

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

THE COUNTY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1897

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31st December 2009

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

OFFICERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

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Barbara Cast BA (3)*

Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Notts NG14 7FX

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John Hamilton MA (3)*

117 Lambley Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5BL

**Ex-officio members of Council*

Number in brackets indicates attendance at Council meetings (maximum 3)

AUDITORS

Jackson Bly, Chartered Accountants

TRUSTEES FOR THE CHARITY

John Beckett, Barbara Cast and John Wilson

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David Crook MA PhD FRHistS FSA OBE

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Gavin Kinsley BA

David Knight BA DPhil MIFA

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(Honorary Treasurer, Record Section)

Cover picture - the Butter Cross, Bingham: photograph by Robin Aldworth

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The full name of the society is the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire and it is governed by a constitution known as the 'Rules of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire'. These rules are registered with the Charity Commissioners under number 237755.

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

Under the rules of the Society, its objects shall be to promote and foster the study of the history, archaeology and antiquities of Nottinghamshire for the public benefit and to promote and foster public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Nottinghamshire's history generally.

ADDRESS FOR ENQUIRIES

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary, Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottinghamshire NG14 7FX

TRUSTEES

The members of Council are considered to be the Trustees of the Society. Details of membership of Council are shown on page 1.

MAIN ADVISORS

Bankers – HSBC Bank plc, 26 Clumber Street, Nottingham NG1 3GA

Auditors – UHY Jackson Bly, 110 Nottingham Road, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 6DQ

FUNDS

The General Fund can be used for the general furtherance of the aims of the charity. In order to achieve the aims of the Record Section, the Society has the power to print original historical materials, records and manuscripts. The income from the Maurice Barley, Nora Witham, Myles Thoroton Hildyard and Neville Hoskins Funds is used for lectures. The Coddington Fund is to be used for the William Senior Record Series volume, the Centenary Fund for the Heritage Gateway and the Davis Bequest to digitise the Nottinghamshire Bibliography.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Thoroton Society had a 'first' in 2009, when we took to the water for the Annual Luncheon, cruising along the River Trent on a superb autumnal day. Everyone who came enjoyed the event, and for those members who felt that deserting terra firma to eat an excellent lunch while in transit along the river was not for them – you missed a real treat! We had another first this year in that Council decided to keep a record of numbers attending lectures. The idea is to build up the data over a number of years so that we can spot popular lectures and popular lecture slots. For the six lectures the average attendance was 94, with a high of 110 and a low of 76. 102 people attended the AGM. We had film at a lecture when Bob Massey talked about the beginnings of cinema in Nottinghamshire at the Christmas lecture. Sadly, the cost of providing tea at lectures

has risen to the point where members are no longer having a cup before they go home, and we have decided to discontinue the service. Our thanks go to Elizabeth Robinson and Marjorie Penn as well as others who have helped over the years to provide tea at our meetings. Refreshments are, of course, available at the Mechanics' restaurant. One other development in the county in 2009 with which the Society was involved was the re-establishment of the VCH in Nottinghamshire for the first time since 1910.

As ever it is a great pleasure to me, in introducing this report, to thank the officers and editors for their hard work during the year, and in particular to thank Leslie Cram who is standing down as programme secretary after a number of years in post. Leslie has done a superb job and, with typical efficiency, he has prepared the complete programme for 2010 before leaving the post. Alan Langton (excursions) and David Hoskins (lectures) will succeed Leslie, subject to AGM's approval. As members will know, one of Leslie's predecessors in the post, Dr Maurice Caplan, died on 2 January 2010. Dr Caplan was a vice president of the Society and served on Council for many years.

John Beckett, Chairman

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

As usual the Council met at Lenton Grove on three occasions in 2009; thanks the University of Nottingham for allowing us to continue to meet there. Council oversees the Society's business, finances and development. Reports from Council members who represent the Society on various organisations or have special responsibilities are given each meeting. The Standing Committee, chaired by John Beckett, takes responsibility for day to day work, detailed consideration of developments and the planning of the programme: its activities are also reported to Council each meeting. The Thoroton Response Group continues to make representations on behalf of the Society on matters, national and local, relating to the historic environment and buildings of the County, any representations made being noted in the Newsletter: members of the Society are invited to draw the group's attention to matters of concern.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 2009

The news this year is not as good as in previous years. In common with everyone else, we have sustained a sharp drop in the income from our investments, (£316 this year, down from £2,567 in 2008). However, income from Gift-Aid has increased slightly (£1,305, from £1,263 in 2008). Members who pay income tax but have not completed a Gift-Aid form are urged to do so!

