



SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Get ready for Nottingham

SNSBI 28th Annual Spring Conference, 26-29 April, 2019, **University of Nottingham** (further details pp. 4-5)



The campus

By the time you receive this newsletter, the booking deadline (28 February 2019) for the spring conference will have passed and as some of the booking options have very limited availability, they may no longer be available.

However, there may be some options still available. Bursaries toward the cost of accommodation are available to student members. Please contact the treasurer for further details. There are also day delegate and non-member options.

Booking and payment for the conference can be made on the university's online shop. Please see details on pp. 4-5.



Cripps Hall

Newsletter NS. 18 Spring 2019

Hello again, and welcome to my final newsletter as editor.

For the last nine years (with a few exceptions, when family duties called), I have thoroughly enjoyed my bi-annual compilation of this newsletter.

I would like to thank Kate Hardcastle who took over the whole newsletter when I was out of the country for 3 months in 2013, and who also completed and distributed the newsletter in February 2017, when my granddaughter was born.

The presidents and vice-presidents during my tenure (too many to name individually) have all been unfailingly helpful with proof reading, providing material and correcting mistakes, as have all the other officers and committee members.

I am now both relieved and pleased (as are the rest of the committee) that Harry Parkin has agreed to take on the newsletter. His confirmation in the post will, of course, be subject to the normal electoral procedures at the next AGM.

Over the years, many members have kindly sent me photos for the newsletter, from UK and further afield. It has not always been easy to fit them in, but the remainder appear as 'odd shots' scattered about this issue, clearing the way for Harry to start afresh.

So I will now sign off and leave the newsletter in Harry's very capable hands.

Linda M. Corrigan (editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455
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2018 -19

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Odd Shots 1:

Taken by Jennifer Scherr, Brighton, December 2018 (below)





Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Conference reports:

Names and Identity in the Medieval World

(Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature)

2018 Medium Ævum Day Conference

University of Glasgow, 27 October 2018. Report by **Alice Crook**

The first paper was given by **John Hines (University of Cardiff)**, who presented 'Two names in context: what we can do with two short runic inscriptions of the mid-ninth century'. He offered a compelling argument as to the reading of an unusual rune in one inscription, and discussed possible readings of a badly damaged second inscription.

In 'Place, water and identity in medieval Wales', **Kelly Kilpatrick (University of Wales)** presented research conducted as part of the **Flood and Flow Project** demonstrating how different Welsh place-name elements can be found at specific points along the river-system. <https://waternames.wordpress.com/>

Dauvit Broun (University of Glasgow) then presented 'A scribal perspective on names and identity in Scotland c.1125–c.1275'. He offered analysis of English scribes' treatment of Gaelic names,

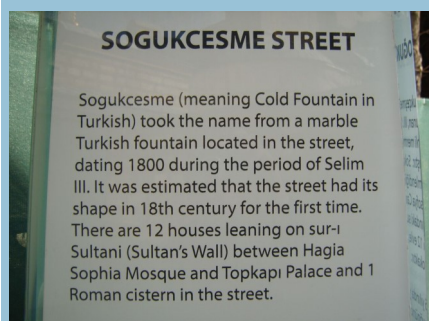
including the switching of consonants.

After a lunchtime visit to the **Hunterian Museum, John Baker (University of Nottingham)** discussed the significance of Brittonic place-names in Shropshire in the paper 'Names and identities on the Anglo-Welsh border'.

Carole Hough (University of Glasgow) gave a paper entitled 'Place-names, languages and identity on the Anglo-Scottish border: the REELS project'. Using the REELS project database of Berwickshire place-names, she highlighted and discussed examples of place-names containing personal names.

The conference concluded with a round table led by **Simon Taylor (University of Glasgow)**. Highlights included such topics as 'who makes the decision on a name?' and 'are water features boundaries or central features?'.

Odd Shots 2: Taken by Keith Briggs in Istanbul, March 2018



Gersum: the Scandinavian Legacy in Medieval Britain.

A conference held at **St Catharine's College, Cambridge**, 5-7 September 2018. Report by **Rebecca Gregory**

This three-day conference was held as part of the **Gersum Project**, which focuses on the Norse impact on the English language. The conference connected the question of linguistic influence with other disciplines, including archaeology, literature, runology, lexicography, dialectology, and onomastics.

