catholic University of America** to transcribe, interpret and map the medieval and Tudor manorial documentary evidence of the village. Beginning with the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1875, names such as **Stebbing Park** give clues to the deer park's location. The Tithe Map Award of some 30 years earlier gives field names with suffixes Park, Lodge, Gate and Lawn, with **Dunmow Gate**, **Three Corner Lawn** and **Waterlog** (lodge) being specific examples. Much earlier records, the Calendar of Patent Rolls / Close Rolls, record **Stebbing** as already having a Deer Park in 1237. By the 1580s the site had become disparked probably due to the move of the **Capel** family from **Stebbing** to **Hadham Hall** in **Hertfordshire**.

Dr Christopher Thornton's research has included medieval buildings, settlement and field systems and the history of modern seaside resorts in **Essex**. Most recently he has been investigating the history of the parish, market town and abbey of **St Osyth** for the
(continued on p. 5)



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next volume of the **Victoria County History**. His topic '*The Wick farms of St Osyth*' considered land ownership and use: **Bishop's Wick** and **Jaywick** belonged to the **Bishop of London**, but other lands were in the hands of the **Abbess of St Osyth**. There was a long history of continuous settlement of dairy farmers and cheese making. The Tithe Award map of 1840 shows very little change in boundaries compared to 1539 when the Abbey was dissolved.

Professor Stephen Rippon, Professor of Landscape Archaeology at the **University of Exeter**, explored the extent of continuity in land-use from the Roman through to the early medieval periods in his most recent book '*The Fields of Britannia*'. Born and brought up in **Essex**, he is currently researching the development of territorial structures (kingdoms, civitates, counties, and estates) across eastern England and spoke on a work in progress in his talk entitled '*Early medieval estates in Essex*'. **Professor Rippon** began by saying that Anglo-Saxon archaeological investigations have produced very little evidence of occupation by these migrants to modern day **Essex, Hertfordshire** and **Middlesex** compared to

other areas in eastern England. He suggested that this was not because of lack of excavations but perhaps because the remnants of Romano-British culture remained in the county until well into the seventh century. The region has a few high status burials, the most notable being **Sutton Hoo** in **Suffolk** with others at **Prittlewell, Broomfield** and **Kelvedon**.

He suggested that groups of medieval parishes once formed larger administrative estates? Taking as an example the **Rodings**, and other like-named parishes in west **Essex**, such as the **Willingales** and the **Lavers**, it seemed probable that sinuous parish boundaries could have been the limit of these estates, rather than the irregular and later carved out, boundaries along high ground. It was also suggested that the ancient Hundreds in the Domesday survey, such as **Dengie**, might give further clues and that the northern boundary of **Essex** may have been the **Gipping** divide towards **Ipswich**. This is an intriguing work in progress.

The next major society event will be a symposium in November 2017. Please see the back page for further details.

Websites: which may be of interest to members.

Voprosy Onomastki
(Problems of Onomastics)

We have received notice that: The editorial board of the journal **Voprosy onomastiki** (*Problems of Onomastics*) is pleased to inform you of the publication of Vol. 14 (2017), Issue 2. The issue is available on the journal's website: <http://onomastics.ru/en/content/2017-volume-14-issue-2>

SNSBI has also been advised that issues **25** and **26** of the **ICOS Newsletter** have been issued. **Issue 25** can be downloaded from the website: <https://icosweb.net/drupal/newsletter> and **Issue 26** will soon be available there too.

News: Other Societies:

Guild of One-Name Studies

The October edition of Family Tree Magazine is now available and features The Guild and One-Name Studies. An article on pp. 22-24 looks at



'*Setting up a One-Name Study*' and pp. 66-67 Spotlights the Guild and gives details of the organisation. Read more at : <http://one-name.org/family-tree-magazine-spotlights-the-guild/>



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SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

