From the President
This report would normally have been delivered at our Annual General Meeting, which was to have been held on 4th April, but to our considerable disappointment we had to cancel it, and the subsequent lecture, because of the Covid 19 outbreak. We hope that all of you are weathering the situation and staying safe and well.

Up until Christmas, 2019/2020 was a good year for the Cornwall Archaeological Society. Last year we decided that we would divide the year into a summer schedule and a winter programme, and so the summer saw our usual excellent programme of guided walks arranged by our Excursions Coordinator, Cathy Parkes. The first walk of the year to Week St. Mary and Penhallam moated mansion took place in May and was led by Cathy herself and our past President, Nick Johnson. The second, held in June, involved exploring the china stone mills and quarries of the Tregargus Valley, led by Marie Allen of the Tregargus Trust, who currently care for the site. July and September saw visits to the Tamar Valley and Lanhydrock, while the last walk of the season took place in October; a walk around Sancreed and Grumbla, led by Pete Herring.

Sadly all our walks in 2020 have had to be cancelled, as have all our lectures since March, but thanks to the wonderful organising ability of our Lectures Officer, Jenny Moore, we did enjoy talks in Liskeard and Truro before the lockdown began, although illness and bad weather caused us some problems. The first lecture in Liskeard featured a change of speaker, and we are very grateful to Brian Oldham for stepping in here. Our first lecture in Truro was a survey of historic buildings in Cornwall by Eric Berry, which was a real eye-opener in that Eric showed us the unexpected historic features behind the facade of so many of our Cornish buildings. The new year began with a superb lecture on the Feasts of Stonehenge, given by Richard Madgwick from the University of Wales, Cardiff, where he described how analysis of mainly animal bone has allowed us to track the dissemination of animals and therefore people who came to the Neolithic sites around Stonehenge. It was followed on 24th January by a fascinating talk jointly sponsored by the CAS and the Prehistoric Society on recent discoveries at Stonehenge, given by Professor Mike Parker Pearson of University College, London. This was our annual Corfield Nankivell lecture which the CAS holds every year in honour of two of our most notable previous members.
and officers.

Our penultimate talk of the season was by our own Trustee and the Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, Anna Tyacke, on notable finds from Cornwall by metal detectorists over the past year. I am sad to report that CAS are now losing the services of Anna, who is leaving to take up the post of Finds Liaison Officer in Somerset, and has resigned as a CAS Trustee as a consequence. Both Cornwall and the CAS will miss her badly, both for the loss of her expertise and because she did so much for the Society. We wish her every success in her new post.

Finally, we closed our lecture season with a beautifully illustrated lecture by our Treasurer, Richard Hoskins, on the archaeology of the Lebanon. Richard knows the country well as his son is currently based there, and he has travelled widely in the region, taking photographs wherever he went and getting access to sites that few visitors now get to see. We all wished that we could go and see for ourselves, but as that seems increasingly unlikely in the near future, it was a privilege to see the country through someone else’s eyes. We were particularly lucky to have heard Richard, because at this point it became clear that large public gatherings were no longer advisable, and any further events had to be cancelled.

The Trustees have continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the year, and I am happy to report that the Society is in good health. Our record on publications is particularly good. Thanks to the immensely hard work of Peter Rose and Graeme Kirkham, the editors of our journal Cornish Archaeology, and of the newsletter, Steve Fletcher, we have published two editions of the journal in the past year, volume 56 coming out in May 2019 and volume 57 in February 2020, and three newsletters during the year. Thanks are also due to Adrian Rodda for his hard work in sending out the journals and for selling back numbers to boost our funds. The wide-ranging articles in the journal include the excavation of a prehistoric roundhouse on Bodmin Moor; evidence for Middle Bronze Age tin streaming (a radio-carbon dated antler pick); and the geophysical survey of the Roman fort at Restormel, organised by the late Peter Nicholas. More recent subjects include the story of Tristan and Yseult at Tintagel Castle and a study of medieval and post-medieval rabbit warrens.

While on the subject of our journals, it has come to our notice that there are problems when trying to access or download some of our more recent journals from the website, and we are taking steps to sort this out. We also have a project to upload missing back numbers of the newsletter onto the website, as soon as we can leave the house again!

