



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Book early for Nottingham

SNSBI 28th Annual Spring Conference, 26-29 April, 2019, University of Nottingham



Plans are coming together for the 2019 Spring conference. The first circular should go out on email by early October. It would greatly help the organisers if you could book your places with an expression of interest and a deposit as soon as possible after the circular comes out.

Speakers lined up include: Professor **John Beckett** for the Friday evening opening talk. For 2019 the conference will include the biennial **Cameron Lecture**, in memory of Professor **Kenneth Cameron**, which will be given on the Saturday evening by Professor **Lesley Abrams**.

It is anticipated that the conference will take place in **Cripps Hall**. (see photo left)



### Newsletter NS. 17 Autumn 2018

*Hello again, and welcome to my penultimate newsletter as editor.*

*As usual at this time of year, I have changed the banner photographs. For this change, as my last, they are all from our own collection, mostly taken by Brian, my husband. **No Place** has disappeared in the mists of time and we can no longer remember where we took it. **Plaxtol, Borough Green** etc. are all in **Kent**. **Barnoldswick (Lancashire)** is from a rich seam of disused railway station names which we found at **Townley Hall, Burnley (Lancashire)**. **Bowlalley Lane** is in **Hull (Yorkshire)** and **Pleckgate Fold** is in **Blackburn (Lancashire)***

*Again, we have had to say goodbye to a number of long-standing society members (see pages 6 & 7). However, we also have some very good news to announce. For a long deserved recognition of one of our members (see page 4). We should also congratulate our former Hon. Secretary, **Harry Parkin** and his wife on becoming parents, with the arrival of baby **Arthur**, in April. **Harry** did sterling work as secretary and he will surely apply a similar level of care and attention to his new role.*

*Like many other members, I really enjoyed this year's annual conference in **Arran** (see pages 2-4 for the report), which was probably unique in its inclusion of both a distillery on the Sunday outing and resident seals outside our windows. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next conference. (see column left)*

Linda M. Corrigan (editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:  
2018 -19

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### Stop Press:

#### Last chance to book for:

**Welsh Place-Name Society Autumn Conference, Saturday 6 October 2018, Bangor.** SNSBI will join with the **Welsh Place-Name Society** for its autumn meeting for 2018 and will hold its autumn committee meeting at this event. (Booking will have closed by the time this newsletter reaches you but you could contact [enwaulleoedd@gmail.com](mailto:enwaulleoedd@gmail.com) for last minute availability)



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

**Conference reports:**

**SNSBI 27th Annual Conference** 6-9 April 2018, **Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran**  
Report by **Jennifer Scherr**



*(Photo by Susan Kilby)*

“If you can't see Goatfell, it's raining. If you can see Goatfell, it's about to rain.”  
(with thanks to **June Nielsen**, letter to *The Guardian*, 21.3.18)

Not long after reading this, I was sitting with fellow conference attenders on the **CalMac** ferry from **Ardrossan** to **Brodick**, and had my first sight of the **Isle of Arran** - under low cloud. **Goatfell**, when eventually the cloud lifted, was covered in melting snow. But we were lucky, more or less avoiding rain the whole weekend.

On arrival, it was a crowded bus along the central String Road (so named because it looked like a piece of string winding over the hill) that took us from the ferry to the Best Western **Kinloch Hotel** at **Blackwaterfoot**. My copy of

the **Island Guide** marked the spot with a silhouette of a seal. On the Saturday morning I woke to see the beach, with some grey rocks offshore, and as I looked, the outline of the rocks seemed to start moving – seals, indeed, basking in the weak spring sunshine.

The weekend conference programme began as usual after dinner on the Friday, following a welcome by our President, **Carole Hough**. We were privileged to be addressed by **Ian Fraser**, our first Secretary, and an expert on the island and its names. Ian also acknowledged the pioneering oral survey work done by our first President, **Bill Nicolaisen**, in the early 1960s. Later we discovered that Ian's book, *The Place-Names of Arran* (Arran Society of Glasgow, 1999) was on sale at the Brodick tourist information office, where a clean sweep was made!

