CHAIRMAN'S NOTES June 2013

The digging season is in full swing with STAG’s best excavators fully involved with the latest “Dig Greater Manchester” site at Balderstone Park, Rochdale. In between, STAG’s own excavation at Timperley Old Hall is on the remnants of the stable block demolished in 1910, where the west half of the building has been exposed. A foundation trench to accommodate the west wall of the pistol range has cut through the floor foundations throughout its entire length from north to south. Phase one comprises a single course of hand made floor bricks the size of which agree with an early building construction compatible with the other existing Napoleonic structures c1790. A second floor for a renovations phase, made from blue grey good quality bricks, has been inserted, probable around 1860, before final demolition. Foundation remains show insertion of drains before construction and later but rainwater drainage from the pistol range during its construction in 1966 has caused damage in several places. Finds have been limited to fragmentary pottery of recent dates and two clay pipe stem pieces with a bore of 5/64 inch., dating to around 1800. A complete coulter assembly was recovered from the 1966 foundation infill. The vehicle inspection ramp at the southern limit of the excavation has been found to include five different sandstone gate pillars. One in particular has a hinge arrangement for a self closing gate, and we know of a similar example across a cart trackway at High Legh. There is now an opportunity to acquire expertise in drawing the many square metres of cobble stones, at a scale of 1:20 of course.

At Great Warford, we have two weeks to excavate on the site of a demolished bay of the still thatched Roadside Cottage which has a construction date of c1600. The building has already been recorded, with the plans, elevation and sections drawn. A new feature is a 3D drawing showing the location of all visible original timbers within the present structure.

On the Timperley Old Hall house platform most of last year’s plant introductions seem to have done well in spite of the lack of rain. A Cinnabar moth, bright crimson and black to warn predators of its unpleasant taste, as well as a small Copper butterfly are both welcome return visitors. On a disappointing note, Trafford Council has not mowed the lawns since February.

Derek Pierce

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please note the following meetings have been arranged to take place at STAG Display Centre, 7.30pm

28 June - Visit to Poulton Project, nr. Chester
  Project Director: Mike Emery
July/August - No meetings
27 September - King Arthur
  Speaker : Mark Olly
25 October - Hedges & Edges
  Speaker : Hugh Beggs
22 November - A.G.M.
  Speaker : Dr. Mike Nevell

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EDGAR WOOD IN HALE

Following from the excellent talk that Christine Grime gave to the group in October 2012, it seemed worth highlighting the work Edgar Wood did in Trafford.

Royd House, 224 Hale Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire

Royd House is not only another of Wood's flat roofed houses, it is a house that he built for his own use. As you can see, the front of the house faces the road and is semi-circular in shape. The front door is set-in below a magnificent, intricate and colourful tiled panel. Apparently, this geometric design is carried on throughout the house. Wood designed the house in 1914 and moved into it from his Middleton home in 1916.

The geometric design theme, in the tiled panel above the door, is mirrored in the door itself. The pattern is moulded in relief and areas are picked out in different colours. Apparently the same decorative theme carried on to the interior doors and in Wood's time was also reflected in the furniture. John H. G. Archer is of the opinion that in creating the design Wood was probably influenced by his travels in Spain, Tunisia and Persia.

Halecroft, 253 Hale Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire

Diagonally set corner bay window to bay 1 with mullion and transom window to ground floor, enriched first floor band, mullion windows to first floor, coped gable and ball finial. Bay 2 has similar windows and a large gable with carved barge boards. Tudor-arch doorway to bay 3 with enriched cartouche above. Bays 3 and 4 have a considerable timber mullion and transom window at first floor with leaded lights as well as a carved bressumer, pargetted gable with floral motifs, carved bargeboards and elaborate weather-vane. Single-storey bay window to bay 5 with Mullions and transom, rounded corners and a 5-light timber mullioned window above with advanced half hipped dormer and elaborate finial. Steep roof with crested ridge and vents. Right elevation has projecting chimney stack. 5 light mullion and transom window and a first floor bow window. The left has another pargetted gable. Fine Jacobean-style staircase as well as oak panelling to boardroom which has a carved stone chimney piece within an inglenook. Generally a well preserved interior which includes plaster ceilings and friezes, doors and ironwork, linen fold panelling and good stained glass (some with pre-Raphaelite figures), an excellent example of Wood's earlier work largely expressing the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement and the vernacular revival.
A number of other houses in Hale are listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for special architectural or historic interest and included on the English Heritage website where full details can be found. The following from the Richardson estate are:

