

NAMES

PLACES

PEOPLE

# SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES

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## IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### CONFERENCE NOTICES

**2022 Autumn Conference**  
University of Leicester  
29th October 2022

The conference is being held in conjunction with the Centre for Regional and Local History, and the theme is 'Names and local history'. It will be held in person, but with the option to attend online.

Proposals are invited for twenty-minute papers on any topic relevant to the theme, not limited to Britain and Ireland.

Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be sent by 1st October to Dr Richard Jones via [secretary@snsbi.ac.uk](mailto:secretary@snsbi.ac.uk)

**2023 Spring Conference**  
Heronston Hotel, Bridgend,  
Glamorgan,  
14th - 17th April 2023

This is the postponed 2020 conference. Further information to follow.

### Newsletter NS. 25 Autumn 2022

*Welcome to the 25th issue of the SNSBI newsletter!*

*I would like to draw your attention to the conference notices (on the left-hand side of this page!), in particular the notice for the autumn conference in Leicester. A link to a pdf flyer is also available on the SNSBI website.*

*I am starting to look at ways in which I can make this newsletter as user-friendly and accessible as possible, now that most SNSBI members are viewing it as an online electronic copy. I have already received some suggestions on layout changes that could be made, for which I am very grateful; any further advice would be most welcome. I can continue to send out printed copies on request, but am assuming that members are happy to view the newsletter online unless I am told otherwise, so please get in touch if you prefer a hard copy.*

*Very many thanks to all of those who have contributed to this issue. Please continue to send me items for inclusion.*

*Harry Parkin (editor)*

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2021-22

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NAMES

PLACES

PEOPLE

# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## SNSBI Spring Conference Summary

*adapted from abstracts available on the SNSBI website*

**9 April 2022  
online**

The SNSBI website has pdf slides for a number of the presentations. See [snsbi.org.uk/2022\\_spring\\_online.html](https://snsbi.org.uk/2022_spring_online.html)

James O. Butler, Chris Donaldson, Fiona Edmonds and Ian Gregory: *The influence of the Ordnance Survey on the Lake District's namescape*

This talk explored some of the key findings of the British Academy-funded pilot research project 'Envisaging Landscapes and Naming Places: the Lake District before the Map'. The paper considered the extent to which Victorian developments and priorities influenced the maps through which people have experienced the Lake District for more than 150 years.

Masaya Takuma: *Is Misdon in Devon a really "misty" place?*

This paper looked at the validity, from a meteorological point of view, of the suggestion that the etymology of Misdon in Inwardleigh (Devon) is "probably 'mist hill'". By using Met Office data, the speaker aimed to show to what extent

Misdon might have been mistier or foggier than Inwardleigh.

Justin Ó Glasáin: *Fearann in minor place-names in the Civil Parish of Kildare*

This paper explored the use of *fearann* ('land') as a place-name element in the Civil Parish of Kildare. *Fearann* is a common element in administrative names in the south of Ireland, but it is rare in County Kildare, so its prevalence in the place-names evidence from Thomas

Emerson's 1674 survey of the Manor of Kildare is notable. The use of *fearann* in the Civil Parish of Kildare was examined, and comparisons were also drawn with its usage in place-names in other parts of Ireland.

Colin Mackenzie: *Lake as a stream-name in southern Scotland*

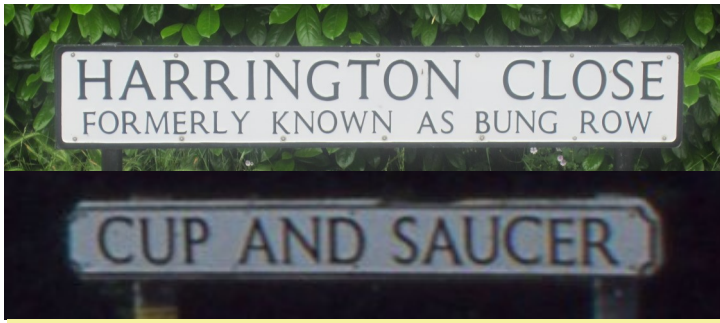
This paper looked at how there are a number of place-names in southern Scotland where "lake" is used as a stream-name,



**Odd pics 1 from  
Jeremy Harte**

**The Broad Face,  
Abingdon**

A sign for the pub *The Broad Face*, and an account of some possible origins of its name painted on its wall.



NAMES

PLACES

PEOPLE

## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

suggesting a continuation of OE *lacu* 'stream' in Scots. This meaning of "lake" has not been widely incorporated into studies of Scottish place-names, and so this paper made a new contribution to our understanding by discussing the distribution and significance of place-names containing this element.

**James Brown: *Nic and Mac: Gaelic lingering in eighteenth-century Carrick***

The influence of Robert Burns has fostered the perception that Ayrshire is Scots language territory, going against Carrick's Gaelic heritage. The belief that the last native speaker of Gaelic in Carrick died in 1761, when Burns was two years old, was challenged by this paper which showed how the Gaelic prefix *Nic* (daughter of) in women's names was almost written out of history through careless handwriting and possibly, linguistic and political prejudice.