Konstanze Rahn is our Membership Secretary, and we are truly indebted to her for all the hard work she puts in to keep abreast of our membership. She reports that unfortunately the number of new members was not able to offset the loss of members through death, proper cancellations or default cancellations (48 members failed to react at all to several general and personal reminders and were taken off the membership database after the deadline in April). At the end of the year 2019 the membership number was 397 memberships with 452 members – compared with 411 memberships and 470 members at the end 2018.

Due to gaining some new members in the three months to the AGM, the figure at the time of the planned AGM was 403 memberships with 462 members, compared to the figures of 416 memberships and 474 members quoted at last year’s AGM. This shows a slight improvement to the figures of the end of the year.

But, as last year, there is a high number of members who haven’t reacted to any reminders. There has been no further considerable uptake of payment by Standing Order, although that is the safest way to make sure that the subscription is paid in time and to avoid default cancellation. Membership, it hardly needs saying, is vital to the survival and operation of the CAS, and Trustees are looking into ways of making it easier to join the CAS, renew membership and fill in standing orders directly through the website.

The signing of the new Gift Aid form is still rather scarce; many of the members who had signed the old form (pre June 2018) have unfortunately failed to sign and return the new form. Please, if you do pay tax and are able sign the new form will you do so, to boost our much needed income. We want to continue with our publications and our financial support for archaeological research in Cornwall, but without the funds we will not be able to do so.

Although our income from members has fallen, thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Richard Hoskins, and Konstanze herself we have received a substantial back payment of gift aid this year, and although this will be a smaller sum in future as we catch up with our claims, it is a valuable extra source of income for us, and one which can increase at no cost to individuals if they will only fill in and return the new gift aid form.

Richard’s Treasurer’s report is included separately in this newsletter, but Richard is anxious to point out that next year, if two journals are again produced in the one year, the accounts will not look as favourable as this year – but not to worry!! The expense of each journal has already been allowed for in our reserves.

Finally, I want to flag up our most successful event last year, which was the joint CAS and Devon Archaeological Society symposium held in the Elliot Hotel, Liskeard on 16 November. It was jointly organised by Andy Jones and Henrietta Quinell, and the topic was the South West from the late Iron Age until the 5th century AD. It was fully booked with over 100 delegates and we were privileged to hear from a wide range of experts in the field, including the President of the DAS, Dr. John Salvatore, and Henrietta Quinell, our own past President and former lecturer in Roman archaeology at Exeter University.

Henrietta has recently stepped back from serving as a Trustee of the CAS, and we took the opportunity to present her with a memento and thank-offering for her services to the CAS in the form of a superb reproduction prehistoric pot. She continues to advise us from a distance as a corresponding member of our committee.

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well, and I hope that we will be able to re-commence our programme of events as soon as possible. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further announcements.

Caroline Dudley

Cornwall Archaeological Society Treasurer’s Report (prepared for the AGM)

Copies of the Accounts for 31st December 2019 are included with this Newsletter.

I am pleased to confirm that the Society made a small surplus of £477 for the year. This was only possible because of the success of the renewed Gift Aid Scheme which contributed a
and significant amounts of cremated bone. The latter is currently being assessed for its radiocarbon potential.

We now know that entrance graves, while megalithic, date to the Early Bronze Age both in West Penwith and Scilly and that, when records exist, they generally contain quantities of cremated bone in their chambers. Tregiffian is no exception. Although badly disturbed, W C Borlase excavated and found much bone (which does not survive). The 1960s/70s excavations record scattered fragments of bone in disturbed contexts. Dudley found a complete upright vessel containing cremated bone in a pit within the chamber and a second pit with sherds from a second vessel and more cremated bone. The pot, pictured here, is unique – it combines Collared Urn and Trevisker features and is recorded as of gabbroic clay!

ApSimon’s excavation seasons showed that, uniquely, the Tregiffian megalith was remodelled with two clear phases of kerb. Three cup-marked stones were built into its structure and eventual blocking, with a further stone found in disturbed material. The picture shows the entrance flanked by a cup-marked stone with a second set in apparent blocking. The monument undoubtedly had a complicated history!

