

THOROTON

Number 19: Spring 2000



Millennium Programme

The programme was detailed for you in the last *Newsletter*, but do sign up for the Wapentake visitations and come to the Roadshows. Imminent events are:

Heritage Roadshows - all begin at 7.30pm (except *Flintham, which is at 2pm).

No pre-booking is necessary.

31 March	Newark Town Hall, Council Chamber
8 April	Bassetlaw Museum, Retford
23 May	Mansfield Museum

Wapentake Visitations - all at 10am (Visitations must be pre-booked; if you would like further details please write to Barbara Cast, The Old Police House, Main St, Bleasby, Notts, NG14 7GH.)

13 May	Bassetlaw (Leader: Jean Nicholson)
3 June	Thurgarton (Leader: Barbara Cast)
24 June	Bingham (Leader: Adrian Henstock)

Lecture: YMCA, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, starting at 2.45 pm.

11 March 'Modern Nottinghamshire in the Making: the county in the Seventeenth Century' (Adrian Henstock, Nottinghamshire Record Office)

Do you recognise the image below? Turn to page 2 for more details.

**Southwell DAC
Church History Project**

Burton Joyce

St. Helen

Nottingham Archdeaconry
Gedling Deanery



A church is mentioned in Domesday, and later the Norman overlords built a small church of triassic sandstone probably on the site of the wide north aisle. In the 13th century, the building was extended southwards to its present extent in the Early English style, the Chancel being later rebuilt in the late Perpendicular style.

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



Southwell DAC Church History Project

Would you be willing to write a Website entry for your local parish church? Now is your chance, since the Southwell Church History Project was officially launched in a ceremony at St Helen's Church, Burton Joyce, on 18 February 2000.

The history and archaeology of each of the 314 Anglican churches in the Diocese of Southwell, together with the 100 or so sites of churches, is to be researched and written up for a Website. The first five churches have now been entered on the site, which you can view at the following: <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk>.

Speaking at the launch, Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, commented on how the project was making available to a global audience the rich architectural heritage of Nottinghamshire churches. Bishop George Cassidy, Bishop of Southwell, noted that the Web site would be a tremendously important educational tool for future generations of schoolchildren keen to discover something about their parish church.

Thoroton Society Chairman Professor John Beckett spoke of the way in which the Web site had grown out of the work originally undertaken on behalf of the Diocesan Advisory Committee by the late John Severn.

If you would like to become involved with the project by preparing an entry for the Website, please get in touch with Rosemary Gatie at Dunham House, Southwell (01636 817210) for more information.

Wapentakes

Some members have asked for clarification of what a Wapentake actually was, given that Dr Robert Thoroton referred to Hundreds. Herewith a brief explanation.

The county of Nottinghamshire was created around 1,000 years ago by the Anglo-Saxon monarchy as a means of stabilizing the kingdom after Viking invasions. For ease of administration the county was sub-divided into Wapentakes, which subsequently became known as Hundreds. In the Middle Ages there were six Wapentakes: Newark, Bassetlaw, Thurgarton, Rushcliffe, Broxtowe, and Bingham. By the sixteenth century they ceased to have real administrative importance

but remained as a useful way of discussing the geography of the county, hence Thoroton's use of these divisions for his 'progress' around the county: *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* (1677).

More recently the names of five of the historic Wapentakes have been re-used for the district councils established in 1974. This has caused endless headaches with Broxtowe, since there is a former council estate on the west side of Nottingham called Broxtowe, and a district council which stretches down the west side of the county from Eastwood to Stapleford also called Broxtowe. If you want to know more, the Broxtowe Wapentake Visitation is clearly for you!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Society: M Dawson; Mr & Mrs M Winship; Mr & Mrs R Chambers; Miss BM Barry; AG Turney; Mr & Mrs PF Burton; Miss S Hoskins; P Bloomfield; Mrs JM Ellis; Mrs M Young; Mrs T Morris; Miss B E Flintham; R W James; C Corder and associate.

DATA PROTECTION

Council Member Philip Jones has raised the question of how Mellors & Kirk were able to circulate all members of the Thoroton Society with their recent sale catalogue, without breaking the rules of confidentiality under the Data Protection legislation. To put members' minds at rest, Mellors & Kirk put the catalogues in envelopes and franked the envelopes, but our Membership Secretary added the name and address labels and sent them out through his local post office. No confidentiality was broken. Members might anyway like to be reminded that the Membership Secretary does hold their details on his computer and they do have a right of access to the information he holds.

Please send submissions for the second *Newsletter* of the year to Mrs Janice Avery, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD (tel. 0115 9515929, fax 0115 9515948, or e-mail janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk) by **Friday 21 April 2000**.

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



RECENT LECTURES

8 January 2000

'After the Millennium': Peter Housden,
Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Chairman: Professor John Beckett

Peter Housden gave the first of three lectures the Society is sponsoring in 2000 that reflect on different aspects of the Millennium. Mr Housden discussed what he sees as the key issues confronting Nottinghamshire including regeneration of the former coalfield areas, the problem of social exclusion, the sustainable development of the environment, the quality of life enjoyed by the people of Nottinghamshire, and lifelong learning. He noted also some of the forthcoming challenges that the County Council has to face, including the cost, quality and efficiency of future services.

A lively discussion followed the lecture with an enthusiastic audience subjecting the lecturer to a barrage of questions ranging from planning issues to the disposal and recycling of waste. The Thoroton Society was perhaps breaking new ground in looking to the future rather than the past, but members showed great interest in what might be expected in the years to come.

