

Surtees Society Report 2014/15 for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The Surtees Society published its volume 219 in March this year. This is Dr Jane Platt's edition of *Chancellor Walter Fletcher's Diocesan Book: the Diocese of Carlisle, 1814-1844, incorporating Bishop Percy's parish notebook, 1828-1850*, published jointly with the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society as volume 22 in their Record Series. Based on visitations, and on articles of enquiry now lost, these records add to a growing body of knowledge relating to the condition of the Church in the first half of the nineteenth century, providing a unique record of livings in the Carlisle diocese prior to its expansion in 1856. The volume was launched in Carlisle Cathedral Library on 15 May when the related inaugural Wade Lecture, funded by a legacy from a former Society member, was delivered by Professor Bill Sheils.

Northallerton Wills and Inventories, 1665-1719, edited by Dr Christine Newman and Dr Dorothy Edwards, will be the Society's next volume, as number 220. It is already in the press and will be published in February 2016. It is part of a series of volumes analysing and rendering accessible the probate records of various parts of the region, with similar volumes for Sunderland and Darlington having appeared in recent years. Future anticipated volumes include *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; *Morpeth Electoral Correspondence, 1766-76*, edited by Dr Joseph Fewster; *John Chipchase and Elihu Robinson Weather Diaries*, edited by Prof Robert Tittler; and *Religious Census of Cumberland & Westmorland, 1851*, edited by Revd Alan Munden.

Through the efforts of Angus Winchester, the Society has been developing a symposium with the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University to be held on 23 April 2016 under the title "The Raw Materials of History: Publishing Historical Records". This will be in memory of and funded by a legacy from one of its late and formerly longest serving vice-presidents, Constance Fraser, who died in 2013. The day will explore the principles and practice of publishing scholarly editions of original historical records.

During the year, the Society lost its treasurer since 2013 (Pete Maggs) on his promotion to the post of University Librarian at Lancaster. Alan Ribchester has been acting treasurer in the interim but John Marsland, from an accountancy background, has now agreed to take on the position. The small committee of the treasurer, secretary and Alan Ribchester has continued to meet a couple of times between Council meetings to maintain oversight of the Society's financial affairs. Melanie Lyons from the Faculty office now attends this committee to enable closer interaction between the Society's officers and its administration.

Membership of the Society currently stands at 187 of which 58 are individuals and 129 are institutions.

Michael Stansfield, Hon Secretary

4 December 2015