Richard Hoskins

Tregiffian entrance grave revisited

The barrow at Tregiffian was established as one of the West Penwith entrance graves by unpublished excavations under Dorothy Dudley in 1967-8 and under Arthur ApSimon in 1972-3. Arthur took over Miss Dudley's archive, both for Tregiffian and other Cornish sites, but was never able to publish. After his death in 2019 we approached English Heritage who then held the archive and who made it available to us late last year. The archive holds, among other things, a large number of colour slides, plans and notes, most finds...
Tregiffian was excavated because it lay in the path of road widening: once its true character was recognised, it was brought under the protection of Department of the Environment (now Historic England) and arrangements were made for its preservation (now the English Heritage Trust). The entrance grave is managed by Cornwall Heritage Trust. It remains accessible, set in the verge of the B3315 near the Merry Maidens stone circle, and managed by the Cornwall Heritage Trust. We look forward to finally producing a full and hopefully well dated account of this fascinating site.

Henrietta Quinnell, Andy Jones and Graeme Kirkham

Book Review
“Roman Britain and Where to Find It” by Denise Allen and Mike Bryan.

I live in the far west of Cornwall to the extent that I have to travel eastwards to every single site in this book. How times change! When I offered to review this book, I was due to be digging at Vindolanda in April and fondly expected to be able to test it by visiting some of the sites near the Roman Wall. Only a week later, my session on the dig had been cancelled, and the following week, all non essential travel had been stopped. What I have had to do is replace actual visits with virtual ones to sites I already knew.

For many people now, books are becoming an anachronism, but to others like me, the only thing that stops me buying a book is the lack of space left on my book shelves. The advent of the internet has meant that virtually all Roman sites are documented and only a few clicks away. (I did try out this statement of on a couple of the less well known sites and there were indeed internet entries for them).

Most of the bigger sites and many of the smaller ones have their own guide books with maps and descriptions. Excellent examples of this are the ones produced by English Heritage with photographs of the sites and the finds. They also have superb illustrations of the sites as “before and after” usually on the inside covers.

Somehow, this book has to position itself in between the internet and the site guides and offer the reader something that cannot be obtained from either. In my view, the book succeeds!

I don’t feel this is a book that you would necessarily want to read cover to cover. I think it’s a book designed to be used.

After a short main introduction, the book is divided along regional lines so, as an example, the first Section is “The South East - The Solent to the Kent Coast”.

Within each section, the format is generally the same. There is a line map of the area with the Roman sites named and the major Roman Roads marked. There are about two pages of introduction to the region. Again as an example, the South East introduction talks about Caesar’s invasion, the Claudian invasion, and the disposition of the main Roman towns and sites.

Then we are straight into the gazetteer section for each region. This is arranged in alphabetical order of the sites as they are named on the line map. Under this name is a very reduced description of what you will see eg Bath House, Open Site. This comes into its own when the more complex sites may have a three line entry here.

The two exceptions to this alphabetical rule are the Roman walls. Both the Hadrianic and the Antonine Wall areas are dealt with differently. Hadrian’s Wall has its own chapter with a separate line map and the gazetteer of sites listed in their east to west order so that sites that you might visit together occur in the book together.

The Antonine Wall is different again, it is included in the ‘Scotland’ chapter and on the Scotland map. The bulk of the Scotland gazetteer is in alphabetical order but the entries from the Antonine Wall are in east to west order. I can see the logic in this but as there are so few Antonine sites, I’m not sure the analogy to the Hadrianic entries makes this confusion worthwhile.

After the precis, the site is described in more detail. This can range from half a page for a small site to four pages for York. The emphasis is very much on what you should see, leaving you to delve into more detail if you want to. Since there are complete books on Roman York, this book cannot do it justice in four pages but it can get you there and enthuse you with what you will see.

Throughout the book, there are numerous colour photographs which break up what could be large blocks of text and whet the appetite to visit these sites. This makes the book a pleasure to use.
Every entry in the book has a set of stars allotted to it indicating how much Roman material can be seen at the site rather than how attractive or otherwise the site is. For example, Maiden Castle which only gets 1 star is a superb place to visit with expansive views and impressive ramparts. However, the small Roman temple on the top is the only Roman interest and the 1 star is perfectly valid. I looked at all the sites I have visited and invariably agree with the stars awarded.

For each site, the address is given including the postcode for those wedded to Sat Nav. Where access is not straightforward, extra directions are given.

