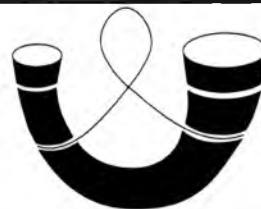


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# THOROTON

Number 8: Winter 1996



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

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A Happy New Year to all our readers! You will realise as you read through the following pages that this is a quiet year. The storm breaks in 1997 when we have two centenaries to celebrate - the Thoroton Society, and the Nottingham City Charter. And an opportunity has arisen to combine events connected with the two centenaries in a Thoroton Society publication. Many years ago Michael Brook, formerly East Midlands Collection Librarian at the University of Nottingham, began work on a bibliography of Nottinghamshire's history. For various reasons this was never completed, but the project has been revived in the hope that the bibliography can be completed in the next few months and published as a volume in the Record Series early in 1997. The Nottingham Civic Society, which has been a major supporter of the Centenary History of Nottingham project will make a financial contribution, and the University of Nottingham is providing help 'in kind' with preparing the typescript, partly in recognition of its role as custodian of the Thoroton Society's library.

Obviously the intention is to update and to expand the only existing Nottinghamshire bibliography, published privately by Michael Dobbin some years ago, and we hope this will turn out to be a most useful reference work for all students of the history of Nottinghamshire and its constituent parts. We hope to carry more details in the next Newsletter.

In the meantime you will see that the Society has organized a busy programme for 1996, including a lecture at Worksop. This venture outside of Nottingham - the first such occasion for many years - is partly a result of Council's desire that the Society should be seen to represent the whole of the county. With the Annual Luncheon in Southwell as usual, the Annual Meeting at Sutton Bonington, the Walter Hilton day at Thurgarton, and the Worksop lecture - quite apart from the excursions - we shall be seeing a good deal of Nottinghamshire over the coming months. We hope members will feel able and willing to take a full part in the programme.

*John Beckett*

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Once again the 'Great Hall' of the Archbishop's Palace at Southwell, with its panelling and heraldic windows, was a popular venue for the Annual Luncheon. This is becoming the social event of the Society's year, with members having an opportunity to meet old friends, circulate and chat in convivial surroundings.

Refectory Catering again provided an attractive cold buffet, which was followed by the more formal part. Chairman John Beckett proposed the loyal toast, then the traditional toast to The Thoroton Society was proposed in style by Mr. Peter Hoare, until recently Nottingham University Librarian. He spoke of first becoming aware of the Society's existence through the arrival of its *Transactions* at the library where he then was in Scotland, so that when he came to Nottingham and became ex-officio Society Librarian on our library's absorption into the East Midlands Collection he was already familiar with its activities. John Beckett replied to the toast and introduced the guest speaker Mr. Derek Latham, a Derby architect whose practice specialises in the repair and sensitive conservation of buildings, and who has recently completed the refurbishment of Lenton Grove at the University. Mr. Latham took as his theme the re-use of old buildings and spoke from considerable authority, outlining the philosophy adopted by his practice, and explained the parts played in a project by the architect, the local authority, English Heritage, the client, the contractor and the provider of the funding.

Members may like to note Saturday 26 October 1996 - same venue for the '96 Annual Luncheon.

*Neville Hoskins*

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**REPORTS OF EXCURSIONS 1995**


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**THURSDAY 27 JULY**  
**Carlton-on-Trent and North Muskham**  
**Leaders: Penny Messenger and Jean Nicholson**

The July excursion has been on a Thursday afternoon for many years and has always been favoured with fine weather. This year's outshone all previous ones for sunshine and heat.

The main event was a visit to Carlton Hall, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vere-Laurie. Those who heard Mr. Vere-Laurie's witty and entertaining talk at last year's annual luncheon at Southwell will not be surprised to learn that he continued in similar vein. He first of all took us on a tour of the grounds to describe them and the exterior of the Hall. He and his wife then took separate parties to see the interior. Built in 1765 the Hall has been in the possession of the Vere-Laurie family since the early 19th century.

We then adjourned to the nearby Church of St. Mary, built in 1851 on the site of an earlier chapel to a design by G.G. Place of Nottingham, who is buried in the churchyard. Mr. Vere-Laurie pointed out the fragments of the earlier building incorporated into the new one.

