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# THOROTON

Number 9: Summer 1996



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## A Message from the Chairman . . .

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I am often asked how we are going to attract younger members into the Thoroton Society. My stock reply is that young people probably have plenty of other things to do, and that Thoroton is likely to attract people in their 50s, 60s and beyond. But I was pulled up short recently when reading an obituary of Hugh Thompson (1923-95) who, between 1967-88, was General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries. Born at Gunthorpe, he was educated at Lowdham and Nottingham Boys' High School. After war service (in which he won the Victoria Cross) he graduated at Oxford in 1947 then returned to Nottingham, where he joined the Thoroton Society. He attended lectures, including one by the then Chief Inspector of Monuments, Bryan O'Neil. Inspired by this particular lecture, he wrote to O'Neil, and in due course became an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments. On such incidents are careers born! Thompson went on to hold positions in Lincoln and Chester, and at Manchester University, before becoming General Secretary of the Antiquaries in 1967. His long and distinguished scholarly career was launched at a Thoroton lecture, and his first two published articles appeared in *Transactions* in 1951 and 1953.

Hugh Thompson's career reminds us that we must not neglect younger members. It is my hope that our Schools Competition during the centenary year might bring the Society to the attention of a wider and younger audience. Perhaps a future General Secretary of the Antiquaries is sitting at his or her desk in a Nottinghamshire school as I write. 1997 is a magnificent opportunity for us to reach a wider and younger audience. I trust all our members are already gearing up for action!

John Beckett

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## THE 99TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's 99th Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Nottingham's Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences, Sutton Bonington, on 27 April 1996, and an encouraging turnout of 75 members filled the lecture room.

The President thanked Dr. Stuart Thompstone, Warden of Bonington Hall, for allowing the visit to be held there, and the formalities were completed with expedition.

John Beckett in his Chairman's Statement commended Volume XCIX of *Transactions* and thanked the editorial team for their work on this and on *Record Section* volumes.

Nancy Mulholland, who has retired from Council after 36 years, and Paddy Huxley, who will no longer preside over the tea urn at lecture meetings, were thanked; then Mrs. Barbara Dobbin who for most of her 30 years of membership has officiated at the bookstall and is now leaving Nottinghamshire, was presented with a bouquet. John also welcomed to the

meeting Mr. Owen Wood, a long-time member who had started work at Sutton Bonington 60 years ago.

On a sadder note, the Chairman referred to the death last year of Mrs Gladys Gale, whose familiar figure will be missed at meetings and excursions. The Vice Chairman reported briefly on the sub-committee's preparations for Centenary Year.

After the conclusion of the formal meeting, and tea, Brian Tolley spoke on the development of the establishment of Sutton Bonington, which appears to have been founded (or perhaps floated is a better word) on whisky.

University College itself had been founded in 1881, supported with some difficulty by an enthusiastic but hard-up Corporation. However, the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act of 1890 produced the so-called 'whisky money' by raising the duties on beers and spirits; this could be used to provide 'technical instruction', and there was wide support for 'Agriculture' to be

included under this head. The speaker outlined the origins of a Travelling Dairy School which became permanent, the purchase of the 160 acre Home Farm in 1895, Sutton Bonington's independent status as the county-run Midland Agricultural College, and its wartime return to control by University College. Thereafter the institution progressed by leaps and bounds to its present international reputation at the forefront of progress in Agricultural & Food Science.

The afternoon concluded with a visit (brief for some) to the church of St. Winifred, Kingston-on-Soar. Members were welcomed by churchwarden Mr. Norman Beeby, and heard a talk by the Rev. W.B.B. Magill, the author of a book on the church and its famous Babbington Memorial. Light refreshments provided by church members rounded off an interesting afternoon.

*Neville Hoskins*

**\* \* \* FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1996 \* \* \***

Summer Excursion to Rufford Orangery and Jacobean Kitchen: Building work on the kitchen is not yet completed; it is hoped to include this visit in the 1997 programme.