The Records Section has again made a considerable surplus, which allows ample funds for the publication of the several books that are in preparation.

From January 2008 all sales to the public of both the *Transactions* and the Records

Section publications have been through the Nottinghamshire Archives, which takes a commission of 25%. Books are on display and for sale over the counter in the Search Room at the Archives and are also advertised on the Society's website. Income from this source increased to £246 from £209 in 2008.

We have received a generous donation of £1,500 from the family of the late Neville Hoskins, which will be used to fund the annual Neville Hoskins Lecture.

The general fund of the Society totals £26,980. The total assets of the Society are £82,332, of which £2,280 is in stocks of books and ties. Debtors total £482. The bank current account balances are £474 (NatWest) and £7,108 (HSBC). The remaining £71,988 is invested with National Savings and Investments.

John Wilson, Honorary Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Comparative membership numbers	2008	2009
Individual members	211	227
Individual members – with record series	68	56
Associate members	58	51
Life members	14	12
Student members	5	5
Record series only	3	3
Honorary members	2	2
Total individual members	361	356
Institutional members	18	19
Institutional members – with record series	65	61
Institutional members – record series only	11	11
Total institutional members	94	91
Final total	455	447
Total record series	147	143

Membership numbers remained nearly static, with a tiny fall in both personal and institutional members. New personal members have tended to be individuals rather than couples and have not subscribed to the Record Series. This results in there being fewer Associate members and those taking the Record Series, while Ordinary individual

membership has risen. Personal members who joined after 1st September 2009 have been excluded from the table, as they paid no subscription for that year. Please note that the Institutional numbers were found to have been understated last year. The corrected figures are given above.

The new leaflet has continued to be distributed to appropriate places, especially City and County libraries and some museums. The Society also had stands at the Nottingham Mechanics Show and the Bramcote Local History Fair, both in September 2009. Further stands, such as at the Lowdham Book Fair, are being considered for 2010.

John Hamilton, Honorary Membership Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions

The 112th volume was published during the year and contained eight major contributions in addition to a shorter review of archaeology in the county. There were three significant archaeological papers. Foremost is Daryl Garton's substantial account of her fieldwalking programme on the brickwork-plan field-systems of north Nottinghamshire: at nearly one hundred pages, it helped make this volume the longest ever published by the society. The paper (which complements a companion piece on the earlier prehistoric and medieval material published in Volume 111) provides new insights into the origins and functions of this extensive fieldscape. Alan MacCormick's welcome paper on material from a medieval cesspit at Drury Hill Nottingham discussed an interesting group of finds unearthed in 1971 during redevelopment and for which publication is long overdue. Finally Paul Pettitt's account of the find of a pair of merels boards incised into one of the stones of Church Hole Cave, Creswell Crags, gives a fascinating insight into this ancient pastime: a companion piece on the Palaeolithic of the cave is promised for Volume 113. Other papers examined the origins of Jordan Castle in Wellow and the history of the Foliot Family of Grimston, from a member of which its name derived. A study of food and drink in Nottinghamshire households in the period c. 1540-1640, based principally on probate inventories, revealed a wealth of information as to the sale, choice, availability and provisioning of the early modern table. A collective study of the prebendaries of Southwell Collegiate Church in the 'Long Eighteenth Century' (c. 1660-1840) considered family and educational origins, career patterns, patronage and literary output as well as the organisation and running of the collegiate church. An article on George Thomas Hine, son of the well known Nottingham architect Thomas Chambers Hine, revealed the important part he played as consulting architect to the commissioners in lunacy, using his work at Mapperley Hospital as the focus. A consideration of welfare and recreation initiatives at Boots Pure Drug Company, between 1883 and 1945, completed the volume, reconstructing a world of 'workplace welfare' which was convivial, social and communitarian.

Richard Gaunt, Honorary History Editor and
Keith Challis, Honorary Archaeology Editor

Record Series

The Gedling 'Town Book' of parish accounts, 1665-1714, edited by Edward White, is nearing completion and should now be published during the first half of 2010.

Further progress has been made with the compact disc edition of the coloured estate maps of William Senior, 1600-1640. The first of three 'volumes', which will contain an introduction and reproductions of the Welbeck atlas in DVD format, is nearing completion. This contains some seventy maps of the Earl of Newcastle's estates mainly of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Northumberland.

