

THOROTON

Number 20: Summer 2000

Millennium Programme

Full details were given in Newsletter 18, but coming up in the next few months are the following:

Heritage Roadshows (entrance is free: turn up at the venues and times given)

| Date & Time | Wapentake | Location | Partner Society |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 23 May, 7.30pm | Broxtowe | Mansfield Museum | Old Mansfield Society |
| 12 July, 7.30pm | Rushcliffe | Keyworth Village Hall | Keyworth & District Local History Society |
| 10 Sept, 2.00pm | Bingham | Flintham Museum & Village Hall | Flintham Society |

The Roadshows have been a great success so far: see reports on page 2.

Wapentake Visitations

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| 13 May | Bassetlaw |
| 3 June | Thurgarton |
| 24 June | Bingham |
| 20 July | Broxtowe |
| 5 August | Rushcliffe |
| 9 September | Newark |

It is not too late to book for the Wapentake Visitations, but hurry - they are filling up fast. Write for further details to Mrs Barbara Cast, The Old Police House, Main Street, Bleasby, Notts, NG14 7GH, enclosing an SAE and saying which visitation(s) you are interested in.



Thoroton Annual Meeting, 15 April, Whatton Village Hall. Vice President Dr Rosalys Coope, Chairman Professor John Beckett, and Honorary Secretary Mrs Barbara Cast, prepare for the meeting. In the background Steph Mastoris and Dr David Crook examine the travelling exhibition, prepared by Jean Nicholson, Margaret Trueman and Penny Messenger for the Roadshows.

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



Millennium events so far: a round-up

Lecture, 12 February 2000: Adrian Henstock, County Archivist and joint editor of *Transactions* 'Modern Nottinghamshire in the making: the county in the 17th century':

Adrian Henstock gave the second of the Society's three Millennium lectures, and provided a wide-ranging account of the county between the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 18th centuries, a period which witnessed major innovations including the introduction of the widespread use of brick for building to the proliferation of religious non-conformity. The Nottinghamshire landscape underwent major changes through piecemeal enclosure of village fields, the "breck" system of temporary cultivation of the poor lands of Sherwood Forest, and the creation of the great private estates of the Dukeries. Adrian showed how the structure of both families and village communities was far more fluid than we imagine. Other important developments included the expansion and rebuilding of towns as centres of retailing, fashion and industry, the introduction of parish-based poor relief, and the proliferation of machine-made hosiery. This was an assured performance by a master of historical sources, using the vast wealth of material in the Nottinghamshire Archives. **Steph Mastoris**

Newark Roadshow, 31 March:

The first roadshow was held at Newark town hall, courtesy of the Mayor and Newark Historical and Archaeological Society. Over 80 people packed into the elegant upper room to cluster around table piled high with artefacts, maps and photographs. John Samuels displayed a fascinating array of pottery and metalwork excavated around Newark. Melissa Hall and her colleague from Newark & Sherwood District Museums took the story of the area into the 19th and 20th centuries with historic photographs and artefacts illustrating home, family and working life. Locals were able to reminisce about long-gone shops and people. Vernon Radcliffe presided over an assortment of topographical prints and local publications. Adrian Henstock was surrounded by a crowd earnestly peering at maps, manuscripts and early topographical prints from the Nottinghamshire Archives. Jean Nicholson and Margaret Trueman organized a superb exhibition illustrating the wapentakes. And, as a bonus, Miss Jean Moore, Mayor of Newark, took groups into her parlour to tell them about the town's civic treasures. **Steph Mastoris**

Bassetlaw Roadshow, 8 April:

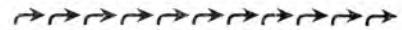
Bassetlaw Museum was crowded to capacity when Malcolm Dolby, doubling as Museum Curator and Chairman of the Retford & District Historical & Archaeological Society, hosted the evening. Chris Brooke spoke about his work in remote sensing; Neville Hoskins talked about Bassetlaw Museum's part in his search for the artist Emma Wilmot; and Jean Nicholson astonished the audience with tales of Watson Fothergill working in Retford on behalf of Trinity Hospital. Members of the audience produced clay(?) marbles, and a splendid saltware glazed mug of 1719. Could it have been made in Nottingham? It was an excellent occasion even if the efficient new boiler had turned the museum into something of a sauna! Particular thanks to Jean Nicholson who did her best to turn the whole event into a day-long Nicholson family occasion, and to Margaret Trueman for running a bookstall on the evening. **John Beckett**

Annual General Meeting 2000

Whatton's Jubilee Hall was this year's venue for the Society's Annual General Meeting. 96 people attended. Welcomed by Vice-President Dr Rosalys Coope, members were updated on the latest Thoroton Society developments by the Chairman, Professor John Beckett, and other officers. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank those who ensured the smooth running of the Society, especially Janice Avery of Nottingham University. Farewell was said to Dr Carol Allen who had been Archaeology Editor for seven years and had now moved to Oxford. Also retiring from Society duties were Bernard Beilby who, with his wife Joyce, has been Honorary Lanternist for 40 years, and Mrs Josie Booth who had stepped down from Council after long and useful service as Publicity Officer. Joe Nicholson was taking over technical

responsibility for lectures and David Bagley had added publicity and press liaison to his circulation remit. Steph Mastoris updated members on the Millennium Programme. Dr Coope presented Dr Allen and Mr Beilby with tokens of appreciation from the Society and thanked Professor Beckett for his unstinting work, and everyone for their attendance. The Revd Douglas Bridge-Collins then gave a short talk on Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's connection with Whatton and Aslockton.

After an excellent tea provided by Wendy Richardson and her team, members visited the village church which is dedicated to St John of Beverley. The most interesting features of this church, including the smiling butterfly on the knight's belt, were pointed out by Churchwarden Trevor Webster. **Barbara Cast**

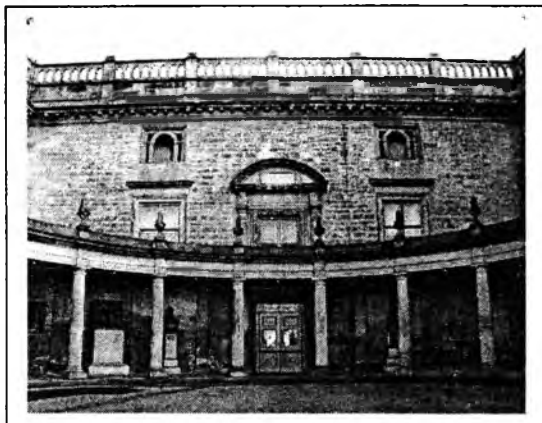


NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

Some of you may have followed the correspondence in the local press about the Castle, led by a self-styled group called **Nottingham 2000** which wants to replace it with a replica of the 'real' Medieval Castle. