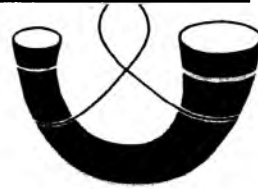


THOROTON

Number 12: Winter 1997



A Message from the Chairman...

The Centenary year has, I believe, been a great success. Certainly we have succeeded in raising the profile of the Thoroton Society across the county, and as a result we have been consulted about events which might not otherwise have come in our direction. While this has meant more work for the officers (!) it is, I believe, a development which is to be welcomed. Thus we have been part of the proposed Nottingham City Heritage Group, on which Geoffrey Oldfield reports below, and we have also played an influential role with Nottingham City Council in respect to the reorganization of its Leisure Services and Arts department (with particular reference to the Archaeology unit), and we have worked with the Byron Society and other interested parties to try to bring pressure on Midland Mining to withdraw its threat to mine under Newstead Abbey.

The latter case will be of particular interest to members because of the international importance of Newstead. Midland Mining's decision to exercise its right to mine under the Abbey - itself a bizarre planning anomaly - has brought international condemnation of the Company for proposing to put at risk such an important part of our national heritage. The fact that at the time of writing the risk to Newstead remains - the worst scenario is complete collapse of the building, the less pessimistic possibilities include up to £3 million of damage - convinces me that we have to remain vigilant since no building would appear to be safe, at least in the coal mining areas of Nottinghamshire. So please keep your officers informed when there are likely threats to places of historic interest. The Thoroton Society is now much better known, and with knowledge has come respect, a respect we intend to maintain as the Society begins its second century.

On a lighter and more positive note, our congratulations to the National Trust for acquiring the old workhouse at Thurgarton. Plans are in hand to open the premises as a museum of the poor law, and whether or not these come to fruition it is encouraging to find the NT becoming interested in buildings which are at least as much a part of the national heritage as country houses.

Finally, thanks once again to the Centenary Sub-Committee for all their hard work during Centenary Year. I hope you have all enjoyed the events which have been, and still are, taking place.

John Beckett



Nottingham City Heritage

On behalf of Council I attended a meeting at the Council House in Nottingham on 24 September 1997 which was designed to set up a forum for groups across the city interested in some aspects of its heritage and culture. The meeting was organized by a steering group chaired by ex-Councillor Stuart Argyle, Bob White (Director of Public Relations), Michael Williams (Director of Leisure Services), Jane Todd (City Centre Manager), Tom Huggon (chairman of the Centenary History Advisory Board), Sandra Rose (Boots Company) and Julian Marsh.

Attending the meeting were representatives from a

range of organizations including the Civic Society, NIAS, Friends of the Museums, the Arkwright Society, CAMRA, Pedals, Scouts, Girl Guides, various women's groups, choirs, basketball and darts teams, and the Mechanics Institute. The idea for the future is that despite the diversity of the groups, they should be able to come together on matters of common concern. Jane Todd described the city council's major projects in hand, which required large-scale funding. This attracted a good deal of discussion, mainly from groups having difficulty obtaining funds. Future meetings will address other issues of common interest.

Geoffrey Oldfield

**The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
The County's Principal Historical Society**

AUTUMN AND WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME 1997- 98

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1997

The Nottinghamshire History Lecture

The Politics of Parkland in Nottinghamshire by Mr Ben Cowell (Nottingham University)

Chairman: Professor John Beckett

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 1997

The Thoroton Society - A Review by Mr Neville Hoskins (Vice Chairman of the Thoroton Society)

Chairman: Mr Geoffrey Oldfield

SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1998

The Historic Gardens of Nottinghamshire by Miss Kate Garten (Garden designer and lecturer, and co-author of 'The Rothschild Gardens') Chairman: Mrs Jean Nicholson

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 1998

Asylum - Mental Health care in 19th Century Nottingham by Mr Terry Fry (Local Historian and Member of Council)