- The Homestead, Plane Tree Road 1901
- The Garth, Plane Tree Road 1920
- The Hollies, Park Road 1902
- Cintra, Park Road 1904
- The Shiel, Park Road 1904
- Greystoke, Hale Road 1901


Another Edgar Wood home for which no illustration has been found is Broadoaks on Park Road, White Thorn Lodge & Turveslaws on Hale Road are described as in the ‘Edgar Wood manner’. [http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk) [http://manchesterhistory.net/edgarwood/work.html](http://manchesterhistory.net/edgarwood/work.html) [http://www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Jane Darwin
The earliest medieval occupation of this site was circa 840 when Anglo-Saxons stayed here for a while. The remains of a hearth were found by archaeologist from South Trafford Archaeological Group. Wood from this was carbon dated and it was found to date to the above era. Two channels were found and dated to this period and it is believed that these were field boundaries relating to the nearby farmstead dating from this era. At this time the bank of the stream running along the southern edge of the site was palisaded. Post holes suggest there was a structure of some kind near to this edge of the site.

Sometime between 1211 and 1225 a Walter de Timperlie witnessed a land grant to the Baron of Dunham Hamon De Mascy. This land grant was drawn up by the clerk of Stockport. We can’t say conclusively that de Timperlie lived at Timperley Hall but he was obviously a man of some status when other signatories are taken into account such as Richard De Bramhall, Alun De Tatton and William De Baguly. All these people had manors and land. As well as this the archaeology shows that the hall was in existence during this period. The names, and in some cases manors of these people, survive as areas of south Manchester and Cheshire. But it may be that these lords took their names from the local areas originally. Taking all things into account the hall was here and this was probably his home. In the early stages the hall was a timber framed wattle and daub building. It would have been built in the close studded style common at this time. This type of building was timber framed with wattle and daub filling in the spaces and the windows were made from diamond shaped glass pieces which were leaded together. One local surviving hall built this way is Baguley Hall. In most of the country at this time these were painted a tan/yellow colour with the timbers blackened, the tradition in Cheshire however was to paint these buildings black and white.

What is certain is that by 1270 John (Mascy) de Timperleigh was the lord of the manor at Timperley Hall. Timperley at this time was divided into two pieces or moiety’s. The northern moiety was Timperley and the southern moiety was Backford. The manor at Backford was Riddings Hall. John was probably from the Dunham side of the Mascy family. The archaeological evidence shows that the moat was constructed around this time. A prick spur dating to this age was found in the moat. This type of spur went out of fashion in the early 14th century which shows that the moat was in existence when this spur was discarded. John had two sons William and John. William was the eldest and so he inherited Timperley Hall while his brother John moved to Suffolk and began another branch of the Timperley family. William had only one child, a daughter named Matilda who married back into the De Mascy family by marrying Hamon De Mascy.

Matilda had four children; Henry, Edward, Thomas and Alice who was also known as Agnes. When his father died in 1349 Henry was only ten years old and as he could not inherit he was made a ward of the Black Prince. In 1360 Henry finally became Lord of the Manor but this was to be short lived as in 1368 his brother Edward inherited Timperley Hall. Around this time Agnes De Trumpington inherited the Barony at Dunham from her grandfather and sold the Timperley moiety to Richard De Tatton, from this time onward the moiety would be held from the Tatton estate.
Edward had two children Richard and Cecily, Richard died young and Cecily inherited Timperley Hall.

Cecily married Richard De Chadderton. The original De Chatterton was a Norman knight who came to England with William the Conqueror. For his service he was given lands in Ireland and the manor and township of Chadderton. The Norman Chattertons however returned to France and in 1100 the king gave their lands to the Anglo-Saxon family the De Traffords. The De Traffords then changed their name to Chadderton and Richard De Chadderton was a descendant of this family.

Richard and Cecily had one child a daughter who was named Margaret though she was sometimes known as Marjory. Margaret inherited the hall and in 1425 she married Richard De Radcliffe, Richard was the 4th son of Richard De Radcliffe who had fought against the Percies and Owain Glendower. He then fought for Henry V in France. This Richard later became High Sheriff of Lancashire. The younger Richard also served in the French wars and was knighted for his service.

