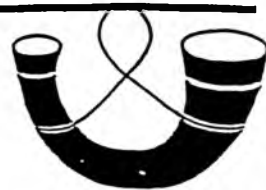


THOROTON

Number 13: Summer 1998



A Message from the Chairman...

It is with considerable sadness that I have to report the recent deaths of the Society's former Honorary Secretary Rev. Patrick Rowley, and also of John Severn (see obituaries below and on p.4).

I am sure many members enjoyed the recent visit to Blyth for the Annual General Meeting. At the meeting Mrs Barbara Cast was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary. Barbara has been taking Council and AGM minutes for some years so she already knows how the Society works, but we are delighted that she is able to fit this additional work into her already busy schedule. Margaret Trueman will be helping Barbara with some of the Secretary's work, and we are grateful to Margaret for offering to help out in this way.

The Society has reached an arrangement with Sutton Bonington local history society which we hope will be mutually beneficial to both of us. David and Catharine Crawford had, over many years, collected a substantial body of material relating to Sutton Bonington. Mrs. Crawford died recently, and the collection is to go to the Archive Office and the oral history collection of the City Library. The Thoroton Society will look after the funding which has been set aside for this transfer, to include any conservation work. Should there be a surplus we will use it to promote publications relating to Sutton Bonington and its area. We are grateful to Dr. Crawford for working with us on this venture, and we hope to 'cement' relations with Sutton Bonington by promoting a joint lecture with the local history society in 1999.

John Beckett

Rev. Patrick Rowley Honorary Secretary, The Thoroton Society, 1992-8



Our former Honorary Secretary, Rev. Patrick Rowley, died on 25 May 1998. After a distinguished career which included working on soil conservation in Africa and holding various posts as a minister of the Church of England, Patrick retired to Tuxford in 1991 aiming to continue his long and deep interest in local history. The following year he became the Society's Honorary Secretary. He ran the Society's business in an efficient and effective way, and he took particular pleasure in organizing the Annual Luncheon at Southwell, and the Annual General Meeting. He prepared Council business well in advance, and was never slow to remind the chairman that the agenda needed to be prepared! He always turned up at meetings with a pile of papers which he would circulate around the table with the plea that members of Council should take them away to save him having to take them home again.

Patrick stood down at the AGM at Blyth, promising to continue supporting Society events as his health permitted. Sadly this was not to be: he died suddenly while on holiday in Llandudno. Council, on behalf of the membership, extends its sincere sympathy to his widow, Valerie Rowley, and to their family. The Society will be sending a donation to St Nicholas's Church, Tuxford, in memory of Patrick.

John Beckett

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 25 APRIL 1998

The 101st Annual General Meeting of the Thoroton Society was held in the Barnby Village Hall, Blyth, North Nottinghamshire on Saturday 25 April, 1998. This proved to be a popular venue and the hall was an ideal meeting place. It seemed most appropriate to be able to meet, eat and chat, and collect *Transactions* within one area, rather than having to move around a venue. All agreed the atmosphere was friendly and the tea excellent.

Prior to the AGM members enjoyed a short tour led by Miss Enid Oakes around the parish church of Blyth, and members viewed the famous 'Doom Painting' on the east wall. At the AGM Professor John Beckett our chairman welcomed all members both old and new. He went on to thank Dr Rosalys Coope most sincerely for her many years service on the Society's Council, and made a small presentation to the retiring Honorary Secretary.

Professor Beckett also thanked the Centenary sub-committee of Neville Hoskins (Chair), Jean Nicholson, Geoffrey Oldfield, Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman for their dedication and work during the Centenary Year. Thanks were also expressed to Mr Joe Nicholson for his 'behind the scenes' support for the work of the Society, particularly during the past year. Rita Marshall and Janice Avery were also thanked for their work for the Society during the most successful Centenary year.

All good wishes were sent to Mr Neville Hoskins following his recent illness, and a 'get well' card was signed by all members present. Everyone wishes Neville a speedy recovery.

John Beckett also mentioned the work of the late Nancy Mullholland for the society and comments from her friends are included on page 4 of this *Newsletter*.

Carol Allen



The Centenary Year 1997

This *Newsletter* contains an insert listing all the events which took place last year as part of our Centenary celebrations. The following is a report of the last social event, the Christmas Concert.

SEASONAL CONCERT - 29 NOVEMBER - CAR COLSTON CHURCH

The final social event of the Centenary Year was the winter seasonal concert given by the Christine Asher Singers at Car Colston Church. The concert included both choral and solo items, classical and Tudor pieces together with folk and comic songs and some unusual and familiar Christmas items. The music was interspersed with two delightful readings entitled 'Christmas at Chatsworth' and 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' read by Ann Hoskins and Roy Sluman. The superb quality of the singing, the excellent refreshments provided in the interval by Jean Nicholson, and the warmth of the welcome from the vicar, combined to ensure an evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

Penny Messenger

Neville Hoskins

Members will be aware that Neville Hoskins, our vice-chairman, recently suffered a serious illness. He is now back on his feet and taking long walks as part of his recuperation. Neville asks us to pass on his thanks to the many individuals who sent greetings to him during his illness. He was able to attend the June Council meeting and hopes soon to be back to something like his old self. The bad news is that he is currently using a walking stick, which looks as if it might become a useful instrument for whipping in straying members on future Thoroton outings!

John Beckett

CHURCH MONUMENTS SOCIETY ALABASTER SYMPOSIUM UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, 11-13 SEPTEMBER 1998

The 1998 Symposium of the Church Monuments Society will be held in Ancaster Hall, University of Nottingham, and discussions will concentrate on the subject of alabaster. A series of papers by respected authorities will look at various aspects of this material, its uses and development.

There are also excursions to local sites of interest. Subjects include alabaster from Willoughby-in-the-Wolds (to where a visit will be made) and Professor Richard Marks will speak on alabaster devotional images and Dr. Jenny Alexander on alabaster in Lincolnshire.

Further information: Clive Easter, Church Monuments Society, 55 Bowden Park Road, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL6 5NG. Daily or weekend rates are available; applications should be made before 24.8.98.

Jenny Alexander

CBA EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands CBA holds a number of meetings through the year. These are:

19 September 1998: Reports of local excavations and research - Kinoulton Village Hall

7 November 1998: Historical Metallurgy - Papplewick Village Hall

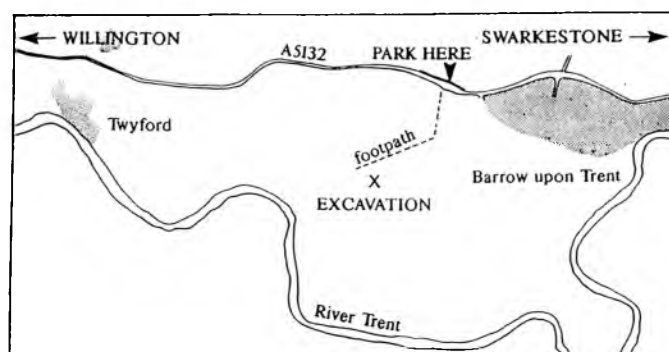
6 March 1999: Reports meeting - Venue to be announced

Details from The Treasurer, CBA-EM, 8 The Orchards, Lowdham, NG14 7DP. Tel. 0115 966 3779.

Carol Allen

EXCAVATION OPEN DAY

The Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust has organized an Excavation Open Day for 21 June, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Iron Age Settlement at Fleak Close, Barrow-upon-Trent. (Off the A5132 south of Derby - park in lay-by where there are signposts; a short walk down the footpath to the site). Sponsored by Redland Aggregates Ltd; all are welcome and admission is free.