We travelled the short distance to North Muskham where an excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the church. After tea we visited the church, St. Wilfrid's, where Mrs. Valerie Mellors of North Muskham Local History Group explained its history and architecture. She had taken the trouble to refer to the Society's *Transactions* for 1902 when the Society last visited the church and

pointed out the changes which had taken place since then. Altogether a most enjoyable day.

**SATURDAY**  
**23 SEPTEMBER**  
**IN EMMA'S FOOTSTEPS**  
**Leaders: Rosalys Coope and Neville Hoskins**

When this excursion was first planned its title was to be 'In the footsteps of an anonymous artist' but by September the artist had been identified as Emma Elizabeth Wilmot (née Darwin). The intention was to visit some of the locations in East Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire which she had drawn in her sketch book between 1842-4 and to compare her illustrations with the present-day appearance.

The weather was brilliant; we caught a glimpse of Sydnop Hall, her family home, before going on to Darley Dale where Emma married Edward Wilmot in 1842. There, to the frustration of the organisers, the church was not open, despite confirmatory letters and telephone calls. Lunch was taken at Park Hall, in Emma's day the home of the 7th Lord Byron, and now a hotel; despite problems there with an extra-wide coach the party moved on with high hopes to Thorpe Salvin. We were in time to see a bride and groom drive away from the church, but too late to see the interior with its outstanding Norman font, another locked door, another disappointment, despite letters and firm promises.

Fortunately, at Steetley Chapel, our next call, there were no problems. It is a Norman gem: Emma drew it

before the Victorian restoration, which made for interesting comparisons.

On to Worksop Manor, where at first it appeared that the coach and gateway were incompatible, but the driver was persuaded to approach at an appropriate angle, and having started to improve at Steetley, things took another turn for the better. It is a rare privilege to visit the Manor; we were made extremely welcome by Mrs. Farr and examined the remains of the 18th century James Paine house, the demolition of which in the 1840s was the subject of two of Emma's drawings. High spot of the day for many was the chance to venture beyond the stable courtyard and see, now at ground level, the unique pediment of the Paine house, and the three statues which originally surmounted it.

We were reluctant to leave, but had a pressing appointment with the ladies of the Welbeck Friendship Club, who provided a superb tea in Cuckney Church Hall, and as a bonus we were able to view both exterior and interior of Cuckney church as well as its historic setting.

**NOTE:** The organisers subsequently received profound apologies from those concerned at Darley and Thorpe Salvin, and propose to visit the latter in September 1996, in Emma's footsteps again!

*Contributions to future Newsletters are welcome. Please write to The Editor, Mr F.N. 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.*

## L E C T U R E S

### TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER: THE TENTH KEITH TRAIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Members will remember that the Keith Train and Maurice Barley lectures are now arranged by the Nottingham Civic Society and the Thoroton Society respectively, and each provides a chairman for the other's lecture. Our Vice-Chairman Neville Hoskins thus chaired the event on Tuesday 10 October, when a frankly disappointing number from the two societies heard a lecture by Mr. Ken Powell, known to many as the former Secretary of S.A.V.E. His well-illustrated talk was on 'The Future of Listed Buildings' and he spoke about the dilemmas facing local authority developers and conservation bodies and drew his illustrations from a wide variety of examples, varied both geographically and in appearance. It was a thought-provoking lecture and brought into focus some of the conflicting views on the subject.

Perhaps more publicity is needed to ensure a better attendance when a prestigious lecture is given by an expert of national stature.

### SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER: RECENT WORK AT NEWARK

On Saturday 14 October Dr. John Samuels gave a lecture to the Society on the results of recent work at Newark. Since 1992 excavations have taken place every summer in and around Newark Castle.

The stone shell, towering above the Trent, is the remains of a castle built in the 12th century by the Bishop of Lincoln, although most of what is seen today is a 13th century remodelling. Sited where the Great North Road crosses the Trent, the castle was of major importance, but little was known of its origins.

The current excavation campaign has shown that a substantial motte and bailey castle, as large as those at Laxton and Bothamsall preceded the stone castle. But even that was not the beginning; in 1993 Saxon ditches were found and a remarkable late Saxon cemetery. Further work has produced a later Saxon palisade defence.