For my Roman visits I have been using Roger Wilson’s Guide to the Roman Remains in Britain. This is a much bigger work - 700 pages as opposed to the 250 in the reviewed book. The Wilson Guide has a wealth of information in it but somehow, it is less tractable, almost as if there is too much information. In addition, it harks back to a previous tradition with a smaller font size and black and white photographs. For planning a visit, I like the new guide and for planning an extended holiday to a number of sites, it will be excellent.

I have tested the use of the book in York, Colchester and The Roman Wall.

**York**

The book mentioned every Roman site I have visited in York over twenty years and the Yorkshire Museum with its brilliant display of Roman finds. It has equally good displays of finds from the Viking and Mediaeval periods in York. I was a bit disappointed that no mention was made of the Anglian Tower. This is the only non ecclesiastical Saxon tower in the UK. Whilst not strictly part of this book, it stands next to an excellent piece of Roman wall and the bank has been left as excavated levels to show the position of the bank throughout history. It is only a few metres away from the Multangular Tower and by visiting it, you see the inside of the Multangular tower which is the repository for many Roman coffins found in York.

**Roman Wall**

I went through the Roman wall section from Newcastle to Birdoswald in detail and found nothing worth seeing that was not mentioned in the text. Because of the amount of Roman archaeology to see in this stretch, there is not a lot of detail on the intermediate structures but nor would you expect it. If you are going to walk along the wall to see the milecastles and turrets you are almost certainly going to buy a guide which will go into these features in much more detail. Did the book have any sites that I should have seen and not done so? Rather annoyingly, it did! It describes the wall at Heddon on the Wall and I have never stopped there because this has always been “on the way to Newcastle” from my base near Vindolanda. More interestingly, at Benwell, in the suburbs of Newcastle, there is a Roman Temple and an excavated Vallum crossing. Despite having been past the end of the road numerous times, I was not aware of either of these. That will be next year’s visit now.

**Colchester**

While attending a wedding in East Anglia, I spent one day at Colchester. When you have such a short time, it is essential to have some idea of what you can see. Once again, everything I saw, is in this book but to my horror there is a whole archaeological park about which I had no idea. That means I now have to go back sometime!

The book costs a penny less than £20.00; is this value for money? With the costs of travel being what they are, an afternoon wasted on a site you did not enjoy or, like me, missing a site you should have seen will waste far more money than the cost of this book. The book has been well researched and really will take the hassle out of planning trips. If you are a Romanophile, get the book, you will not be disappointed.

**Steve Fletcher**

**York - a History Town**

*Editor’s Note*  
*Obviously at this time of the year, we would be looking forward to our Summer Programme and even the early part of the Winter Programme. The Summer walks are all cancelled and we await to see what happens to next year’s programme. The Trustees agreed that we should still produce a Newsletter so, in lieu of our more normal fare, I have included an article on Historic York as being the only area I knew sufficient about to make a stab at producing something readable!*

Some time ago, I sat down to watch Prof Alice Robert’s series History Towns on the city of York. For 19 years I had a relatively close relationship with the history of York and wanted to see what Prof Alice thought of it.

I was a school governor in the West Midlands and once a year, I went on a residential course with 90 ten year old children and 8 or 9 members of staff. Whilst a lot of time was spent trying to stop the children walking across roads without looking, trying to feed them and make sure we arrived at the next venue on time, I had 19 weeks listening to some very good educators telling us the story of York.
Prof Alice at the time called York a ‘Viking Town’ whereas I had always considered it a Roman Town, or a Mediaeval Town or even a Victorian Town. In fact it’s all of these and anyone who is interested in history or archaeology could do a lot worse than spend a week in York and I am going to try and describe what there is to see.

Roman York
Before the Romans came, little is known of York but it was to be the site of a major legionary fort. It is very firmly based on the confluence of the Rivers Foss and Ouse which leaves a triangular area of land ideal for defence. The top of the triangle was protected by the impenetrable forest of Galtres. The original fort would have had earthen ramparts and wooden defences but these were soon replaced by a stone wall with a classic playing card shape. It fronted on to the River Ouse which would have been an essential supply route. It’s orientation becomes important later on.