**Andrea Bölcskei: *Settlement names of ecclesiastical reference in the Hungarian and English languages: a comparative perspective***

This paper focused on similarities and some (minor) differences in Hungarian and English place-names containing ecclesiastical references, paying special attention to the lexical, structural and referential features of settlement names reflecting ecclesiastical possession.

**Laura Wright: *Sunnyside***

This talk looked at the surprisingly old antecedents of the house-name 'Sunnyside' in northern Britain.

**Keith Briggs: *The names of medieval minstrels***

There are very few records of names of medieval minstrels who performed at specific events, with perhaps only two documents from the 13th century recording these names. One such document contains the accounts for the wedding of the daughter of Edward I in 1296. This paper looked at the history of this wedding, and the types and meanings of the minstrel names used.

**Jeremy Harte: *Gospel truths: Rogationtide processions in place-names***

Down to the 1820s, with sporadic revivals thereafter, Rogationtide processions were held each year. These rituals have been linked to place-names containing religious qualifiers, but it is surprising that first attestation of these names are overwhelmingly post-Reformation. This paper looks at why a medieval ceremony is represented by mostly modern names, and how the answer lies in the transformation of the custom from a prayer for blessing of the fields into a chance to police parochial boundaries.

**Cadora Grove**

**By Richard Coates**

Cadora Grove is a semi-managed wood in Newland parish (Gloucestershire), part of Cadora Woods Nature Reserve, overlooking the river Wye and spectacular with bluebells in April. Hugh Smith noted its existence in the Tithe Award of 1840, but left it without explanation. A few acres of remote woodland seem unlikely to be named after the *Ca' Dora*, one of the grandest *palazzi* on the Grand Canal in Venice, though that has occurred in British microtoponymy. If you have ever craved fish and chips in Elgin (Moray) or Tarbert (Argyll), you may have found yourself at the Café Ca'Dora (or the Ca'dora Cafe in Inverkeithing, Fife), serving North Atlantic cod in the old days, but probably not Wye salmon. Despite their apparent Scots instruction to summon a woman, these must be named after the posh restaurant formerly on the top floor of the 1872 Venetian-style Ca' Dora Building on the corner of Union Street and Gordon Street in Glasgow. Or the Ca' d'Oro officially. The *palazzo* in Venice is also officially the Ca' d'Oro 'house



NAMES

PLACES

PEOPLE

## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

of gold', but it was widely known as the *Ca' Dora*, as in the title of a 1913 etching by Ernest David Roth, and others I have seen further back still, some commentators claiming it to be named after a 12<sup>th</sup>-century legal expert called Dora. This was the form that made its way to the banks of the Clyde.

Returning to the banks of the Wye: the wood is more or less opposite the mouth of the Cadora Brook, which flows steep and almost dead straight down the Monmouthshire hillside opposite, at the northern tip of Llandogo parish. It was recorded in the 1840s, close to the meadow called *The Cadory*, which figures as items 731 and 732 in the Tithe Award (1844), past the northern tip of which the brook flows and from which it is presumably named. This is a stretch of the right bank of the Wye, very long (about half a mile), hardly wide enough to be called any sort of field (average about 30 yards), and later squeezed even more on its western side by the intrusion of the Wye Valley Railway's trackbed. Its size and situation and the English article in the name seem to

give the game away. Most likely, despite the phonological problem of the disappearing consonant in the final syllable (dissimilative loss of velar plosive? anglophone Welsh skills?), it was named in Welsh *y cae dwrgi* [Gwentian /kɛ: durgi/] 'the otter's field', for which there are plenty of parallels in other Welsh riverside parishes including Llanfair Cilgedin in Monmouthshire. That pushes its origin back somewhat further than its first record, since Welsh was in heavy retreat from this part of Monmouthshire by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Tithe Award for Llandogo contains only three clearly Welsh minor names out of 700-odd entries, including *Cae Coch* 'red field', which, it must be admitted, gets the 'field'-word transparently right.

### Sources

Smith, *PN Gloucs* 3, 237.

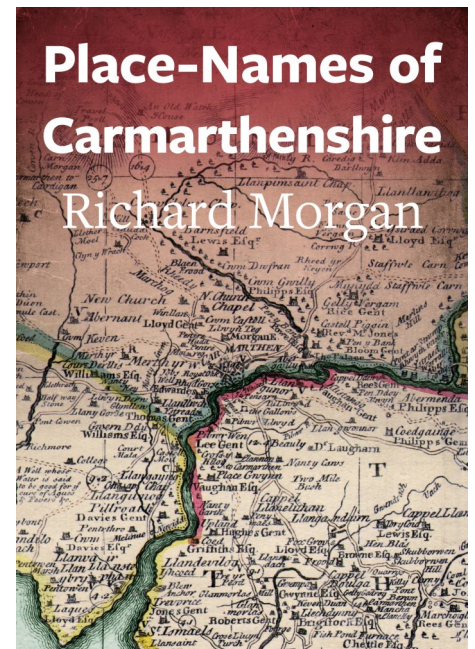
Llandogo tithe map and award: National Library of Wales web-site.