What is still unclear is how these relate to the very large early Saxon cemetery a little further up the Trent in Millgate. We know that there was a Roman settlement at Newark; that, too, has proved tantalizing to locate.

Another exciting aspect of the excavations was the involvement of the public from start to finish. What Dr. Samuels was too modest to mention was that the Newark Castle Trust was runner-up in the 1994 British Archaeology Awards for the best presentation of an archaeological project to the public.

### SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER: THE SHERWOOD FOREST MAP OF 1609

The work which Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves have done over recent years must be among the most important research projects dealing with the history of the county. When published in 1996 as one of the Thoroton Society Record Series it will prove to be of much wider historical value than its title suggests. Steph's lecture, with Professor Beckett in the chair, was the Nottinghamshire History Lecture for 1995 and Mr. John Plumb, retiring Director of Leisure Services, spoke of the close liaison between his department and the Society, which would continue to great effect in our centenary year.

This was for many members their first chance to hear of the background to the project and to realize its full importance. The map and text were commissioned by the Crown as a survey of the whole of Sherwood Forest to enquire into sources of revenue and how that revenue might be increased. Whilst the whole of the text survives in the Public Record Office, the map covers only approximately the southern third, including Nottingham itself and adjacent parishes such as Basford, Arnold and Calverton, Lowdham and Gunthorpe. It is not certain whether maps of the other two thirds were ever completed, fragments exist of one or two more northerly parish maps but they were drawn later, whether copied from an original or drawn from earlier survey data is not known.

There was a good attendance, and members and visitors enjoyed Steph's relaxed yet authoritative style enhanced by good slides and transparencies. By overlaying a 1609 map on a current 2½":1 mile one, Steph was able not only to give a hint of further uses of the maps (e.g. changes in river courses), but to illustrate their accuracy. To anyone familiar with modern Ordnance Survey techniques using sophisticated equipment, it was a revelation to see the achievements of cartographers such as Richard Barber almost four hundred years ago, and of historians like Steph and Sue and the present day cartographer, Peter Burgess, who are adding so significantly to our knowledge of the county's history.

**SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER: 'TOM HAMMOND'S NOTTINGHAM'**

The December meeting was a celebration of old Nottingham, 'warts and all', as painted by Tom Hammond and photographed from the earliest days of the camera, but also a lament for what has been lost and often need not have been.

With Mr. Beilby as guide and Mrs. Beilby as lanternist, we followed the artistic career of Tom Hammond whose precocious talent and superb draughtsmanship chronicled Nottingham from about 1870 onwards. The man himself remains elusive but the old town came to life in his pictures. Streets - commercial, industrial, notorious, narrow and steep 'hummed' with life in every sense. Dwellings, some grand and remaining so; some, ancient and significant in their time, shown decaying and soon to be demolished; some, of charitable origin, lost through neglect or civic carelessness; and the courts and tenements, often charmingly named, as in Jasmine Cottages, but with primitive sanitation and gross overcrowding. We looked through Hammond's eyes but Mr. Beilby supplied the statistics, of diseases springing from filth and lack of pure water, of infant and adult mortality, and the chilling tale of the 'mixture' of laudanum and black treacle, prescribed for infants and children in alarming quantities. We saw the very fine painting of the old Trent Bridge, then the blue haze of the crocus fields, the ruined castle with the Leen below, many, many public houses and the much regretted Drury Hill.

The photographic display took up the perimeter of the hall and many members stayed on to inspect it. The photograph which connected the two strands of the lecture was of Hammond, easel set up opposite the Flying Horse, with townsfolk looking on. The afternoon passed quickly as the commentary was excellent and the Magic Lantern worked beautifully.

**SATURDAY 13 JANUARY: REMOTE SENSING IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S CHURCHES: MAKING INVISIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY VISIBLE - DR C BROOKE.**

For the past 13 years Dr. Chris Brookes has been pioneering and refining the use of new photographic emulsions, wave-lengths outside visible light, and computer enhancement to produce archaeological images never seen before. His methods of remote sensing are non-destructive, rapid and cheap although they sometimes involve startling laser displays while stumbling about churchyards after midnight!