It’s Roman name Eboracum comes from a Latinised version of the Celtic Eburakon meaning something like “Yew tree place”. As the conquest of England and then Scotland pushed forward, Eboracum was always an important garrison city and it remained so through the advance into Scotland, the withdrawal to Hadrians Wall, the advance to the Antonnine Wall and again the final second withdrawal to Hadrians Wall. It’s continuing importance is illustrated by the fact that two Roman Emperors died in this far outpost of the Roman Empire. Septimus Severus in 211 and Constantius Chorus in 306, father of Constantine the Great who was then proclaimed emperor in Eboracum.

What is there left to see of the walls of the fortress? Over half of the line of the Roman Fort were followed by subsequent wall builders and you can walk along them. Join the wall at Monk Bar and turn NW. As you get to the most northerly point of the current walls, you turn a right angle just as the Roman fortress wall did 2000 years previously. Incidentally, this walk gives the most excellent views of the Minster and particularly its Chapter House. Leave the wall at Bootham Bar which is on the site of the Porta Princalis Dextra - the right hand gate of the fort.

Cross the road easily at the traffic lights but imagine the horrors of trying to get a caterpillar of 50 children across here. Immediately by the Art Gallery is a preserved section of the fort wall but there is plenty more later. Follow signs to the Yorkshire Museum which has a fascinating collection of Roman artefacts ranging from Altars to minutiae. It also has an excellent display of Viking artifacts. The museum is set in an area of parkland bounded by the city wall on the corner of which is the Multangular Tower. This section of wall was the front of the fort facing onto the river and Septimus Severus, possibly while he was fighting in Scotland erected 8 towers along this wall with two corner towers as well. The Multangular Tower is 9m tall and the bottom 6m are Roman with a line of tiles acting as wall ties. The inside of the tower has been excavated and is now a repository for Roman coffins found in York. With your back to the Multangular Tower, the area to the right is the site of St Leonards Hospital excavated by Time Team in 2000. However, if you follow the town wall on your left, you are walking along a section of ‘Roman wailing’ which leads to the Anglian Tower. This is the only Non ecclesiastical Anglo-Saxon tower in Europe. Only excavated in 1970, the excavated wall mound has been left to show the profile of the mound during the various stages of its construction. Head off back to the Minster.

On the first visit to the Minster we are going to think just about the Roman archaeology. In 1967, I visited the Minster unexpectedly and found the inside to be a very large hole. The Central Tower which weighs 25,000 tons rests on four legs. Two of these legs rest on the Principia (pronounced Prinkipia) of the Roman Fort, the other two rest on unconsolidated muds. The legs on the Roman foundations were relatively stable but the other two were sinking into the sediment. Not only was the tower sinking but it was also twisting and was expected to last only 15 years. The answer was, after massive fund raising, to dig out the foundations, cast giant “feet” around each tower leg and bolt these to the structure with giant stainless steel bolts. Apparently, the archaeologists worked at night and the engineers during the day. Any excavation trenches were immediately filled with sandbags to prevent increasing the already unstable structure. Rather than filling the hole with concrete, it was left as a void and covered over to replace the Minster floor. In this space, which is very contorted because of the presence
of 'the giant feet', some of the archaeology is still visible. Bearing in mind that the fort faced the river on a NW-SE orientation and the minster obviously goes E-W, it is very easy to identify Roman structure by their oblique orientation.

If the truth be told, the Roman Principia wasn't the major prize of the excavation. In 625, Ethelburga accompanied by her Bishop Paulinus came from Kent to marry Edwin of Northumbria. Paulinus eventually converted Edwin and he was baptised in a wooden church which is considered to be the first York Minster. It was replaced by a stone structure which was destroyed in 1069 during William's "harrying of the North". The real prize for the excavators would have been finding either of these original buildings. Unfortunately, they found no signs.

The destroyed Minster was replaced with a Norman Minster by 1100 but in 1290 a start was made to replace the Norman Minster section by section with the current Minster. This work was substantially complete by 1472 but the Cathedral Guides say the building took 300 years to complete.

Parts of the foundations of the Roman Principia are still visible. For all my trips with the school, we were never allowed to take photographs, but when we returned last Christmas, the undercroft has been remodelled and photographs are allowed so I have included a few.