*(Group photo below taken on the Sunday by Liz Curtis)*

Saturday morning saw presentations on mainly Old Norse place-names in the **Hebrides** and **Isle of Man** (**Peder Gammeltoft**) and on **Lewis** (**Sofia Evemalm**, followed by **Richard Cox**). After coffee **Sara Uckelman** introduced her database of English “puritan” names, comparing them with protestant names of a similar period in **France** and the **Low Countries**. **Alice Crook** spoke on the reasons why surnames might have been used as middle names in early modern **Scotland**. **Ellen Bramwell** then added a global, cross-cultural approach in her discussion of the anthropological significance of personal names.

The afternoon offered us a variety of source materials and methodological issues. **Aengus Finnegan** discussed the '**Black Islands**' in **Co. Longford** identified in the **Placenames Database of Ireland** ([www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)). **Diana Whaley** spoke on Northumberland names





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extracted from the **Ordnance Survey Name Books** (those of most other counties having been lost in WWII bombing); and **Chris Lewis** showed how the **AHRC-funded Exon Domesday project** has exposed the processes underlying the DB Survey ([www.exondomesday.ac.uk](http://www.exondomesday.ac.uk)).

**Alison Grant** spoke on revising the onomastic content in Scots dictionaries (using the example of changing regimental names) and **George Broderick** enlarged on the work of the **Arran Place-Name Survey** in the mid 1970s.

After dinner, **Thomas Clancy** investigated the 'local' saint, **Mo Laise**, of **Shiskine** and **Lamlash**, and whether he can be identified with any of the 40 or so Irish saints of that name. Then **Kay Muhr** discussed place-names reflecting the legend of 'mad' king **Suibhne/Sweeney**.

At Sunday's AGM, **Harry Parkin**'s resignation as Honorary Secretary was accepted with regret, and **Rebecca Gregory** warmly welcomed in his stead.

The conference papers continued, focusing now on landscape names. **Paul Tempan** looked at Irish *tonn* and *dumha*, dune names, and whether concealing Brittonic cognates related to Welsh *tywyn* and *tywod*. We then

moved to the Berwickshire hills, to which **Dàibhidh Grand** is testing whether Gelling and Cole's 'hypothesis' can be applied, and considering a digital tool to be developed to analyse hill-shapes. **Richard Jones** spoke on the **Leverhulme Project 'Flood and Flow'**, and the evidence – or even warnings - which river names and riparian settlement names in England can supply. (<https://waternames.wordpress.com>)

This was complemented by **Susan Kilby** on the 'watery' microtoponymy of **Alrewas**. In both papers, extensive drainage programmes and changes in river channels over the centuries needed to be borne in mind.

Floods - and rain - were avoided, and we enjoyed fine weather for our Sunday afternoon coach trip: clockwise round the north of the island, from **Blackwaterfoot** to **Lochranza** (stopping at the distillery) and Brodick (stopping again for refreshments) and back again, across the String Road. Just before re-entering **Blackwaterfoot** we paused at the village of **Shiskine** to look at **St Molios Church** (1889), and the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century effigy, apparently a grave slab, now on the external west wall of the church. This effigy has been

erroneously identified with 'St Molios' (or St Mo Laise, of whom see above).



(Photo by Jennifer Scherr)

The conference ended with a report from the postgraduate workshop and other projects. **Dàibhidh Grand** explained that this year's postgraduate workshop had happened in **Glasgow** before the conference. It included a visit to the **University's Special Collections** (particularly maps) and a walking tour of Glasgow's Gaelic place-names, led by **Alasdair Whyte**. SNSBI was thanked for sponsoring lunch and the train to the ferry for the postgraduates.

**Keith Briggs** then introduced his proposal for a new standard for document date description, which could potentially be widely adopted: [http://keithbriggs.info/document\\_date\\_descriptor.html](http://keithbriggs.info/document_date_descriptor.html) This was discussed with interest.

(continued overleaf)



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Following the end of the formal programme, the floor was opened for other contributions. **Jake King** explained his plans for a new survey of Isle of Arran place-names.

**Alasdair Whyte** drew attention to the study of Glasgow Gaelic place-names, part of a larger '**Glasgow Life**' project. <https://glaschu.net/category/language/>

**Ellie Rye** is adding place-name and related information to the **Leverhulme Project 'Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia'**

[EarlyMedieval@RendleshamLL](mailto:EarlyMedieval@RendleshamLL)

**Carole Hough** mentioned the **REELS** project, of which **Dàibhidh Grand**'s PhD is a part

(<https://berwickshire-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/>)

**Chloe Colla** is a **Glasgow** PhD student working on an area of **Cumberland**, including field-names.

**Jessica Treacher's Nottingham** PhD thesis is on tree species in **England**, starting with major names.

**Joshua Neal**, also a **Nottingham** PhD student, is working on Scandinavian place-names in **Essex**.

**Simon Taylor**, Co-Editor with **Richard Cox** of the *Journal of Scottish Name Studies*, reminded us that the journal is freely available online at <http://www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS.html>

Finally, **Sara Uckelmann** told us more about her database of medieval names from

European sources.