Multi-spectral imaging using ultra violet (u/v) light and computer enhancement showed 5 phases of building in Averham church tower. Raking u/v light revealed details of stonework covered by rendering, such as a blocked doorway at Winthorpe, or Saxon long-and-short work at Wooton Warwen in Warwickshire. He showed how contrast profiling using a laser scan could reveal timber framing covered by render. At Laxton and East Stoke churches, totally faded Victorian inscriptions and paintings were made visible by u/v fluorescent lighting. Perhaps the most vivid illustration was the use of raking light from several directions - multi-angle surface saturation - to decipher decayed inscriptions, such as the medieval graffiti in Southwell Chapter House and the 1922 war memorial at St. Mary's, Nottingham, where legibility was improved from 12 names to 30.

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***CITY OF NOTTINGHAM CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

The Committee was established under the Civic Amenities Act 1967, membership consisting of councillors from the Planning Committee together with nominated representatives from various amenity societies, including the Thoroton Society, and from groups formed in some conservation areas. The Committee met monthly to consider planning applications affecting properties in conservation areas and listed buildings in any part of the city. It made representations on these to the Planning Committee and although these were purely advisory they were usually accepted.

In June 1995 the Planning Committee decided, without discussion with the appointed representatives, to discontinue the Advisory Committee. In its place it constituted a Conservation Partners Forum and a Conservation Panel. The Forum consists of councillors from the Planning Committee together with representatives from a wider range of amenity societies and other bodies, but excluding representatives from conservation area groups as a rule. The latter will however be invited to attend meetings of the Forum when policies or proposals affecting such a group's area are to be discussed.

The Forum will meet quarterly to act in an advisory capacity and make representations as appropriate on policies relating to conservation and design issues. The Thoroton Society is again invited to nominate a representative. This wider scope is to be welcomed, and was in fact a move which had on occasion been suggested by members of the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, although as an addition to the monthly meetings. The latter, to consider individual applications, will be continued under the title of Conservation Panel. This will consist of one councillor from the Planning Committee, who will act as Chairman of the Panel and two architect members of the Forum, together with other specialists from time to time as deemed appropriate to the business to be considered.

The first quarterly meeting of the Forum has been held when a report on elements of a conservation strategy, a draft review of Lace Market strategy and potential projects for lottery funds were considered. It remains to be seen how the work of the Conservation Panel will be carried out.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**COMMUNITY AND CONFLICT IN EASTWOOD: A STUDY FROM THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELD BEFORE 1914** by ROGER MOORE, Dept. of Adult Education, University of Nottingham (1995), ISBN 1 85041 0801; 85pp

The decline of coal mining in recent years has highlighted interest in the industry's impact on local communities, and few colliery communities have aroused such emotional significance as Eastwood, though the mines in the area are now but a fading memory.

Roger Moore's study attempts to examine Eastwood in the context of 'models' of coal mining communities, based on their social, economic and political characteristics; and he then goes on to place Eastwood within the broad context of the Nottinghamshire coalfield. He identifies Eastwood as a Barber Walker 'company village', underlining the influence of the young and dynamic Thomas Philip Barber, who from the early 1900s encouraged a vigorous programme of modernisation. However, this paternal structure concealed deep-rooted grievances in the local pits and between 1907 and 1912 these communities were drawn into a sustained period of industrial conflict that included a 26 week lock-out. Roger Moore focuses particular attention on the politics of the local mining community, concluding that, despite the pressure of Willie Hopkin, whose radical views were regularly aired in *The Eastwood and Kimberley Advertiser*, there was 'no general surge of political consciousness'. The miners' cause was further weakened by divisions in their own ranks and their own 'sheer exhaustion'. This study invites immediate comparison with the events of 1984-5 and opens up wide areas for further research and discussion.

Chris Weir

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**NOTTINGHAM YESTERDAY AND TODAY** by GEOFFREY OLDFIELD  
Published by Alan Sutton/Nottinghamshire County Council - Price £7.99

Geoffrey's 'Changing Face of Nottingham', reviewed in this *Newsletter* in August 1994, contained his own photographs taken between 1955 and 1975 with short captions. In this volume a different collection of photographs from the same period is reproduced, but this time each one is 'twinned' with a recent one taken from the same viewpoint. The result is a fascinating set of 'before and after' prints which makes most enjoyable browsing. To locate the spot from which the earlier shots were taken was sometimes easy, sometimes very difficult, occasionally only a spire or dome on the skyline provides a reference point. In many cases even the author's caption leaves the reader bewildered at the changes over 30 years and full of admiration for Geoff's diligence in finding the right spot. A worthy successor to the earlier volume.