The undercroft is largely occupied by the 4 giant concrete feet with small areas between where the remains of the Principia can be seen. The information always used to say "This is where Constantine was made Emperor" since you are in the main hall of the building. As you proceed, you move to the road outside the back of the Hall and to a small room on which the Roman plaster found on the floor has been replaced. Between the building and the wall, there is a drain which is very important in the history of the building.

In 1984, during a storm the Minster was struck by lightning which set the roof above the entrance to the undercroft alight. Unable to get to the seat of the fire, the fire service jetted thousands of gallons of water onto the roof to bring it crashing to ground level where they could extinguish it. All the water went down into the undercroft and out through this Roman Drain which was still functioning. It still has water in it today.

Not part of the Roman Principia, but interesting is a well. The well which was outside the original Norman Minster but is inside the Mediaeval Minster.

In the central area, there are more Roman walls and a door which was knocked through the wall of the hall during Anglo-Saxon times while it was obviously still in use. I love the fact that you can still see the hole for the hinge pin and the threshold is worn by the feet of those using it.

There are pillar bases still in situ that would have held up the roof of the Principia below the clerestory windows. As you leave the undercroft, there is an area of the inside of the Norman Minster which is painted to look like dressed stone.
As you leave the Minster opposite a modern bronze of Constantine the Great, there is a single pillar erected in the pavement. It was actually found during the excavation collapsed on the floor of the Principia with each piece in the correct order like a row of cheeses. A frequent question is “has it been erected upside down!” It does give some idea as to the scale of the Principia.

In the Centre of town is the fort bathouse in the basement of a pub. I have never been in there because the problem of explaining to the parents of the infant children why you took them into a pub was too daunting.

As you walk around York, the Roman streets are still partly there. High Petergate was the Via Principalis (the fort crossroad), Chapter House Street was the Via Decumana (the fort back road) and Stonegate was the Via Praetoria (the fort front road to the main gate. In fact Stonegate may have got its name from still being paved in Mediaeval times.

**Viking York**

When Prof Alice said York was a Viking town she was obviously correct but there is so much less Viking material to see as you walk around.

By the Time the Vikings had settled here, the name of Eboracum had been been changed to Eofwrwic by the Anglo Saxons and then to Jorvik (pronounced Yorvik) by the Vikings from whence it became York.

Since Viking buildings were in wood, they have largely disappeared except where anaerobic conditions have prevented this. The only Viking signs to be seen walking round York (apart from folks dressed up as Vikings), are the width of the shop fronts. After 1000 years, and despite all the development, some of the shop widths are exactly as they were in Viking times. This was shown on one of the Time Team Programmes.

Virtual everyone has heard of the Coppergate Dig between 1976 and 1981. They found 4 rows of Viking Houses which were immediately under their modern successors together with thousands of artefacts. The dig has been the subject of many books (I have two) and I will not describe it. However, what they did with the site is exciting and enthralling for all ages. We always took the children round what is now known as Jorvik. Yes, you do have to pay but the profits go to the York Archaeological Trust so its all in a good cause. Taking school parties around has the advantage that your visit is booked and you do not have to wait. Be warned, at peak time, the waits can be considerable.

Called just “Jorvik”, the “experience” is constructed in the actual dig site with the shopping centre built above it. I’m not a great fan of the shopping centre which I think lacks any sort of empathy with the surrounding area and the entry to Jorvik is unprepossessing as the experience is all below ground.
There have been two incarnations of the experience. In the first, from 1984 you went round a Viking village in a controlled “time car” which trundled round the village with a commentary coming from individual loudspeakers in the car.

There was a major renovation in 2010 when the time cars were replaced by suspended pods holding 6 people which stop and swivel to point at the people being described in the commentary. This was renovated again in 2015 after flood waters damaged most of the exhibit.

The faces of all of the animatronic people are based upon Viking Skeletons. All the houses and objects are based upon some of the 40,000 finds from the original excavations. The houses have been reconstructed where they were.

The sights, sounds and smells do give some impression of what it might have been like - just suspend your disbelief for 15 minutes. Having said that the ride is very quick so make the most of the journey. Last December, we gift aided our entry and got access for a year, meaning we could go round 2 days running. That was my 25th time and I still love it!

