

THOROTON

Number 18: Winter 1999



The Thoroton Society in 2000

The Thoroton Society has been awarded £4,592 from the Millennium Festival Awards for All programme, to help fund the ambitious programme we are planning for the year 2000. We are very grateful to the Awards for All programme for this financial support, and we would urge you to read on in this *Newsletter* and then enter in your diary the dates of as many of the events as you can attend. We promise you an exciting year and ask you to give the Society as much support as you can. Above all do publicize our activities, because the grant will make it possible for us to provide relatively inexpensive excursions and free roadshows. As a result we hope people interested in all areas of local and community history and archaeology will join in our programme during the year.

The Millennium Celebration Programme

Three Special Lectures

The lecture programme will continue as usual through the year, but we would draw your attention to three special lectures which have been organized specifically with the Millennium in mind.

8 January 2000, YMCA, 2.45 pm: 'After the Millennium'

Peter Housden, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council. Chairman: Prof John Beckett.

Mr Housden will give a lecture on the existing condition of Nottinghamshire in social, environmental and economic terms, and will draw out some issues and tensions for the future.

[Note: since the retirement of Bob Charmbury in October 1999 Mr Housden's responsibilities have included Leisure & Community Services, which encompass the archive and library services.]

11 March 2000, YMCA, 2.45 pm: 'Modern Nottinghamshire in the Making: the county in the Seventeenth Century'

Adrian Henstock, Principal Archivist, Nottinghamshire County Council, and Joint Editor of *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*. Chairman: Mr Steph Mastoris.

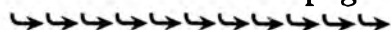
Divided by the watershed of the Civil War, the seventeenth century witnessed the beginnings of the modernization of many aspects of Nottinghamshire life, in the fields of society, trade and religion. Mr Henstock will present an outline history of the county in the age of Dr Robert Thoroton, its first historian, with special reference to the operation of local government at various levels - county, wapentake, borough, parish and manor.

9 December 2000, YMCA, 2.45 pm: 'Nottinghamshire in AD1000'

Dr David Crook, Public Record Office. Chairman: Mrs Barbara Cast.

David Crook, formerly editor of the *Record Series*, is a noted medieval scholar, and has previously published several articles in *Transactions*. In this lecture he will look at the origins of the county, its administrative structure and subdivisions. He will then discuss how the county developed, focusing on its institutions and people, and their place in contemporary England from the time of Domesday book to just before the Black Death. Topics will include the county and its courts, the county and the crown, and the forest and the church. The lecture will be dedicated to Sir Frank Stenton, one of Nottinghamshire's greatest historians in the twentieth century.

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



The Wapentake Visitation

The Society will be running excursions to the six historic wapentakes of Nottinghamshire. Each visit will take visitors to the wapentake centre and to significant buildings and places within the wapentake. A leaflet will be available to excursionists describing the wapentake system, the individual wapentake, and the various places to be visited.

Each excursion will begin at 10am and finish by 6pm. Excursionists will be asked to bring their own lunch, or to repair to a suitable hostelry, but we hope that tea will be provided.

13 May	Bassetlaw	Leader: Mrs Jean Nicholson
3 June	Thurgarton	Leader: Mrs Barbara Cast
24 June	Bingham	Leader: Mr Adrian Henstock
20 July	Broxtowe*	Leaders: Mr Philip Jones and Professor John Beckett
5 August	Rushcliffe	Leader: Mr Geoffrey Oldfield
9 September	Newark	Leaders: Dr John Samuels and Mr Malcolm Fox

*This will be a half-day excursion from 1-7pm.

Heritage Roadshows

The Society is organizing a series of Heritage Roadshows at venues around the county, and in conjunction with local history societies and local museums. On each occasion a panel of experts will be assembled to answer questions from the public (including, we hope, members of the Thoroton Society) on the county's history and to identify artefacts and documents in private hands.

