

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

THE COUNTY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1897

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31st December 2011

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

OFFICERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2011

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Dr Rosalys Coope PhD FSA

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Keith Goodman BA FCA, Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS, Robin Minnitt,

Vernon Radcliffe MBE FMA

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HONORARY SECRETARY

Barbara Cast BA (3)*

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

HONORARY TREASURER

John Wilson BPharm MPhil MRPharmS FRSPH (3)*

HONORARY TRANSACTIONS EDITORS

History - Richard Gaunt BA PGCE PhD FRHistS FHEA (2) * (until April 2011)

Martyn Bennett BA PhD FRHistS (1) (from April 2011)

Archaeology - Keith Challis BA MPhil MSc MIFA FRGS (0)*

CONSULTANT EDITOR AND RECORDS SERIES EDITOR

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS (2)*

HONORARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Howard Fisher MA (3)*

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HONORARY EXCURSION SECRETARY

Alan Langton BA (3) *

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

John Hamilton MA (1)* (until April 2011)

John Wilson BPharm MPhil MRPharmS FRSPH (3)* (from April 2011)

**Ex-officio members of Council*

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

AUDITORS

Jackson Bly, Chartered Accountants (until April 2011)

TRUSTEES FOR THE CHARITY

John Beckett, Barbara Cast and John Wilson

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (TRANSACTIONS AND RECORD SECTION)

Jenny Alexander BA PhD

Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA (Chairman)

Professor Martyn Bennett BA PhD FRHistS

Keith Challis BA MPhil MSc MIFA FRGS

David Crook MA PhD FRHistS FSA OBE

Howard Fisher MA

Trevor Foulds BA PhD FRHistS

Richard Gaunt BA Ph D FRHistS FHEA

Colin Griffin BA PhD

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS (Editor Record Section)

Gavin Kinsley BA

David Knight BA DPhil MIFA

Chris Robinson BA PhD

John Wilson BPharm MPhil MRPharmS FRSPH

(Honorary Treasurer, Record Section)

Cover picture – Oxtton Church, reprinted from the Mansfield Reporter 1912

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

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 3.

MAIN ADVISORS

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

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 2011

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As this report shows, the Thoroton Society was as busy as ever in 2011, and I do hope members enjoyed the varied programme that was made available to them. For me, one of the highlights was being able to celebrate at the Annual Lunch with our President, Rosalys Coope, as she turned 90, still as lively (physically and mentally) as she was twenty years ago when she told me she thought she was about to drop off her twig! Unfortunately, I missed her valedictory lecture on Newstead (given in February) but that will now appear in *Transactions*, and then we hope to produce (with Rosalys' enthusiastic involvement and support!) a complete volume of her Newstead papers. And this was also the year when she finally overcame her technological disdain (or was it phobia) and took with great enthusiasm to her iPad!

By contrast, we were saddened to lose Vernon Radcliffe, one of our long-serving vice presidents, and a regular attender at events until a few years ago.

We were pleased that Keith Goodman, who looked after the Society's accounts for very many years, was elected a Vice President at the AGM.

Richard Gaunt stood down as editor (History) but has agreed to stay on the Council and his input is sure to be invaluable. Professor Martyn Bennett from Nottingham Trent University has replaced Richard as History Editor, and we welcome him into this key position.

Through the year the officers did their best to steer the Society in an orderly direction, and I personally am very grateful to all those who put so much time into the Society in various ways. But one theme that runs through the annual report is the frustration officers often feel at the lack of feedback from members. You will find in the pages that follow the Newsletter Editor asking for information from the remoter parts of the county, the Excursions Secretary asking members to tell him where they would like to go (not just to apparently ignore some visits he has organised in good faith), the Honorary Secretary asking for information on which the Response Group can act, and so on. If you ever find yourself asking 'where is the Thoroton Society?' over some issue in Nottinghamshire, the answer may be that it is waiting for you to keep it informed. Contact details are on the programme card, the newsletter, the website etc. etc.

