

THOROTON

Number 16: Summer 1999



A Message from The Chairman

The Thoroton Society intends to celebrate the year 2000 with a Millennium project entitled 'One Thousand Years of Nottinghamshire'. Members will be able to hear guest lecturers talking about the origins of the county, its development across time, and the county today and in the future. During the year we shall have excursions to Nottinghamshire's historic wapentakes, following in the footsteps of Dr Thoroton, and we also intend to work with some of the local history societies and other groups in the county to host a number of roadshows featuring documents and artifacts. We shall be applying for a Millennium 'Awards for All' grant to try to offset some of the costs of these activities, but do please join us on as many as you can. The Society is occasionally accused of being too Nottingham-based, and in 2000 we hope to get out and about around the county - and we hope you will be with us!

John Beckett

Thoroton Society Luncheon 1999

The Society's Luncheon will be held on 16 October 1999, and the new venue for this year will be the Adams Building in the heart of Nottingham's Lace Market. It seems appropriate to celebrate the successful and sensitive restoration of this magnificent building by holding our luncheon there this year. The building now forms part of Nottingham's New College, and courses offered include hotel and restaurant training; and there is an excellent dining area which serves high quality and imaginative food. To follow the meal, Ken Brand will talk about the restoration and we will have the opportunity to tour the building. Further details and booking forms will be sent to members towards the end of the summer.

Barbara Cast

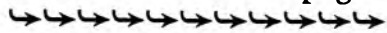
Wollaton Village Dovecote Museum

The Wollaton branch of the RNLi is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Institute's founding with an exhibition in the Dovecote. The exhibits feature the RNLi, the Social History of Wollaton Village and Grace Darling! Opening times for 1999 will be on the following Sundays from 2-5pm: May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19. For a private group visit please tel. Maureen Jones on 0115 928 2567.

Visit to Hardwick Hall, 17 July

This event is proving hugely popular, and we have received many more applications than the twenty-five places we are limited to. We apologize to those people who may not be successful on this occasion.

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



REPORTS ON LECTURES

Asylum: Mental Health in Nottinghamshire 13 February 1999: by Terry Fry

A capacity audience turned out to hear Terry's long awaited talk on the treatment of the mentally ill in past times. The audience was not disappointed as Terry provided a well researched and fascinating glimpse into the past.

Some medical practitioners treated their patients with humanity, but a number of the treatments appeared to be bizarre, and occasionally cruel and ineffective. With the advent of modern drugs and a more open minded approach, care eventually became more effective and today many patients are treated in their own homes. Thanks were expressed to Terry for an informative talk.

Jean Nicholson

The Maurice Barley Lecture: Wollaton Hall and the Willoughby Family 13 March 1999: by Pamela Marshall

'In 1580 Robert Smythson, an "architect and surveyor", began to oversee work at Wollaton for Sir Francis Willoughby ... The partnership produced perhaps the most arresting piece of

Renaissance architecture in the British Isles. When it was finished in 1588, Wollaton Hall became the wonder of the age: within 20 years it was listed on the agenda of travelling celebrities who wished to see "what was most remarkable". But only 8 years after the completion of the Hall, Sir Francis was dead. ... He had fallen seriously into debt, had attempted several business ventures which all failed, had quarrelled rancorously with every member of his family and was rumoured to have been poisoned by his second wife. His one great building, rather than his personal achievements, has ensured the immortality of his name'.

This quotation from Pam Marshall's book 'Wollaton Hall and the Willoughby Family' gives a flavour of the dashing and lucid style of her lecture on the same subject, given to a combined meeting of the Civic and Thoroton Societies. Her story of Sir Francis Willoughby's dysfunctional family life is only part of the new book which covers the history of the family and the building of the Hall. A summary of this book, dedicated to Maurice Barley, was provided in the last *Newsletter*. Like the book, the lecture was beautifully illustrated and enthusiastically appreciated. Maurice would have thoroughly enjoyed both.

Chris Salisbury

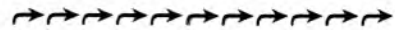
Council for British Archaeology - East Midlands

In March this year, new officers were elected to represent the East Midlands CBA. These are Chairman Graeme Guilbert, Vice Chairman Chris Salisbury and Secretary Gavin Simpson. Jen Eccles is Meetings Secretary, Maureen Marney Membership Secretary and Margaret Loakes is Treasurer. Nine committee members were also elected. Alan Morris of 11 Steeles Way, Lambley, NG4 4QN, has been elected to the committee, and has kindly agreed to represent the views of the Thoroton Society, and to keep members informed of the CBA activities in the East Midlands.

Two field outings are being provisionally planned: on July 18 to the Viking sites at Ingleby and on September 5 to Carl Wark and associated sites. Details of membership and any events can be obtained from Jen Eccles, The Barracks, Blythe Road, Ranby, Near Retford, DN22 8JH.

Carol Allen and Graeme Guilbert

Please send submissions for the third *Newsletter* of the year by **10 August 1999** to Dr Carol Allen, Hill View, Marston Montgomery, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FF, mobile tel. 07971 514091. The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.



Letters to the Editor

Identity Crisis

As another long standing member of the Society, I must comment on 'What's in a Name'. Really, what a ridiculous suggestion! The two titles put forward are too lengthy. Who wants to write that on a cheque? Apply a modicum of common sense!

If there is a genuine feeling that some sort of alteration in the name of the Society is desirable, might I suggest that it become known as simply as "The Thoroton Society". It is the "Nottinghamshire" which is superfluous, as there is no "Thoroton Society" of any other county. The footnote printed on the Society's formal letter paper is quite adequate to acquaint people with the Society and its aims. If there are those who wish to know more, then they are quite capable of making enquiries!