Following the lecture Mr Housden presented the Society with a copy of his book, *Local Statesmen: the Story of Politics in Nottinghamshire County Council*, which looks at the past thirty years in local politics. The book costs £9.99. Enquiries to Jean Pikett (telephone 0115-977-3881 or e-mail jean.pikett@nottscc.gov.uk).

John Beckett

Thoroton Society Lectures: TEA!

Members and their guests like to have a cup of tea at the conclusion of lectures, and we have the facilities at the YMCA to make numerous cups of this popular beverage. What we lack are volunteers willing to make the tea and serve it. The task has recently fallen to Jean Nicholson, who really cannot continue to do this as well as organising the lecture, greeting the lecturer, setting up the projector and microphone, etc.

Would anyone be willing to volunteer their services, either alone or in company with others on a rota basis, to relieve Jean of this task? We are in the new Millennium so there is no need for any form of gender bias - gentlemen, is it time you took over the tea?

A ROUND-UP



Maurice Barley and John Severn, 1985.

THE MAURICE BARLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

12 February 2000

'Nottinghamshire's Rich Heritage: 1000 Years
of Architecture': Graham Beaumont,
Nottinghamshire County Council
Chairman: Mr Ken Brand

This year's Maurice Barley Memorial Lecture on 12 February was, as usual, very well attended. This has become an important established event in the Society's calendar. Once again Diana Barley was a welcome guest.

The lecture was given by Graham Beaumont, who has had a long, distinguished career as a principal historic buildings officer with Nottinghamshire County Council. Graham is not one of Maurice's former students, but is certainly one of his disciples. Maurice would have loved his lecture - if he could have been restrained from giving it!

From his first slide of Ethelred, taken from the Ladybird book of Kings and Queens, to his final slide of the Eco House at Southwell, Graham slid easily through the centuries and the architectural styles. He quoted and used illustrations from Maurice's own *Houses and History* and referred to Pevsner's *Nottinghamshire*.

From the Saxo-Norman of St. John the Evangelist, Carlton-in-Lindrick, to the Victorian of Watson Fothergill, Graham picked up the great buildings and the small. The use in the County of stone, brick, wood and even "earth" as building materials were all illustrated. He dwelt lovingly on fine brick bonding and showed the vivid contrast between the pointing skills of the old craftsmen and the "cake icing" of some modern bricklayers.

Graham gave us all a fascinating afternoon. He ranged widely and confidently in time, and took his examples from across the County. He left us breathless, with scarcely a question to ask!

Ken Brand



Nottinghamshire Living History Archive

The Living History project, funded by the Millennium Commission, was formally launched at County Hall on 31 January 2000 with a reception and presentation to the first round of awardees.

The Earl of Dalkeith, Chairman of the Awards Committee of the Millennium Commission, welcomed the awardees and congratulated Nottinghamshire County Council and their partners (which include the Thoroton Society) on the foresight they had shown in preparing and now launching the scheme.

In the first year of the three year scheme, thirty awardees have been given small grants to produce oral and/or visual recordings reflecting life in a community as it exists today, and to illustrate the changes that have taken place as recalled and related by members of that community.

If you would like to know more about the project, and particularly if you have a scheme that might fit into the second round of grants which will be made later this year, contact Samantha Holgate-Davey, Project Co-Ordinator at Mansfield Library (01623-662672, or living.history@nottscc.gov.uk).

On behalf of the Thoroton Society, John Beckett sits on the Management Committee of the Living History Archive, and Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman represent us on the Consortium supporting the project.

BOOK REVIEW: 'North Nottinghamshire from the Air'

In March Retford & District Historical and Archaeological Society will publish a 100-page full-colour book of photographs depicting various aspects of north Nottinghamshire heritage taken, mainly since 1994, by three members of the society, President Roy Sluman, Chairman Malcolm Dolby and Newsletter Editor Dick Harrison. Sections will include the local landscape and archaeological sites, the villages, Retford and Worksop, country houses and estates, and industrial sites, all with captions. An overview of historic Bassetlaw is given in the introduction and the back cover will contain the north Nottinghamshire section of the map from John Cary's large atlas of 1801. The cost of the publication and particularly of the colour separation blocks has been defrayed by a grant from the Millennium Festival Fund Awards for All programme. Copies initially available from the Bassetlaw Museum, but other outlets will stock the book in due course (price is expected to be around £7.50).

Eric Coddington

Hardwick Hall

English Heritage is organizing a visit to Hardwick Old and New Halls on 12 April, with a light buffet.



There may be a few spare places, at £15 all inclusive. Ring 01254-724-532 for more details. Our own Society excursion to Hardwick in 1999 was so popular that we could have taken twice the number, so do seize this opportunity if you were not able to be with us last year.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLAC)

A new national body, MLAC, is coming into being on 1 April this year under the aegis of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. It will be an amalgamation of the existing Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) and the Libraries and Information Commission (LIC), but with additional responsibilities for Archives. It will be a strategic and not an executive body with oversight of all the three sectors, both public and private, national and local. It aims to bring together the strengths of each of the sectors to make them more effective, to raise standards, to develop Information Technology, to reach wider audiences, and to review common training, etc. Existing funding for museums will be channelled through this body in future. The Chairman is Matthew Evans and the Chief Executive Neville Mackay.

MLAC is strongly encouraging regional initiatives to explore and develop common ground between libraries, museums and archives, and initial meetings between professional staff of the three sectors have already been held in the East Midlands (ie. the government's Region which encompasses Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire). A shadow Regional Archives Council (EMRAC) has been established, which includes representatives from 'stakeholder' bodies and some users.