On this note, we need to recruit a replacement for Howard Fisher for taking responsibility for County and CBA planning oversight. Is this something *you* could do?

Finally, to all our new members, a warm welcome (see the membership figures given below). We hope you enjoy the Thoroton Society. Do make yourselves known to the officers, who usually attend lectures and wear name badges.

John Beckett, Chairman

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Lenton Grove has again been our venue for the three meetings of Council this year; again thanks to the University of Nottingham for the use of its premises. Council oversees the Society's business, finance and development. Reports are given to Council at each meeting from Council members who represent the Society on various organisations or have special responsibilities. The Standing Committee, chaired by Professor 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 usually noted in the Newsletter: this year these have included four representations on the Southwell Roman site, pre and post planning decision; the County Council's proposals to restructure key services; the Government's Draft National Planning Policy Framework; the Old Magnus Buildings, Newark, Newark and Sherwood DC's Conservation Management Report; and to the City Council on Newstead Abbey. 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 2011

This year sees the first set of accounts prepared using the simpler Receipts and Payments method, rather than the accruals method used in previous years. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission instructions for Receipts and Payments booklet CC16 (available on the Charity Commission website). As a result of the reconciliation process between the two systems, the figures in last year's report are not directly comparable with those in this report. I must thank my daughter, Miss VJM Wilson BA ACMA, for her work in January 2012 on reconciling the accounts with the previously used accruals method. This work she carried out whilst insisting on receiving no payment from the Society.

The income from our NS&I investment is almost identical to last year at £217. Income from Gift-Aid has fallen (£1,299 from £1,531 in 2010) but this is due to the additional Gift-Aid that was successfully claimed in 2010 on a particular donation.

From January 2008, all sales to the public of both the *Transactions* and the Records Section publications have been through the Nottinghamshire Archives, who take 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 was £144 in 2011, compared with £445 in 2010.

We received a contribution of £720 from English Heritage towards the printing costs of the paper on tree-ring dating of timber-frame buildings in Norwell and two contributions from its author, totalling £160, for the paper on Byron at Burgage Manor, both of which appeared in volume 114 of *Transactions*.

The general fund of the Society totals £22,643. The total assets of the Society are £75,983 in the bank and NS&I accounts, plus approximately £2,153 in the stock of books and ties.

John Wilson, Honorary

Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Comparative membership numbers	2010	2011
Individual members	211	225
Individual members - with record series	68	75
Associate members	55	54
Life members	12	12

Comparative membership numbers	2010	2011
Student members	7	4
Record series only	3	2
Honorary members	2	2
Total individual members	364	381
Institutional members	18	14
Institutional members - with record series	57	59
Institutional members - record series only	11	7
Total institutional members	86	80
Final total	<u>450</u>	<u>461</u>
Total record series	135	143

Membership numbers have increased slightly this year. The increase in individual members has more than compensated for the loss of a small number of the institutional members. Several of the new individual members have opted to take the Record Series in addition to their Ordinary membership. Overall, a good year for membership.

John Wilson, Interim Membership Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions

The 114th volume of the society's *Transactions* was published during the year. It began on a melancholy note with archaeology editor Keith Challis reflecting on the challenging financial environment and its effect on the discipline – a fact reflected in the smaller than usual number of articles devoted to archaeological subjects. However these made up in quality what they lacked in quantity: Scott Lomax revisited the excavation of Cranbrook House in Nottingham, reflecting on the chance discovery which led to the unearthing of a human burial site in the historic core of Nottingham. A substantial report on the results of dendrochronology in Norwell by Matthew Hurford, Michael Jones and Cathy Tyers discussed fascinating evidence of the dating of individual properties in the village and set these in the context of the village's recent successful HLF-funded work on the post-enclosure period after 1832. Of the history articles, Jean Nicholson and grand-daughter Hannah, both Thoroton members, offered a morbidly fascinating account of a demographic crisis in seventeenth century Bassetlaw, sifting the evidence that it was stimulated by ergotism - the ingestion of flour ground from grain infected by a parasitic fungus. Philip Riden's discovery of the diaries of a canal promoter, Seth Ellis Stevenson, resulted in an important analysis of the development of the Nottinghamshire coal trade in the eighteenth century. Katie