Chairman: Mr Geoffrey Oldfield

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 1998

Maurice Barley Memorial Lecture

The Restoration of Harrington Hall by Mr Guy St John Taylor (Architect)

Chairman: Mr Neville Hoskins

Jean Nicholson

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY - EAST MIDLANDS

The CBA in our area holds three meetings each year. These are open to CBA members and members of the Society are also welcome to attend. Two meetings each year are reports meetings where local archaeologists and members of local archaeological societies present information on current work taking place in the region. The third meeting each year usually concerns a topic of special interest, and the theme of the next meeting at Marston Village Hall on Saturday 22 November will be 'Christian Heritage'. Further information from the CBA-EM Treasurer, 8 The Orchards, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DP, or telephone 0115 966 3779.

Issue No. 11 was to be the last *Newsletter* which I should edit. After several appeals for a successor, and with the centenary celebrations heading to a peak, I was most grateful when Carol Allen offered to wield the editorial pen (or computer, as it turned out).

No. 1 came out in July 1992; it was literally a 'cut and paste' job, produced without the modern technology which uses the same term. In the following 5 years desktop publishing took over, even progressing to photographs. I am grateful to all who have helped and contributed, but especially to Ann from whose keyboard the early ones came, and to Janice Avery for her more recent assistance.

Thank you Carol; good wishes as you take over the editorial chair - colour next? Neville Hoskins

The Council and Members thank Neville very warmly for his *Newsletter* contributions over the past five years, which have kept us all up to date so well with events. This will be a hard act to follow! It is not easy becoming a new editor, and this present *Newsletter* is produced thanks to Neville's guidance and suggestions. May I also take this opportunity to add that I could not have taken over the archaeological editor's place smoothly without the guidance and support of our experienced and helpful historical editor, Adrian Henstock.

Carol Allen

THOROTON TRANSACTIONS BACKSTOCK

A large amount of the backstock of Thoroton Society *Transactions* has now been sold off to members, thanks to the work of Adrian Henstock and helpers. A few copies of each volume (where available) have been retained and it is proposed that all volumes should be retained on microfiche in the archives.

The remaining volumes have been sold to Jermy and Westermann, Booksellers of Mansfield Road, Nottingham, and thus it will be possible to purchase back copies for the foreseeable future. The editors aim in future to reduce the backstock by not printing an over excess of *Transactions*.

THOROTON SOCIETY AGM

A date for your diary for 1998: the AGM is to be held on **Saturday 25 April** at Blyth Church.

☆☆☆ LECTURE REPORT ☆☆☆

The first lecture in our new series was given by Jeffrey May of the University of Nottingham on Saturday 11 October. He looked back over the past - 'ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'.

Jeffrey May commenced by wishing the Society a happy One Hundredth Birthday, and congratulating it on the 100th *Transactions*. His lecture focused on the growing stature of archaeology in the county from the days of Oswald's amazing single-handed excavations at Margidunum in the early years of the century, to the solid interpretive work undertaken today.

He commended the Thoroton Society's part in promoting collaboration between amateur and professional archaeologists. A good example of the fruitfulness of this cooperation included, Mr May said, the contribution of aerial photography to our current knowledge of ancient landscapes. The standard of current archaeological work is very high, but it is now generally development driven which, Mr May explained, made it a very different kind of archaeology from the past with different priorities. However, major work was being achieved, despite all the difficulties and lack of funding, such as at Langford and Gamston, Chris Salisbury's brilliant work on river activity, the interpretation of the rich prehistoric life of the Sherwood Forest area and of pre-Roman urbanization in the East Midlands, in addition to important information from survey work on the line of the Fosse Way. Jeffrey went on to cite discoveries made through collaborative work between various disciplines, professional and amateur, and made a plea for further work to be done at the Bronze Age site on the riverside at Beeston.

