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# THOROTON

Number 7: August 1995

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## *A Message from the Vice-Chairman . . .*

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Most members will be aware that the Society will be celebrating its Centenary in 1997. Council last year appointed a sub-committee to consider how the occasion could be suitably commemorated, the sub-committee has met several times and a number of events are being planned.

The City of Nottingham is of course celebrating its own centenary in the same year, but we are anxious to emphasise our status as the COUNTY'S Principal Historical Society, and to that end many of the events will take place at venues in the central and northern part of the shire. We are also resolved that this is an occasion worth marking in some *style* and feel that by publicising activities in good time, members will be able to plan their investment well ahead.

Already in the planning stage is a Garden Party at Flintham Hall, a Dinner at which Sir Neil Cossons will be the guest speaker, a 're-enactment' of the Society's first excursion, special lectures and day schools, musical and social functions.

To finance these activities a Centenary Fund has been set up and fund-raising events are planned for 1996 which will also serve to raise the Society's profile and publicise its activities.

However the success of the year's events will largely depend on the support of members. You are urged to patronise and publicise the fund raising events and plan now to attend as many of the 1997 functions as you are able. Let's make it a year to remember!

*Neville Hoskins*

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## MR. PHILIP LYTH 1913 - 1995

The death of Philip Lyth in March was a loss to the Society as well as to agricultural and historical activities generally in the county.

Philip read Entomology at Reading University, then changed to agriculture; after graduating he worked in Denmark and Sweden before returning to this country. In 1949 he was appointed Principal of the newly-formed Nottinghamshire Farm Institute at Brackenhurst, a position he held for 25 years. He developed a particular interest in Agrarian History and introduced it as a subject in the farming course; the Local History of Southwell followed, and he published a valuable history of medieval Southwell.

Philip Lyth was an active member of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association (formerly Council) from its beginnings in the

early 1950s; he served on its committee, was President for some years, and latterly Vice President. Those who recall the weekend schools at Brackenhurst will remember how welcome he made everyone feel; he seemed more the host than the College Principal. He lectured at many of the schools mainly, but not exclusively, on farming subjects.

Philip was a member of the Society for 30 years; for more than 10 of those he was a member of Council, he contributed several papers to *Transactions*. He was an author and WEA lecturer, and broadcast on local radio.

He was never happier than with kindred spirits; essentially a friendly man, generous with his thanks, and a chance meeting or a phone call always left one in better spirits. Philip will be much missed.

R.O.W/M.J.

## L E C T U R E S

### MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE

The third Maurice Barley lecture was given on 11 March 1995 by David Hey, Professor of Local and Family History at Sheffield University. The subject was 'Vernacular Architecture and the Local Historian'. We were delighted that Mrs Diana Barley was able to be present. David Hey was obviously a great admirer of Maurice Barley, to whose work he constantly referred, admitting initially that the term 'Vernacular Architecture' was not Maurice's favourite as he felt it was rather too restrictive.

We were given a comprehensive look at the different types of buildings ranging from a tiny windowless cottage, mud structures, cruck cottages, an estate village and half-timbered houses to the more sophisticated stone houses of the minor gentry. Most of these were in Professor Hey's own county of Yorkshire. A curious feature of some of the houses in the Halifax area was the round window, rather like a church rose window in the gothic style. This element was slightly different in each house, but obviously from the same source. It was interesting to see how a particular form of architecture, such as the Dutch Gable spread not only down the social scale, but also from area to area, and how local historians have traced the connections via distant relatives and their associates. Bolehouse Hall in the North Peak district, with its complex of buildings, was shown to illustrate how the local historian would use evidence from all these buildings as the interpretation of a larger story. Other information valuable to the local historian was provided by probate inventories as these included the name of the rooms in the houses as well as their contents, and so helped interpret the architecture.

Professor Hey cited the work of Richard Gough on the village of Myddle in Shropshire, to illustrate what is owed to the local historian. Myddle had been the subject of a previous lecture to the society by Professor Hey some years ago. It was a pleasure to have him return for another visit.