The edition of the estate accounts of the 2nd Duke of Newcastle relating to Welbeck Abbey and Nottingham Castle etc. during the 1670s and '80s is well advanced, and the projected history and gazetteer of Lost Churches and Chapels within the county is also making progress.

Adrian Henstock, Honorary Record Series Editor

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

The year opened with the disquiet over the granting of planning permission for the excessive, overpowering redevelopment of the Odeon site still lingering on. It ended with the rather belated disclosure in the *Evening Post* that the Council Leader considered Trinity Square 'One of the worst pieces of urban design I have seen in 20 years.' Subsequently the original developer blamed interference by councillors for alterations to the architects' designs. As an interested party I have to point out the Civic Society objected to the first proposals in 2003.

The credit crunch has obviously influenced the nature and number of planning applications. Most weeks the list of such applications is largely confined to additions and alterations to existing buildings and, in season, work to trees.

The unlisted 20 Park Row, one of the buildings under threat last year, has been saved. The Planning Inspector, on appeal, deemed the proposed office block was inappropriate for the site and considered No. 20 contributed to the interest of the Conservation Area. The fate of No. 41 Pilcher Gate, the Sherwin family house of 1689-99 and probably the oldest house in the City, is still not resolved. The various sums of money being pushed around could easily cover the financial shortfall. Reports suggest another building at risk, the former Judges' Lodgings on High Pavement, will become part of the neighbouring Lace Market Hotel.

The completion and opening of the Nottingham Contemporary Art Gallery put Nottingham briefly in the national spotlight. The David Hockney exhibition has certainly drawn the crowds but the exterior of the building continues to provoke strong reaction. In mitigation, a sloping triangular wedge does provide a challenge to any architect. Nottingham's other new gallery, the New Art Exchange on Gregory Boulevard, was the overall winner in this year's Lord Mayor's Award. It has received other awards, including a Civic Trust major award, and is certainly worth a visit.

The City Council plans to move most of its scattered departments into Loxley House, Station Street, formerly offices of Capital One. Although this now seems to be a phased re-location, close attention must be given to the resulting vacated buildings, which includes the Guildhall, Exchange Buildings, an Edwardian warehouse on Isabella Street and Lawrence House.

This Council initiative, together with the intended radical up-grading of the Midland Station, the completion of several nearby residential blocks (South Reef on Canal Street etc) and the redevelopment of the Sovereign House site facing the station will lead to a shift away from the current focus close to the Market Square. Tied to all of this of course is the hope for lines two and three of the tram network.

There is much talk of housing developments both large and small within and close to the City's boundary. It is hoped that the Development Department strictly applies the standards set out in CABE's 'Building for Life' criteria to all of these schemes. [Council for Architecture and the Built Environment]

There has been considerable attention given to work for children and teenagers. This includes the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme largely benefitting primary schools and the setting up of 'Academies'. A number of new children's playgrounds have been set out around the city: that on the Forest provides a good example. A central, neutral (that is not related to the post code stigma), youth centre is being created in the former Radio Trent building on Castle Gate.

In the past the disappearance of the cinema as a distinct building type has been noted. Now the traditional English 'pub' is going the same way. In Nottingham a number of well known public houses have closed whilst some have been converted for other uses. A notable example is the 'White Horse' on Ilkeston Road, featured in the film 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning'. It is to become an Indian food outlet with the preservation of its exterior a condition of approval. Another, 'The Fox' in Sneinton, facing St. Stephen's, has been transformed into a solicitors' office.

Two City topics with a hint of amusement for County members are i) the City Council's successful bid to host games during the 2018 Football World Cup (if England is selected!) in an un-built stadium in the County, and ii) the hunt for surviving parts of medieval Nottingham; one of the tasks to be undertaken by the 'Sheriff's Commission on Robin Hood', initially to tie-in with the release of the forthcoming film of Robin Hood starring Russell Crowe but in the longer term to exploit the outlaw's tourist potential.

For 2010 look out for the opening of the new work at Nottingham Trent University's City Centre campus, interesting eco and other work in the Meadows, and further work on the revitalisation of Highfields Park where the lake and long lost cascade have been cleaned and restored with the help of the Community Payback scheme.

