



Lossenham Project Newsletter

ISSUE 22



Introduction



Kekkonen (left) state visit to Stockholm 1956

Stockholm 3 Sep 1957

Kekkonen (left) with writer Evvo Joenpeltto 1958

"Turvallisuus ei ole aitojen panemista, vaan ovien aukaisemista."
Security is not putting up fences, but opening doors.
(Urho Kekkonen, President of Finland 1956-1982)

On 3 September, we are presenting the first Lossenham Project Study Day, with a number of key project participants talking about their efforts and findings. There will also be an exhibition and a chance to meet and talk to the researchers and experts – not to mention a buffet lunch!

The date is fairly significant in history – in 1843, a very quick revolution in Greece forced King Otto to give up on absolutist ideas, and of course it was the day in 1939 when Britain and France declared war on Germany, setting off WWII. Also my parents were married (in 1955), Sweden started driving on the right-hand side of the road (in 1967) – and in 1900, Urho Kekkonen was born.

He was probably Finland's most important politician in the 20th century, and, with his colleague and sometime rival J. K. Paasikivi, responsible for successfully keeping Finland out of the Soviet sphere and carefully maintaining good relations with both East and West during the Cold War. He fought for the Whites in Finland's Civil War, remained firmly anti-Russian during the Winter War, but became convinced that Finland's only option was to find a way between the emerging superpowers and remained more of a centrist after the war. Very much a pragmatic, he was not above bending a few rules when necessary, and became so popular with the Finnish electorate that his final re-election as president (in 1978) was pretty much a formality.

Perhaps that's the spirit we need right now?

Åke Nilson
Chairman of the Janus Foundation



Music at Lossenham

This year's musical endeavours at Lossenham will see three projects shortly completed: Lossenham Frequencies and Tracing Pieces by Russell Burden and Drink only from the Fountain of Light by Paul Cheneour's 'A priori'. All three projects were conceived as responses to the qualities of the Lossenham landscape and its changing atmospheres.



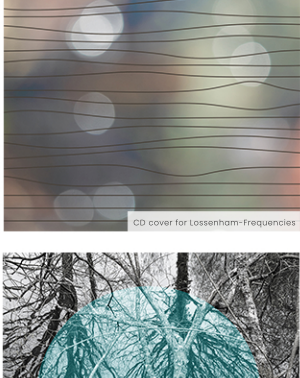
A priori Lossenham Recording Session

Lossenham Frequencies –

Russell Burden and guests

Six pieces by Russell Burden created to explore differing qualities of spaciousness at Lossenham. Delivered through ambient drones with field recordings, five works on this CD length album layer lines of improvisation from invited performers.

The contributions include flute, violin, cello, voice and spoken word.



CD cover for Lossenham-Frequencies

Tracing Pieces –

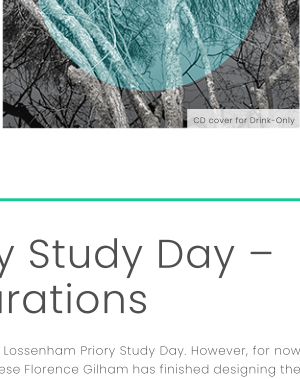
Russell Burden with Paul Cheneour and David Leahy

Two six-minute drone pieces written by Russell then improvised to by Paul on flute and David on double bass, recorded live. Improvisations were performed whilst interpreting images made specifically for the work and the pieces will eventually be available on-line.

Drink only from the Fountain of Light –

Paul Cheneour's 'A priori'

Paul invited five other musicians to work with his written cyclic scores to produce a spontaneously generated work. Not specifically classical, folk or jazz, the music finds itself enhanced by flavours from these genres and more. Paul's flutes were joined by oboes, violin, viola, double bass and voice. The group of musicians Paul gathered for the project has been named 'A priori'. They are now looking to continue playing together for further performances and recordings. It will be published on CD.



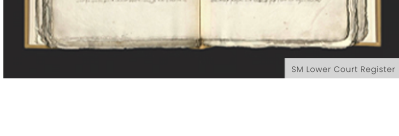
CD cover for Drink-Only

Russell Burden
Artist in Residence



Lossenham Priory Study Day – final preparations

Next month, I'll hope to bring you a short report about the Lossenham Priory Study Day. However, for now here is a snapshot about the final preparations. Among these Florence Gilham has finished designing the sixteen exhibition banners that will highlight the research activities of members of the wills group with two banners from Russell Burden on artistic responses to the local natural environment and the place of the Carmelite friary in the landscape. These are now with the printer and once they are all set up in the barn for 3rd September, will offer opportunities for their 'owners' and our invited audience members to start discussions on topics from the role of women in Elizabethan Tenterden to how people sought commemoration either side of the Reformation in this area of the Rother Levels.



SM Lower Court Register

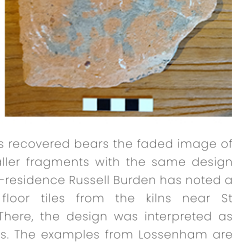
Of course, the friars were part of this spiritual landscape before the dissolution and they will be the topic of two of the short talks at the Study Day, looking at what we know from documentary sources and archaeology. To facilitate these talks Peter Smith will be setting up the audio visuals, while we are grateful for the considerable assistance we have received regarding the hiring of furniture and other equipment and booking catering from Bridget Goodwin. We also have a smart souvenir brochure as a memento of the day, so we are almost there!