Richard’s brother Henry was the second De Radcliffe to become Abbot of Rushen on the Isle of Man. The couple had two daughters, Elizabeth and Ellen. Elizabeth inherited the moiety at Timperley. Elizabeth married Charles Arderne who was possibly the illegitimate son of Sir John Arderne from Harden near Stockport. She died in 1476 leaving the Timperley estate to her only son John Arderne.

Around the same time John married Ellen Duncalf. In 1511 John fought a case in the Star Chamber for the recovery of some of his land against Thomas Vawdry and won. Both John and his son Hamo who married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Giles Strangwich, seem to have had trouble with people who he claimed stole land from them and even in old age Hamo sued various people for the recovery of these lands. In any event the land belonging to Timperley Hall shrank as in 1475 Timperley Moss was divided up between three local land owners. The lions share went to the De Bulkely family with only one quarter going to John Arderne. As this period of the halls history came to an end few of the people who owned the hall would actually live there. Not only this, turbulent times lay ahead for England and the halls’ residents, as will be seen in the second article in this series.

Peter North

N.B. Anyone wishing to discover more about other Cheshire families can try googling the name and select “The history of the county palatine and city of Chester” on www.books.google.co.uk where the whole book can be read online, with the person’s name highlighted. This may also lead you to other online history book.

Manchester Cathedral to Close Jonathan Schofield December 12th 2012.
Manchesterconfidential.co.uk

This 600 year old building is to temporarily close between Easter and Christmas, 3rd April until 1st December 2013 as it feels the chill.
In the blitz of December 1940, a large German landmine exploded in the north aisle of the church. Amongst British cathedrals only Coventry suffered more damage than Manchester. Although the late medieval wood carving and much of the fabric of the building miraculously survived, the organ on top of the screen was destroyed.

The Cathedral now has the money in place to put an English-made organ back on the choir screen. The cost will be £2.1m. But before that can happen the Cathedral wants to ensure urgent work needed on the under floor heating takes place.

This requires the insertion of a new system and the complete lifting of the floor across the church - Manchester Cathedral has the widest nave in the country. The dusty and mucky work needs to be completed before the delicate apparatus of a brand new organ is installed.

At present the heating of the Cathedral only operates at 15 per cent capacity - the solder on the copper pipes inserted during the post-WWII repairs having failed. The work is so extensive because the under floor heating was laid in places under eighteen inches of concrete. The total cost of the work will be £2.2m. An intriguing aspect of the new work is the geothermal solution. Boreholes will be drilled deep into the earth and the heat from the geology under Manchester, used to provide 80 per cent of the Cathedral's heat.

Anthony O'Connor, The Director of Fundraising and Development, describes the choices faced by the Cathedral. "We knew we had to complete this work before installing the organ, so we were faced with a couple of options. The heating could be repaired in stages over two years but this would severely affect services and prevent any large events taking place. Or we could close for eight months and work day and night and blast through it.

We went with the second choice. Reluctantly. This has been a very, very tough decision. The Cathedral apart from very short periods (in WWII and after the IRA bomb) has offered unbroken worship for hundreds of years. Logically though, this provides the best and most efficient solution although it's been very difficult to swallow. We will try to soften the blow with open days, there'll be a webcam and we'll also install a viewing area, so people can still see inside our beautiful building."

So what about services for the Cathedral congregation? "Outside the west door on Victoria Street (the extension of Deansgate closed to traffic earlier this year) there will be a temporary wooden church built. There will be no break in services," says
O'Connor. Confidential regrets the closure but understands the reason. The wooden church is a splendid solution though. In fact it could be an opportunity for an architect to create something truly beautiful, something that will really resonate with the Cathedral's origins. The earliest Saxon church more than a millennium ago and built on the present Cathedral site would have been timber, and wood is such a fine building material. Oxford Road Station provides the clearest evidence for this. The work will also provide another opportunity.

"We will have the archaeologists in," says O'Connor. "We're wondering whether we'll find bodies we didn't know were there but also whether we'll find out more about earlier churches on the site. The area under the boxes close to the west door has never been opened up before. It's exciting." O'Connor pauses before returning to the subject of the closure.