Ken Brand, City Planning Representative

COUNTY PLANNING AND CBA PLANNING REPORT

The number of cases to be considered was lower this year than in previous years, perhaps the financial climate in the country has had an effect.

Major developments considered have been at The Post Office, Mansfield, and The Old Mill, Bestwood Village. Other sites of interest have been D6 at Boots, Staunton Hall, 29-31 Castle Gate, Nottingham, Simkins Farm at Holme Pierrepont and the former Wash House at Welbeck Abbey.

Of particular concern have been proposals for the Clipstone Colliery site where applications for demolition of all the colliery buildings and structures except for the electricity sub-station, conveyors shop, carpenters' workshop, locomotive garage and mechanical engineers' workshop were considered on two occasions. The demolition of the headstocks and other structures and buildings was strongly opposed; these are important in the history of coal mining in the County, especially so since much of the evidence of collieries has been lost over the years.

It has been unfortunate, to say the least, that the promised Heritage Protection Bill was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech in November which means that there will be no legislation on this matter in the current Parliament. However, both the present Government and the Opposition say that they are committed to reform of heritage law although when this will take place remains to be seen. Any new Government after the election will undoubtedly have other priorities.

As always I am grateful for the help of colleagues at the CBA and in the Thoroton Society for their help and advice. I would like to particularly mention Carole Barraclough who has recently retired from CBA headquarters staff at York after twenty years working for the organisation. It was always a pleasure to meet and correspond with Carole and our best wishes are extended to her for a happy retirement.

Howard Fisher, County and Council for British
Archaeology Planning Representative

ARCHAEOLOGY

The State of the Archaeology Profession in 2009

This has been another difficult year for the archaeological profession with economic uncertainty close to all of our hearts over the past twelve months. In last year's annual report I reviewed the impact of the global recession on archaeology and I thought it worth revisiting that theme to see what, if anything, has changed. The Institute for Archaeology, which has closely monitored the situation, reports that 400 archaeological jobs have been lost in the year following the collapse of the house-building market in the United Kingdom in the autumn of 2008. However, the figure stabilised in the three months to July 2009, and a modest increase in the numbers of individuals working as archaeologists has taken place over the three months to October 2009. Much of that

increase has been related large infrastructure projects such as road building. For example, in Nottinghamshire work on the A46 south of Newark has allowed Cotswold Archaeology and Wessex Archaeology to employ significant numbers of new staff on excavations at a number of sites, although perhaps at the expense of staffing levels in more locally based field units. It is uncertain what will happen when these projects come to an end and many organisations still fear further job-losses or failures in 2010, with field staff the most threatened.

Nottinghamshire County Council Job Losses

A further impact of economic uncertainty has been the financial squeeze which the public purse has felt. In Nottinghamshire the County Council's budget announcement in November included a £33million cut in funding that has led to reductions in services and staffing across the board. Archaeology has not been immune to this and a number of jobs are to be lost from the heritage team over the next year at a reported saving of £86,000.

Conferences and Workshops

The Council for British Archaeology hosted a fascinating workshop in July at the Bolero Suite, Nottingham Arena. This workshop, "A New Climate for Heritage? Tackling climate change impacts on the East Midlands historic environment", was particularly timely given that 2009 saw both the release of the UK Climate Impact Programme's predictions for climate change over the next century and the much heralded international Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. Interested members will find details of the CBA workshop and the papers given on their web site at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/conservation/climate/workshop>. One outcome of the discussion was a matrix of potential impacts of future climate change on heritage which ranges from flooding affecting historic buildings in low-lying areas to the need for air-conditioning or climate control systems in historic buildings. Overall, this makes interesting and sobering reading for anyone concerned with cultural heritage.

Trent Valley GeoArchaeology (www.TVG.org.uk) held the third of its periodic conferences, this year entitled "Advancing the research strategy" at British Geological Survey at Keyworth in November. A wide range of speakers discussed recent archaeological research in the Trent Valley, much carried out under the TVG banner, while Drs Jen Heathcote from English Heritage and David Passmore from Newcastle University, amongst others, outlined strategies for future research. The conference coincided with the publication, on their website, of TVG's new six point research strategy for the Trent "Using the earth sciences to understand the archaeological record of the Trent Valley." It is worth noting that TVG, under the leadership of Dr David Knight of Trent & Peak Archaeology, continues to set the gold standard for research and co-operation amongst archaeologists and others engaged in research in river valleys, a model that is gradually being adopted elsewhere in England.