Holland reflected on Nottinghamshire's place in the history of the 'choir band', focusing on the sociability encouraged by choir band visits within the shire and to adjacent counties, whilst Peter Hoare considered another type of cultured activity with a meticulous exploration of the county's different types and styles of library in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Two studies of the Burgage, Southwell, by Geoffrey Bond and Stanley Chapman respectively, uncovered more of its Byronic connections as well as its role in the polite instruction of the citizens of the town, whilst Maureen Cooper's wonderfully titled 'The Clergyman, the Widow and the Milkman' was not the start of a bawdy joke but a way into examining the sociological and economic composition of working class housing in Edwardian Nottingham through a study of its landlords. The volume provided a worthy swansong for the journal's History Editor, Richard Gaunt (who published a short article about the election songs generated by W E Gladstone's candidacy for Newark in the 1832 General Election); he is now being succeeded in the role by Professor Martyn Bennett of Nottingham Trent University.

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

Record Series

The long-awaited compact disk edition of the estate maps of William Senior, 1600-1640, is nearing completion and it is hoped to publish it during 2012. It will contain full colour reproductions of some seventy maps of the Earl of Newcastle's estates, mainly in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Northumberland, and will be accompanied by a detailed introductory book. Publication of the edition of the estate accounts of the 2nd Duke of Newcastle has been unfortunately delayed owing to the editor's illness.

A new volume is now in active preparation - an edition of the Nottinghamshire returns to Archbishop Drummond's ecclesiastical visitation of 1764 which shed light on the state of parish churches and church affairs in Georgian times. The edition will complement the returns for a similar visitation made in 1743 by Archbishop Herring which is already in print. The history and gazetteer of Lost Churches and Chapels within the county is also making progress.

An additional new project is a revised edition of the diary of Abigail Gawthorn of Nottingham, 1751-1810, which was first published in 1980. This provides a unique insight into genteel urban Georgian living and this new edition will reprint the text in the context of numerous contemporary illustrations, printed in colour where possible.

Adrian Henstock, Honorary Record Series Editor

Newsletter

There have been four Newsletters during 2011. The winter issue was a particularly

strong one with twenty pages rather than the normal twelve or sixteen. The reason was that there were several items relevant to 2011 which needed coverage alongside the usual pieces relating to Thoroton Society affairs.

I am most grateful to everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter during the year and hope this support will continue for future issues. It would be particularly pleasing to have some regular items relating to the north of the County, including Retford and Worksop.

I hope that members find the Newsletter of interest and use: I welcome all suggestions for improvements and items to be included.

Howard Fisher, Honorary Newsletter Editor

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

The one event which overshadowed all others in 2011 was the totally unexpected and dramatic announcement in December that Westfields were not only pulling out of their approved plans to enlarge the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre but were selling the centre to Capital Shopping Centres (CSC), owners of the Victoria Centre, who had their own expansion plans on the table. Once over the shock many critics pointed out that Nottingham was really too small to support two shopping centres. At a late stage the Office of Fair Trading announced that it was starting an investigation into this acquisition, which could lead to a Competition Commission inquiry. It has been suggested that CSC now has over 71% of the city's retail space.

A side issue with Broadmarsh is the location beneath the centre of Nottingham's most accessible cave system. Although having been closed pending what was to be the first stage of work on the centre, it was announced that the caves would reopen for the schools' spring half-term.

On 16 December plans for lines 2 and 3 of the Nottingham tram system received the final go-ahead from the government. Their construction is a key element in the new transport 'hub' based around an upgraded Midland Station, which will link train, tram, bus and car. Already shops and businesses on the line of the intended routes have been vacated. A rather catchy optimistic slogan 'Nottingham in Ninety' has appeared (Nottingham to London in ninety minutes). East Midlands Train does not appear so enthusiastic. The government has also confirmed it will give priority to the widening of the A453 between the city and the M1.