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh
Centre for Kent History and Heritage



The Decorated Floor Tiles of Lossenham Priory

As the excavation of Lossenham priory continues, the assemblage of finds from the site steadily grows. Some of the most striking artefacts recovered, providing a direct insight into the lost glory of St Mary's church, are the decorated medieval floor tiles. These have been recovered across the site; we first encountered small fragments in a refuse-filled ditch close to the north range. However, more substantial pieces have been found within the church itself, many from the upper fills of burials. It is thus very apparent that by the late 1400s at least, the church had a floor of glazed and decorated tiles, the latter exhibiting a range of motifs. Interestingly, none of the designs seen so far seem to be a match for those known from the Carmelite priory at Aylesford.



Tile depicting a pair of griffons



A selection of decorated medieval floor tiles from Lossenham Priory

One of the most complete tiles recovered bears the faded image of two griffons, and several smaller fragments with the same design have also been found. Artist-in-residence Russell Burden has noted a similar design among the floor tiles from the kilns near St Bartholemew's Hospital, Rye. There, the design was interpreted as representing a pair of dragons. The examples from Lossenham are rather better executed and can be interpreted as griffons, rather than dragons, and indeed I think the tiles found at Rye also depict griffons. Whether the kilns at Rye are the source of the Lossenham tiles remains to be established, though it is a possibility. Further research should help answer that question one way or another.

Andrew Richardson
Isle Heritage CIC



Charlie's Angels reach Seventh Heaven

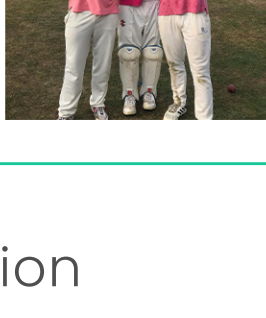
Yesterday saw us host the third Newenden Sixes tournament and it was certainly the best yet.

Five teams competed for the coveted trophy, which included Rolvenden Rampage, Northam No-Marks, Castle Hill Cockerels, Newenden Noise and Charlie's Angels (Newenden's other side).

We were treated to some fantastic encounters, with the ball often getting the better of the bat in the early stages, well all apart from one over from the hapless Fred Smith, who went for 39 runs from his six balls in the first match and was promptly switched to spend the rest of the competition behind the stumps. It was nip and tuck until the final game of the first phase, with four teams still in with a shout of reaching the wicket. In the end, Newenden Noise reached the final by virtue of having lost fewer wickets at the group stage, where they faced Charlie's Angels.

The final certainly didn't disappoint as Charlie's Angels posting the highest score of the day, 73 runs. The Noise came out of the traps well, with Ben Browning playing a captain's innings before retiring for an impressive 35. It all came down to the last over, with the Noise needing 18 to win. A last-minute wicket brought Charlie Harker to the crease to face the final delivery with a very clear task, only a boundary would do. The tension was palpable but he had an air of confidence as he put down his gin and tonic and strode to the wicket. Unfortunately this confidence was greatly misplaced and he was duly clean bowled. Charlie's Angels had won the title having won all five of their games.

Phil Morris
League Captain



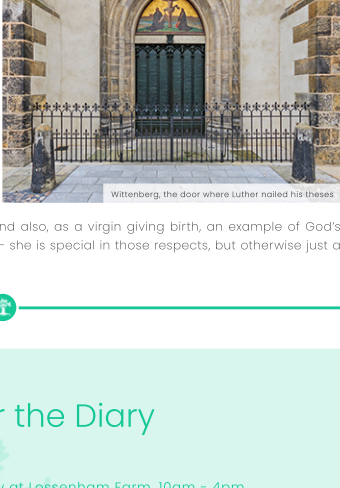
Mary in the Lutheran tradition

The Carmelite Order is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and of course the Lossenham establishment is called St Mary's Priory. But the role of Mary varies between different Christian traditions, and so here is a short explanation of her position in the Lutheran churches – we hope to follow up with other views in coming issues.

In general, saints do not figure in Lutheran faith. They are considered good people who may be worthy of remembrance and perhaps role models, but are not referred to in liturgy or prayers. Indeed, a major point of the Reformation was the ban on "saint worship". This is because any form of serious devotion to a saint would be a breach of the First Commandment.

A Catholic might say they are only asking the saints for intercessory prayer, not worshipping them, so the First Commandment is safe. However, a Lutheran would disagree. First, every individual must make their own, direct relationship with God, and the only possible intercedent is Jesus Christ. Second, salvation is only possible through faith in Our Saviour and the unfathomable grace of God. And finally, and most importantly, so they cannot intercede with God – like everybody else, they will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment and sorted into righteous and wicked, and by then it will be too late.

Mary is acknowledged to be the mother of Jesus, and also, as a virgin giving birth, an example of God's power to make miracles happen. But that's about it – she is special in those respects, but otherwise just a human being.



Wittenberg, the door where Luther nailed his theses



Dates for the Diary

- September 2022**
- Saturday 3rd: Lossenham Priory Study Day at Lossenham Farm, 10am - 4pm
- Saturday 3rd to Friday 16th: Excavation at Lossenham
- Saturday 24th: Lossenham Project Update, St. Peter's Church, Newenden, 7.30pm
- Thursday 29th and Friday 30th: Excavation at Lossenham
- October 2022**
- Thursday 13th and Friday 14th: Excavation at Lossenham
- Monday 17th to Friday 21st, Sunday 23rd to Friday 28th: Excavation at Lossenham
- (Note: these excavation dates are subject to weather conditions.)