News: SNSBI People

Introducing SNSBI's new President



I am delighted and honoured to have been elected President of SNSBI. I joined the Society in 1992, just in time for the first annual study conference, held in Belfast, and I have warm memories of the welcome extended to me as a newcomer. At that time, I was working as a Research Associate in Place-Names at the University of Nottingham, where I also completed my PhD. From there I moved to the University of Glasgow, being appointed as Lecturer in English Language in 1995, and promoted to a personal chair in Onomastics in 2009. Over the years, I have attended most of the Society's conferences, making many friends and hearing some of the best papers ever presented in our field. I also had the privilege of being involved in the publication of some of those

papers during my ten years as editor of *Nomina* (1998–2007), and of organising two spring conferences in Glasgow (1997 and 2013). Alongside SNSBI, I have been actively involved in other societies, including the Scottish Place-Name Society, of which I am currently Convener. I am particularly looking forward to the joint autumn day conference of both societies on Saturday 4 November, at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. I hope to see many of you there!

Carole

Call for Papers:

SNSBI Spring Conference
6-9 April 2018,
Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran.

The organising committee would like to welcome offers of papers for the conference. Slots for papers will be 30 minutes, including 10 minutes for questions. Titles and short abstracts (100-300 words) should be submitted to Ellen Bramwell at ellen.bramwell@glasgow.ac.uk.

The deadline for offers of papers has been extended to Monday 23rd October, 2017.

Papers on any aspect of onomastics, in Britain, Ireland and beyond would be welcomed

Introducing SNSBI's new Promotions Officer

We are also delighted to welcome to the SNSBI committee our new **Promotions Officer, Dr James Butler of Lancaster University**, who will be developing initiatives to raise the profile of the Society in a digital age. This is a new post and marks the growing need to give SNSBI a more public face.

Other SNSBI News:

It will be of interest to members that there is now a full contents list for all volumes of *Nomina* on the SNSBI website along with PDFs of the articles in volumes 1-10. Thanks are due to **Keith Briggs** for his efforts to achieve this.

<http://www.snsbi.org.uk/Nomina.html>

News: Other Societies (continued)

Lancashire Place Name Survey (LPNS)

In the most recent newsletter, it was announced that, thanks to the efforts of LPNS volunteers, the extraction of place-names from all 118 sheets of the **Ordnance Survey** first edition 6 inch maps is all but completed, after 15 years work. For further information visit: www.lpns.org.uk

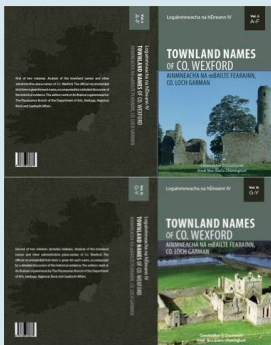


SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Publications which may be of interest to members:

Recent Publications:

Townland Names of county Wexford, by **Conchubhar Ó Crualaoich** and **Aindí Mac Giolla Chomhghaill** was



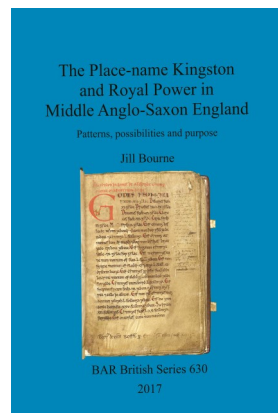
launched in February 2017 by **Seán Kyne T.D.**, Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs saying: “This book represents the results of years of comprehensive research, and the analysis throws new light on a number of areas beyond toponymy.”

The two parts:

I: Introduction and analysis; Townland names A–F, and II: Townland names G–Y; Indexes, are priced at €25 each part and are available from **Government Publications**, from bookshops in Wexford and Dublin or directly from the **Placenames Branch** at logainmneacha@ahg.gov.ie.

The Place-name Kingston and Royal Power in Middle Anglo-Saxon England
Patterns, possibilities and purpose, by **Jill Bourne**

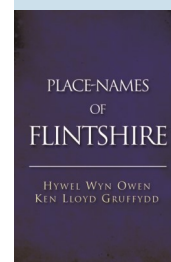
BAR: B630, May 2017. £39
ISBN: 9781407315683
BAR British Series,
180 pp. 4 tables, 20 figures,
69 colour maps.



“In this significant study, Jill Bourne presents the corpus of all 70 surviving Kingston placenames, from Devon to Northumberland, and investigates each one within its historical and landscape context, in an attempt to answer the question, What is a Kingston? She addresses all previous published work on this recurrent place-name, both scholarship with an etymological focus and contextual scholarship which examines the names within their wider context.”

