

Surtees Society Report 2013/14 for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The Surtees Society has published its volume 218 in March this year. This is the late Prof Richard Britnell's edition of *The Earliest Manorial Accounts of Durham Cathedral Priory, 1277-1310* which provides an invaluable overview and way in to these earliest accounts of the cathedral's estates, amplified by an admirable introduction and most helpful glossary of the often peculiar vocabulary used in the accounts. Richard's untimely death meant that the Society is most grateful to Dr Margaret Harvey, Dr Anne Orde and Mr Simon Squires for the completion of the volume in terms of the index and checking of proofs. As a tribute to this most eminent of medieval economic historians, the volume was launched, in conjunction with the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, in the World Heritage Site Visitor Centre on 29 April. Dr Ben Dodds spoke most eloquently to the volume, and to Richard's work in general, and a small display was put on of Richard's publications.

In the press at present, and shortly to be the Society's volume 219, is *Chancellor Walter Fletcher's Diocesan Book: the Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1844, incorporating Bishop Percy's parish notebook, 1828-1850*, edited by Dr Jane Platt. This will be published early in the new year, jointly with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society who will host a launch for it. Further volumes in progress are: *Northallerton Wills, 1665-1719*, edited by Dr Christine Newman and Dr Dorothy Edwards; *Foundation Documents from St Mary's Abbey, York, 1085-1137*, edited by Prof Richard Sharpe, Dr Nicholas Karn, Mr Michael Gullick and Prof Janet Burton; *Rites of Durham*, edited by Dr Margaret Harvey and Dr Lynda Rollason; and *Morpeth Electoral Correspondence, 1766-76*, edited by Dr Joseph Fewster.

As already indicated, the Society lost one of its co-editors and longstanding vice-presidents with the death of Prof Richard Britnell in December 2013. With Dr Margaret Harvey, he had been responsible for taking on the crucial editorial duties of the Society from 1999 from Mr Alan Piper. Together, they maintained a consistent quality and quantity of output which bears comparison with any other similar society in the country. Given his medieval economic historian background, Richard dealt with the more medieval end of the spectrum and compiled editorial guidelines for medieval volumes. As well as the above volume 218, he also contributed himself volume 208 (*Records of the Borough of Crossgate, Durham, 1312-1531*) to the Society's corpus.

To augment further the Society's financial oversight, a small committee has been instituted this year, generally meeting a couple of times inbetween Council meetings. It comprises the treasurer, secretary and Mr Alan Ribchester, and reports its deliberations to Council.

Membership of the Society currently stands at 195 of which 61 are individuals and 134 are institutions.

Michael Stansfield, Hon Secretary
5 December 2014