The conference was opened by **Dr Richard Dance** (Principal Investigator on the **Gersum Project, University of Cambridge**), who welcomed attendees and introduced the aims and themes of the conference. **Dr Dance** chaired the first session, which brought together two different types of physical evidence for Scandinavians in England. **Prof. Judith Jesch (University of Nottingham)** spoke on 'Scandinavian runes in England: dating, distribution and contexts', while **Dr Jane Kershaw (University of Oxford)** addressed 'Anglo-Scandinavian contact in the rural Danelaw: the rural setting', using data from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



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The second session brought together some very different documentary sources. **Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (University of Cambridge)** gave a paper entitled 'The impact of the Scandinavian invasion on the Celtic-speaking peoples (almost sixty years on)', examining the relationship between Icelandic traditions and Irish written sources. **Dr David Parsons (University of Wales)** spoke on 'The linguistic background to Gospatric's writ', demonstrating the linguistic strata present in that document. The session was chaired by **Dr Rhona Alcorn (University of Edinburgh)**.

The second day of the conference began with a religious focus, with papers by **Dr Elizabeth Ashman Rowe (University of Cambridge)** and **Prof. Lesley Abrams (University of Oxford and University of Cambridge)**. **Dr Ashman Rowe** focused on 'Anglo-Scandinavian contact from a Scandinavian perspective: ecclesiastical and political contacts in Norway and Iceland c. 1000-1050', while **Prof. Abrams'** paper explored the theme of contact through three case studies in 'Pagans and Christians: two baptisms and a funeral'.

The day then took a lexicographical turn with a session chaired by **Dr Sara M. Pons-Sanz (Co-Investigator**

on the **Gersum Project, Cardiff University)**. It began with **Dr Philip Durkin (Oxford English Dictionary)** exploring 'Norse borrowings in the *OED*: a fresh examination', giving attendees an insight into the processes involved in revisions of the *OED* and how borrowings are included and excluded. This was followed by **Dr Brittany Schorn, Research Associate on the Gersum Project (University of Cambridge)**, who demonstrated the Gersum database as part of her paper entitled 'Gersum: lexis of Old Norse origin in the poetry of the Middle English Alliterative Revival'.

The final session of the day was a literary one, with **Prof. Thorlac Turville-Petre (University of Nottingham)** speaking on 'Topographical vocabulary in the *Wars of Alexander*' and **Dr Sara M. Pons-Sanz** addressing 'The Gawain-Poet's emotions'. They addressed very different semantic fields, which offered a fascinating comparison. The session was chaired by **Dr Brittany Schorn**.

The last day of the conference opened with some questions of grammar and of morphology. **Dr Nik Gunn (University of Oxford)** dealt with the question of compounding in

an Anglo-Scandinavian linguistic context in a paper entitled 'Compounding the issue: Anglo-Norse language contact and word formation'. **Dr George Walkden (Universität Konstanz)** then spoke on 'Scandinavians and verb-second in Northumbrian Old English'. The session was chaired by **Prof. Simon Horobin (University of Oxford)**.

The final session of the conference was chaired by **Dr Richard Dance**, and brought together some very different aspects of dialect study. **Dr Jayne Carroll (University of Nottingham)** began with an onomastic take in 'Old Norse watery terms in English place-names and beyond', followed by **Dr Matthew Townend** speaking on 'The Vikings and the Victorians and dialect', bringing us forward in time to round off a truly interdisciplinary conference. Questions and discussion throughout the conference proved lively and productive, and attendees expressed their gratitude to the organisers for an excellent event.

Odd Shots 3:

Another helpfully instructive shot taken by Keith Briggs in Trieste, June 2018

VIA DELL'ASILO
TOPONIMO



Names Places People

SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The society's next spring conference will be held from 26 to 29 April 2019, at the **Cripps Hall** and the **Sir Clive Granger Building, University Park Campus, University of Nottingham**

The spring conference returns to Nottingham for the first time since 1996. The **University of Nottingham** is home to the **Institute for Name-Studies** and has a long-standing connection with the field, housing the library and offices of the **English Place-Name Society** for over fifty years.