### EXCAVATIONS OF HEMINGTON

The first lecture of 1995 was by Dr. Chris Salisbury, one of our own members, but nationally known for his work on the archaeology of the River Trent. Many members had been aware of part of Dr Salisbury's activities, some of which have been mentioned in the Newsletter, but this was a chance to put those parts into context and to appreciate their national significance.

Chris traced the development of the Hemington site, and with his authoritative narrative and excellent illustrations he conveyed the mounting excitement as years of excavation revealed the remains of not one but three medieval bridges, including the largest known timber structures from that period in Eastern England, after the roof of Lincoln Cathedral.

Members were impressed by the massive scale of the bridges, and heard a lucid account of the way in which Chris's initial discoveries led to a major operation by the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit, and how, despite flooding of the workings at a crucial stage, the work of recording, lifting and removal of the remains was carried out, and how it is intended that they will be conserved and eventually displayed.

A fascinating afternoon.

### 19TH-CENTURY LEENSIDE

Rev. Peter Bailey's 'Nineteenth Century Leenside : A Nottingham slum' was an eye-opener to many of the members who attended. Most of them had some idea of the living conditions in that area at that time, but few were aware of the reasons behind those conditions or of the people who lived there.

Peter had amassed a wealth of material in the course of his M.A. dissertation and was able to contrast the parts played by the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist churches. The population was very transient and included many Irish immigrants. Evidence shows that Leenside was used as a stepping stone to better accommodation elsewhere. The residents were not enamoured of the Anglican Church's attempts to bring culture to the area, and concerts were largely attended by audiences from elsewhere. Father Harnett, the Roman Catholic Priest, lived next to St. Patrick's church in the heart of the area and played a major part in alleviating the lot of his fellow residents.

Mr. Bailey's fascinating talk showed how research can throw a different light onto a subject. His presentation was thought-provoking and much appreciated.

## THE 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 98th Annual General Meeting almost left members in the dark. Early arrivals at Kelham Hall found the Carriage Court in darkness, relieved only by dim emergency lighting. There had been a power failure in the neighbourhood. While the Officers contemplated business by candlelight there was general relief when light was restored just before the meeting was due to start.

Proceedings began in contemplative mood as members stood in silence as a tribute to Philip Lyth and Gwen Beaumont.

The President, Mr. Myles Thoroton Hildyard, in his welcome referred in typical style to previous owners of the building.

Council's Report was approved and the accounts adopted, with advance notice that, after being held for some years, subscriptions would rise to £18 in 1996.

In his statement, the Chairman, Professor Beckett, thanked the Honorary Officers without whom the Society could not function, and mentioned particularly Adrian Henstock. The twentieth volume of *Transactions* he had edited was ready for distribution. Neville Hoskins was asked to report on the meetings of the Centenary Sub-Committee and outlined some of the proposals.

The election of Officers followed; after refreshments members were treated to a talk on the history of Kelham Hall by Vernon Radcliffe in his own style, for which the word 'inimitable' seems to have been invented. Vernon then led a guided tour of the building, enabling members to make or renew an acquaintance with its many interesting aspects.

### ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Society's Annual Luncheon will take place on Saturday 28 October 1995 in the Great Hall at Southwell. We hope members and guests will be able to join us at what has become a regular and much enjoyed function.

In recent years our practice has been to have a guest speaker usually talking about their house, or their family, or both. This year we are breaking slightly with tradition, and the speaker will be Mr. Derek Latham of Derek Latham & Co. Ltd., Architects, of Derby.

Derek Latham formed his multi-disciplinary company in 1980 with a mission to promote and achieve, in his words, 'innovative conservation', the beneficial re-use of buildings and land. His talk will be called 'Creative Re-use', and will range widely across the conservation and heritage movement including an examination of the roles

played by architects, developers, building preservation trusts, amenity societies, English Heritage, and conservation officers. He will go on to set out a philosophy for repair and examine the need for re-use and the resources available through public, European and lottery funding.

The talk will finish with an update on the refurbishment of Lenton Grove, a grade 2 listed building of about 1800 on the University of Nottingham's campus at Highfields.

Derek Latham is a member of the Victorian Society, the Council for the Care of Churches, the Peak Park Trust, Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, Buildings at Risk Trust, and many other bodies. He has a real interest in many of the issues which concern members of the Thoroton Society, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend the Annual Luncheon.