**Thursday 25 July:** Afternoon visit to Lenton Grove and Highfields Park (see circular).

**Saturday 14 September:** Excursion to Thorpe Salvin and Worksop: 'In Emma's footsteps again' (see circular).

**Friday 27 September:** The Nora Witham Lecture. An innovative joint meeting with Worksop Archaeological and Historical Society at Worksop Town Hall: 'Emma Wilmot - her life and times', Rosalys Coope and Neville Hoskins will talk on the detective trail which led to Emma's identification as the 'unknown artist' and on her sketching excursions and subsequent life.

*Tuesday 8 October: Civic Society. Keith Train Memorial Lecture: 'Philip Webb and William Morris' - Peter Burman MBE, MA, FSA, Director of the Centre for Conservation Studies at the University of York. 1996 marks the Centenary of the death of William Morris. (7.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham - ring Ray Banks on 0115 925 4679 for further details).*

**Saturday 26 October:** Annual Luncheon at the Bishop's Palace, Southwell (see circular).

**Saturday 16 November:** The Nottinghamshire History Lecture: '"Truth is a thing desirable": Images of Nottinghamshire during the English Civil War' - Angela Brown. **[N.B. CHANGE OF DATE FROM PROGRAMME CARD]**

**Saturday 30 November:** Musical Concert at West Bridgford (see separate panel).

**Saturday 14 December:** Lecture by Dr. David Marcombe, Director of the Centre for Local History at Nottingham University: 'The dissolution of the monasteries in Nottinghamshire'. Dr. Marcombe has guided the Archdeaonry Research Group working on the Nottinghamshire monasteries, and it is hoped that a book will be published in the Autumn. (Mince pies with tea!)

Thoroton Society Lectures are (except for the one on 27 September) held on Saturdays at 3.00 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A., Shakespeare Street, Nottingham. For further information on Thoroton events ring Jean Nicholson on (0115) 931 2998.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The following have joined the Society since the beginning of the year. We hope that they will enjoy the visits and lectures, meeting and making friends with people of similar interests:

Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Arthur; Mr. R. Cullen; Mrs. M.A. Greaves; Mrs. B. Jenkins, Martinus Nijhoff International; Dr. A. Menuge; Mrs. B. Rigley; B. Sugden.



**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to take up an editorial pen and encourage others to contribute to the Newsletter, which links our worldwide membership, please have a word with John Beckett or Neville Hoskins.



**WAR IN THE MIDLANDS - A Midland History Conference**  
**9 November 1996, Djanogly Arts Centre, University of Nottingham**

The journal *Midland History* has been published for more than 25 years from the School of History at the University of Birmingham. Professor John Beckett, a member of the Editorial Board of the journal, is organizing a conference on 9 November on 'War in the Midlands'. Speakers include Dr Philip Morgan (Keele University) on 'Baronial Warfare in the Midlands: The Skirmish at Burton on Trent, 1322'; Dr. Martyn Bennett (Nottingham Trent University) on the Civil War and North Midlands life 1642-6; Dr John Bourne (Birmingham University) on the 46th (North Midland) Territorials Division in the First World War; and Professor Beckett who will talk on Nottingham and the French wars 1793-1815. The fee for the day school is £15 (which includes coffee, lunch and tea); but £12 for the retired and £9 for the unwaged and for registered students. Enquiries to Mrs Janice Avery, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD (tel. 0115 951 5929; fax 0115 951 5948).

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**GET IN THE MOOD FOR CENTENARY YEAR!**

**Saturday 30 November 1996**

**A CONCERT OF VICTORIAN MUSIC**

by Group **SARABANDE** in Victorian costume

At 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall, Church Drive, West Bridgford,  
to be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rushcliffe

Ample parking. Buses 12 (Beeston etc.), 90 (Arnold & Sherwood)

Tickets available from September: price £4.00.

