

THOROTON

Number 17: Autumn 1999



Thoroton Society's Millennium Celebration

To celebrate the new Millennium, the Society is organising a programme of public events, to highlight the origins, history and cultural importance of the county of Nottinghamshire as an administrative entity. These include:

* *A series of popular lectures:*

8 January	Speaker to be arranged	'Nottinghamshire in 2000'
11 March	Adrian Henstock	'The post-medieval county'
9 December	David Crook	'Nottinghamshire in 1000'

* *Public excursions to 6 historic wapentake sub-divisions:*

13 May	Bassetlaw Wapentake	3 June	Thurgarton Wapentake
24 June	Bingham Wapentake	20 July	Broxtowe Wapentake
5 Aug	Rushcliffe Wapentake	9 Sept	Newark Wapentake

* *Heritage Roadshows* at a variety of venues are being arranged, in partnership with the county's local history societies. A panel of experts will be brought together to answer the public's questions on Nottinghamshire's history and to identify artefacts and documents usually in private hands.

The Society has applied to the Millennium Commission for an 'Awards for All' grant towards the costs of the celebration.

Philip Jones

AGM FARNSFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE, 24 April 1999

A very enjoyable and varied meeting was attended by more than 100 members, in an ideal venue with excellent facilities. Included was the Society's business, reports on activities during the past year and news for future and millennium events.

Following the meeting Adrian Henstock gave a fascinating glimpse of the life of Gertrude Savile the spinster daughter of the Rufford Abbey family (1697-1758). She was a lonely figure, whose daily diary entries were often summarised by the phrases 'unhappy' or 'not happy', occasionally allowing herself a rare 'not unhappy'. From 1737-43 Gertrude rented a house at Farnsfield. Her surviving household accounts (published in the Record Section in 1967) provide intimate insights into her domestic routine and into local customary festivals such as Bonfire Night. Also there was the mysterious payment of 1d. each to 42 children who 'came-a-valentining' on February 14, 1740! (The diaries 'Secret Comment' are still available - contact editor).

A very generous tea was provided by Farnsfield WI, for which we thank them. Members also visited the parish church of St Michael's and All Angels with a fine medieval tower, with the help of Ann Chadwick, the churchwarden.

Barbara Cast & Adrian Henstock

~ The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire ~

~ The County's Principal Historical Society ~



CONFERENCES, DAY SCHOOLS & MEETINGS

TRENT TRENDS, 16 October 1999, 9.30am-5.30pm

Arts Centre, University of Nottingham

Hosted by Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit and CBA East Midlands

This conference reviews archaeological developments to the turn of the millennium through the length of the River Trent. Overviews will be given all periods of archaeology and there will be short presentations on some of the fascinating archaeological highlights recently found in the area, including burnt mounds, pit alignments, bridges and boats. £15 including lunch, ceilidh in evening at extra cost. Contact Mrs J. Eccles, The Barracks, Old Blythe Road, Ranby, Retford, Notts, DN22 8JH.

CBA EAST MIDLANDS MEETINGS

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|-------------------|--|
| 5 September 1999 | Hillfort & Heather Extravaganza, meet 11am car park at SK252801. |
| 25 September 1999 | Reports meeting at Leadenham, Lincs |
| 20 November 1999 | Day on dendrochronology, Lambley Village Hall |
| 4 March 2000 | AGM - venue to be announced. |

Details on CBA meetings from Jen Eccles as above.