<http://dmnes.org/names>

The tradition of musical late nights at conference continues. We even had a larger group than recently, partly thanks to Kay Muhr's family, but also – and fittingly – thanks to Ian Fraser and George Broderick singing unaccompanied.



(photo by Diana Whaley)

### News: Other Societies

#### Dr. Veronica Smart



(photo courtesy of Veronica Smart)  
A long standing member of

**SNSBI** has been awarded **Honorary Membership** of the **British Numismatic Society**.

There are only six honorary members of the society at one time, and one of the qualifications is for 'scholars whose primary interest lay in other fields, who have made a contribution to British numismatics'. Dr Smart's work on names was cited in her award.

### Other conference reports:

**Aithnám an chré agus an chloch...**, 'on minor placenames' (A bilingual workshop), was held on 17-18 May 2018 at **Dublin City University (DCU)**.  
Report by **Mairéad Nic Lochlainn**

The workshop was organised by **Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, DCU**, and was held to create a forum to discuss minor placenames, their collection and to present the work and the research on minor placenames in Ireland and abroad. There were speakers present from all over Ireland as well as two guest speakers from Britain. Among the speakers and the attendees were placename researchers and collectors, members of local heritage and historical groups, lecturers, students, teachers and historians.



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**Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig** (former **Chief Placenames Officer** of the **Placenames Branch** and former president of the **SNSBI**) gave the opening lecture in which he spoke about the preservation of minor placenames and about the collecting he did himself in **Co. Donegal**.

**Máire Seó Breathnach** (**Waterford City & County Council**) reported on the work of **Waterford City & County Council's Placenames Committee** and the placename collection that is underway by the schools in the county.

**Mícheál Ó Domhnaill** (**Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh, Gaith Dobhair**) gave us an insight into minor placenames research in the northwest of **Co. Donegal**.

**Máire Feiritéir** presented the minor placenames in her native area, the **Gaeltacht** community of **An Cheathrú Rua**.

**Seán Ó Cualáin** and **Seosamh Ó Súilleabháin** (**Oidhreacht Loch Con Aortha/Loughaconeera Heritage**) gave a guest lecture on the research methods they used in preserving the local history of **Loch Conaortha** by mapping the names for the next

generation.

**Éamonn Ó hÓgáin** spoke about the minor placenames of **Dún Caoin** and the book *Logainmneacha Dhún Chaoin*.

**Aengus Ó Fionnagáin** (**University of Limerick**) took us through the field work that he has done on the placenames of **Lough Ree** and the surrounding area in **Co. Westmeath**.

**Patrick Duffy** (Emeritus Professor of Geography in **Maynooth University**) gave a guest lecture entitled *'The significance of landscape legacies of field names in Ireland.'* He has done research on minor placenames in **Co. Monaghan, Co. Mayo** and **Co. Meath**.

**Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill** (**The Placenames Branch**) and **Brian Ó Raghallaigh** (**Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge**) gave a practical session on using [Meitheal Logainm.ie](http://MeithealLogainm.ie). This is a community placename collection project developed by **Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge** in collaboration with the **Placenames Branch** of the **Department of Culture, Heritage** and the **Gaeltacht**.

**Rebecca Gregory's** (**University of Glasgow**) guest lecture was entitled

*'Sense of place in the digital age: recent innovation in the English Place-Name Survey.'* She described her work with the **Staffordshire Place-Names Project**.

**Eve Campbell** (**Louth Field Names Project**) illustrated how minor placenames hold clues to the history of the landscape.

**Dearbhala Ledwidge** and **Alan Counihan** (**Kilkenny Field Names Project**) gave us an overview of the work that has been done collecting the field names of **Co. Kilkenny**. They played a clip from the film *Naming Ground* to illustrate the work.

**Jerome Lordan** gave a presentation on his collection of minor placenames in the **Old Head of Kinsale** area of southwest **Co. Cork** and has entered these names in [Meitheal Logainm.ie](http://MeithealLogainm.ie).