An exhibition of the Society's work is being prepared by Jean Nicholson and Margaret Trueman to accompany the roadshows. Dates and locations of the Roadshows are as follows:

DATE	WAPENTAKE	LOCATION	PARTNER SOCIETY
July+ 12	Rushcliffe	To be confirmed	Keyworth & District Local History Society
March+ 21	Newark	Newark Museum, Appleton Gate	Newark Archaeological & Local History Society
8 April	Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw Museum, Retford	Retford Historical & Archaeological Society
23 May	Broxtowe	Mansfield Museum	Old Mansfield Society
10 September	Bingham	Flintham Museum and Village Hall (This roadshow will be part of the Rushcliffe Festival.)	Flintham Society
4 October	Thurgarton	Southwell	Brackenhurst College

+ exact date to be notified later

Schools' Teaching Pack

During 2000 the Society is also committed to producing an educational pack for schools which will look at the history of the county over the past millennium. Funding for the pack has come from the Awards for All grant. The pack will be produced by a freelance education consultant well versed in the history of the county and the region. It will be relevant to several Key Stages in the National Curriculum, and will go free to schools across the county.

In this way we hope that the next generation will be able to learn something about the county into which they have (mostly) been born, and in which they are growing up. More details of the pack will be included in future editions of the *Newsletter*.



Other Millennium Matters

While naturally wanting our own success in applying for Millennium funding to be highlighted in this edition of the *Newsletter*, we can also take the opportunity of congratulating other local history groups who have also benefited from lottery awards.

Woodborough Local History group received £5,000 from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' programme for a bid for equipment to digitise their archive of local heritage photographs, maps, documents etc. During the Millennium year a small team will undertake a comprehensive photographic survey of buildings and local scenes to add to the present archive of about 200 photographs. In addition, older residents of Woodborough will be asked to record their oral reminiscences. The project will link up with the Virtual Village project in Nottinghamshire. Contact David Bagley (0115 965 2511) for further details.

Keyworth Local History Society used its grant from Awards for All during 1999, the 200th anniversary of the village's Enclosure Award. The Society produced a play in September, hosted a symposium on 'Villages Transformed' in October, and published a book, *A Village Transformed*, jointly written by three of its members.

Nottinghamshire County Council has spearheaded a successful bid to the Millennium Commission for funding for a Living History Archive. Two full-time staff have been appointed to organize the project, which is overseen by a Management Group chaired by Rupert Vinnicombe of Newark Library. Further details in the next *Newsletter* after the scheme is officially launched in January 2000.

Dr Carol Allen, Editor of the *Newsletter*, will be leaving us and moving to Oxford shortly. We wish her every success in her new job, and thank her for all her work for the Society.

Please send submissions for the first *Newsletter* of the New Year to Mrs Janice Avery, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD; (tel. 0115 951 5929, fax. 0115 951 5948, or email janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk) by 25 February 2000.

The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.

Recent Books: A Round-up

Sherwood Forest in 1609: A Crown Survey by Richard Bankes, ed. by Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves. This volume (which first appeared as Vol. 40 of the Society's *Record Series*) has been reprinted by popular demand. It contains the full text of the land survey of some forty points in the county, accompanied by period maps of 20 of these communities.

Special discount price to Society members of £25 (or £29 inc. p&p in UK). Cheques payable to the Thoroton Society. The volume is available from Adrian Henstock, Nottinghamshire Archives, County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1AG.



Philip Riden, *Local History: A Handbook for Beginners* (1999). A second edition of this popular handbook, extensively rewritten since the first edition appeared in 1983. Copies direct from Merton Priory Press, 67 Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF4 1DD, price £11 (p&p included).



The Treasure Act in Practice, a useful guide for archaeologists, published by Monitor Press. Covers the definition of treasure, the coroner's role, the code of practice, the ownership of treasure and other objects, etc. Further information available from Monitor Press, telephone 01787 467271, fax 01787 881147, or e-mail nina.dexter@monitorpress.co.uk.



A Manual of Archaeological Field Recording, and *A Manual of Archaeological Field Drawing* have both recently been made available by J.M. Hawker, at £5.95 each plus 80p p&p or £10.95 for both with £1.15 p&p. Subjects covered include the construction of a written record on site, and the construction of the drawn record on site.