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**A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE IN WAR AND PEACE: THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CONSTABLES OF UPTON 1640-1666** edited by MARTYN BENNETT, Thoroton Society Record Series, XXXIX (1995) - Available from the Public Record Office, price £15 (+ £1.50 p+p.)

The Upton Constables' Account book is a fascinating document, covering as it does the Civil War and Interregnum. It was rediscovered in the vicar's attic at Upton in 1947, and used by the Rev. Frank West as the major source for his book *Rude Forefathers: Upton by Southwell 1600-1666*, published in 1949. Since then a transcript by W.A. James has been available (together with the original - now in the Archive Office), but Martyn Bennett's edition, and his scholarly introduction, will make this invaluable source much more widely available. Although constables' accounts for this period are not unknown - indeed, there are some particularly fine examples surviving for parishes in the East Midlands - they are far from abundant, and they form 'an important source of evidence for the history of the village community and the study of county administration'. Critically, this is an account of a community which is alive: 'a community working, producing crops and goods for sale and distribution ... [and] caring for the less fortunate, providing them with meat and drink, lodging and cash'. We read of sums given 'to poore which had losse by fire'; of the expenses of 'carrying of a criple to Normanton and for meate for him one Night'; of the sums given to a man with small children who 'was In want', and was carrying the children in a pannier 'from Towne to Towne'; and 3d to two poor women travelling to Maidstone. The constables' accounts give us pen portrait of life in Upton through these years, providing a level of detail which cannot be found in any other documents.

**\* \* W I N T E R L E C T U R E P R O G R A M M E \* \***

**SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY -**

**W N NICHOLSON OF NEWARK: HIS WORKS AND ITS PRODUCTS**

**MR VERNON RADCLIFFE**

W.N. Nicholson's activities in the community as a Councillor, Mayor, Chairman of the School Board and Member of Parliament were based on his commercial and industrial success. Between 1842 and 1899 he created in the Trent Iron Works the then largest employer in the town. Based on patented designs, the Agricultural implements made there were exhibited at all the agricultural shows, leading to sales both in this country and abroad.

Vernon Radcliffe was Curator of Newark Museum until his retirement in 1991. The lecture will use material which came to the Museum after the Works closed in 1968.

**SATURDAY 9 MARCH - THE MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE:**

**HOUSES AND CASTLES: MEDIEVAL DOMESTIC PLANNING**

**DR PHILIP DIXON**

Philip Dixon followed Maurice Barley as Senior Lecturer at Nottingham University in 1972. He was Director of Excavations at Greenwich Palace, Richmond Palace, Newark Castle, Old White Hart and many other houses around the country. He was Hon. Secretary of the CBA 1981-95 and is currently the CBA President. Philip Dixon is the author of many books and articles on which he will be able to draw for what should be a worthy and interesting Maurice Barley Lecture.

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***CENTENARY UPDATE***

Your Sub-Committee has so many balls in the air at once that a circus booking is on the cards! A major problem is that while we have been meeting since Autumn 1994 a surprising number of organizations and authorities are still unable to commit themselves to dates in 1997. So any dates below must be regarded as provisional, but watch out for confirmation.

As part of the 1996 publicity/fundraising programme a concert by the talented choir 'Saraband' is to be held in West Bridgford Community Hall in late November or early December. The venue has been chosen because of its convenient parking and access to bus routes.

Two coffee mornings will enable gardeners to buy plants, at Freda and Geoff Oldfield's on 18 May and see the garden at Jean and Joe Nicholson on 12 October. A series of guided walks is planned for Bleasby, Strelley, Lambley and Workop.

In 1997 in addition to the regular lectures and excursions special events being planned include a church service (possibly at Car Colston), a Garden Party at Flintham on 7 June, a prestige concert in August, a Garden Party at Hodsock Priory in late September and a Centenary Dinner at County Hall on 10 October. It is also hoped that the Lord Mayor of Nottingham will host a Civic Reception at the Council House.