**Simon Stewart** discussed *Mountain Views*, a hillwalking website.

**Simon Taylor** (**University of Glasgow**) gave a guest lecture on field names and other minor names in Scotland.

The workshop concluded with a historical walking tour of the local area (**Drumcondra**), led by **Séamas Ó Maitiú**.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### News: SNSBI People

**Dr George Redmonds**  
an appreciation by **Peter McClure** (photo courtesy of Mrs. Ann-marie Redmonds)



Members of the Society will have been deeply saddened to hear of the death of **Dr George Redmonds** on August 10th 2018. He was a pioneering scholar on origins of English surnames, especially but not exclusively those of his native county, Yorkshire. Publications like his *Surnames and Genealogy: a New Approach* (1997), *Surnames, DNA and Family History* (2011, co-authored with **David Hey** and **Turi King**) and the monumental 841-page *Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames* (published in 2015 by **Shaun Tyas**) have made a profound difference to our understanding of the way modern surnames evolved from their (mostly) medieval origins. He did for English surnames research what **W. G. Hoskins** did for landscape

history. All kinds of names interested him. His *Christian Names in Local and Family History*, published by the National Archives in 2004, remains by far the best book on the subject. He was also a prolific researcher and writer on Yorkshire place-names and recently on dialect vocabulary. The last work he completed was a *Historic Yorkshire Dictionary*, to be published in print-form by the **Yorkshire Archaeological Society** and online by the **Borthwick Institute**. He was the kindest and most generous of colleagues and a good friend to this Society (and its former existence as a Council), which he said to me the day before he died had been a lifeline for him, when he was earning a living as a freelance writer and lecturer. He was a brilliant speaker and gave a number of memorable papers at **SNSBI** conferences, including the one at **Ripon** in 1990, which he organised. I was glad to have been asked by his wife **Ann-marie** to say something at the funeral on August 29th about George's contribution to name studies, and that she was happy for the Society to send a spray of white roses and lilies to be placed at the grave. A full appreciation of the man and his work will appear in the 2018 volume of *Nomina*.

The Society has also had to say goodbye to other members during 2018.

The sad loss of **Dr Fiachra Mac Gabhann** in January



2018 was announced to members at the AGM by **Pat McKay**, a long time friend and colleague.

**Fiachra** will be remembered by many members for the papers that he gave at many annual conferences.

He attained his first degree in Irish Folklore in 1992 in **UCD** before moving to **Queen's University** in **Belfast**, where he achieved further degrees in Celtic Studies. He worked in the **Northern Ireland Place-Name Project** in **Queen's** in the 1990s and published a volume on the place-names of north **Antrim** in 1997. He was later awarded a Government of Ireland Fellowship under the auspices of **NUI Galway**, which allowed him to engage in full-time research that led eventually to the publication of the ten-volume study *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo* in 2014, which was the largest book in the Irish language. He was also a member of the **National Folklore Foundation**. (Taken from *The Argus*). Further details at: <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/argus/news/blackrock-man-was-a-renowned-gaelic-scholar>



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### News:

#### SNSBI People (*continued*)

Society members will also be sorry to hear of the death of **Karl Thorsten Gunnar Andersson** who died on April 22, 2018, at the age of 89.

**Professor Thorsten Andersson** (1929 - 2018) was a Swedish linguist, astute thinker and outstanding connoisseur of historical linguistics. He earned his doctoral degree in Uppsala in 1965 and became a lecturer in Nordic languages and toponymy. **Professor Andersson** was an Honorary Member of **SNSBI**. More details can be found at: <https://icosweb.net/drupal/node/132>

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

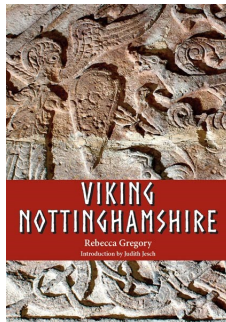
##### Recent Publications:

#### Transcripts of Six Inquiries by the Duchy of Lancaster Concerning the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire and Yorkshire Between 1592 & 1613

This publication should appeal to local and family historians with its wealth of names of people and places. These transcripts of the original documents are a fascinating insight into the management

of **Bowland** in this period. The original documents are deposited at The **National Archives** and are transcribed by **Frances Marginson** from photographs taken by Dr **Bill Shannon**. Please see [www.slaidburnarchive.org](http://www.slaidburnarchive.org) for more information.