An advertisement has appeared in the press inviting 'expressions of interest' in some of the buildings vacated by the city council; in particular 43-59 Castle Gate, ten Grade II listed buildings, including the former Costume Museum. Also on the list is Severn's House of c.1340 moved from Middle Pavement in 1969 and reassembled on Castle Road, familiar perhaps as the Lace Centre.

With economic considerations entering planning application appraisal, it is difficult to

appraise some planning decisions. For instance, how much planning judgment was given to approving a tall *Eon* office block alongside the vacated Guildhall of 1884-8?

As noted earlier, the Nottingham Council House (Grade II*) is now home to the Coroner's Court and offices of the City Registrar, including facilities for weddings but not receptions. One hopes that this increased through traffic will respect the period fabric.

Like most cities Nottingham has a large number of empty shops, which collectively convey a sense of desolation. A scheme is being promoted to fill these blank windows with illustrative material and information promoting the best aspects of the city.

Several buildings of character are still awaiting a secure future: 41 Pilcher Gate, claimed to be the oldest house in Nottingham, and County House/Judges' Lodgings on High Pavement are two Lace Market examples. Elsewhere there was some success. 20 Park Row, a neat former solicitors' office on the corner of East Circus Street, is nearing the completion of restoration and enlargement to create a bar and restaurant. Not far away Thomas Hawksley's Ropewalk Pumping Station of 1850 has been brought back from virtually a derelict pile and converted into fine offices which, with new work, provides splendid premises for Franklin Ellis architects.

Two Grade II buildings of interest are currently awaiting decisions on applications for conversion into residential use. 15 George Street, Watson Fothergill's former office, would retain shop premises on the ground floor and have two apartments above. The majestic façade would not be touched! It is proposed that St Peter's Rectory, King Charles Street, Standard Hill, is to have internal alterations to create two apartments on its upper floors.

Members who have seen William Benner's painting 'After the Blitz', recording the destruction of buildings opposite St Mary's Church on High Pavement in May 1941, might be interested to know that, seventy years on, after several unsympathetic proposals, the latest planning application has been approved. Perhaps it was a war of attrition?

After much public outpouring of unease, the work of modernising the Victoria Baths and the associated landscaping of Sneinton Square is nearing completion. Members may wish to judge the success of this scheme.

Finally that seemingly poisoned chalice, the post of Nottingham's Director of Development, was finally grasped by David Bishop, who moved from Bristol. After a succession of short appointments one can hope now for a period of stability with the city's future development proceeding smoothly along existing clearly defined guide lines.

Ken Brand, City Planning Representative

COUNTY AND CBA PLANNING REPORT

There was very little activity during 2011, possibly due to the current financial climate and consequential slow down in construction work. I have, therefore, nothing to report of any significance.

I have notified Council that I wish to relinquish this role at the 2012 AGM. I have enjoyed the task and, in particular, meeting people whose listed property has been the subject of planning applications. Many of the properties were of much interest and which I would not have been able to see were it not for this role with the Thoroton Society. I am sure that whoever takes over from me will have an interesting time, especially if the financial situation starts to ease and building work increases.

It will be interesting to see what affect the tram extensions and work on the A453 might have on planning cases. The A46 work is drawing towards a completion and I only had one application to consider relative to this which was at Eden Hall and, even then, only indirectly, and the work in question has not yet been started.

Howard Fisher, County and Council for British
Archaeology Planning Representative

ARCHAEOLOGY

Much of the activity this year has been associated with the upgrading of the A46, much of it on the line or thereabouts of the Fosse Way. As expected there has been considerable archaeological interest, especially Roman. We look forward to a lecture on this in the 2012 programme.

Also of interest is the new University Museum which opened at Lakeside in the autumn of 2011.

The saga of the Southwell Roman and Saxon site continues with refusal of an increased number of houses; but its future remains uncertain despite strenuous efforts of local people and groups.

The financial situation continues to affect the archaeological world and we can only wait to see what this year brings.