### HELP NEEDED

Sometimes a promising line of enquiry comes to a grinding halt, and someone somewhere may be able to offer a clue. If you can help with any of these, please contact the Editor; if YOU are stuck, your query could go in this column next time.

- 1) London born Thomas Colman Dibdin (1810-1893) painted, in the 1840's, some delicate watercolours of Nottingham and the Annesley area, what was his connection with Byron?
- 2) R. Henry Norwebb was born in Nottingham in 1894 and as a teenager was taken to America where he later entered the Diplomatic Service and became an Ambassador. Where was he born and what did his father do before emigrating?
- 3) Frederick Attenborough (1800-1869) was a Trooper in the 3rd. Dragoon Guards, how was he able to leave £4,200 to the General Hospital when he died? (The Trustees erected a headstone for his grave in the General Cemetery).
- 4) William Frederick Walle (1807-1892), also buried in the General Cemetery, is described as 'The Queen's Jester' on his headstone. He spent his closing years in Beeston, but where?

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*Contributions to future Newsletters are welcome. Please write to The Editor, Mr FN Hoskins, 12 Forest Road East, Nottingham, NG1 4HH. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, nor of its Council.*

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## REPORTS OF EXCURSIONS 1995

### EXCURSION TO THE BOOTS COMPANY, BEESTON SITE, NOTTINGHAM FRIDAY 12 MAY 1995

Leaders: Professor J.V. Beckett; Boots Company Guides

Members of the Society enjoyed a privileged visit to the Beeston site. The visit began with an illustrated presentation by Mr John Barks on the refurbishment of the D10 building. Mr Barks managed the refurbishment, and his talk included discussion of some of the problems which arose because this is a Grade 1 listed building. Members were then shown round the D10 building by company guides, who explained the layout of the building as well as the work taking place.

During the course of a cream tea, members listened to an illustrated lecture by Mr Christopher Weir of the Nottinghamshire Archives Office, based on his recent book *Jesse Boot*. The Company Guides then took the party in small groups around the Boots Museum, and showed some of the arts of making pills, and clocking-in for work. Each visitor received a hand-packed (in brown paper) bar of soap (for later use), and we were ushered off the site before the workforce left for home. For those members of the party who had once worked for the Company this was an ideal opportunity for reminiscence!

Particular thanks are due to Mrs Veronica Ure, Visits Organizer at Boots, and to Mrs Sandra Rose of Corporate Affairs, for making the visit possible.

### EXCURSION TO SUTTON SCARSDALE AND KINGSHAUGH. 17 JUNE, 1995

Leaders: Nancy Mulholland and David Taylor

On arrival at Sutton Scarsdale we were met by Richard Shepherd who has been recording the building for English Heritage. A good deal of preservation and restoration has been carried out. This remarkable ruin of a classical 17th Century mansion stands on the site of an earlier house belonging to the Grey family which in the 14th Century passed to the Leek family, who lived there until 1736. During the Civil War Francis Leek fortified the house against the Roundheads losing 3 sons in the process, a 4th son defecting to the Commonwealth. For services to the crown Francis was created Earl Scarsdale and though the estate was forfeited after the King's death, it was restored to the family by the generosity of their friends.

The present house was built in Corinthian style by Francis Smith of Warwick for the last Earl Scarsdale, employing the finest craftsmen. In 1824 Richard Arkwright purchased the house and descendants occupied it until 1919; it then became the prey of vandals. It was at this time that the main staircase and some fireplaces were sold and sent to a Museum in Philadelphia. Sir Osbert Sitwell from nearby Renishaw Hall deplored the decay and purchased the ruin in 1946 intending to restore it, but prior to his death in 1969 he directed that it should be placed in the hands of English Heritage.

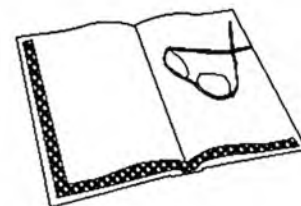
The adjacent well-kept church of St. Mary was built in the 16th Century with the structure of an earlier church contained in the South and East walls. Our guide drew our attention to its main features including the Georgian Gallery. The "singing loft" (as it was called on installation in 1719) is still in use, the church seating dates from 1866.