The conference will open on Friday evening with a paper: 'Laxton: England's Last Open Field Village', given by **John Beckett, Professor of English Regional History** at the **University of Nottingham**. **John Beckett** has published extensively on the history of **Nottingham, Nottinghamshire** and the **East Midlands**.

On Saturday evening, the SNSBI will co-host the **Institute for Name-Studies'** biennial **Cameron Lecture**. The lecture is held in memory of **Professor Kenneth Cameron**, one of the foremost scholars of English place-

names, who was **Director of the English Place-Name Survey** from 1967 to 1992 and **Head of English** at the **University of Nottingham** from 1984 to 1987. This year's lecture will be given by **Lesley Abrams, Emeritus Professor of Early Medieval History** at the **University of Oxford**, **Honorary Professor** in the **Centre for the Study of the Viking Age** at the **University of Nottingham**, and **Honorary Research Fellow** at the **University of Cambridge**, who will talk about her work on Normandy's Scandinavian names.

Other confirmed papers include:

Keith Briggs: 'The surnames of thirteenth-century Ipswich',
Thomas Clancy: 'The names of the parishes of the Galloway Glens',
Jeremy Harte: 'You'll never walk alone: haunted roads and goblin names',
Peter McClure: 'The English surname detective: recent encounters with phantoms, doppelgängers, shape changers, impostors and victims of mistaken identity',
David Parsons: 'Rolly, Judith and The Snogs: some place-name puzzles from Oswestry',
Bill Patterson: 'The place-

name Romanno in Peeblesshire and related matters',
Jeremy Piercy: 'Mint Genealogies: Moneying Families in Late Anglo-Saxon England',
Jennifer Scherr: 'Somerset place-names',
Eila Williamson: 'Place-names on the Scottish border',
Liora Bigon: 'Enhancing place names studies acumen: historiographic reflections between (Urban) Africa and Israel/Palestine',
Justin Ó Glasáin: 'Microtoponyms in the Baronies of Offaly East and Offaly West, County Kildare',
Rob Briggs: 'A new lease of life (or three) for understanding the Old English -ing⁴ connective particle?'

A poster display will be held in the **Sir Clive Granger Building** on Saturday and Sunday. Further details can be obtained from **Dr John Baker, School of English, University of Nottingham, NG7 2RD, Email: john.baker@nottingham.ac.uk**.

The coach excursion on the Sunday afternoon will be led by **Dr Richard Jones**. The provisional itinerary includes a trip to Laxton and a visit to Southwell Minster.

Cripps Hall and the **Sir Clive Granger Building** are set in



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the extensive grounds of University Park Campus, just off the A52, three miles south west of **Nottingham** city centre. The campus is a twenty-minute tram or bus ride from Nottingham Railway Station, and a 40-minute walk from Beeston Railway Station.

Delegates arriving by car will be able to park in the main visitor carpark (between Cripps Hall and Sir Clive Granger) for the duration of the conference. During their stay, delegates opting for on-site accommodation will also have access to the University of Nottingham's sports centre.

The cost of the conference for SNSBI members, which includes en-suite accommodation and all meals (including wine) is £295 per person. The coach excursion is an additional £10. Day and half-day rates also include meals. Various other options are given on the online booking form with prices. through the online shop at: <https://store.nottingham.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/conferences/schools-and-departments/english>

If you have any queries or are experiencing difficulty with the online shop, please contact Simon Hopkins, School of English, University of Nottingham, University

Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD,
Tel. +44 (0) 115 95 15906,
Email
bbzsp@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk

SNSBI Post-graduate Workshop

Associated with the Annual Conference, **SNSBI** often hosts a workshop for post-graduate students working in the field of names studies. It gives students a chance to compare notes, exchange views on problems that they may be experiencing and share new technological developments.

This year the workshop will take place in **Nottingham** prior to the **SNSBI Spring Conference**, on the 18-19 April. **Dr Paul Cullen** has kindly agreed to lead us on a street- and tavern-names tour of Nottingham city centre and we are hoping to organise a trip to *Thynghowe*, the early medieval assembly site in **Sherwood Forest**. Registration closes on 28 February but late places may be available. Please contact joshua.neal@nottingham.ac.uk for further details.