Barbara Cast

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE

Website statistics for 2011 show that each month an average of 1300 unique visitors viewed 4,800 pages. These figures show an increase in use when compared with the previous year. The most popular time for viewing the website over this period seems to be between 4pm and 5pm in the afternoon.

The electronic version of Michael Brook's *A Nottinghamshire Bibliography* continues to be the most popular document on the website and is downloaded around two hundred

times a month.

Our website visitors come from all corners of the world with a large number hailing from the United States, Australasia, Canada, Germany and the European Union. Interestingly, the website attracted the attention of Ukrainian internet users last year!

As always, the terms people use with Google, Bing and Yahoo search engines that lead them to our website are of interest. Most are fairly predictable (e.g. "Thoroton Society", "Transactions of the Thoroton Society", "Flintham Hall") but the following oddities got my attention: "sailor on the original cigarette packet of John Player", "1st white child born at Albertland NZ" and, most bizarre of all, "old photos of ugly Hertfordshire 1700-1800." Did they all find what they were looking for?

Andy Nicholson, Thoroton Society Webmaster

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

The Gateway has made progress once again this year, if somewhat slowly at the beginning of 2011. This was made up by a rush of entries towards the end of the year. We were fortunate to get help from staff at the Brewhouse Yard Museum, the Archives and Boots in putting together entries on Nottingham's 'Big 3' industries; Players, Raleigh and Boots. Anyone who has looked over the website will realise that they are all very good entries and ones which I had considered to be serious omissions for some time: it's now good to have them in place. There are also another two entries about to go onto the site: Canals and Luddites.

Again we had outside help for the entry on Women in Nottingham, which also fills one of the criteria originally set out in the Research Pathways. I cannot stress too much the need for outside help in compiling entries. Anyone with good knowledge of a subject concerning Nottinghamshire is most welcome to speak to me about setting out an entry.

Another of the Research Pathways which has been put on hold was that of *Villages*. After Andy Nicholson's excellent introductory piece on *Villages* it was decided to 'have a go' at writing a specific village entry. Because the formats for these items are slightly different than from other entries the team discussed the best way to set them out and so the reader will see a slightly different format. Tollerton was chosen and is now up on the website as a blueprint for future entries. We have already had offers to do Plumtree and Norwell and we look forward to anyone who is passionate about their village to come forward. It would be ideal for anyone involved in the Victoria County History for Nottinghamshire to use their material for the website.

It is a concern that an unusually greater amount of material is Nottingham centred. We really would like to involve people from all over the county and, as such, a couple of the next research projects will be breweries (so come on all you who have some knowledge of those!), almshouses and the Metal Box Company.

I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in seeing their favourite topic on the website.

Dr Denise Amos, Heritage Gateway

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

The restoration of the dovecote at Thoroton, the only building the Trust currently owns, is now completed and it has been officially opened. The Trust continues to comment on planning applications and to monitor developments to buildings considered to be at risk. It has been actively involved in attempting to ensure the retention of the 17th century houses within the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark.

The Trust will offer advice on request to the owners of historic buildings considering changes prior to application. It also organises, with the CPRE, the Harry Johnson award for the best restoration or new building in a village setting.

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

Barbara Cast, NBPT Representative

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Association published its usual two issues of the Nottinghamshire Historian during the year. It held two day schools, in March and October, both at Ravenshead, which is deemed to be a suitable central location in the county for most attendees. The topics for the day schools were *Patronage in 18th and 19th Century Nottinghamshire* in March and *People, Places and Baskets* - a Nottinghamshire historical miscellany in October.

In conjunction with Nottinghamshire Archives the NLHA ran a young persons' competition, 'On the Trail', to devise a village trail. The Association is to part sponsor a Youth Heritage Conference to take place at the Lakeside Pavilion, Nottingham, in July 2012.