Profits to the Centenary Fund.

Refreshments available before, during and after concert

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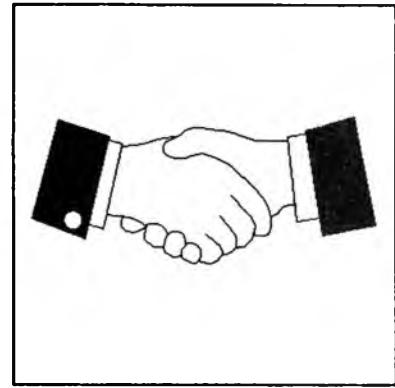
***Changes in the Archaeology Department at the University of Nottingham***

Many members have had contact over the years with the Archaeology Department, which is currently under new management! Professor Roger Wilson, appointed 18 months ago to the first established Chair of Archaeology, has already overseen a number of major developments, including the creation of a separate department (after 30 years as part of the Department of Classical & Archaeological Studies), and a refurbishment programme for the Archaeology Building, including the museum. Professor Wilson, who joined the Thoroton Society when he came to Nottingham, has offered to show members around the museum when the refurbishment is completed in 12-18 months' time.

The Department of Archaeology also houses three independent archaeological units. These are:

- **Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust.** Self-funded, the Trust carries out a wide range of archaeological activity including research projects, and rescue excavations in advance of the destruction of local sites by construction work, road building or agriculture. Daryl Garton is currently the acting director, and many of the Trust's projects are written up for *Transactions*.
- **The Dendrochronology Laboratory,** run by Robert Howard and Bob Laxton, and also self-funded from contract work. The staff sample building timber from across the country, and the extent of their local work was clear from the article published in *Transactions* 99, pp. 45-54. Members will be interested to know that one of their latest discoveries is that the twisted spire on St Mary's Church, Chesterfield, can be dated to 1362.
- **The Historical Buildings Research Unit,** run single-handedly by Cathedral archaeologist Gavin Simpson, who carries out consultancy work for cathedrals, researching and recording the fabric of the buildings to evaluate such structures prior to restoration.

*At the A.G.M. two new members were elected to Council: Gwen Turland and Ken Brand. They were each asked to provide a 'profile'.*



## KEN BRAND

I was born in Southampton and attended Taunton's School, although I did start secondary schooling at Sandown Grammar School, Isle of Wight. I got my taste for Nottingham from my National Service days at R.A.F. Swinderby. After gaining a Teaching Certificate in Mathematics and Geography from the University of Liverpool I spent a year in London, then moved to Nottingham in 1957, and I have been here ever since.

Mathematics teachers were in demand. Geography, my preference, was a luxury. I decided I would have better prospects in mathematics; so I taught mainly maths in five Nottingham schools. I was Head of Mathematics at Haywood Girls' Bilateral School and Ellis Guilford Comprehensive School, where I eventually moved over to become Director of Resources. I had a long spell as chair of the local branch of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

My long, usually dormant, interest in town planning started to re-awaken when I joined the Civic Society in the late 1970s. Being at the time a one-parent father of two girls, I got involved with the activities of the Society and to my amazement I became immersed in Nottingham's streets, buildings and architects. I had to start from scratch and make good those lost years. Since then I have managed to write booklets for the Civic Society on Hine, Fothergill, the Park Estate, the Shire Hall, and Mapperley Park, as well as producing low-cost sets of town and county maps. I was particularly pleased with my half-size facsimile of the six sheets of Salmon's 1861 map of Nottingham.

I started editing the Civic Society's Newsletter in September 1982, No. 59, and I have just brought out No. 100. One day somebody is going to question its historical and architectural bias! I took over the Civic Society's 'Mark of the Month' environmental award scheme in September 1985 and since then I have, on behalf of the Society, made some 130 awards. I prepared an exhibition on this theme for display in the Victoria Centre during the recent Environment Week. I am currently Vice-Chair of the Civic Society, and represent them on the steering committee of the Centenary History Project. I am also involved in the writing side of the project, acting as a kind of 'Baldrick' to Professor Beckett's 'Blackadder' - I have a certain skill in putting coins in photocopying machines!