On arrival at Kingshaugh, a history of the house was given by the owners Mr and Mrs Elliot who, on purchasing this property had been told of its connection with King John. When the restoration of the house commenced, evidence of a much earlier occupation was found. A tour of the site revealed distinctive fortifications on the southern side, twin banks and ditches showing clear signs of an entrance, the northern side being protected by marshy ground. The historical continuity of this site is shown by the mass of excavated material displayed within the house. Roman, post medieval and Iron Age finds indicate that the importance of this site in the Middle Ages should not be underestimated. It remained in Royal hands until 1604.

A detailed study of the grounds would prove fascinating. The restoration carried out on the house and the preservation of its unusual environment bears witness to the industry and commitment of the Elliots to their remarkable property. Our thanks must go to the leaders for their work and preparation in providing such an interesting day.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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The publication of *The Thurgarton Cartulary*, edited and introduced by Trevor Foulds (ccxxii plus 813 pp, Paul Watkins, Stamford, 1994, £75), is a remarkable achievement in every respect. Thurgarton priory, a house of Augustinian canons founded by Ralph Deyncourt in the 1130s and dissolved in 1538, was second only to Lenton priory as the most wealthy monastic house in medieval Nottinghamshire. As in so many other monastic houses, its charters and other major documents were copied into a large cartulary, a book prepared by the canons themselves. Thurgarton's cartulary has since 1677 been in the possession of Southwell Minster library. Trevor Foulds, now a member of the Society's council, edited the cartulary for his Ph D at the University of Nottingham, which was completed in 1984. It now appears in a substantially revised form in a large volume consisting of 1,035 pages in all. It is a matter of great regret that the Society was unable to include the cartulary in its own Record Series, but of great satisfaction that it has now become generally available to members through another publisher.

The bulk of the text of the cartulary consists of topographical sections including charters relating to the priory's holding in 54 places in Nottinghamshire, mostly in the Trent Valley and including Nottingham itself, 13 in Lincolnshire, including Lincoln and Boston, and 7 in Derbyshire. Each is prefaced by an introduction by the editor, pointing out the nature of the priory's interests in the place and, where appropriate, its relationship with other estates there. The sections on a number of the Nottinghamshire places, in particular Thurgarton itself, Fiskerton (with Morton), Bleasby (with Goverton and Gibsmere), Cropwell Butler, Flintham and Hoveringham, are given extended topographical treatment, including coverage of field names, and are provided with maps which use details from later sources as well as the cartulary itself. Also included are the text of an important survey of the holdings of the priory in 1328, listing its tenants and the rents and services they owed; royal and episcopal instruments; final concords recording land transfers in royal courts; records of court cases concerning the priory's privileges; and miscellaneous documents, which even include a medieval recipe for ginger syrup!

The introduction contains, in addition to a history of the priory and the making and history of the cartulary itself, detailed accounts of the main families who patronised Thurgarton during the period of the expansion of its estates in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. They include not only the Deyncourts, who are accorded a full 80 pages of coverage, but also the important Burstall, Fancourt, Gousel, Heriz, Vilers and Wiverton families. These family histories are based not only on the evidence of the cartulary itself but on a wide variety of printed sources and secondary works, and on a number of the unpublished cartularies of houses in Nottinghamshire and neighbouring counties, on the contents of which Dr Foulds has unrivalled expertise. Furthermore, the notes to the texts of particular charters provide almost equally detailed accounts of many other important families and individuals of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries who happen to be mentioned in or are witnesses to those charters. Since very little use has been made of the voluminous unpublished records of royal government and courts from the 1220s onwards, and not all recent work by other scholars has been noted, these accounts will remain for the time being provisional rather than definitive, but they nevertheless represent a remarkable and extremely valuable body of information about some of the more important inhabitants of medieval Nottinghamshire. Dr Foulds deserves congratulations and thanks for undertaking the prodigious amount of work necessary to bring this important collection of material for the history of the county into general use. His publisher too deserves credit for making such a bulky and well-produced volume available at such a relatively low price. It is excellent value for money, and essential reading for anyone interested in the history of Nottinghamshire in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

David Crook  
April 1995

# BOOK REVIEWS

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David Marcombe, *Sounding Boards: Oral Testimony and the Local Historian*  
 Department of Adult Education, Publications Unit, Education Building, University  
 Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. 64pp. £5.95 (1995)

Over the past 20 years, oral history has become an invaluable tool for the local historian, though the cover of 'Sounding Boards', an 18th Century engraving of an old storyteller, reminds us that modern oral history is part of a long oral tradition stretching back many years.