Alan Morris

KEYWORTH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 23 October 1999, 10am-4pm

'Villages Transformed': In conjunction with the Nottinghamshire Local History Association, at Keyworth Village Hall. Includes lectures by Professor John Beckett and Dr Paul Barnes of the University of Nottingham, and Professor Michael Turner of Hull University, with brief contributions from Society members, dealing with parliamentary enclosure. Information from Mrs Beryl Mellor, Innisfree, Thelda Ave, Keyworth, NG12 5JJ, tel 0115 937 4839.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS NEW MEMBERS June-August 1999: The Society welcomes: C. McAlpine, A.S. Bowley, D.G. Allen, Miss S. Harris, R. Henshaw, Ms J. Jewitt, J.M.B. Gough.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What's in a Name? I very much hope that the Thoroton Society will not change its name, least of all to something as awful as the Nottinghamshire Society for History and Archaeology. I cannot think that this would be of any benefit to the Society!
JB, London, April 1999

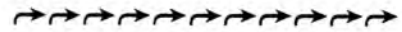
OBITUARIES

Please inform the Treasurer, Keith Goodman, 59 Briar Gate, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4BQ, of the death of any members as this avoids misunderstandings.

We are sorry to hear of the death of **Mr R. Young**, a member who with his wife Janet, was a staunch supporter of lectures and excursions.

Mrs D. E. Middlemass of Mapperley had been a Society member for many years, and was a familiar figure at lectures and excursions. She played a prominent part in the work of the Red Cross and was awarded the MBE for her services.

Ted Lawrence of Beeston was a long standing member of the Society and of Beeston History Society and Beeston Civic Society, and enjoyed all aspects of local history. His main interests were philately and numismatics, and he was always ready to help fellow enthusiasts.



REPORTS ON EXCURSIONS DURING 1999

Don't forget the Thoroton Society visit to Woodthorpe Grange with (free!) tour by Claire Wells, on the afternoon on Saturday 11 September. Contact Jean Nicholson. tel 0115 931 2998 for details.

ST EDMUNDS CHAPEL, SPITAL & GLENTWORTH CHURCH, LINCOLNSHIRE: Saturday 15 May

In perfect weather our coach took the scenic route to St Edmunds Chapel, Spital Le Street, where David Marcombe and Ann Borrill were most welcoming hosts. Another warm welcome awaited us at Glentworth with its impressive memorials to the Wray family. Rev Mary Dawson provided us with a superb tea.

LINCOLN: Saturday 12 June

Over 70 members joined the Lincolnshire Archaeological and Historical Society for their 25th anniversary. The day included a tour of the Cathedral Close and a look inside some private houses. We were also treated to a talk by Nicholas Bennett in the Wren Library about the cathedral's collection. Finally we took a walk DOWN Steep Hill to Jews Court where a delicious tea awaited us, and Maureen Birch told us of the history of Jews in Lincoln. Thanks to Neville and Maureen Birch and the Lincolnshire Society for a fascinating day. A collection of *Thoroton Transactions* was donated to their library to mark the event.

Jean Nicholson

FLINTHAM MUSEUM: Thursday 29 July

Sue Clayton's talk earlier this year stimulated interest in Flintham Museum, and this excursion was very well attended. As Sue was unable to be present, her husband Trevor welcomed us. After Neville Hoskins' brief talk, Miles Hildyard told us how Colonel Thomas Thoroton had purchased the manor of Flintham in 1789. On this very warm and sunny afternoon the gardens and conservatory of the hall were a delight, and the herbaceous borders, peaches on the garden wall and greenhouses were spectacular.

The Museum, in an 18th century listed building, has most interesting displays. The shopkeeper Fred White kept all his old bills and stock, and there were photographs of Flintham village at work and play for 1910-1915. A splendid tea was provided in the village hall, and a very warm welcome was given by all the villagers.

Margaret Trueman

HARDWICK HALL: Saturday 17 July

In November 1997, Dr Ben Cowell gave the Nottinghamshire History Lecture on 'The Politics of Parkland in Nottinghamshire', and followed this in July by leading a visit, together with Professor John Beckett, to Hardwick Hall. Ben, formerly of the National Trust, and now a Whitehall civil servant, gave a talk and excellent guided tour based on his original research carried out at that other great Derbyshire mansion, Chatsworth.