Keith Challis, Archaeology Representative

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE

Website statistics for 2009 show that each month an average of 900 unique visitors viewed 2,800 pages. These figures are down on the 2008 levels: this is attributable to moving the well used Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway pages to a dedicated website (www.nottsheritagegateway.org.uk) in March 2009.

The electronic version of Michael Brook's *Nottinghamshire Bibliography* continues to be a popular document and is downloaded around 200 times a month.

Our visitors come from all corners of the world with a large number hailing from the US, Australasia, Canada, Germany and the EU: strangely, there was a lot of activity from Latvian surfers in December!

As ever, the search terms people use with Google, Bing and Yahoo search engines that lead them to our website are of interest. Most are fairly unsurprising (e.g., "Steph Mastoris Sherwood Forest", "Thoroton's history of Nottinghamshire", "Flintham Hall") but the following curiosities got my attention: "who is jenny beckett of jenny becketts lane?", "was Bagthorpe in Notts founded by Vikings?", and "Waitrose Burton Joyce." I can't for the life of me remember any mention of Waitrose on the website!

Andy Nicholson, Society Webmaster

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

The development of the Gateway is moving forward slowly: there have been two new entries recently on Crime and punishment and on Sherwood Forest. You can see the Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway at <http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk>. We would very much welcome new people to write about a topic of their choice - anyone who would like to give it a go please contact me at denise@boobyer.fsnet.co.uk or denise.amos@nottingham.ac.uk.

Some of the comments on the Gateway are:- "This is wonderfully, clearly designed and easy to navigate, as well as having extremely useful content" Elizabeth Williamson, English Heritage Commissioner: "...the site is clear, easy to navigate, and informative...Ideally websites like this should be available throughout the country." Local History News

Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway has been included in Intute "a free online service providing you with access to the very best Web resources for education and research, selected and evaluated by a network of subject specialists". <http://www.intute.ac.uk>

Dr Denise Amos, Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway Co-ordinator

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

Progress has been slow on restoring the dovecote at Thoroton which is the only building the Trust currently owns. The Trust continues to comment on planning applications and to monitor developments at buildings considered to be at risk: these include Bingham Manor House, Stanford Hall, Colwick Manor Farm and Clifton Rectory. The Trust also offers advice on request to the owners of historic buildings considering changes prior to application.

Information about the Trust, with illustrations of past activities and news of future plans, can be seen at www.nbpt.co.uk

Barbara Cast, NBPT Representative

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Association held two day-schools in 2009, in March and October and, in conjunction with the Thoroton Society, commissioned an independent report on 'The Current and Future Provision of Local History Education and Research in Nottinghamshire.'

Philip Jones, NLHA Representative

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2009

Saturday 10 January: *Nora Witham Lecture*, Peter Hoare - Bromley House in Context: Nottingham Subscription Library and the library world of Nottinghamshire before the Public Libraries Act.

Saturday 14 February: *Maurice Barley Lecture*, Neil Cossons - A Nottinghamshire Historian: Arthur Cossons (1893-1963).

Saturday 14 March: *Archaeology Lecture*, David Walker - Recent archaeological work in Nottingham.

Saturday 25 April: *Annual General Meeting*, Woodborough.

Saturday 9 May: *Excursion to Boston Stump and North Nottinghamshire*, led by Alan Langton.

Wednesday 17 June: *Excursion to Newark Museum Resource Centre*, led by John Hamilton.

Saturday 11 July: *Excursion to Woolsthorpe and Grantham (Isaac Newton)*, led by David Crook.

Thursday 10 September: *Excursion to Arbury Hall, Nuneaton*, led by Margaret Trueman and Penny Messenger.

Tuesday 13 October: *Keith Train Lecture in association with the Nottingham Civic Society, English Heritage in the East Midlands*. (changed topic and speaker)

Saturday 17 October: *Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture*, Barrie Cook - Gold in the Wars of the Roses: the 15th century coin hoard from Fishpool.

Saturday 7 November: *Annual Luncheon*, Princess Endeavour, River Trent.

Saturday 14 November: *Nottinghamshire History Lecture*, Judith Mills - Stevenson revisited: a fresh look at Nottingham's Borough Records 1400-1600.

Saturday 12 December: *Christmas lecture*, Bob Massey - Animated photographs and living pictures: the beginnings of cinema in Nottinghamshire.

Leslie Cram, Honorary Programme Secretary