In writing *Sounding Boards* David Marcombe has been able to draw on his work as director of the Nottinghamshire Oral History Project (1982-84) which has produced an important sound archive on the life and work of local people between 1900 and 1950. The project was initiated by Robert Howard, a county councillor and Peter Wyncoll, a labour historian and trades union official and it was undertaken as a joint project between Nottingham University and the County Council's Central Library, Nottingham.

*Sounding Boards* looks at a whole range of oral history issues. In the section on 'How to Conduct an Interview' there is practical advice on setting clear project goals, finding appropriate respondents, interview techniques, technical equipment, the use of analysis sheets and the vital task of transcription. The storage of the tapes is also considered, as hours of work could be lost if tapes were stored in a vulnerable environment. In a thought-provoking section on the 'Use and Abuse of Oral Testimony' David Marcombe considers the reliability of oral history as a source, as recordings may contain factual errors, political bias or prejudice. At the same time he underlines the value of oral history in revealing the feelings of those caught up in contemporary events; also in reflecting the views of minorities and in counteracting the official histories of large organisations.

Anyone at the planning stage of an oral history project or attempting to evaluate a recording will find *Sounding Boards* an invaluable introduction to their work.

Chris Weir

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Tony Shaw, *Windmills in Nottinghamshire*  
 48pp, coloured cover, numerous b/w illustrations  
 Pub. Mar. 1995 Nottinghamshire County Council £4.00



This is the latest in the square-format booklets from the County Council's Planning and Economic Development Department, following the Tudor Trail, Pinfolds and Churches. Tony Shaw, the author, is Nottingham born, educated at High Pavement Grammar School and Leicester University where he read French, and it was in France in 1950 that he first visited a windmill, sparking off the interest which developed later.

He describes 33 mills, confining himself to those of which there are existing remains. These remains range from a vestigial mound to the three fully working mills in the county, including North Leverton which, apart from occasional breaks for repairs, has been operational almost continuously since 1813.

Several of the illustrations are reproductions from water colours by Karl Salisbury Wood who painted a large proportion of the mills in the county.

The book is aimed at the general reader, avoiding many technical expressions, though there is an excellent glossary at the back and a useful list of sources. As with the earlier books, I would have welcomed map references.

A worthy addition to the series which should fulfil the author's hope that it will "interest people in an aspect of their local heritage of which they had perhaps formerly been unaware".

\* \* AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME \* \*

Saturday 14 October 1995

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE  
FOSSE WAY

by Dr. John Samuels

*Chairman: Mrs. Hazel  
Salisbury*

Dr. Samuels is well known for the work he has done on the town of Newark particularly during the Civil War and of his excavations at Newark Castle.

Over the last few years he has had a watching brief over the Fosse Way. The lecture will give an opportunity to hear what he has found out about this Roman road, especially that part which crosses Nottinghamshire and which even today forms an important link between the south west and the north east midlands.

Saturday 11 November 1995

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
HISTORY LECTURE:  
THE SHERWOOD FOREST  
MAP OF 1609

by Mr. Steph Mastoris

*Chairman: Prof. J. V. Beckett*

Steph Mastoris will be offering members of the Society a 'taster' for his forthcoming volume, with Sue Groves, in the Record Series. The Sherwood Forest Map is in the Public Record Office, and (with some financial support from the British Academy) Steph and Sue have been transcribing the text, as well as preparing the map for publication. The map covers much of the southern half of the county and includes the earliest accurate town plan of Nottingham. The lecture will point to some of the findings that Steph and Sue have found in the map, and at some of the implications for the history of the county.