Jeffrey May is currently working on the coinage of the Iron Age and requested members to inform him of any such coins they know of in order that they could be included in the study. He concluded by reiterating the more productive focus of modern archaeology which concentrated, not on single sites, but on studying sites in groups, period by period, in whole landscapes in their geographical context.

The lecture was greatly appreciated by those attending, raised some interesting questions, and challenged those engaged in archaeology in Nottinghamshire today.

Barbara Cast



Valerie Henstock guides Thoroton members around historic Bingham during the July Centenary excursion (see report, p.5)

CENTENARY EVENTS

FORTHCOMING

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 7.30 p.m., CAR COLSTON CHURCH

The final event of the Centenary Year promises to be especially memorable. A Christmas concert given by Christine Asher and her singers will take place at Car Colston Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 29 November, with seasonal music and readings by members of the Society.

Tickets (very reasonably priced at £4 including refreshments) will be available at the November meeting, or by sending in the yellow slip you will have already received. If you can't find this, write to Penny Messenger at 5 Cragdale Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3HX, tel. 0115 926 7484, and enclose an SAE and your money. You are advised to buy a ticket in advance in case all are sold by the time of the concert!

Travel by coach to Car Colston is available at £2 per person. Pick-up points are: Mansfield Road/Thackeray's Lane at 6.30pm, Gregory Boulevard at 6.40pm, Shakespeare Street at 6.45pm, West Bridgford Library at 6.50pm, and on to Car Colston for the start of the concert at 7.30pm. Send your name and money to Penny Messenger if you wish to book a seat on the coach stating where you wish to board.

Penny Messenger

PAST

RETFORD RECEPTION - THURSDAY 5 JUNE

The Thoroton Society and the Retford Archaeological and Historical Society held an evening reception at the Bassetlaw Museum in Retford. About 60 members and guests including the Chairman of Bassetlaw Council and his wife, Mr & Mrs Walters were present together with the Mayor of Retford. After a welcome speech by Neville Hoskins, Vice-Chairman of the Thoroton Society, Roy Sluman presented a seat to the museum in memory of Barry Biggs, a well-known local historian. Councillor Walters presented prizes to Adam Marsh and Emma Staples, local winners of the Schools Competition, for their own project on local history. Everyone had an opportunity to sample the refreshments and look around the Thoroton Centenary Exhibition and the Retford Historical Society's 40th Anniversary Exhibition, and also the rest of the interesting museum.

A special thanks to the curator Malcolm Dolby and his staff for a most successful and friendly evening.

Jean Nicholson



Presentation at Retford for schools local history project: (from left, front) The Mayor of Retford, Cllr Mary Hall, winners Adam Marsh and Emma Staples, and Jean Nicholson of the Thoroton Society; (back) Neville Hoskins of the Thoroton Society and Cllr Walters, Chairman of Bassetlaw District Council.

EXCURSIONS

The Centenary excursion programme has continued to be a great success throughout the year. Over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 July the first excursion undertaken by the Society exactly 100 years previously was re-enacted. Everyone was astounded by the stamina of our predecessors!

CHURCHES TOUR - SATURDAY 26 JULY

Did it rain on the first Thoroton excursion 100 years ago? Sixty-four members of the Society braved the uncertain weather, some in Victorian costume, to retrace the steps of the original members on their first outing. Unlike the first outing we travelled by City of Nottingham coach rather than a horse-drawn brake!

Members were met at Car Colston church by Jean Nicholson and Graham Beaumont who introduced each venue as the excursion progressed. In St Mary's at Car Colston we saw the plaque erected by The Thoroton Society in memory of Robert Thoroton and the stone coffin, now empty, which held his remains. From Car Colston members moved to St Wilfrid's, Screveton, and lunch was taken at Screveton Cottage.