Philip Jones, NLHA Representative

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2011

Excursions

Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire have all featured as destinations for Thoroton Society excursions in 2011. Perhaps the most popular was the full day excursion in July to Scampston and Birdsall where the connection with the Willoughbys of Wollaton was the clue to the reason for this visit. Nottinghamshire views seen in pictures in both houses, and the reminiscences of members of the families were fascinating and comforting at the same time, especially because of the distance between the two areas and yet the closeness of the connection. The excursion to Ashbourne in May was ably led by Adrian Henstock who not only introduced us to the significant history of the parish church but also gently conducted us along the high

street to view the not-so-often seen aspects of the Georgian buildings of the town. The visit to Ilkeston, Beauvale and Greasley in June, excellently organised by Derek and Ceril Little, gave us an insight into the historic connection of the Canteloupe family with all three places. Perhaps the most moving part of this trip was seeing the developing restoration of the long neglected site of the Priory at Beauvale and the enthusiastic welcome we received there from the new owners. The last excursion in September to Stamford was the least well supported for some inexplicable reason. Here we received first-class support from the town hall staff and from the expert background knowledge of the blue-badge guide on our tour of the town.

Members' feedback is very helpful, and some members are being kind with suggestions for future visits and even offers of help with them. Please keep up your suggestions: it is counter-productive (and expensive) to arrange trips which prove of little interest.

Alan Langton, Honorary Excursion Secretary

Lectures

We opened the year, as always, with the *Nora Witham Lecture* when Rowena Edlin-White told us about Mary Ellen Shaw, described on her death certificate as a "Spinster of No Occupation". Nothing could have been further from the truth as Rowena described a life dedicated, without financial reward, to the education and welfare of huge numbers of disadvantaged people in Nottingham. This lecture was followed in February by our President, Rosalys Coope, delivering the *Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture* on the upstairs dressing room at Newstead Abbey and why "Charles II Never Slept Here!". The presentation not only gave us a great insight into the varied history of the Abbey but also highlighted the perilous state of the fabric of the building, collections and future.

March closed the winter season with Professor John Beckett celebrating "The Luddites 200 Years on" as the theme for the *Maurice Barley Lecture*. John reminded us that this band of working men, named after a completely non-existent person, became the forerunner of protest groups around the world but is now chiefly remembered as a byword for those who prefer not to keep up with the pace of modern technology. The Spring Meeting in April was blessed with glorious sunshine and Flintham resident historian and Thoroton member, Sue Clayton, helping us to see the village anew with her descriptions of many of the local buildings and a detailed history of the church.

In October, the new winter season opened with Ursilla Spence from Nottinghamshire County Council presenting the *Archaeology Lecture* with the very emotive subject of "Roman Artefacts at Southwell". Her description of what had been achieved in the various gaps between planning decisions was well received by the audience and left everyone hoping that common sense will prevail and that the site will be safeguarded or, at least, that further excavations will be allowed to take place.

Our Annual Luncheon at the beginning of November took place in The Hemsley, when Bishop Paul Butler gave us a brief talk on the production of the King James Bible in its

400th anniversary year. This talk was supported by the display of one of the original Beeston Bibles, now kept in the University archives and brought on this occasion for guests to see by Dorothy Johnston. The following week, over at St Barnabas' Cathedral Hall, Valerie Henstock gave the *Keith Train Lecture*, her theme being "The Governor's Wife". Members of Nottingham Civic Society heard her tell the story of the Civil War in Nottinghamshire as seen through the eyes of Lucy Hutchinson, wife of the Parliamentary Governor for Nottingham.

Later in November, David Nunn used the *Nottinghamshire History Lecture* to tell members about "Trent Bridge School, 1909-19 - A Decade of Heroism and Sacrifice". Presented the day after Armistice Day, the topic awoke memories amongst some who had attended the school and could remember such things as the Honours Board and the names of the staff and pupils engraved on it. Our final lecture in 2011 was the recently established *Neville Hoskins Lecture* when Dr Clive Cheesman, Richmond Herald at the College of Arms, gave us "Early Corporate Identity and Heraldry in Nottinghamshire". His explanations of the uses of heraldry in describing corporate bodies rather than family titles was an excellent illustration of a topic very close to the heart of our late President.

David Hoskins, Honorary Lecture Secretary