Saturday 2 December 1995

TOM HAMMOND'S  
NOTTINGHAM

by Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Beilby

*Chairman: Mr. N. Hoskins*

Mr. Beilby has an extensive collection of photographs of Nottingham going back to 1860 and has researched the life of Tom Hammond the Nottingham artist who died 60 years ago and who Mr Beilby feels deserves better recognition.

Mr. & Mrs. Beilby have been honorary lanternists to the Thoroton Society for many years and it is with great pleasure that we look forward to this Christmas Special when we shall have a unique chance to hear Mr Beilby and see something of his vast collection. As well as using his 'magic lantern' projector Mr Beilby will also put on display many of his original photographs.

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HISTORICAL FILMS

Traditionally historians have worked from documents and artefacts, and archaeologists have dug holes! In recent times we have all begun to widen our horizons, historians literally by examining the landscape, and archaeologists by moving into neglected areas such as the post-Medieval period and industrial archaeology. But just as the nineteenth century produced a new documentary source for historians in the photograph, so the twentieth century has been recorded on film. Yet these developments in source materials have not been matched in archiving. The Nottingham Historical Film Archive remains in private hands, and although the Local Studies section of the County Library has collected some film material, there seems to be no local equivalent for film in the Archives Office. Is anyone interested in researching and collecting historical films? Several areas of the country now have active groups, but the East Midlands does not appear to be one of them.

A great deal of film is likely to have survived, ranging from publicity material generated by local companies (which gives a flavour of company 'image' at particular points in the past), to the collections of amateur film makers which may range from records of Skegness holidays to unexpectedly useful wartime footage which has remained out of sight and mind for more than half a century.

Should we be doing more to press for the setting up of a 'live' film archive? The County library service has attempted over time to build up collections of photographs, slides, glass plates, film and video, but this is a slow and not always successful business. Should we be doing more to persuade people with interesting material to make it more widely available? It cannot be done without resources, and indeed skill, since some early nitrate film is unstable. Any offers?

John Beckett

## CENTENARY FUNDRAISING

Observant members on Excursions may already have seen in use two items which are being sold in aid of the Centenary Fund.

An attractive and useful calico bag bearing the Society's title and distinctive bugle-horn is on sale at £3.00. The bugle-horn in gold is also the motif in one corner of an elegant dark green scarf or headsquare, 27" x 27", in soft polyester with a satin border; they cost £3.75.

Both items are available from Jean Nicholson, Penny Messenger or Neville Hoskins, and will be on the bookstall at lectures.



The county's principal  
historical society  
Founded 1897

### THE TREASURER - CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Goodman's address for Society correspondence, including membership enquiries, is now 59 Briar Gate, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4BQ.

## NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY MEETINGS

All at the Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham.

### Tuesday 12 September:

Dr Brian Taylor (P.R.O. British Geological Survey)

'THE ROLE OF THE GEOLOGIST IN DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION'

### Tuesday 10 October:

THE KEITH TRAIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Ken Powell (formerly with S.A.V.E.)

'THE FUTURE OF LISTED BUILDINGS'

### Tuesday 14 November:

Kevin Dennis (Community Safety Officer, Nottingham City Council)

'MAKING OUR CITIES SAFER'

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter has established itself as a useful means of keeping the members in touch, it is circulated to the Society's worldwide membership and reaches those who are unable to participate in meetings and excursions.

We are looking for someone to liaise with Neville preparing the Winter issue and then take over. There is scope for an imaginative person to enhance the Newsletter's impact and importance.

Write or phone Neville Hoskins or John Beckett.



### Visit to the Boots Company

The excursion is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, and apologies are due to members who applied too late to be numbered among the magic 30, the maximum we were allowed to take on the visit.

Such was the success of the visit that we hope to be able to organize a repeat 'run' in the not-too-far-distant future, and will give those members not able to go on this occasion first choice.

John Beckett



### CBA Correspondent (listed buildings)

The Council for British Archaeology is one of the 'Statutory Bodies' which must be consulted when consent for alteration or demolition of a listed building is applied for. The CBA sends applications to the correspondent who either comments or passes them on to someone with more local or specialized knowledge to deal with.

If you are interested in historic buildings and their fate, this could be for you. For more information or to offer your services, please contact the Editor or the Chairman.