Once again, for the last 20 years, photography was forbidden but the advent of mobile phone cameras means that nowadays, such rules are impossible to enforce so they have been discontinued provided you do not use flash. I have included pictures here. I didn’t read the rules regarding publishing photographs but for a non chargeable newsletter in the current circumstances, I hope their inclusion is OK.

Interestingly, the most impressive find from Coppergate was not Viking. Hidden in a buried box, was a superb example of the sort of helmet worn by Royal or Noble Anglo Saxons.

**Norman York**

Whilst Viking Jorvik was assimilated into England, they opposed William and he built Clifford’s Tower to control the city. There was a local uprising and in 1069 and he built a second motte and Bailey castle on the opposite side of the Ouse with a chain between to control passage of the river. This was attacked later that year by a Danish fleet and some local rebels. In taking back the city, the Normans set fire to houses which then burnt the Saxon Minster down.

In the 12C, there was a thriving Jewish community in York who occupied the role of money lenders at a time when charging interest was illegal. They were subject to various attacks until in 1190, the town rose up against the Jewish Community which fled to Clifford’s Tower for safety. Fearing they were to be handed over to the mob, most of the 150 committed suicide, whilst the rest were killed by the mob. That night all the papers relating to the debts owed were also burnt meaning that the debts did not have to be repaid. The wooden keep was burnt down and eventually Clifford’s Tower was rebuilt in stone.

A visit to the top of Clifford’s Tower gives superb views of the City but can be quite daunting especially with 50 active children to keep safe. In the picture, the top of the tower is irregular from when the Custodian of the tower was selling the tower off as building material.

**Mediaeval York**

![Cliffords Tower. Photograph SW Fletcher](image)

Looking along Viking Coppergate. Modern Coppergate is immediately above here. Photograph SW Fletcher

![Micklegate Bar. Photo SW Fletcher](image)
Claimed to be the finest mediaeval walls in Britain, their two and three-quarter mile circumnavigation is a delight. The walls are complete though there appear to be two large gaps in them which were originally filled by waters formed by damming the River Fosse which was known as the Kings Fishpool. Start at the Multangular Tower, cross Lendal Bridge and walk along the wall to the River Ouse crossing over Micklegate Bar. Here, the heads of traitors would traditionally been put on spikes. After the Battle of Wakefield, the head of Richard, Duke of York was put here so, as Shakespeare would have it, “York may overlook the town of York”. All the area to the left of this part of the walk was the site of the Roman Colonia but there is little to see.

Join the wall again at Fishergate and walk round to the Red Tower which is the only part of the defence built in brick. On this stretch, you cross over Walmgate Bar which is the only Bar still complete with its barbican - the others were removed to help traffic flow! Rejoin the wall at St Cuthberts Church and after a couple of angles, you are walking on the line of the Roman fort over Monk Bar all the way to Bootham Bar.

In York, its worth remembering all the Town gates are “Bars” and all the “gates” are streets.

York is famed for its snickleways - narrow passages between buildings. The mediaeval market in York was held where St Sampson Square is now from 1250 onwards. From this point, a series of footpaths would have spread out radially through the town. Building then, and subsequently has respected these pathways which number about 50. There is a walk which takes in all the snickleways and stretches to three and a half miles. It takes you to some of the best bits of York but also some of the less salubrious areas in which pigeon droppings spoil the experience. Do the walk early in the morning as some part are so narrow you may have to reverse your party to let others through. These narrow alleys join all the streets and are used continuously by those locals out shopping. There is a book detailing the walk and full of information. Since we have done the walk three times, we are converts and we now look for snickleways everywhere we go. Tewkesbury is particularly well supplied with them.

The Shambles is one of the most well known streets of York, dating back to the 14 C. It was once known as The Great Flesh Shambles, probably from the Anglo Saxon Fleshammels (literally 'flesh-shelves'), the word for the shelves that butchers used to display their meat. As recently as 1872 twenty-five butchers’ shops were located along the street, but now none remain. It’s virtually impossible to take a photograph without visitors there. Even at night, I had to remove two people and a motorcycle from the photo below.