Confirmation and further details will be circulated as soon as possible; but meanwhile, pencil dates in your diaries.



**Annual General Meeting  
Sutton Bonington, 27 April 1996**

Members of the Society are reminded that this year we are holding the AGM at the University of Nottingham's School of Agriculture in Sutton Bonington. The campus last year celebrated its centenary as an agricultural college and Dr Brian Tolley will be the speaker at our AGM. Brian will be talking about the foundation of the College. Tea will be at Sutton Bonington, and we hope then to move on to Kingston-on-Soar to look at the church, and at the Strutt family's planned village. Do book this date in your diary.



**Correction to the Programme Card**  
Please note that the Treasurer's address is:  
59 BRIAR GATE, LONG EATON,  
NOTTINGHAM, NG10 4BQ.



## WALTER HILTON, ENGLISH MYSTIC AND CANON OF THURGARTON PRIORY

1996 sees the 600th anniversary of the death of Walter Hilton, canon of the great Nottinghamshire Augustinian Priory of St. Peter at Thurgarton and one of the four great medieval English mystics, 'possibly the greatest' to quote Dr. Foulds.

A well-read theologian, Hilton addressed his best known writing, the 'Scale of Perfection', to his 'ghostly sister in Jesus Christ', a solitary nun probably attached to a monastery, intending it as a guide to her spiritual development. Hilton also wrote a book for those living in the world, for he was much interested in the spiritual progress of ordinary people and the faithful performance of daily tasks. As he said, 'it is no good tending God's head and neglecting his feet'. Much read in his own day and the centuries following, he is still much revered as a spiritual writer today. This special anniversary of such an important Nottinghamshire figure will not go without the proper celebrations, and set out below is the programme, devised in a partnership consisting of Thurgarton St. Peter's, the Thoroton Society and the County Council. All events will take place in **St. Peter's Church, Thurgarton**.

**24 March** (the likely day of Walter's death) **6 p.m.** - requiem mass sung by the Bradford Choristers and celebrated by the Provost of Southwell.

**29 June** (St. Peter's day) **2 - 5 p.m.** - half-day school chaired by our Chairman, John Beckett, with David Marcombe (religious life in 14th century Nottinghamshire), Chris Brooke (the building and architecture of Thurgarton Priory), Trevor Foulds (paying the Priory bills; funding and administration in a medieval religious house) and our special guest speaker, Professor Stan Hussey (Walter Hilton, the Scale of Perfection and 14th century mysticism).

**29 June, 7.30 p.m.** - concert by the Orlando Consort, one of Britain's leading groups of performers of medieval music (County concert).

**30 June**, throughout the night and day from **3.30 a.m.** - the 1509 Society will sing the offices throughout, from matins at 3.30 a.m. to compline at 7 p.m.

In addition the County Council is putting together an exhibition to be displayed in St. Peter's, the local pubs are being requested to expect an influx for early supper on 29 June for those who wish to attend both symposium and concert and, on 30 June, the parish of Thurgarton will be providing refreshments for those who wish to join in this unique day of sung offices. Something for everyone!

Further details will be sent out in mailings and on your programme card. I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join in some or all of the events which promise to be not only extremely interesting but also very enjoyable. In fact, the event of 1996!

Anyone wishing for further information is welcome to phone me, Barbara Cast, on 01636 830506.

### HELP NEEDED

The column in the August 1995 *Newsletter* brought a satisfying response to the enquiry about William Frederick Wallett - 'The Queen's Jester'. There was enough information for a longer contribution in due course.

Meanwhile, thanks to Mrs. Wollins; her great-great-grandfather was 'Jacky' Farmer, proprietor of the old Crown and Cushion Music Hall, and whose daughter married William Frederick; to Elizabeth Adamson who as a child lived in Grove Street, Beeston, near the 'Jester's' home; and to Margaret Cooper for a fascinating account of his life and career.

### Help Needed No. 5



High on the gable end of a property on Alfreton Road near Canning Circus is a stone bearing the legend in three lines 'IGSH. MINER. 1854' (see below). The 'I' may be for 'J'; but who, what and why?