After lunch we travelled to St Mary and All Saints at Hawskworth, St Helen's at Thoroton and St Thomas's at Aslockton, where our visit was enhanced by our chairman, John Beckett, playing the organ. We also visited St John of Beverley at Whatton and finished our day with a visit to view Wiverton Hall. All the churches were interesting and all quite different in style, architecture and atmosphere, ranging from Norman to Victorian. We were able to admire a Saxon cross shaft, 17th century fonts and 20th century stained glass windows and enjoyed some fascinating anecdotes. When it did rain we were having our tea in St Andrew's church at Langar!

WALK AROUND BINGHAM - SUNDAY 27 JULY

Again part of the original excursion by the Society was re-enacted as around 35 members met at the 19th century Butter Cross in Bingham on Sunday afternoon. We were blessed with brilliant sunshine as Valerie and Adrian Henstock led us from the market place to enjoy a short guided tour walking around the village.

Bingham has a long history from medieval times, and we first walked to the site of the medieval chapel of St Helen's. During recent work on the present Victorian house on the site, the occupier uncovered a line of skeletons from the chapel cemetery! Turning into Long Acre we passed the *Laughing Cavalier* public house, previously a 'Ranter's' chapel.

Looking at interesting houses along Fisher Lane, we walked the hollow-way to the site of the shrunken medieval village where roadways and house platforms are clearly visible. We were then guided around the lovely 13th and 14th century church, and concluded a most pleasant afternoon with a picnic in the sun in the Robert Miles School grounds, previously part of the old Rectory.

The tours were fascinating and much enjoyed by everyone: we felt we had celebrated the Centenary outing in great style. Grateful thanks to Graham, Jean, Valerie and Adrian for their enthusiastic contributions to a memorable weekend.

Margaret Goodman, Penny Messenger and Carol Allen

WORKSOP CENTENARY LECTURE - TUESDAY 5 AUGUST

A capacity audience including Mr & Mrs Walters, the Chairman of Bassetlaw Council and his wife, met at Worksop Library to listen to Mr Michael Jackson, a member of the Thoroton Society. Members were transported back to 1897 as he told of the twin events of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and the founding of the Thoroton Society. He explained that ten Worksop residents were among the earliest members of the Society. Mr Jackson then guided members and guests on a tour of Worksop following the route of the Diamond Jubilee Procession. This was a fascinating event enabling the audience to forget how hot they had been earlier! Jean Nicholson gave a vote of thanks to Mr Jackson and to local history librarian Janet Robb for her hard work in assisting with the event.

Jean Nicholson

HODSOCK PRIORY - SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

Over 70 members and friends arrived at Hodsock Priory, home of the Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire, Sir Andrew and Lady Buchanan.

We were welcomed by Sir Andrew splendidly attired in full uniform and were joined by the Society President Mr Miles Thoroton Hildyard. The arrival of members was unintentionally staggered due to traffic problems, but this actually led to a smoother flow in our visit! We enjoyed teas (served by Lady Buchanan) and visited the house to see a newly acquired portrait of a handsome but spendthrift ancestor. In the fine 16th gatehouse built during the time of the Clifton family, we saw the unusual plasterwork, which may be Jacobean or Victorian. We also toured the lovely gardens. As neither the house nor the gatehouse are normally accessible this was a most interesting visit, and we are grateful to Sir Andrew and Lady Buchanan for this rather special day to add to our Centenary Year.

Ann Hoskins

CENTENARY DINNER - FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

The Society's Centenary Dinner was held in the Assembly Hall of County Hall, West Bridgford on Friday 10 October, and proved to be yet another memorable event of our Centenary Year. The organization was impeccable, for which we thank the Centenary Sub-Committee and County Hall.

After a Cocktail Party hosted by the Chairman of the County Council, Cllr. Alan Davidson, on the balcony of the great Assembly Hall, we enjoyed an excellent dinner with a Nottinghamshire theme. Starting with fillet of fresh salmon, we moved on to braised saddle of Sherwood Venison (which was excellent). Some of us then admitted defeat at the Bramley Apple Pie, but revived in time for the Midlands Cheeses, coffee and petit fours! The Centenary wines made an excellent accompaniment.

