



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Book Now for Oxford 2017

#### SNSBI 26TH Annual Conference, March 2017

The next Spring conference will be held from 24– 27 March, 2017 at the **Milton Hill House Hotel, Steventon, Oxfordshire**



The conference location commemorates the earlier county survey volumes of **Margaret Gelling**: Milton Hill was historically in Berkshire and is now in Oxfordshire. Many of the conference papers will relate to Oxfordshire and the surrounding counties but papers on all regions of Britain and Ireland will be welcome.

The first circular for the conference is enclosed with this newsletter and further details and a call for papers appear on p 6.

**Please note that bookings and deposits must be received by 15 October, 2016, to reserve accommodation.**

### Newsletter NS. 13 Autumn 2016

#### Editor's letter

*Hello again and welcome to SNSBI's autumn newsletter. As usual, the banner at the top has changed to reflect photos and interests of members. The photo of **Toogood Street** was taken by Liz Hamilton and submitted by **Peter McClure**; that of **Coates Lane** was taken by **Jennifer Scherr** during the recent conference in Ireland; **Highams Park in Walthamstow**, is by **Brian Corrigan** and **Charlie Chaplin Walk** was found on an idle trawl through the internet. As always I am grateful to receive any photos particularly from areas which may seem under represented.*

*Plans are well in hand for the next Spring Conference. Please do take note of the pleas for early booking and prompt payment. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find university accommodation for the conference and big hotels require large deposits well in advance, which places a strain on the Society's finances.*

*We have had to say goodbye to several colleagues and friends over the last few months and respects are paid to them in various places throughout the newsletter. I am extremely grateful to members for letting me know when such notices are due, but it is also nice to have some good news about members. There are a couple of such pieces in this issue, but more would be welcome.*

*I am now looking forward to the day conference in Newcastle upon Tyne in October and to the Spring conference in Oxford. I hope to see many of you there.*

Linda M. Corrigan (editor)

CHARITY NO. 0177455  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:  
2016 -17

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Dr Eleanor Rye

Ms Jennifer Scherr

#### Stop Press: last chance to book

By the time this newsletter reaches you, there will be very little time left to book for the SNSBI autumn day conference **Names of North-East England and Beyond** in Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday 15 October. Booking forms are on [www.snsbi.org.uk/2016\\_Newcastle.html](http://www.snsbi.org.uk/2016_Newcastle.html) or from [treasurer@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@snsbi.org.uk). Brief details on back page

**Welsh Place-Names Society**  
Annual Conference, 1  
October, 2016, in Ruthin  
details from  
[angharad.fychan@googlemail.com](mailto:angharad.fychan@googlemail.com)



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Conference reports: 1

**SNSBI Postgraduate Workshop 2016** Report by **Rebecca Gregory** and photos by **Rebecca and Alice Crook** (*unless otherwise credited*)



*St Patrick's College (photo by Katrin McClure)*

The fourth SNSBI postgraduate workshop took place immediately before the main annual conference at Maynooth. It was organised by **Alice Crook** of the **University of Glasgow**, and **Rebecca Gregory** from the **University of Nottingham**. The workshop continued the themes of skills and methodology from previous years, and incorporated some of the fascinating local history and onomastics from the area around Dublin.

Some participants were old hands at these workshops, but we were pleased to welcome several new SNSBI members joining us this year. Students at varying stages of their research travelled from universities in Ireland, Scotland, England and

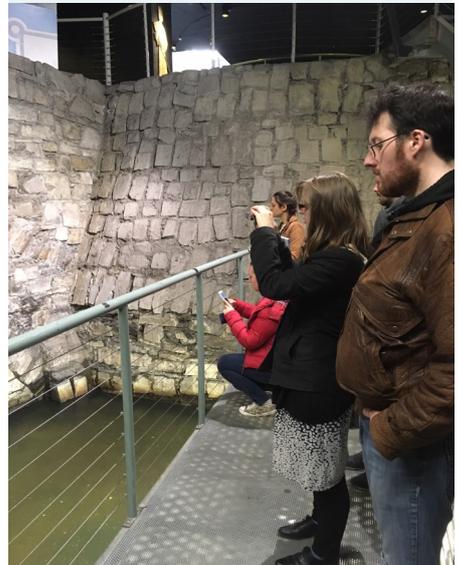
Sweden, and a wide range of research areas was represented, from comparative work on personal names in different cultures to new place-name survey work.