### Distribution of *Transactions*

Each volume of *Transactions* that has to be posted costs us £1.20 (and that will increase). It does help that members of the A.G.M. collect their own, but this still leaves a lot. It has been suggested members might volunteer to distribute in their own locality (expenses paid). If you would like to help in this way please contact David Bagley on Nottm. 9652511.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES SATURDAY MORNING CLOSURE

Owing to budget cuts the Nottinghamshire Archives search room will no longer be open on Saturday mornings after the 30 March 1996.



*The county has a number of organisations whose aims and objectives are complimentary to those of the Society and some of our members belong to one or more of these. Andrew Wimble, Chairman of the NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST was asked to write about its activities:*

Nottinghamshire has a rich and varied range of historic gardens and landscapes which includes country estates, public parks, pumping stations, cemeteries, domestic gardens and field systems. The Nottinghamshire Historic Gardens Trust was launched in 1994 by a group of people having a common interest in Nottinghamshire's historic gardens and landscapes and sharing a will to assist with recording and conserving this aspect of the county's heritage. It is a registered charity that offers support with the research, survey and recording of historic gardens in the county, to establish their historic value and assist with their practical conservation. Gardens trusts are now established in at least thirty counties, linked by an umbrella organization, the Association of Gardens Trusts, to which the Nottinghamshire Trust is affiliated.

The Trust, supported by funding from English Heritage, has this year employed a researcher who has identified and recorded some 600 landscape sites which are now logged into a County Council database. Twenty sites have been submitted to English Heritage for possible inclusion in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Papplewick Pumping Station has been the focus for project activity in 1995, where, with the assistance of the Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust, we have researched and recorded the impressive formal Victorian landscape and produced a draft management plan which we hope will provide the framework for The Papplewick Trust to develop the site as an important visitor attraction, but within the context of much improved, historic landscape setting.

In 1996 we intend to implement some of our management proposals for Papplewick through practical projects in the grounds, such as thinning to allow more light into some of the shrub beds, removal of self sown saplings, and pruning to encourage new growth and give more form to the planting. It is also hoped that further practical projects will be identified in 1996 so that we can involve a wider membership and thereby make use of the immense range of skills and experience that we know exists within the county.

The Trust also runs a series of guided visits to gardens in the spring and summer, supplemented with lectures during the winter months. Events planned for 1996 include illustrated talks on 'Biddulph Grange', 'London Squares and Open Spaces', and 'Historic Gardens', together with visits to Stanford Hall, Hampton Court Privy Gardens and the late Gervase Jackson-Stops' gardens at 'The Menagerie', Horton, Northants.

We are always keen to welcome new members and membership is open to anyone who has an interest in historic gardens and landscapes from whatever perspective, professional, amateur, horticulture, art, photography, wildlife, etc. Annual membership runs from 1 November-31 October and costs only £10.00, special rates are available for senior citizens, students and unwaged, and families. Further details from: Fiona Newton, Membership Secretary, 171 Derby Road, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5HL.

*Andrew Wimble, Chairman, NHGT.*

## CENTENARY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM

The Thoroton Society's Centenary coincides in 1997 with the centenary of the Nottingham City Charter, so look out for a bumper busy year for local history! The Centenary History Project has been running since 1991 with the intention of producing scholarly and popular histories of the town, an education pack for all schools, and a travelling exhibition. The exhibition is now 'travelling' to sites around the City, the Education Pack is in active preparation, and final details are being confirmed in respect of the scholarly and popular histories.

Members of the Thoroton Society might like to be kept informed of progress on the Centenary History by receiving the twice yearly newsletter, and perhaps by subscribing to the scholarly history. The book, being prepared by a team of scholars working with editor-in-chief Professor John Beckett, explores the history of Nottingham from the earliest days of settlement down to the present day. It incorporates a great deal of new research on the town, and will be the most informative and up-to-date survey of Nottingham ever produced.

Subscribers pay £30 for the book, plus postage and packing. This is a considerable discount on the anticipated publication price of £40+ (the book will run to about 600 pages). Subscribers also receive an illustrated certificate, and will have their name added to a list of subscribers to be included in the book. Application forms are available at Thoroton Society lectures, or directly from Brian Playle (Secretary to the Centenary History Advisory Board), 3 Western Fields, Ruddington, Nottingham, NG11 6JE.