**John Severn
(1932-98)**

John Severn died suddenly on 3 June. Almost everyone in local history circles in Nottinghamshire will have known or come across John, since his interests and activities were astonishingly broad. Apart from his activities with Nottingham Civic Society, of which he was a former chairman, John's *curriculum vitae* included industrial archaeology, historic farm buildings, dovecotes, church architecture - where will the Diocesan Advisory Committee find a replacement for his accumulated knowledge? - as well as model building and the South Notts Hussars. He fitted in the M.A. in Local and Regional History at Nottingham University, and subsequently taught at both Nottingham and Derby Universities. Somehow he also found time to run a successful architectural practice, and was an extraordinarily generous man with his time and energy. Many Council members were able to be present at his funeral on 11 June, when his vast range of interests was reflected in the number of people who packed into St Giles, West Bridgford, for the occasion. We extend our sympathy to John's two sons and their families.

John Beckett

Nancy Mulholland

Two friends of Nancy, Jean Nicholson and Maureen Mahoney, have kindly contributed to the following piece which tells us of the life and work of Nancy Mullholland who died in December 1997 after many years of service to the Society and to local history and archaeology.

I had known Nancy since coming to Nottingham in 1949, and she originally introduced me to the Thoroton Society. Nancy was a member for 36 years and secretary of the archaeological section and CBA representative for many years. However, it was only when all Nancy's friends came together at her funeral service that we began to appreciate her vast range of interests and the enormous contribution she had made to archaeology and local history in Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. For most members Nancy will be remembered for her carefully planned outings. She introduced us to many unusual locations and she will be missed for her friendship, and wise counsel and advice.

Jean Nicholson

I first met Nancy in 1958, when she was involved with the manufacture of penicillin, and over the years our mutual interests brought us together, as we both belonged to the Boots Association. This organized factory visits, lectures and social activities. There was also a rambling group and an annual weekend away which Nancy and I organized for some years.

As members of the Nottingham branch of the National Trust, we were among the first to volunteer when the NT decided to pioneer the concept of garden stewards at Hardwick Hall. Originally a policing function to prevent keen gardeners taking 'cuttings', this developed into talking to visitors about the herbs, Bess of Hardwick and the Devonshires and advising on local tourism.

Following her retirement in 1985, Nancy undertook to catalogue and index the contents of the Archaeology Department Museum at Nottingham University, as well as installing a system to keep track of artefacts removed for use as teaching material. This work was sadly interrupted due to eye problems, but she continued to pursue her interests which included geology, visiting historical sites and maintaining contacts with friends and family scattered all over the country!

The Thoroton Society and historical studies in Nottinghamshire have lost a loyal supporter and she is greatly missed by all her friends.

Maureen Mahoney

Reports of Society Lecture Meetings

The Society meets regularly at the YMCA on Shakespeare Street in Nottingham: An update on three recent meetings.

The Politics of Parkland in Nottinghamshire

On Saturday 8 November 1997 Ben Cowell talked to the Society on **The Politics of Parkland in Nottinghamshire**. Professor John Beckett chaired the meeting. This was the eighth in the series of Nottinghamshire History Lectures which are sponsored by Nottinghamshire County Council; usually these are given by newer or younger historians. Mr Cowell certainly qualifies under the latter heading as he is probably the youngest person to have given a lecture to the Society!

His interesting talk described the importance of parklands in the county, especially during the changing economic and social conditions from the mid-18th to the mid-19th centuries. There was a considerable increase in the county's number of landscaped parks in this period, from 22 in 1776 to over 50 by 1824, when these took in some 23,000 acres. This increase was due to the growing number of minor gentry in addition to the larger ducal estates.

Whilst the 18th century saw the establishment of many landscaped parks, by taming the wild countryside, this also led to a policy of guarding them against access, particularly by the poorer sections of society. This was due to cultural and social distinctions but also most parks were capital investments and had an economic role, for grazing, growing timber and farming. The gulf created by such exclusion caused a political widening, and some ruthless landowners protected their property with man-traps and armed gamekeepers, and rights of way were obstructed. This often led to riots and retaliation.