The workshop began on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, where we met at **Dublin City University** and spent the morning getting to know one another, discussing our research projects, and talking about some of the problems we are facing during our research, as well as techniques and ideas we've found to be most helpful. We then spent an afternoon at a workshop organised by **Fiontar** at **Dublin City University (DCU)**, entitled '*Tools for sharing minor placenames*'. We heard from a number of speakers working on different projects in Ireland and in Wales, and learnt about the use of crowdsourcing and the potential for online databases as a tool for onomastic research.

On Friday morning we visited the office of the **Placenames Branch**, where **Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill** treated us to a fascinating talk on the history of the Ordnance Survey and the role of the Placenames Branch in Ireland's onomastic and cartographic history. He also showed us some of the resources held at the branch,

and discussed with us some of the work they currently carry out.

In the afternoon we took an onomastic-themed tour of Dublin, incorporating a tour of Dublin Castle and its medieval undercroft (*see photo below*) by one of the castle's excellent guides, and a walk



around some of the city's oldest buildings and ancient streets. One of these is Fishamble Street (*see photo below*), the main area for fish processing and sale in medieval Dublin, and the modern street still follows the





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same route it did in the Viking Age.

We also visited the rather sad remains of Isolde's Tower, which used to be the north-east corner tower of Dublin's thirteenth-century city wall and probably stood at 30-40ft tall before it was demolished in the seventeenth century. It can now be found languishing behind a metal fence accompanied by wheelie-bins and a rather large padlock. Other aspects of Dublin's history, however, were vividly represented and we passed a Viking ship mural along with plaques commemorating archaeological finds from the Viking Age. The participants



all found the workshop very rewarding, offering opportunities to learn about the role of new technology in onomastic research as well as working with one another to troubleshoot research problems and concerns. We were also able to learn about the exciting work being done in universities in the UK, Ireland, and Scandinavia. We

would like to thank **Fiontar** at **DCU** for the excellent workshop, and **Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill** for giving us such a fascinating tour of the **Placenames Branch**. (See *photo left*) We are also grateful to the society for their generosity in supporting this workshop for a fourth brilliant year.

SNSBI would like to assure students that although there will be no postgraduate workshop associated with the 2017 Annual Conference, it is hoped to reinstitute the workshop in 2018. In the mean time students are invited to apply for a bursary towards the cost of attending the main conference in 2017.

### Research Projects & Websites:

#### Essex Place-Names

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/essexplacenames/>

The Essex Place-names database contains names of fields, roads, inns, houses, farms, manors, places, rivers, streams, woods, etc., and names of owners, tenants, landlords, parties to agreements etc., recorded from historic documents such as Tithe Awards, Rental Agreements, Surveys, Maps, Rolls, Inquisitions, Deeds, Charters.

The database is therefore of use to historians,

genealogists, linguists, archaeologists and philologists. It is hoped its use will lead to identification and distribution of archaeological sites and historic buildings, will enable analysis of place-names as an indicator of early settlement, landholding and agricultural practices, will refine more precisely descriptive words and word-elements given by early settlers to topographical features, enable family historians to trace back owners and occupiers of land.

Parish Place-Name booklets which contain in hard copy field- and other place- and personal names with additional information are available for purchase from the Essex Record Office book counter.  
tel. 01245-244644

**Onomastika Elkarte** / **Sociedad Vasca de Onomástica** / **Société Basque d'Onomastique** has been founded.

<https://onomastika.org/>

Our society aims to contribute from the Basque world to the scientific study of Onomastics. We hope to share our endeavour with the international Onomastics community at large, collaborating in projects and other initiatives with peer entities whenever possible.



Names Places People

# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Conference reports: 2



St Patrick's College (Photo by Katrin McClure)

### SNSBI 25th Annual Conference, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

#### Memories of Maynooth: Report and photos (unless otherwise credited) by Jennifer Scherr.

Early on the morning of Friday 15th April, **Harry Parkin** and I (current and former SNSBI hon. secretaries) set off together from Bristol Airport for Dublin – at almost the same time, but on different flights, with different airlines – and arriving at different terminals! However, we rendezvoused successfully at the airport 'hopper' bus stop, and were taken straight to Maynooth, Co. Kildare in good time for coffee.

I had been looking forward to returning to **St Patrick's College**, as I was startled to discover it was the spring of 1998 when the Society first met there. The college has been developed and

modernised considerably in the intervening period, now providing an attractive conference centre as well as offering undergraduate degrees. Some of us certainly appreciated the splendid new en-suite bedrooms, compared to our previous experience of plain and simple seminarians' rooms, with facilities way down lengthy atmospheric corridors.

As we learnt on our campus tour on the Saturday afternoon, the college was founded in 1795 as the National Seminary for Ireland, to minimise continental and potential revolutionary influences on education for the priesthood. (By a quirk of history it appears that current professors still swear allegiance to the British crown.) The later quadrangle buildings were designed by **Augustus Welby Pugin** in the 1840s. We ate every day in the imposing Pugin Hall, named in his honour. (see photo below) (However, the very large and beautiful



chapel - which I still haven't managed to see - was constructed later in the century.)

Our colleagues **Aengus Finnegan** and **Ruari Ó hUiggin** had planned a most impressive conference, with the assistance of many local colleagues. The weekend itself was preceded, as has now become the custom, by a postgraduate workshop. **Míchaél Ó Mainnin's** opening lecture to the conference proper, on Friday evening, shared the distinction of also being the **Paul Walsh Annual Lecture of Maynooth University's** Department of History.

The next day we heard about (mainly) Irish personal names, surnames, and place-names, followed by various project reports. We were lucky with the sunny weather – but it was still very cold – as we discovered during the late afternoon's walking tour of campus and castle. (see photo below) It wasn't just the tale of the college's haunted room which had us shivering.





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Our Maynooth Guide in full flow (photo by Katrin McClure) Sunday's presentations covered English place-names, and street and river names. A highlight for me was **Pat McKay's** very personal paper on place-names in the poetry of **Seamus Heaney**. In the afternoon, a coach took us to the nearby town of Trim. Here we were shown round the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, (see photo below) where we learnt, amongst much more relevant



information, that the castle had featured in the film *Braveheart*. There was ample time for tea, before returning for the final session. In the evening there was an informal music session and even dancing, for those with the stamina to keep going!

### News: SNSBI People



Photo by Brian Corrigan

Congratulations to our current SNSBI President, **Peter McClure**. In July, the **University of Hull** awarded him a PhD by publications, and in August, he was appointed **Honorary Professor of Name-Studies** in the **Institute for Name-Studies** at the **University of Nottingham**

As well as good news of members, there is also some sad news to pass on.



photo submitted by G Casely Just too late for the last newsletter came the news of the death, on 15 February, 2016, of **Professor Wilhelm F.H. Nicolaisen**, former SNSBI President (1993-96),

and founding member of first the *Interim committee on name-studies in the British Isles* and then the *Council for Name Studies in Great Britain and Ireland*, both precursors of SNSBI. Obituaries can be found in several places including the websites of *The Scotsman* <http://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/obituary-prof-wilhelm-fritz-hermann-nicolaisen-english-lecturer-1-4034258> and the University of Glasgow [http://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/news/headline\\_446401\\_en.html](http://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/news/headline_446401_en.html)

**Bill Nicolaisen** will be much missed in the world of onomastics. A full appreciation of his life and work will appear in *Nomina* in due course.

**Pam Combes**, a well known member of SNSBI, died on 16 February, 2016.



Pam deep in conversation, at the Canterbury Conference. Photo by L Corrigan

Pam was an indefatigable attender of conferences and researcher into the place-names and history of Sussex. SNSBI is greatly indebted to her for the way in which she took over the role of treasurer, at very short notice, after the sudden loss of **Mary Higham**. An appreciation will appear in *Nomina* in due course.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Forthcoming events: SNSBI

#### SNSBI 26TH Annual Conference, March 2017

#### Milton Hill House Hotel, Steventon, Oxfordshire

The speaker on Friday evening will be **Ros Faith**, on farming in woodland and in downland. Papers on place-names of Oxfordshire and the surrounding region will cover topics including: Anglo-Saxon estates, animals and place-names, field-names and archaeology.

To celebrate the publication of *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*, we also have a number of papers on personal names of the area: locative surnames of Oxfordshire, South Midlands surnames, names of the Gloucestershire Cotswolds.

The coach excursion on the Sunday afternoon will be led by **Ann Cole**. She will be taking us around South Oxfordshire and the Chilterns – the area that was the focus of her case studies in *The Landscape of Place-Names*.

Please remember to complete and return your booking form, by email or post by 15 October, 2016. The form is enclosed with this newsletter.

### Call for papers

#### SNSBI Spring conference, 24-27 March 2017, Steventon, Oxfordshire

So far the programme includes speakers on place-names and personal names from Oxfordshire and the surrounding counties. We will also want to make sure that we include contributions relating to other geographical areas and we would like to include a slot for people to give brief reports on projects.

We are keen to provide opportunities for students to speak, especially if they haven't given a talk before at an SNSBI conference. We're looking for talks of 20 to 30 minutes. Please draw this to the attention of any students you know who might be interested.

If you are interested in giving a paper or a project report, please contact **Katie Hambrook**, [khambrook@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:khambrook@brookes.ac.uk), by the end of October.

#### SNSBI 27th Annual Conference, 6-9 April, 2018, Blackwaterfoot, Arran.



Date and venue to be confirmed. More photos at [http://](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arran/blackwaterfoot/)

[www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arran/blackwaterfoot/](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arran/blackwaterfoot/)

### Forthcoming events: Other Societies

#### Lancashire Place Name Survey

Annual General Meeting to be held at **Lancashire Archives**, Bow Lane, Preston 25 October, 2016.

To commence 18:30

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by the **Lancashire Place Name Survey Annual Lecture** to be given by **Dr Jayne Carroll** of the **University of Nottingham & the English Place-Name Society** on the subject of *“Completing the Shropshire place-name survey: landscape, language, history”*

The lecture is open to all. Tickets cost £5 each (no concessions) and must be paid for in advance. Please note that due to the limited space available, tickets must be purchased in advance. Please send a cheque for the full amount due and payable to **Lancashire Place Name Survey** to: LPNS, Jennifer Holt, 258 Blackburn Road, Haslingden, BB4 5JF.

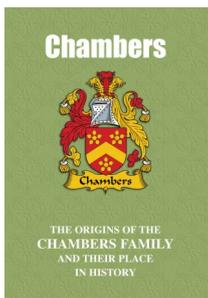
All ticket orders must reach the LPNS by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016. N.B. The tickets will only be sent out (by second class post) where it is not possible to confirm the booking/ticket number(s) by email.



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### Publications

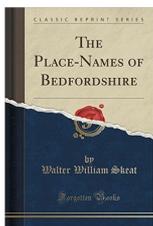
Recent Publications which may be of interest or amusement to members:



**Chambers**  
(English Name Mini-Book):  
**The origins of the family name Chambers and their place in**

**history** by Iain Gray

This title is part of a series of English Name Mini-Books from Lang Syne Publishers Ltd. (14 Sept. 2016). At present they only seem to be available in Kindle Editions.



Perhaps of more interest is the series of **Classic Reprints** under the **Forgotten Books** imprint **The Place-**

**Names of Bedfordshire** by **Walter William Skeat** is due out in Paperback – 13 Sep 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1333565268 Other titles appear in the same series.

Please note that this is simply a listing of item(s) 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.

### More News SNSBI People



**Richard Coates** on the Radio

**Richard Coates**,  
Professor in

Linguistics at the **University of the West of England**, and a well known SNSBI member featured in the Radio 4 programme *Word of Mouth*. “**Michael Rosen** talks to **Dr Laura Wright** about her new research on popular house names, from Foo Choo Villas to Nutty Hagg to Orchard Cottage, and what this tells us about our history. She's uncovered why some houses have names but some have numbers, and what this tells us about our history. Place names expert **Professor Richard Coates** joins them to talk about the origins of these words in the UK. The programme can be downloaded or heard as a pod cast at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b076hrxn](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b076hrxn)

Several members have drawn our attention to the death of Rob Rentenaar, a distinguished name in the international world of onomastics. He died in May 2016. Full obituaries are available in Dutch at <https://www.meertens.knaw.nl> and [e-onomastics.blogspot.co.uk/2016\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://e-onomastics.blogspot.co.uk/2016_05_01_archive.html)

Sadly, we also have to record the death of another SNSBI member **David Hey**, on 14 February 2016. He was a long standing member of the society and hosted the conference in Sheffield in 1999.

“[his] own specialism in the field lay in the social history of surnames. He showed that many unusual family names had originated in the 13th century when an individual acquired a surname from a unique place name, such as Bagshaw, a remote hamlet in north-west Derbyshire – and that most of the thousand people now called Bagshaw, according to the phone books, are still living within 50 miles of their ancestral home.”

This quotation is from David Hey's obituary in *The Guardian*, which can be found at <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/feb/25/david-hey-obituary>

### 'A'm Grippit Dis Laand'

A conference in honour of our late and much-missed member Doreen Waugh (1944-2015) is being organised by the Scottish Society for Northern Studies and the Scottish Place-Name Society, on Saturday 1 October 2016 at the University of Edinburgh. The programme and booking form are available on the SNSBI website.



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

More Forthcoming events:  
Other Societies and a reminder

The **Essex Names-Studies Conference** highlighted in earlier issues of this newsletter will be hosted jointly by the **Essex Society for Archaeology and History** and the **Essex Place-Names Project** and will take place on **Saturday 18 March 2017, 10.30am-3.30pm** at the **Essex Record Office**. It will be on medieval landscape history - but also celebrating the work of the **Place-Names Project**.

Speakers so far confirmed are: **Dr Jim Galloway** on "*Medieval Marshlands and Environmental Change*", **Professor Steven Rippon** of **Exeter University** on "*Medieval Estates*" and **Dr Chris Thornton** on "*Wick Farms*".

**Scottish Place-name Society**  
*Comann Ainmean-Aitie na H-Àlba*

Autumn Conference, 5 **November, 2016**, at the **University of Edinburgh**

The SPNS autumn conference will be themed on special interests of **Bill Nicolaisen**. Details TBC with the autumn newsletter.  
<http://www.spns.org.uk/>

**The Guild of One-Name Studies:**

**Regional meeting**  
**22 October 2016**

at National Star College,  
Ullenwood GL53 9QU.

This is the Autumn meeting and will be attended by Guild members from Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Wiltshire. If you are not currently a member of the Guild but want to know more about us, why not come along to the meeting? Read more at <http://one-name.org/events/#UCiL2BeQ0QyUsoiy.99>

The 38th **Guild of One-Name Studies Conference & AGM** will be held at Botley Park Hotel, Winchester Road, Southampton SO32 2UA. The Conference & AGM will take place from late afternoon Friday 31 March to late afternoon Sunday 2 April 2017, with the AGM on Saturday the 1st at 09:00. The Guild is in the early planning stages for this event and therefore details will be amended and updated in due course. Read more at: <http://one-name.org/events/#ugSjxwJFHb0ujVoQ.99>

SNSBI Newsletter  
Contact details  
Phone: 01565 654014 email: [newsletter@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@snsbi.org.uk)  
Website: <http://www.snsbi.org.uk/>

Another website which may be of interest

**Ornavik**  
<http://www.ornavik.fr/>



Des vikings aux Normands, un siècle de partage culturel à vivre.

A website celebrating the development from Viking to Norman in all its aspects including place-names

The **SNSBI 2016 Autumn day conference on *Names of north-east England and beyond*** will be held on Saturday 15 October 2016 at the Stephenson Suite in the Mining Institute, Newcastle upon Tyne (Neville Hall, Westgate Road, NE1 1SE). Speakers are: **Paul Cullen** on locative surnames of Northumberland, **Peter McClure** on surnames like Northumbrian Surtees and Del Strother, **Fiona Edmonds** on Gaelic place-names and personal names in north-eastern England, **Diana Whaley** on the naming of Northumberland forts and castles, **Leonie Dunlop** on coastal names of Berwickshire, and **Simon Taylor** and **Alison Grant** on names of islands and rocks in the Firth of Forth. More details at [www.snsbi.org.uk/](http://www.snsbi.org.uk/)