

THOROTON

NEWSLETTER Number 14: November 1998

A Message from the Chairman...

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE THOROTON SOCIETY

In October this year, the Society's Council agreed that we would like to have local representatives in different parts of the county. This is not seen as a large task: it would consist of scanning local newspapers for stories of interest to the Society members, such as events and local anniversaries, and sending them to the Editor of the Society's *Newsletter*. We would also like information to alert our representatives who deal with planning, conservation, and archaeology, particularly if there is reason to be concerned about particular sites or places of historic interest in your area of the county.

We would like representatives in about half a dozen areas of the county, particularly in Newark, Mansfield, Worksop, and the north of the county. So we are looking for volunteers, and anyone who would be willing to take this on for their particular area is invited to contact the Secretary, Barbara Cast or the Chairman, John Beckett, via the *Newsletter* Editor. We look forward to hearing from you!

John Beckett



NEW SECRETARY

The new Honorary Secretary is Barbara Cast, who in April this year succeeded the late Patrick Rowley. Barbara became a member of the Society in 1988, and joined the Council in 1992 as Honorary Minutes Secretary. With a degree in Archaeology from the University of Nottingham and a lifelong interest in history, she finds a natural home in the Thoroton Society, especially appreciating the excellent *Transactions* and the *Record Series*. Her particular interest is the study of place-names, on which she lectures from time to time.

A keen local historian, Barbara has researched her home village of Bleasby and produced a number of publications of various aspects of its history. She is a member of the Council 'think tank', which is charged with looking at exciting new areas of work for the Society and its promotion. Like other members of the 'think tank', Barbara is keen to ensure that the history of the county is accessible and interesting to more and more people. That way the Nottinghamshire of the future will continue to cherish, value and build on its distinguished past.

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

GOOD NEWS! NEWSLETTER NOW FOUR TIMES PER YEAR

In order to keep members up to date with events in the Society and the County the Thoroton Society *Newsletter* will now be produced four times a year, normally in November, March, May and in late August. We usually have mailings at these times to send out information on other events such as excursions and the AGM. We hope you will enjoy the new format of the *Newsletter* and feel that your Society is helping to keep you up to date on local news. Please keep it interesting by sending in your views, news and comments to the *Newsletter* Editor (see p. 4 for further details).

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 1998

After last year's absence, due to the Centenary dinner, the Society again held its popular luncheon at the Great Hall, Southwell on Saturday 24 October. There was a very good attendance of members and friends who enjoyed the excellent buffet meal. The toast to the Thoroton Society was proposed by Professor Alan Rogers, a former member of Council.

The address was given by the Society's chairman, Professor John Beckett, the title being 'Edward Trollope and the formation of the Diocese of Southwell'. Edward Trollope was the Suffragan Bishop of Nottingham from

1877; an office created after Nottinghamshire had been transferred from the Diocese of York to that of Lincoln. Edward Trollope put a considerable sum of his own money towards the restoration of the Old Bishop's Palace at Southwell and was involved in the lengthy negotiations which resulted in the creation of the new diocese of Southwell in 1884.

In moving a vote of thanks to John, Geoffrey Oldfield took the opportunity to convey the Society's best wishes to the Bishop of Southwell, who attended the luncheon, on his forthcoming retirement.

Geoffrey Oldfield

3 DAYS WITH THE TIME TEAM & 'BALDRICK'

In June, Nottinghamshire's Archive Office in Castle Meadow Road was invaded for almost three days by a TV production team from the Channel Four 'Time Team' Archaeology programme, who were filming a new series entitled 'Hands on History', in which local groups investigate aspects of the history of their locality. This programme assessed the competing claims of three Nottingham public houses, the Salutation, Bell, and Trip to Jerusalem, to be the oldest in the city! Over 20 production staff with numerous vehicles and equipment used the Archives' Office as their base and filmed in the 'History (Meetings) Room' and in the Searchroom, with many of the scenes including Tony 'Baldrick' Robinson.

Each of the three pubs was researched by a team of four staff who were filmed being assisted by local experts in history and archaeology, many of them Thoroton Society members, including Trevor Foulds, Adrian Henstock, Philip Dixon, Bob Laxton, Tony Waltham and Suella Postles. Following editing the programme will be broadcast early in 1999 to an estimated audience of 3 million. For the answer to the question, which was the oldest pub, members will have to watch the programme!

Adrian Henstock



ALAN McCORMICK RETIRES

Alan McCormick, the Keeper of Antiquities at the Brewhouse Yard Museum, who will be well-known to many Thoroton Society members, retired at the end of October 1998. Alan began work at the Castle Museum in 1964 and moved to Brewhouse Yard in 1974. We wish him well on his retirement.