Increasing urbanisation and industry reduced the importance of agriculture by about 1850 and the differences became less marked. It was at about this time too that the new tradition of country house visits began.

We thank Mr Cowell for providing us with an insight into this interesting subject.

Geoffrey Oldfield



Kate Garten kicks off lecture season

On Saturday 10 January 1998 Kate Garten talked to members on **Historic Gardens in Nottinghamshire and their future**.

The lecture season for 1998 got off to a good start with a full hall of members listening to the Nora Witham Lecture, given by Kate Garten, who is a garden designer lecturer and writer. Kate Garten is best known for her work at Hodssock Priory and as co-author of 'The Rothchilds Gardens'. A fascinating talk was given, and a number of excellent slides shown, which compared the gardens of the great country houses of the 1890s with the gardens now in the care of Nottingham City and County.

Jean Nicholson

Historic Holiday Slides

On Saturday 14 February 1998 Mr Terry Fry was unfortunately prevented from given his talk on 'Mental Health in Victorian Times' due to illness. However, the resourceful programme secretary immediately booked Mr Fry to give his talk next year.

Geoffrey Oldfield, who was to be the chairman for the meeting, stepped magnificently into the breach showing members his 'Historic Holiday Slides' which covered a variety of interesting locations in Britain, region by region. At the beginning of his talk Geoffrey invited the audience to name each place as it was shown. The audience were kept guessing and awake and showed considerable knowledge of the locations of these treasures of Britain, but failed (only by small margin) to name about half of them!

In the South West, we saw slides of a headstone in Helston Churchyard to the inventor of the sea-rescue rocket apparatus, a consecration cross in a church wall and Maiden Castle. Other items included staddle stones, tithe barns, follies, mass dials, a butter cross and abandoned millstones.

He also included a number of pictures taken on various Thoroton Society summer excursions including Middleton, Badesley Clinton, Hoar Cross, Kirkby Muxloe and Gaddesby.

Many thanks to Geoffrey for providing an interesting and entertaining afternoon at short notice.

SOCIETY EXCURSIONS

Many members have suggested that outings for half a day may be more popular than all day so this year the Society plans the following excursions.

Saturday 20 June 1998	Afternoon visit to Ashby St Ledger
Thursday 30 July 1998	Afternoon visit to Rufford Abbey
Saturday 19 September 1998	<p>Afternoon visit to the Arboretum, Nottingham This will be an informal walk with no formal booking or tea. Members should meet at the main gate, Waverley Street at 2.00 pm</p> <p>Please note: No notice of this visit will be sent so please book the date in your diary now.</p>

Due to difficulties beyond our control the proposed outing to Lincolnshire on Saturday 9 May had to be cancelled for the present.

Publications - Transactions, Centenary Index and Record Series

The 101st edition of the *Transactions* has now been distributed to members. This year's publication saw two innovations - a new finish for the cover which we hope will help handling of the journal and our first colour plate on page 63, financed by Tarmac Quarry Products Limited.

A new index to the Society's publications over the past one hundred years has now been compiled by Lawrence Craik, and this has been distributed free to all members. Mr Craik has revised, extended and updated his previous index issued in 1977. The index covers the one hundred issues of *Transactions* and the forty volumes of the *Record Series*. There are separate author/editor and place/subject indexes, and the latter includes 'period' groupings. Copies can be purchased by non-members for £5 each (£6.50 including postage in the UK) from the Honorary Editors, c/o Notts. Archives,

County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG. A disc version on ASCII file can be obtained on request, price £10 (£11 incl postage).

Last year also saw the publication of the *Record Series* volumes of the Survey of *Sherwood Forest in 1609* by Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves, and *The Diaries of Gertrude Savile, 1721-1757*, edited by Alan Saville assisted by Marjorie Penn. Both have proved very popular volumes. A review of the latter volume is provided in this Newsletter.