Place-Names of Flintshire
by **Hywel Wyn Owen** and
Ken Lloyd Gruffydd

University of Wales Press,
July 2017, 272 pp.



Special offer for SNSBI Members
20% Discount (see details on enclosed flyer)

Late News:

New Website Announcement:

The Essex Society for Archaeology and History will officially launch its new website on 14 October 2017 at the **University of Essex**. The website can be found at <http://esah1852.org.uk/>

Baby Names facing extinction:

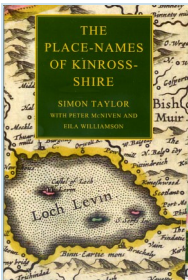
According to <http://www.bounty.com/pregnancy-and-birth/baby-names/> several traditional British forenames are likely to become extinct in 2017: Brenda, Lynne, Jane, Sharon, and Doreen for girls and: Tim, Lionel, Ronald, Alan and Ian for boys. Is your family bucking the trend?

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.



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

More Recent Publications:

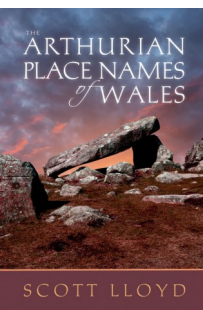


The Place-Names of Kinross-shire by **Simon Taylor, Peter McNiven, and Eila Williamson**

Series: Survey of Scottish Place-Names, 7. Shaun Tyas, 2017, 752 pp. £35
ISBN 978-1-907730-580

Special offer to SNSBI members: £28 post-free within the UK. Email Shaun for price for overseas
shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk

Payment by cheque to Shaun Tyas at: 1 High Street, Donington, Lincs, PE11 4TA, credit card on the telephone (01775 821542) or Paypal to email address



The Arthurian Place Names of Wales by **Scott Lloyd**
Paperback: 288 pp.
University of Wales Press, 2017.

ISBN10: 1786830256

ISBN-13: 978-1786830258

This new book examines all of the available source materials, dating from the ninth century to the present, that have associated Arthur with sites in Wales. www.uwp.co.uk

Forthcoming events

Lancashire Place Name Survey AGM, Wednesday 25th October 2017, 6pm for 6.30, in Lancashire Archives. Lecture afterwards by Dr Charles Insley of The University of Manchester.
nigelrjneil@googlemail.com

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY



History & Archaeology Symposium
Registered Charity 213218

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2017

10AM TO 4.30PM

CHRIST CHURCH URC

NEW LONDON ROAD CHELMSFORD

ESSEX

The Essex Society for Archaeology and History welcomes you to the 2017 History and Archaeology Symposium.

The day will be split with the morning session devoted to three talks with an Archaeology theme, and the afternoon session devoted to three talks with an ecclesiastical history theme. The cost is £10.00 per person, which includes mid-morning and mid-afternoon refreshments as well as a buffet lunch.

Book your place now to avoid disappointment.

Nick Wickenden - *Pleshey Castle*
Shane Maher - *Vinegar Alley Walthamstow*

Maria Medlycott - *Harlow Temple Pottery*

Ken Crowe - *Essex Monasteries*
Martin Stutchfield - *Monumental Brasses*

Andrew Smith - *Essex Churches then & now*

To book contact Dr Graham Gould at drgegould@aol.com

SNSBI Autumn meeting

SNSBI will join the SPNS for its 2017 autumn day conference, at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow on 4 November 2017. <http://spons.org.uk/day-conference-4-november-2017-glasgow>
SNSBI's autumn committee meeting will also be held.



Welsh Place-Name Society Autumn Conference, Saturday 6 October 2018, Bangor. SNSBI will join with the **Welsh Place-Name Society** for this meeting and will also hold its autumn committee meeting at this event.

SNSBI 28th Annual Conference, 2019, Nottingham (TBC)



SNSBI Newsletter

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newsletter@snsbi.org.uk

Website: [http://](http://www.snsbi.org.uk/)

www.snsbi.org.uk/