#### Viking Nottinghamshire by Rebecca Gregory



Introduction by **Judith Jesch**  
Paperback, 76 pp.  
Published: December 2017  
Five Leaves

Publications, £8.99 ISBN: 9781910170472

*Viking Nottinghamshire* describes the county as it was throughout the Viking Age, through the various stages of Scandinavian settlement. It uses a range of historical evidence, including documents, place-names, artefacts and sculpture, to explore the impact and contribution the Scandinavian settlers made to the character and history of Nottinghamshire. <https://fiveleaves.co.uk/product/viking-nottinghamshire/>

#### GB1900 GAZETTEER

was launched on Monday 9th July, at the **Institute of Historical Research, University of London**.

GB1900 is a new historical gazetteer of Great Britain created with a large crowd-sourcing project extracting all the textual information on the Ordnance Survey second edition County Series six-inch maps covering all of Great Britain, published between 1888 and 1913. About 2.6 million place names and other strings of text have been transcribed, each with a coordinate accurate to a few metres. The result is arguably the largest historical gazetteer of Britain ever created, identifying every farm, most woods and roughly half of all street names. (Professor **Humphrey Southall**, Director, **GB Historical GIS, University of Portsmouth**)

The resulting data are available for download in three formats: These are all large zip archives. They each include documentation and a copy of the relevant Creative Commons license. Further details can be found at: <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data/>

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

## Forthcoming events

### Lancashire Place Name Survey AGM and 2018 Annual Lecture

Tuesday 9 October 7.00pm  
**Lancashire Archives**, Bow Lane Preston, PR1 2RE

Refreshments 6.00pm, AGM 6.30pm (followed by lecture)

**Emeritus Professor Diana Whaley**

*From Botany Bay to Seldom Seen: classifying minor names in Lancashire and Northumberland.*

Tickets cost £5 each and must be purchased in advance

## Guild of One Name Studies

**History and Heritage on the Somerset Levels Exhibition**  
**Othry Village Hall 26 - 27 October, 2018. 11am -5pm**

At 7pm on Friday 26th October internationally acclaimed genealogist, historian, author and Guild member **Janet Few** will talk about *"The burning time"* (witchcraft in the 17th Century)

Groups attending as well as **The Guild of One Name Studies** include **Somerset and Dorset Family History Society**, and **The History Hut**.

Read more at <https://one-name.org/events/#Sq3s81GRLe1V4WPq.99>

NAMES & IDENTITY

IN THE MEDIEVAL

WORLD



THE 2018 *MEDIUM ÆVUM*  
DAY CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

JOHN HINES (UNIVERSITY OF CARDIFF)  
KELLY KILPATRICK (UNIVERSITY OF WALES)  
DAVIT BROUN (UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW)  
JOHN BAKER (UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM)  
CAROLE HOUGH (UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW)

Full programme & online registration at  
<http://aevum.space/namesandidentity>

Image: detail from Glasgow University Library, MS Hunter 229 (U.3.2), fol. 125v.

MEDIUM ÆVUM

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

**SNSBI Autumn Meeting and Study Day, 19 October, 2019, King's Manor, York**

**SNSBI 29th Annual Spring Conference, 2020, Cardiff**

**SNSBI Autumn Meeting and Study Day, 2020 University of Leicester**

**SNSBI 30th Annual Conference, 2021, University of Limerick,**

SNSBI Newsletter  
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[newsletter@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@snsbi.org.uk)  
Website: <http://www.snsbi.org.uk/>

Medieval Settlement Research Group  
AGM and Winter Seminar 2018

## Settlement in the Danelaw

Preceded by a series of student papers on landscape and settlement from 10.00 a.m.

Julian Richards, University of York  
'The Viking Great Army: raiding and settlement in Northumbria'

Rebecca Gregory, University of Glasgow  
'Never mind the Great Army: late medieval field-name evidence for Viking settlement in the East Midlands'

Dawn Hadley, University of York  
'The Viking Great Army: beyond the winter camps'

Stuart Wrathmell, President, MSRG  
'The impact of Scandinavian settlement in eastern Yorkshire: Ryedale and the Northern Wolds'

David Stocker, University of Leeds  
'Ryedale: patterns of settlement and sculpture distribution'

Centre for English Local History  
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

**Saturday 8th December 2018, 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.**

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