After dinner the Chairman of the Council proposed the toast to Her Majesty the Queen. Sir Andrew Buchanan, the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, proposed a toast to the Thoroton Society, to which our President Mr Myles Hildyard replied. Our Vice President Mr Neville Hoskins then introduced our speaker Sir Neil Cossons, Director of the Science Museum,

London, and native of Nottingham, who has had long associations with the Society.

Sir Neil fascinated us with his recollections of the Society and local history. His father Arthur Cossons had been a member of the Society from 1929-63 and had attended the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1947.

Sir Neil reminded us of the worst tendencies of some local historians - never using one word when ten would do, including a minutiae of local detail, and constantly talking of mice in pews, bats in belfries and genealogical trivia. Sir Neil thought that Nottinghamshire was well served by its historians, none of whom could be accused of any of the above! He mentioned, including others, the work of the late Maurice Barley and the current *Centenary History of Nottingham* edited by Professor John Beckett, and said that Nottinghamshire historians had established a benchmark for others.

A vote of thanks was given by Professor Beckett. On behalf of the Council of the Society he offered Honorary Membership of the Society to Sir Neil, who was pleased to accept.

Carol Allen

Exhibition Venues

The great success of the Society's Exhibition this year has been very apparent, and it will continue to travel in 1998. The proposed venues are Ravenshead and Southwell Minster Visitor Centre (dates to be finalized).

Closed for Business: Ewan Christian's Restoration of Southwell Minster 1848-1888.

By Harold Brooke (Honorary Librarian and Archivist to Southwell Minster, 1989-1997). Published by Southwell Minster Cathedral Council, price £4.00.

In a postscript to his Foreword, David Leaning, Provost of Southwell, records that 'on Tuesday 25 March Harold Brooke read the proofs of this book and expressed his satisfaction that the task was completed. Three days later, on Good Friday, Harold died at his home in Southwell...'

We must be grateful that the author completed 'the task' and that he performed it so very well. Those who know Southwell Minster may be surprised to learn the extent of the superb restoration by the architect Ewan Christian during the period 1851-57. This is revealed in this book, an unusually well-documented account of a major restoration which makes quite clear what is original and what is Christian's work. Now, after the lapse of a century, this is not easy to tell by just looking at the building, which is the measure of how sensitive Ewan Christian was in all he did at Southwell. The state of the Minster before the restoration was sad indeed, inside and out. The interior miserably whitewashed, damp, crumbling, the nave with a poor, flat roof inserted after the fire of 1711, and bitterly cold. In 1853 the Clerk to the Fabric wrote: 'The old, worn out curtain which was used to fall behind the organ, cutting off the current of air under the central arch of the nave from the choir... is now rotten and unfit for any purpose whatever. The congregations complain loudly of the coldness of the church... It is most essential that another curtain should immediately be provided, for the singing men and choir have suffered illness for want of it.'

Many contributors to the work of restoration, clergy and lay are recorded in this book but one, I think, needs special mention, the Master Mason in charge, John Gregory, who had worked on the fabric for at least fifty years. He died in 1885 and was buried at Southwell. The author writes: 'So the Minster lost a great stalwart a man who had virtually rebuilt the Minster alone, other masons only being employed occasionally when it was absolutely necessary... During the time of the restoration, I have checked his time sheets and he worked every day except Sunday, all the time, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter, never had a holiday and was never away ill. The Minster certainly owes him a huge debt of gratitude.'

So do we, and also another, to Harold Brooke who has written this book for the record of a great undertaking.

Note: Beneath the frontispiece, a photograph of Ewan Christian, the caption has transposed his dates. He lived from 1814-95, not 1841-95.

Rosalys Coope

Sherwood Forest in 1609: A Crown Survey by Richard Banks

Edited by Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves. Published by Thoroton Society Record Section (Vol. 40, 1997). ISBN 0 902719 15 7; price £25 (+£3.50 p+p).