I had the chance of voluntary redundancy from teaching in July 1991 and took it. A month later I remarried, into Clarendon College, a stroke of the pen making me now 'father' of four girls. I have had a long interest of music of all kinds but especially jazz, and a weakness for Greek beaches, French towns and Spanish cities,

Barcelona in particular.

I must say I feel exceedingly honoured and flattered at being invited to join the Thoroton Council. Many people have helped me 'catch up', but I must mention the encouragement given to me in the early stages by the late Keith Train. I once whispered to him that I wasn't a historian. 'Neither am I, lad', he replied, and asked me to sign his copy of my Fothergill booklet.

My two claims to fame are: pointing out Fothergill's joke of using the head of the architect George Street on his own office on George Street; and coining the descriptive term 'bed-head finial', since used by the Planning Department.

I am a Vice-President of the Victorian Society (East Midlands branch) and represent that society on the Park Preservation Trust. With the local architect Allan Mulcahy I have just started a project to record some of the stained glass in the Park, engaging Martine Hamilton-Knight as photographer. I am a member of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain.

I gave a talk to the Thoroton Society on the Shire Hall in 1992, the first in the Y.M.C.A., and I think I have made the pages of *Transactions* on three occasions: with an article on The Park Estate, as junior author to J.V.B. on Enclosures, and as a provider of information to M.W.B. on Aspley Hall.

I am one of Nottingham Forest's most enthusiastic non-attending supporters. I actually enjoy standing up. There is more than a hint of truth in the rumour that I dash away at the end of Thoroton meetings at the Y.M.C.A. and *stand* in front of the T.V. screens at Jessops waiting for the result of the Forest match!

## GWENETH A. TURLAND (NÉE CLARKE)

I was born in Nottingham but moved at an early age to West Bridgford where my parents had a bakery business. Nottinghamshire was, therefore, the area in which I grew up, attending the Trent Boulevard Infant and Junior Schools and West Bridgford Grammar School. Family circumstances precluded a hoped-for university experience, so on leaving school I went to work at the Westminster Bank on Thurland Street. Following marriage in 1956 to Bernard Turland I moved first to London, then to Hertfordshire and Wiltshire, prior to residing again in West Bridgford in 1962.

The commitments of family life and a prolonged illness had a significant impact on outside activities. However, membership of the West Bridgford Local History Society and the purchase of Throsby's *Thoroton* in 1972 rekindled a latent interest in local history. Membership of the Thoroton Society and the Notts. Family History Society followed.

In 1983 I was awarded the Certificate in Local History from the University of Nottingham, following which life was again interrupted by my husband's job move to South Yorkshire. I still managed to retain contact with the Nottinghamshire societies, attending meetings whenever possible.

A further course, this time at the University of Sheffield, in Local History, English Literature and Cultural Tradition resulted in my being awarded an M.A. degree in 1995.

While in South Yorkshire, following a talk to the Thoroton Society by Mr. Richard Morris, I offered to act as a correspondent for the Council for British Archaeology in respect of planning applications for listed buildings. This has been most interesting and rewarding, and occasionally frustrating, but has added considerably to my appreciation of building preservation and conservation.

I have been involved in committee work for various societies over the years, and hope that I can usefully serve you on the Council of the Thoroton Society.

## OBITUARIES

Mrs. Gladys Gale, who died in December aged 89, was a long-standing member of the Society, and a very regular attender at lecture meetings and on excursions; her familiar figure, waiting for a taxi to take her back to Burton Joyce from the Y.M.C.A., was a reminder of the efforts she made to support our activities.