"We have to always keep in the forefront of our minds, how does the Cathedral serve this city in the long term? How can we best be part of Manchester, how can we help make it a better place? Well, first off we have to be welcoming. A cold place isn't welcoming. The work is part of making sure we remain central to worship in the city and also, with our events and our role as a tourist destination, an ambassador for it."

London – The Pompeii of the North

Thousands of Roman artefacts have been unearthed in an archaeological dig hailed as 'the most important excavation ever held in London'. Archaeologists have found coins, pottery, shoes, lucky charms and an amber Gladiator amulet which date back almost 2,000 years. Experts leading the excavation have also uncovered wooden structures from the 40s AD around 40ft beneath the ground.

The site is just yards from the River Thames and alongside a huge building project for new offices on Queen Victoria Street in the heart of London's financial district. The discoveries have been so well preserved in the muddy waters of the lost Walbrook River that archaeologists have nicknamed the site 'the Pompeii of the North'.

Sadie Watson, the site director from the Museum of London Archaeology, said: 'Certainly the archaeology on this project so far is probably the most important excavation ever held within London, certainly within Roman London. The depth, the preservation, the extent of the archaeology - the entire Roman period is represented by fantastic buildings as well as artefacts.' The three-acre site, which was once on the banks of the River Walbrook, is also home to the Temple of Mithras, discovered in the 1950s. It has offered experts an unprecedented glimpse into life in the bustling centre of Roman Londinium. Archaeologists from the museum were able to excavate the area when work to build the vast Bloomberg Place development began.

Since then around 10,000 accessioned finds have been discovered by 60 archaeologists - the largest haul of small finds to have ever been recovered on a single excavation in the capital. Approximately 3,500 tonnes of soil have been excavated by hand, which is around 21,000 barrows full. More than 100 fragments of Roman writing tablets have been unearthed, while 700 boxes of pottery fragments will be analysed by specialists.
This site has provided the largest quantity of Roman leather to have ever been unearthed in the capital, including hundreds of shoes. Sophie Jackson, from the museum, said: ‘The site is a wonderful slice through the first four centuries of London's existence. The waterlogged conditions left by the Walbrook stream have given us layer upon layer of Roman timber buildings, fences and yards, all beautifully preserved and containing amazing personal items, clothes and even documents - all of which will transform our understanding of the people of Roman London.’ Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article

Longford Park Community Café
Contracts have now been signed and the Community Café is due to open Mid June.

The best way to preserve older buildings such as the Edwardian Bungalow is to put them back into productive use and this scheme will restore an attractive building in the Longford Park conservation area as well providing the local community with a cafe, community space and centrally located toilets.

The conversion of the building comprises replacing roof coverings, repairs to timbers, new windows and doors, re-pointing and general repairs plus the internal rearrangement of facilities to provide a new cafe with an associated toilet block which can be opened up separately. Externally, a new paved seating area is to be created for use by the cafe.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2013**

**Tues. 11th June**
Visit to STAG HQ of 1st Timperley Kipling Cubs for their local history badge.

**Sun. 16th June**
ROADSIDE COTTAGE, GT. WARFORD. Start of two week excavation of demolished bay. Contact Derek Pierce if you wish to participate.

**Thurs. 20th June**
TAMESIDE ARCH. SOCIETY. Visit to STAG HQ & Timperley Old Hall site, with special interest in TOH ceramic finds.

**Sat. 29th June**
POULTON PROJECT, South of Chester. STAG group visit. Contact Jane Darwin for details.

**Mon 1st – Sat.13th July**
DIG GREATER MANCHESTER. Hulme Cavalry Barracks, Manchester. Contact Brian Grimsditch at: b.grimsditch@salford.ac.uk or call 0161 295 3821.

**Sat 20 July 10.30 – 4pm**
BOLTON LIBRARY & MUSEUM. Local Archaeology Societies Fair

**Sat.13 to Sun. 28 July**
CBA FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY. Check website for details. http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/whatson

**Sat, 7th Sept. 10 – 4pm**
WARRINGTON VIKING MEDIEVAL MARKET – Attractions include a Medieval Market, Victorian Market & enactments.

**Fri. 18th October**
CBA NW INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Recapturing the past of Salford Quays. Ordsall Hall, Salford