Christopher Drage, *A Place Full Royal* (2nd edn., with additional material by Trevor Foulds). A second edition of this definitive history of Nottingham Castle (which first appeared as the Society's *Transactions* for 1989) has just been published jointly by the Thoroton and the Nottingham Civic Societies. The new edition reproduces Chris Drage's original text and illustrations, but contains a new introduction, a note of recent archaeological discoveries, and an index, all compiled by Dr Foulds. It is attractively produced with a full colour cover showing a scale model of the medieval castle. Special discount price to Society members of £10.95 (£12 inc. p& in UK). Cheques payable to the Thoroton Society. Volume available from Adrian Henstock (address above).





REPORT ON LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS, 1999

Visit to Woodthorpe Grange: 11 September 1999

The afternoon was warm and pleasant for our leisurely stroll in the gardens of Woodthorpe Grange. In 1921 Jesse Boot purchased the grounds and presented them to the city to be used as a park for public enjoyment. Our visit was botanical rather than historical, and Clare Wells led us on an erudite voyage of discovery of the many tree species in the park and gardens, concentrating on the aromatics and the maples. Clare told us about the history of trees, which were introduced by the explorers of the 17th and 18th centuries, and the Victorian collectors, with examples from India and China.

Everyone came away much better informed, and very appreciative of the preparation and presentation. This is the second such event that Clare has organized, and in thanking her may we also add a request that similar events become a regular feature in the Society's calendar?

Glenice Pringle and Sheila Mortimer

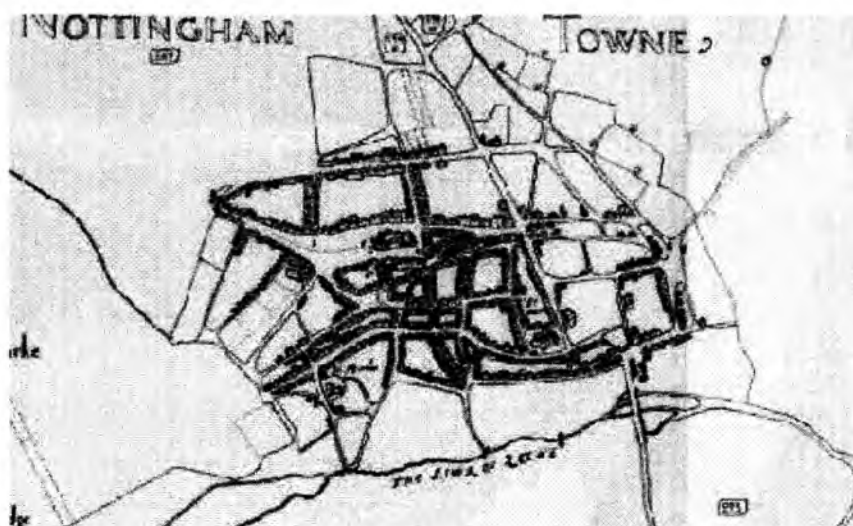
The Keith Train Lecture: Tuesday 12 October 1999

Professor John Beckett: 'New Nottingham - New Spiritual Needs. Anglican Church Building in Victorian Nottingham'

Keith Train was a much loved local historian with a passion for churches. His spirit would surely have been thrilled by the lecture given in his memory this year by the Chairman of the Thoroton Society, Professor Beckett. The Anglican church was struggling to cope with industrialization and declining numbers. It reacted in 1842 by forming a Church Building Society. The assumption was that people would go to church if there was a building. Large churches were built in various parts of the town with funds provided by local patrons and with grants from the Society. However, this did not halt the decline in attendance and in 1882 The Spiritual Aid and Church Extension Society was formed. This believed that you should first put a man 'on the ground' with a portable 'tin tabernacle' and then, if the conditions were right and if the local people were supportive, a larger building appropriate to local needs and financed by the congregation could be constructed.

An excellent lecture with a host of fascinating illustrations of churches - many still with us, but many now gone.

Keith Goodman



Nottingham in 1609, from the Sherwood Forest Map. See page 3 for details.

Visit the Thoroton Website at: <http://www.cthulu.demon.co.uk/thoroton/htm>