Odd Shots 4: Taken by John Briggs, Norwich, 2017



Conference Reports: *(continued)*
Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru
Welsh Place-Name Society
6 October 2018
Neuadd Reichel, Bangor University
Report by **David Parsons**

For its annual autumn meeting, the SNSBI once again teamed up with the **Welsh Place-Name Society**, whose annual one-day conference this year was held at **Bangor University**.

The programme featured five papers on aspects of place-names and their study in Wales: four of them were delivered in Welsh (with simultaneous translation sponsored by SNSBI). A common theme running through all the papers was the relationship between older Welsh names and the incoming English language.

For **Hywel Wyn Owen** this was an aspect of historical study, examining the 'fossilization' of those Welsh names which were adopted by the Anglo-Saxons in Cheshire.

Ieuan Wyn examined the richness of upland naming, much of which is disappearing due to a combination of changing ways of life and Anglicisation.

Shaun Evans introduced documentation relating to some of the great landed *(continued overleaf)*



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estates of northern Wales, which tend to be characterised by the complex relationship between increasingly English-speaking lords of the manor and their Welsh tenants.

James January-McCann described the **List of Historic Place-Names of Wales**, a Welsh Government initiative to keep a central record of names, major and minor, with a view to valuing and protecting them: he gave examples where local councils have used the records of early field-names in the naming of new developments. Finally **Dylan Foster-Evans** showed that an interest in place-naming, and concerns about the passing of old names, were already matters for lively discussion in Welsh newspapers before the First World War.

News:

SNSBI People

Several younger members of the society have been successful in obtaining academic posts in the last few months. We wish them well in their new roles.

Dr Rebecca Gregory is now **Teaching Associate (School of English, University of Nottingham)**

Dr Harry Parkin is now **Lecturer in English**

Language (University of Chester).

Dr Eleanor Rye is now **Associate Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics (Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York)**

It is good both to see young people being appointed to posts which allow them to continue their interests in Names Studies, and to have good news about members of the society. (Ed.)

A new Place-Names Resource:

The Berwickshire Place-Name Resource

The **Berwickshire Place-Name Resource** was launched on Saturday 17 November 2018 at a joint conference of the **Scottish Place-Name Society** and the **Scottish Records Association** at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** in **Edinburgh**.

It was created by the research project *Recovering the Earliest English Language in Scotland: Evidence from place-names (REELS)* (2016-2019), funded by **The Leverhulme Trust** at the **University of Glasgow**.

It includes all **Berwickshire** place-names on the **Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map**, and can be searched in various ways.

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

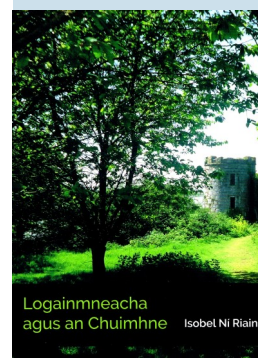
Odd Shots 5: Taken by Keith Briggs in Metz, 2018. Keith says 'I thought it interesting as I had never seen this kind of prepositional construction before in France (rather than e.g. Rue Nicholas or Rue St Nicholas)'.



Publications which may be of interest to members:

Irish language publications:

Logainmneacha agus an Chuimhne (Place-names and memory)



by **Isobel Ni Riain**
Coiscéim, Dublin, 2019.

Details at

<http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/A006/I.NiRiain@ucc.ie#section3>



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Recent Publications:

A New Dictionary of English Field Names by **Paul Cavill**, Drawing on material prepared by **John Field** and with an introduction by **Rebecca Gregory**

Nottingham, EPNS, 2018. Pages lii + 495 + 9 blank Paperback (sewn) ISBN 978-904889-994, £22. Hardback ISBN 978-0-904889-98-7, £30.

Contains 45,000 field name attestations in 2500 headwords. A major new work!

Available from the EPNS or from Shaun Tyas who offers a SNSBI discount (£20 paperback, £25 hardback, both post-free in the UK, telephone 01775 821542, email: shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk).