Born in Carlton, she later moved to Burton Joyce and for many years worked as a school secretary there and at Lowdham and Epperstone. Keenly interested in local history, she was active in other fields, sometime Treasurer of the Burton Joyce branch of the British Legion (Women's Section) and of the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Mrs. Gale enjoyed meeting with old friends at various society functions, and was a connoisseur of W.I. teas. Her cheerful presence will be missed.

Canon C.H.B. Watson, M.A., died aged 82 at the end of May. Born in Derby, he was educated at the Bemrose School, Derby, and at Jesus College, Oxford. His first curacy was at St. Giles, West Bridgford in 1937, and the following year he joined the Thoroton Society, contributing a paper to *Transactions* on West Bridgford church in 1943. By then he had moved on to All Hallows, Lady Bay, thence to Ordsall as rector and to All Hallows Gedling, where he was rector for twenty-seven years.

He served as chaplain to five mayors of Gedling and was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough in 1985. On completion of fifty years' membership he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Thoroton Society.

## THE MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE

On Saturday 9 March Dr. Philip Dixon gave the annual Maurice Barley lecture, paid tribute to Professor Barley for his major contributions to the study of local history, especially vernacular architecture, and expressed the Society's pleasure at Mrs. Barley's presence in the audience.

Dr. Dixon's subject was 'Houses and Castles - Medieval Domestic Planning'. He stressed the

fact that castles were houses: only for part of their time were they fulfilling a military role - residential use was the other part of their dual function.

Drawing on examples from Knaresborough to Vannes by way of Nottingham, Castle Rising, Castle Acre and Chepstow Castle, his approach from an unusual angle was very much appreciated by the audience.

## BOOK REVIEWS




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### **CONSENSUS AND CONTROVERSY: CITY POLITICS IN NOTTINGHAM 1945-1966** by Nick Hayes (Liverpool University Press, 1996, 259 pages)

Nick Hayes has revised his Open University Ph.D thesis into a thoroughly readable account of post-war politics in Nottingham. The theme is political consensus, but it is placed in the context of local municipal reconstruction, and the changing structural ethos in local government over the period 1945-65. The book ranges through the obvious areas in which the local authority played a critical role, including housing and education, to less well appreciated subjects such as the arts and leisure provision. Many Nottingham people will read chapters 7 and 8, on the Popkess affair and the controversy over the building of the Playhouse, with particular interest, while others will be fascinated with the way in which the role of party politics in civic affairs has changed since 1945. This will make a good read for anyone interested in Nottingham's local politics, and a provocative read for those with long memories of the 1950s and 1960s.

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### **ANNESLEY THROUGH THE AGES** by Denis R. Pearson (pub. D.R. Pearson, Alpha House, 1 Forest Road, Annesley Woodhouse. 1995. Hardback 386 pages. Illus. ISBN 0 9524383 05)

The production of this book was undoubtedly a labour of love for its author. He is an Annesley resident and worked at Annesley colliery for 19 years. He has researched local documents, talked to local people including the Chaworth Musters of Felley Priory, and walked the footpaths and streets; every page is a testimony to his love of the place.

In early medieval times, when Annesley lay within the boundaries of Sherwood Forest there was a motte and bailey, a hall and a busy manorial community. The manor passed, through marriage, to George Chaworth in the 15th century; a later Chaworth enclosed 1200 acres of Annesley in 1661, creating what Thoroton described as 'a most pleasant park'.

In the second half of his book Denis Pearson traces the change in Annesley following the sinking of its coalpits in 1865. An influx of miners was accommodated in new houses, a new school and church were built, and a local Co-op opened. The highs and lows of community life are faithfully recorded: a pit disaster in 1877, killing seven; a royal visit in 1904; and the miners' strike of 1926 casting a shadow which outlasted its six months' duration. Other aspects of village life explored are non-conformity, the fate of the old church, school life and the locality's connections with Lord Byron and D.H. Lawrence. Plans, photographs, sketches and other illustrations provide a visual context for the author's descriptions.