REPORTS ON EXCURSIONS 1998

The Society's historical excursions are interesting and often unusual and eventful, and in order to keep members in touch with these, particularly if you were unable to attend, we shall often provide short reports on each trip.

TOUR OF THE ARBORETUM - 10 SEPTEMBER 1998

This was an additional excursion to the programme, for which there was no charge, but also no tea! Despite this drawback about 25 members met at Nottingham's Arboretum where Miss Claire Wells, a Society member, took us on a tour of this splendid example of the foresight of Nottingham's early Victorians, in establishing this interesting open space.

Miss Wells pointed out the less obvious features of a selection of trees, and we learned how to distinguish unusual trees such as the snake bark alder. If in future Society members are seen running a tape measure around trees at a height of about 5 feet, they are assessing its age - one year for every inch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the entertaining and instructive talk.

Geoffrey Oldfield

VISIT TO RUFFORD - 30 JULY 1998



In spite of torrential rain over 50 members joined the President of the Society, Mr Miles Thoroton Hildyard in a visit to the newly restored abbey buildings. Bob Charmbury and then Adrian and Valerie Henstock took parties around the orangery and the interior of the house which is soon to be used as office accommodation. Throughout we had a fascinating glimpse of the past, and tea (!) was taken in the newly restored kitchens, complete with Victorian maids and autocratic housekeeper! Many thanks to the guides for an interesting and enjoyable tour.

Summer 1998! Thoroton Society excursion to Rufford in July

SOCIETY LECTURES IN 1999

9 January	The Flintham Story	Sue Clayton
13 February	Mental Health in Nottinghamshire	Terry Fry
13 March	Maurice Barley Memorial Lecture Wollaton Hall - recent findings	Pamela Marshall

Lectures are held in the YMCA, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham at 3.00 pm.

EXCURSIONS 1999

In May an outing to St Edmund's Chapel, Spital Le Street, Lincolnshire, and in June a special outing to Lincoln, jointly with the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Society to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Dates to follow.

REPORTS ON LECTURES

For those unable to attend a lecture we hope to continue to provide a short report to keep members up to date with Society events.

THE KEITH TRAIN LECTURE - 13 October 1998 - Professor Janet Myles

A number of Society members were present at the Friends Meeting House. Unfortunately, the speaker and the title were changed at the last minute, but those expecting to hear a talk about Pugin were not disappointed. The lecture, 'L N Cottingham, 1787-1847, Architect of the Gothic Revival' by Professor Janet Myles of the Department of Art History, De Montfort University, Leicester provided a background to Pugin's work. Professor Myles referred to him as the forgotten architect (in case you have not heard of him!), as he did not leave obvious examples of his works as others did. However, Cottingham's contribution to the revival of Gothic architecture was important: he was born 25 years earlier than Pugin and his career began at a time when Classical architecture was still the fashion. He was a talented and influential architect, writer, painter, engineer and designer. Much of his work was concerned with restoration, which included the stabilising of the tower of St Mary's Church. His model village buildings can also be seen at Snelston near Ashbourne.

Professor Myles gave a lucid and informative talk. A member of the audience commented that when Cottingham discovered that St Mary's tower was restored upon the remains of the Saxon church, he proceeded to make plaster casts of the remains. Professor Myles said she would try to verify whether these still exist.

Geoffrey Oldfield

DUMPING THE DEAD - 10 October 1998 - Daryl Garton

What did people do with their dead 4000 years ago? Daryl Garton, director of Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust, gave an interesting and entertaining account of excavations along the Trent Valley with particular information on the finds made at Langford, in excavations supported by Tarmac Quarries. The skull of an auroch along with well-preserved human remains and a small piece of woven basketwork

were found among brushwood and logs. Daryl suggested that these may have been deposited during a flood. However, as few burials are found from this period of prehistory, it is possible that ordinary people when they died were simply dumped into the River Trent. A lively discussion, chaired by Hazel Salisbury, followed the lecture.

Jean Nicholson

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY - EAST MIDLANDS

The next meeting is at East Markham Village Hall on **Saturday 6 March 1999**. Information from Meetings Secretary, tel. 01777 702899.

BBC MILLENNIUM ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The BBC plans to mark the new millennium by creating a record of the 20th century through the voices of thousands of people from all walks of life. This is to be the largest project in the history of radio. All over the UK the BBC is seeking contributors who are prepared to be interviewed at length about their experiences of life in the 20th century. If you would like to be considered as a potential interviewee or wish to suggest others who might take part, please get in touch with the project team in your area. You should contact: The Oral History Producer, BBC Radio Nottingham, York House, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3JB, tel. (0115) 955 0500.

Philip Jones

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, DE15 0LB (tel. 01283 544235; fax 01283 515019). The deadline for Newsletter No. 15 is 22 February 1999. The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.