York Minster is more correctly known as The Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of Saint Peter in York and you cannot visit York without going in the Minster. I have already described the undercroft but the Mediaeval Minster rivals any Cathedral in the Country. The Minster holds many treasures. The North Transept window, called The Five Sisters, may look dull but is the largest area of ‘grisaille’ glass to survive anywhere in the
The Great East Window has been the subject of a 10 year restoration and is magnificent being the largest area of Mediaeval glass in the world. The windows were removed and buried during both World Wars for fear of bomb damage. York was one of the targets for the so called “Baedeker raids” in 1942 but the Minster was not damaged. The Rose Window, dating from about 1485, is well known though probably the least impressive of the Minster windows. It was damaged by the roof fire in 1984 and the glass was shattered into over 8000 pieces. It was totally restored and replaced into position. The roof here was replaced and 6 of the roof bosses were designed by children as part of a “Blue Peter” competition.

The Chapter House completed in 1286 has a cleverly constructed roof that “hangs” from a central suspended beam. The children always liked to test the acoustics by standing in the centre and seeing how softly they could speak and still be heard in the peripheral seats. (When I say “the children”, it’s probably me that likes it)!

A visit to the top of the Tower takes you to the highest point of York and the views are extensive. There are 275 steps to the top (about the same number as to the top of Tintagel).

Railway York
Originally, York was the terminus of the York and North Midland Railway. The station was in the town but to get there, they had to remove part of the Mediaeval Wall and reconstruct it as a bridge. A clear sign of historical priorities at the time. Eventually, York became just one stop on the London to Edinburgh East Coast main Line.

Trains had to arrive at York then reverse out and carry on up to Scotland. Eventually a new station was built on a sharp curve of the main line 100m to the left of the photograph. The Station Hotel which is visible through the arch, was built on the Old Roman Cemetery which was excavated by Time Team in 2000.

In 1832, York was hit by an epidemic of Cholera and 185 people were buried in an emergency cemetery which lies between the Wall and the Station Hotel. This is through the arch in the photograph, near the trees.

There are numerous other sites worth visiting which I have not mentioned:-

Merchant Adventurers Hall - a stunning massive timber framed building from 1375 used as a hospital and Guild Hall.

Georgian Mansion House and Fairfax House.

York Castle Museum - an immense museum of all eras in the old Men and Women’s Prisons including the cell where Dick Turpin spent his last night before his execution.

St Mary’s Abbey dissolved by Henry VIII.

National Railway Museum.

Steve Fletcher
Thank you

I have received the following letter from Alma Hathaway and Bruce Wootten McTurk of Caer Bran Farm. They hosted our visit Grumbla Cromlech and Ring Cairn on our Sancreed Walk last October.

Dear Steve

Apologies for this handwritten contribution, as we have no facilities for printing! However, I was sorry to have missed the deadline for the last Newsletter, after the Sancreed walk last October, as I’d hoped to write a few words of thanks and appreciation to all who came. We welcomed and were amazed by the number of people who arrived at our sites, surprising perhaps, tucked away on the lower slopes of our Nature Reserve as it is!

When the present sad and disruptive lockdown has lifted, further discussion will take place, and, with support, and good ideas in place, we hope to be able to share these, special, prehistoric monuments now, and held in our trust, for future generations.

All best wishes from Alma and Bru,

Take care and STAY SAFE!

Editors note: Alma and Bru were our kind hosts last October Bru had mown a path for us down to the sites. We were all very grateful and enthralled with the story that goes with the history of the Grumbla Cromlech.

New Book

Mark Borlase who is a member of CAS has produced a book that was published recently. It is called Cornwall’s Trans-Peninsular route: Socio-Economic and Cultural Continuity across the Camel/Fowey corridor. It is available to order from the CAS website with a 30% discount for members. Its cost of £45.00. The discount is only available till the end of May.

Archaeology in Cornwall 2020
Truro College

The booking has been made provisionally with Truro College for Saturday 14th November and the outline of the programme is in place. However it is inappropriate to finish the programme with present uncertainties. We will do this as soon as possible, placing on our website, and mailing with the autumn newsletter.

Aubrey Burl
Best known for The Stone Circles of the British Isles 1976, has died aged 94. He was a considerable prehistorian and archaeological communicator, mainly concerned with stone circles, other megalithic structures and their interpretation. His work made these sites and their contexts very accessible to a wide readership while his research and standards of publication laid the foundations for future studies in this field.

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Next submission date
The final date for submissions to the October Newsletter will be Friday 4th September 2020.