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### **VILLAGE LIFE IN TUDOR AND STUART TIMES: A STUDY OF RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT** Pamela Priestland and Beryl Cobbing, eds., (Radcliffe-on-Trent, 1996, 272 pages, available from Ashbracken, 14 Cropwell Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, price £15)

This is the third volume to be published as a result of the labours of Pamela Priestland and her team at Radcliffe. After Victorian and Georgian Radcliffe, we now have the village in the Tudor and Stuart period, with an introductory chapter covering the years prior to 1500. As with the earlier volumes, the book has the high quality we have come to associate with the work of Pamela Priestland (aided and abetted on this occasion in the editorial hotseat by Beryl Cobbing), and it provides both a narrative of events set in the context of the times, and an analysis of social trends. Individual chapters cover economy and society in Radcliffe, trends in religion, village landlords, the parish, the law, and farming. In addition, there are a number of case studies based on documents relating to the village. The editors have set the detailed research - which has seemingly left no stone unturned at least in the local archives - into a background of the general trends associated with the period. This is a 'must' for readers interested in village life during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and those who already have the first two volumes will find it a vital addition to their bookshelves! But keep a space for twentieth-century Radcliffe.

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**Are you, or is someone you know, moving up to a faster computer/word processor, and willing to donate or sell at a modest price one that is IBM compatible?**

**The hardworking volunteers who do so much for the Society would find your discarded machine their godsend. Can you help?**

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*Contributions to future Newsletters are welcome: for the Winter edition please send to The Editor, Mr F.N. Hoskins, 12 Forest Road East, Nottingham, NG1 4HH by 7 November 1996. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, nor of its Council.*

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## CENTENARY NEWS

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Apart from the normal programme of lectures and excursions, highlights to look forward to in 1997 include:

Tuesday 15 April:	Civic Reception at the Council House
Saturday 7 June:	Garden Party at Flintham
Saturday 26 July:	'Inaugural Outing' to Car Colston
Sunday 27 July:	Picnic and walk at Bingham
Saturday 13 September:	Afternoon reception and tea at Hodsock Priory Gardens
Friday 10 October:	Centenary Dinner at County Hall

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This is a provisional list, but we thought members would like to have as much notice as possible. Please bear with us as we try to get arrangements finalized. The list will be updated by circulars and announcements at meetings, so keep it handy.

We have been fortunate enough to get generous sponsorship for some of the major expenditure next year, but fund-raising continues, aiming to cover our interim expenses.

The Christmas puddings which proved so popular last year will be available in the Autumn, and the concert at West Bridgford on Saturday 30 November is in aid of Centenary funds. In response to several requests the venue has been chosen in order to be accessible by public transport and by car.

Civic authorities at City, County and District levels have been very supportive, but the success of our Centenary Year will depend on YOU and YOUR SUPPORT.

The logo (above right) will feature on all our publicity, correspondence and exhibitions from now and through 1997.



**Watch out for announcements concerning:**

- *A Day School with Lowdham and Woodborough Local History Society, with Steph Mastoris on the Sherwood Forest map.*
- *Seasonal musical event at Holme Pierrepont in December.*
- *Travelling exhibition at libraries from May to December.*

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### CENTENARY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM

If you have not already subscribed for your copy of the *Centenary History*, the time for doing so is fast running out! This 600-page book, edited by Professor John Beckett, Chairman of the Thoroton Society, and with contributions by several other members, will retail at £50+ when it is published in the Spring of 1997 as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the City Charter. The book, which is illustrated, covers a thousand years of the City's history, and is the most substantial single volume on Nottingham ever to be published. Subscribers can buy a copy for £30 (£35 including p&p) if they register before 30 September 1996. They also receive a signed certificate with a reproduction of a Tom Hammond print, and their name will appear in the book. For further details ring Janice Avery on (0115) 951 5929.