'Otter' place-names in Wales: <https://www.cymdeithasenwaulleoedd.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DWRGI.pdf>.

### Recent Publications

#### Place-Names of Carmarthenshire by Richard Morgan

Cardiff: Welsh Academic Press. £19.99 + £1.80 p&p.



Information from the publisher:

*Place-Names of Carmarthenshire* is the first publication to investigate all major place-names in the historic county of Carmarthen (1536-1974), including the westerly parts of the county transferred to modern Pembrokeshire after 1996.

Illustrated with many images of the county, *Place-Names of Carmarthenshire* examines more than 920 place-names



NAMES

PLACES

PEOPLE

# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Recent publications continued

and features a 1,000-entry Glossary of place-name elements, personal names and rivers, and is the result of the author's detailed research in archives and reference libraries.

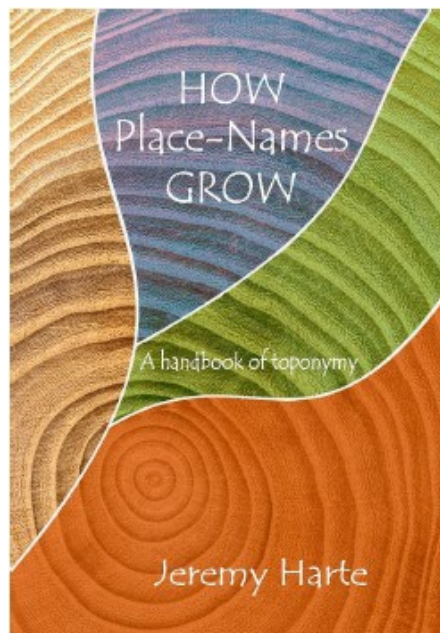
The book can be ordered from all booksellers globally, or direct from the publisher at: [www.welsh-academic-press.wales](http://www.welsh-academic-press.wales)

If you wish to order direct from the publisher, they can offer Richard's first book, **Place-Names of Glamorgan**, at 50% discount to SNSBI members. If you include the SNSBI name in your order, the discount will be manually applied after the order has been placed on the publisher's website.

Please note that this "recent publications" section 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.

## How Place-Names Grow by Jeremy Harte.

Grantham: Heart of Albion Press. £9.95 + £2.00 p&p.



Information from the publisher:

*How Place-Names Grow* is for anyone who has ever wondered how places get their names.

The author reveals the subtle language behind the names on maps and how they have evolved over thousands of years. The erudite aspects of name-studies are brought to life in a landscape of wolves and wildcats, gold and kings, mock beggars and giddy fools. Comprehensive but

accessible, Jeremy Harte traces all the ways in which we create, change, move, imitate and translate names. He reveals names' historic value and explains how to avoid the many pitfalls when studying them.

*How Place-Names Grow* is the starting point for anyone who wants to more fully understand place-name dictionaries.

Email: [albion@indigogroup.co.uk](mailto:albion@indigogroup.co.uk) for orders.

## Nomina Bibliography

The **Nomina** bibliography team encourages members to send details of publications dealing with names in Britain and Ireland to [biblio@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:biblio@snsbi.org.uk) for inclusion in the annual bibliography.

The team would particularly welcome information about books and book chapters, and articles in journals that don't regularly publish onomastic content.

If it's not obvious why a publication will be of interest to SNSBI members from its title, a sentence or two outlining the onomastic content would be an enormous help!



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## 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 place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man or the Channel Islands.
2. Submissions are invited from students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not hitherto had work in onomastics published.
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. Submissions should include an abstract of up to 250 words.
7. An anonymised electronic text of the essay and abstract should be submitted by October 31 each year to [secretary@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@snsbi.org.uk).
8. 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(s) of *Nomina*, who may consider it for publication.
9. 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.

## Events

### Welsh Place-Name Society (WPNS) Annual Conference and AGM 1st October 2022

The WPNS annual conference and AGM will take place online on 1st October 2022. Further details are not available at the time of writing, but do check the [WPNS website](#) for additional information.

### Scottish Place-Name Society (SPNS) Autumn Conference 5th November 2022

The SPNS Autumn Conference will take place online on 5th November 2022, via Zoom .

The conference is free to attend for registered members of the SPNS. The joining instructions for the Zoom meeting will become available in due course on a member-only page on the SPNS website.

If you are not currently a member of the SPNS, you can join for £7 for annual membership or £18 for a three-year membership. Once you are a member of the SPNS you will be able to register for the conference without further charge. For

more details on the conference, and for information on applying for membership, see the relevant pages of the [SPNS website](#).

### American Name Society (ANS) Annual Conference 20th-22nd January 2023

The ANS 2023 Annual Conference will be held online, from 20th-22nd January 2023, via Zoom.

Information on conference registration is not available at the time of writing, but do keep an eye on the conference page of the [ANS website](#) for further details.

## Forthcoming SNSBI events

**SNSBI Autumn Day Conference, Leicester, 29 October 2022. Also see the "conferences notices" on page 1, and keep an eye on the SNSBI website**

**SNSBI Spring Conference, Bridgend, 14-17 April 2023**

*SNSBI Newsletter*  
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