A new publication which provides a graphic picture of central Nottinghamshire in Jacobean times has just been produced in the Society's *Record Series*. This is a long-awaited edition of the Survey of Sherwood Forest in 1609, which is the culmination of fifteen years' work by the two editors, Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves.

The original written survey (in the Public Record Office) lists nearly 2,000 individual plots of land in 46 Nottinghamshire parishes ranging from Nottingham in the south to Mansfield and Clumber in the north. For each plot the name of the owner, occupier and often the field name is given, along with its acreage and some indication of land use such as open arable field, enclosure, common pasture or woodland.

The written survey is complemented by maps relating to nearly half of these places - mainly in the Lenton-Bestwood-Calverton-Lowdham-Nottingham area - showing virtually every house and plot of land. The maps are astonishingly accurate for their date, and can be directly compared with modern Ordnance Survey maps. Because of the poor quality of the original 1609 map it has been meticulously redrawn and published as 20 separate parish sheets.

The survey volume and the maps are enclosed in an attractive slipcase printed with a full-colour reproduction of the original map showing Nottingham town, which has significant differences from the well-known near contemporary plan by John Speed.

Together, survey and maps provide a unique insight into the landscape and land ownership of central Nottinghamshire in Jacobean times. Indeed it is believed that this is the only comparable survey of such a large tract of countryside anywhere in the country before the 19th century. The text is fully indexed and contains over 4,000 personal names and nearly 1,000 field names.

The volume is free to subscribers to the separate Records Section, but is available to members of the main society at £25 (plus £3.50 p&p). Copies can be purchased at Society lectures or from Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road (off Wilford Street), Nottingham.

Adrian Henstock

NEW MEMBERS - AND OLD FRIENDS

We are very pleased to welcome to the Society the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. P. Robson; B. Miller; R.C. Malinsky; R. Bullock; Mr. & Mrs. J. Logan; Mr. & Mrs. D. Barton; I.M. Russell; Ms. S. Dunster; Miss C. Wilson; Ms. V. Priest; Ms. J.C. Grant; Ms. J.M. Sallis; Mr. & Mrs. F. Lemeunier.

NOTE: In the welcome to new members, there is a correction for the last issue when Mr & Mrs Sutherland should have been called Mr & Mrs SUNDERLAND. Apologies to them!

Hazel Salisbury, past editor of *Transactions*, is shortly to become Head of Legal Services at Nottinghamshire County Council.

THE TREASURE ACT 1996

Members may be interested to know that the Treasure Act 1996 came into force on 24 September 1997 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, replacing the common law of treasure trove.

There is a new definition of treasure under the new act. The following finds are now treasure:

- ◆ *Objects other than coins:* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10 per cent of gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- ◆ *Coins:* all coins from the same find provided that are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least 10 of them).
- ◆ *Associated objects:* whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- ◆ *Objects that would have been treasure trove:* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver.

The following are not treasure:

- objects whose owners can be traced,
- unworked natural objects, including bone, even if found with treasure,
- objects from the foreshore, which are wreck.

All finds which may be treasure have to be reported within 14 days. The obligation to report finds applies to everyone, members of the public, metal detectorists and archaeologists. Finds should be reported to the coroner.

If you fail to report a find you may be imprisoned for up to three months or receive a fine of up to level 5 on the standard scale (about £5,000) or both. All those involved in archaeology or metal detectorists are strongly advised to obtain a copy of the Code of Practice, which among other information, contains guidance on rewards and has lists of useful addresses.

Informative leaflets or the full Code of Practice can be obtained free of charge from the Public Enquiry Unit, Department for Culture Media and Sport (formerly the Department of National Heritage), 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH, or telephone 0171 211 6200.

Carol Allen

Contributions to future NEWSLETTERS are welcome. For the next edition please send any items to The Editor, Dr. Carol Allen, 183 Ashby Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE15 0LB (tel. 01283 544235; fax 01283 515019). The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, nor of its Council.