## WHEN WE ARE HISTORY!

The Treasurer has just been connected to the Internet and while 'surfing' recently was able, by one of those strange quirks of the atmosphere, to have quite a lengthy conversation with one Mials T. Hoskbeck who was speaking from the year 2496. Mials is chairman of the Association Disseminating Regional Information And Knowledge (redundant initial letters were dropped in the 23C), more usually known by its initials. This Association is the successor to the Thoroton Society and is, of course, looking forward to celebrating its 500th Anniversary in 2497. Mials was delighted to talk to me about the plans they are making in that respect. They were fortunate that in 2296 when the Interstellar Spaceport was being constructed just to the east of Nottingham their archaeological section was able to excavate the site of Bingham Station. This site is just beyond the end of the present station and they have gained permission for the Moscow Intercontinental Shuttle linking Nottingham, Helsinki and Moscow Spaceports to stop for 30 seconds while a small commemorative tablet is unveiled by their President, Rowl T. Coopefield.

Unfortunately the Vale of Belvoir has been uninhabited since the whole population was moved into the new 'bubble cities' in 2150. These are temperature and climate controlled, and are an ideal mix of the best of a number of climatic scenarios. Mials is very proud that this concept first originated in Sherwood Forest at a place called Sentap Arcs, but wonders why this is not shown in the map of the Forest produced in 1997 and now in its 189th edition. Two of the Association's most treasured artefacts are a small

green square of manmade material and a strange tube of coarse material, possibly made from a plant, sealed at one end and with a narrow piece of material across the other. I was able to explain that these were scarves and bags but I do not think he understood their purpose. He said that the bag appeared to have contained at one time some kind of sticky organic substance wrapped in paper. By the use of the latest Electronic Magnetic Imaging they were able to make out the letters ... DDING but this meant nothing to them. My explanations did not help further scholarship in this regard although, no doubt, it will merit a footnote in someone's thesis.

However, Mials's chief concern was with another more serious matter. The Association has a number of sections dealing with many varied and esoteric aspects of the Society's affairs. One group researches the link between the position of Lecture Secretary and the possession of uncontrolled grey hair. Another group researches the geographical and social distribution of the membership of the Society over the years. One particular sub-group (chairman Cliffe V Foulmast Jnr.), looks at the incidence of payment of subscriptions. This group has been of great concern to the Association, since it is exhibiting a far higher than average degree of depression and emotional disturbance amongst its members. I understand that this arises when the members of the group find their ancestors regularly pay their subscription very late or not pay at all, or pay the wrong amount. They are finding this a burden too heavy to bear and are leaving the Association in shame.

Mials, in a heartfelt plea as he faded away into the ionosphere, urged members to pay their subscription on time, pay the correct amount and make sure that their standing orders were correct so that in 400 years' time their descendants would be able to take pride in their lineage and stand tall in the knowledge that they were part of a long tradition of erudite historians and prompt payers. The Treasurer can only agree.

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### BOOK SALE

The Society possesses considerable backstock of its *Transactions* and *Record Series*, most of which is at present held by a firm of book stockholders based in Kent. Although quantities vary from volume to volume and some are out of print, *Transactions* are available back to Vol 13 (1909), with fairly substantial numbers from Vol 50 (1946) onwards. Vols 6,10,18 and 20-33 of the *Record Series* are still available, together with special volumes relating to the *Church Plate of Nottinghamshire* (1965) and *Excavations at Margidunum* (1969).

The Council is proposing that the backstock should be returned to Nottingham and a Book Sale held to try to reduce stocks. Volumes will initially be offered to members at greatly reduced prices, then to outside bodies. It is suggested, for example, that volumes of *Transactions* prior to 1980 should be available at £1 each (with preference given to members ordering runs or sets).

The timing of the Book Sale will depend upon how soon the stock can be retrieved from Kent, but will probably be in the early Autumn.