Odd Shots 6: taken by John Baker at **Fisherton Anger**, near **Salisbury**.



Bit of a misnomer then!
(Ed.)

Voprosy Onomastiki

The editorial board of the journal **Voprosy onomastiki (Problems of Onomastics)** is pleased to inform you of the publication of **Vol. 15 (2018), Issue 3**. Free of charge on the journal's website: <http://onomastics.ru/en/content/2018-volume-15-issue-3>

Articles include:

Golomidova, M. V.

Toponymic Policy in Naming City Facilities: Theoretical and Applied Issues

Prósper B. M.

The Venetic Names of Roman Siscia

Toporova, T. V.

Speaking Names in the Eddic Skírnismál

Makarova, A. A.

Personal Names of the Finnic Population in the Toponymy of North-Western Belozerye

Galkowski A.

L'onymie sportive et la zone de transition entre les noms propres et les noms communs dans le langage du sport

Notes include:

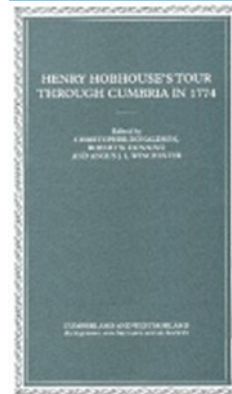
Breeze, A.

Welsh Dawn 'Gift' and Doncaster, Yorkshire.

This is just a sample of the articles available. Please visit the website for a full list (Ed.)

Henry Hobhouse's Tour Through Cumbria in 1774

edited by **Christopher Donaldson, Robert W. Dunning** and **Angus J.L. Winchester**. CWAAS. £10



Henry Hobhouse's journals, detailing his trip with two friends through Cumbria should appeal to local historians, as it is an

important and hitherto unknown addition to early travel literature of the region. Four years before West's Guide to the Lakes was published, Hobhouse and his friends viewed the splendours of the Lake District, but also industrial 'curiosities' such as coalfields. Hobhouse has wide-ranging interests, and comments on everything from aesthetics to geology, farming and industry of all types. The book is available at a discount for members of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS).

For more information, contact Ian Caruana on 01228 544120.

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.



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Websites which may of interest to members

New 'Mapped Histories' website (news from the Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University (RHC))

The 'Mapped Histories' element of the 'Rusland Horizons' landscape partnership involved the RHC, through former Director, **Professor Angus Winchester** who helped to train and support volunteers to gather field names and minor place-names, which offer rich insights into the history of this part of Cumbria. The project has given rise to a fascinating interactive website, which now includes many field-name forms. Find it at: <http://www.ruslandhorizons.org/explore/map/historical-boundaries.aspx>

Neil Howlett on the EPNL Jiscmail list says:

Here's an interesting, and unusually well designed, consultation on local names for local areas. A democratic rather than an academic exercise. <https://visual.parliament.uk/msoanames/>

Keith Briggs via the EPNL Jiscmail list alerts us to this link to **Word of mouth**: Talk of the town: how places got their names <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0002bnd>

Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland Essay Prize

1. A prize of £100 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the Society's interests.
2. Submissions are invited from students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who do not have a track record of scholarly publication.
3. Essays should be about 5,000 words in length.
4. Essays should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
5. Essays should be double-spaced, with pages numbered in a single sequence of arabic numerals, and should include a bibliography of source-material used and of books and authors cited.
6. Two electronic text copies of the essay should be submitted by August 31 each year to secretary@snsbi.org.uk. One of these copies should be anonymised (i.e., with all information which may indicate the author's identity removed) for refereeing purposes.

7. Entries will be blind-refereed and the final decision made by a panel normally consisting of the

President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Editor of Nomina, who may consider it for publication.

8. Provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced at the next AGM, held in the spring of the following year. Entries should be sent to the Honorary Secretary: Dr Rebecca Gregory, secretary@snsbi.org.uk

Forthcoming events

Personal Names and Cultural Reconstructions. Conference 21-23 August, University of Helsinki <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/personal-names-and-cultural-reconstructions>

SNSBI Autumn Day Conference, Vikings & Names, 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 Spring Conference, 2021, University of Limerick, Ireland (TBC)

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