RT, Wymondham, 22 March 1999

21st Century Name

In reply to your correspondent in the last Newsletter on the possible change of the Society's name, I am in total agreement that a new name is required to bring the Society into the 21st Century. *The Nottinghamshire Local History and Archaeological Society* or *The Nottinghamshire Historical and Archaeological Society* (NHAS on cheques?) do at least convey what the Society is all about. These seem more appropriate than a quaint name such as *The Old Nottinghamshire Society* which has been suggested. For those wishing to retain the association with Dr Thoroton's name, perhaps the Record Series could be renamed the *Thoroton Record Series*.

PJ, Nottingham, 5 April 1999

Editor's note: recent concerns have been expressed by researchers as the Society does not emerge on indexes, or electronic enquiries, when searching for 'Nottinghamshire', 'Archaeology', or 'History'. Would 'The Nottinghamshire Thoroton Society for History and Archaeology' (NTSHA) be more helpful? If you are interested in the name of the Society please let us have your views.

The Search for Emma

In September 1996, Rosalys Coope and Neville Hoskins gave the Nora Witham lecture on 'Emma Wilmot - her life and times' at Worksop. Those who missed this may like to know that Neville is talking on 'The search for Emma' to the Nottingham Civic Society at the Friends Meeting House, Clarendon Street in Nottingham at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 14 September, 1999.



New Members of the Society

The following new members have joined the Society since our last listing:

1998 - Derbyshire County Library, Mrs S Williams, Prof L Annable, Mr K Lee, Mr KDF Routledge-Wilson, Mrs P Diamond, Dr D Knight.

1999 - Mr & Mrs VS Okrafo-Smart, Mr B Johnson, Miss SM Graves, Mr & Mrs J Allsopp, Ms K Elkins, Mr J Thomas, Mr & Mrs PJ Williamson, and Mr GA Warrener.

Old Photographs of Nottinghamshire - Are any members interested in assisting in the publication of books of old photographs of their area of the county for a well known publisher, Tempus Publishing?

Transactions - A retiring member of the Society has a run of *Transactions* from 1968 to 1998 available. If you are interested in either of the above, please contact the Treasurer: Keith Goodman, 59 Briar Gate, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4BQ, tel. 0115 9726590.

Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire

This Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee last year. The Society meets, usually monthly, in the Meeting Room of the County Library at Angel Row in Nottingham. A programme of lectures which covers wide interests is arranged and many of these include the history of the county. Please contact the Honorary Secretary at 43 Park Street, Beeston, NG9 1DF, for further information on the meetings.

Visit the Thoroton Website at:

<http://www.cthulu.demon.co.uk/thoroton.htm>



Lectures and Outings

Society's Evening Lectures at Nottingham University, Dept of History, Lenton Grove

Friday 14 May 7.30 pm: Dr John Samuels
'Nottingham's Missing Past: The Characterisation of Nottingham's Archaeology'

Friday 18 June 7.30 pm: Dr David Marcombe
'The Dissolution of the Monasteries in Nottinghamshire'

Society's Outings

- * Saturday 15 May to St Edmund's Chapel, Spital le Street, and Glentworth Church, Lincolnshire.
- * Saturday 12 June to the Cathedral Close and Library, Lincoln
- * Saturday 17 July to Hardwick Hall (limited numbers)
- * Thursday 29 July to Flintham Museum
- * Saturday 11 September to Woodthorpe Grange

If you have not received information on the above visits or need further details please contact Jean Nicholson on 0115 931 2998.

Please use the coach if possible for the visits, as this is environmentally friendly and keeps costs down.

British Association for Local History

This Association makes at least one annual award for published work which presents sound research and is based on original evidence. To be eligible, a piece of work must appear in a journal, newsletter or similar produced by a local voluntary body, which is sent to the Reviews Editor of *The Local Historian* for listing. For further information please contact the Reviews Editor of the Local Historian, 30 Lime Grove, Bideford, EX39 3JL, or BALH, PO Box 1576, Salisbury, SP2 8SY.

Monuments at Risk Survey 1995 - English Heritage

A full report and a summary version of this survey have now been published. The report monitored the size of the resource and the destruction of monuments. It notes that at least 22,500 monuments have been wholly destroyed since 1945 - a rate of just over one per day! The state of land-use and natural erosion is shown and the protection offered by scheduling and other designations. The summary (which is very interesting and readable) and the full report are available from the Archaeology Division of English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, Tel: 0171 973 3000.

Book Review

Sanctity and Scandal - The Medieval Religious Houses of Nottinghamshire, edited by David Marcombe and John Hamilton. Price £8.95 from Continuing Education Press, Nottingham University.

The product of many years of research by individual members of the Archdeaconry Research Unit, *Sanctity and Scandal* is a broad look at all the monasteries of the county. Each chapter has been written by a different researcher, giving an individual slant to a scholarly but readable book, with a good glossary. The 13 religious houses, along with hospitals, military orders and friaries, are well covered and interesting detail is given about the life and management of each.

This study reveals that Nottinghamshire's religious houses were never in the top of the league financially, politically or notoriously. Nevertheless, they are fundamental to the history of the county and had within them vital and vigorous men and women of ability, and a handful of those whose behaviour was less than holy! Nottinghamshire houses sheltered and nurtured people such as Prior Robert Lawrence of Beauvale, beatified for his martyrdom at the Dissolution, and Canon Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, whose legacy of spiritual writings still inspires readers today. The book is up to date, with a picture of the Walter Hilton wall painting in Thurgarton Priory, completed in 1998.

Barbara Cast