Our tour started at the Old Hall where we explored the ruins, even venturing up to the top floor. Although seemingly medieval, the Old Hall was largely rebuilt by Bess of Hardwick just before she began work on the famous New Hall. Dr Cowell suggested that the Old Hall was a testing place for new architectural concepts and we had excellent close-up views of the intriguing plasterwork motifs which are in excellent condition.

After lunch we had a tour of the New Hall, Bess of Hardwick's unique masterpiece. We were guided in all the main rooms of the house and concluded with a view from the roof, where we were glad that the weather had been so kind. A cream tea was then enjoyed with time left to visit the gardens.

Ann Hoskins and Ben Cowell

Editor's note: Our good wishes for a speedy recovery go to our Chairman, Professor John Beckett, who is unwell at the moment.

Please send submissions for the fourth *Newsletter* of the year by **31 October 1999** to Dr Carol Allen, Hill View, Marston Montgomery, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, tel. 01889 591808. The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.

Visit the Thoroton Website at:

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



REPORT ON LECTURES

NOTTINGHAM'S MISSING PAST; THE CHARACTERISATION OF NOTTINGHAM'S ARCHAEOLOGY:

John Samuels, 14 May 1999, Lenton Grove, University of Nottingham

Dr John Samuel's consultancy has been engaged on a number of sites around the County in recent months. On the outskirts of Newark an early Saxon female burial was found with an array of items, some of which were available for members to see. These included amber and glass beads and the remains of a fine wooden bucket. John also told us of a major site in Nottingham, where the new Ice Centre is being built on behalf of Nottingham City Council. Around Bellar and Barker Gate only fragmentary evidence of early settlement was found and no trace of the anticipated town wall. However, 1500-2000 inhumations had to be exhumed for reburial from a former St Mary's burial ground, but the rumour of a cholera pit was unfounded! This was an excellent lecture and members will be keen to hear more of current Archaeological work in the County. **Barbara Cast**

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:

David Marcombe, 18 June 1999, Lenton Grove, University of Nottingham

The second of the Society's experimental summer evening lectures was given by Council member Dr David Marcombe on the subject of the book he has recently edited with John Hamilton. Dr Marcombe talked about the monastic foundations in Nottinghamshire, their location and Orders, as well as the condition that they were in by the early 16th century. He then looked at the process of dissolution, particularly noting the experience of Lenton Priory. The whole - rather sad - tale was told with David's usual flamboyance, and the audience was kept interested through half an hour of questions at the end. About thirty people attended, and it was such a pleasant evening that they were able to stroll on the lawns which surround Lenton Grove, the venue for the summer lectures.

Sanctity and Scandal, the book edited by David Marcombe and John Hamilton, will be available on the Thoroton Society's bookstall at future lectures. **John Beckett**

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

In June Mansfield CHAD reported on the local implications of English Heritage's second annual Register of Buildings at Risk. There were 161 entries for the East Midlands, with 21 buildings in Nottinghamshire at risk. Suffering from 'slow decay' are Clipstone's King John's Palace, and Ollerton Hall which is grade II listed. Other local monuments included were Newstead Abbey and its boundary wall, Newstead Park's Grade II listed Cannon Fort, Upton's listed Greet House, and Papplewick Pumping Station's listed engine house, boiler house and workshop. English Heritage is working with local authorities to try to prevent further deterioration. **Philip Jones**

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST - THE HARRY JOHNSON AWARD

For the past 10 years the Trust, jointly with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, has sponsored an award for the best restoration of a building or the best new building, within a village setting. Harry Johnson, an architect from Nottinghamshire, was a conservationist who loved the countryside, and his life is commemorated by this award. The great variety of entries from village hall to country cottages tests the judges but allows both sensitive restoration and well designed new buildings to be recognised.

If you have a suitable entry in your area, please consider nominating it for next year's award. For details and nomination forms contact the Secretary, Nottinghamshire Buildings Preservation Trust, 2 Priory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5HU. **Neville Hoskins**