Adrian Henstock and Carol Allen



READING THE RECORDS

If you are not a subscriber to the Thoroton Society's *Record Series* you should certainly think about it. This year the modest annual cost has paid rich dividends in the shape of two brilliant volumes: *Sherwood Forest in 1609* and *Secret Comment*. The former is a book to return to and use year after year, with fascinating maps to pore over and examine. Then, if you want a good read, you will find *Secret Comment* hard to put down. It contains the private, in parts, very private, diaries of Gertrude Savile, a daughter of the Savile family of Rufford Abbey. Born in 1697, we can read the journals which she kept, with a few intervals, from 1721 until the end of 1757, just three months before she died, as well as a number of letters. In the book we see Gertrude grow from an unhappy, dependant and bitter young woman into an elderly spinster of independent means, in poor health, but more confident and seemingly more contented with her life.

As well as details of the personal life of an early 18th century woman and the complexities of her family life, Gertrude shows us her view of the political scene of the day, her affection for the royal family, favourite entertainments and the constant problem of domestic servants.

The *Record Series* is an ideal complement to the *Transactions* and yet another excellent aspect of the work of the Society.

***Sherwood Forest in 1609*, transcribed and edited by Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves.**

'*Secret Comment*', the Diaries of Gertrude Savile, 1721-1757, edited by Alan Saville, obtainable from the Kingsbridge History Society, Hatch Arundell, Loddiswell, Near Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 4AJ, price £15.95 plus postage.

Barbara Cast

Thoroton Transactions

Many thanks to all those members who volunteered at the AGM to deliver *Transactions*. It was very successful and does assist the distribution and costs very significantly. Some members told us they got to know other members through making deliveries! The editors would be interested to hear members' views on this matter, so please write to the *Newsletter* if you have any comments.



☆☆☆ AUTUMN & WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME 1998/99 ☆☆☆

Saturday 10 October

Dumping the Dead in Prehistoric Times
Excavations at Langford, Nottinghamshire
Daryl Garton of Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust

Tuesday 13 October

The Keith Train Lecture
Pugin - A Gothic Architect in the East Midlands
Joan Knight MA
Friends' Meeting House, Clarendon Street, 7.30 pm

Saturday 14 November

Nottinghamshire History Lecture
Aristocratic Women in 18th century Nottinghamshire
Sandra Dunster MA

Saturday 5 December

Boots at Christmas
Katey Logan (Boots Museum Archivist)

Saturday 9 January 1999

The Flintham Story Updated
Sue Clayton MA

Lectures (except 13 October) will be held at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street at 3.00 pm. Please note that these are the correct dates, as some were printed incorrectly in the programme card.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Miss M J Coe, Mr L Crank, Ms T Chambers, Mr and Mrs G Orme, Mr and Mrs D J Thomsett, Mrs S J Walker, Mr C E Wolfe, Mr R P Ruddock, Mrs J M Betts, Prof M and Dr J M A Collie, Mr P Ellis, Mr and Mrs R T Barker, Mr and Mrs G Kingscott, Mr R Wilson, Mr B E Churm, Miss J Clarke, Mr and Mrs I Morrell, Mr B Conway, Mrs M Roberts, Mrs S Tomlinson, Mr and Mrs M Marples, Mr A Smith and Mrs C A Moore.

We understand that some members have appeared more than once in this listing and we apologise for the error. Despite (or due to) new technology the editor and treasurer do not always get this correct! If you have any comments on any aspect of the Newsletter or would like to make a contribution then please write to the Editor. Contributions in the form of 'Letters to the Editor' would be most welcome.

Carol Allen and Keith Goodman

Contributions to future Newsletters are most welcome. For the next edition please send any items to: The Editor, Dr Carol Allen, 183 Ashby Road, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE15 0LB (telephone 01283 544235, fax 01283 515019). The deadline for the Winter Newsletter is 7th November 1998. The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.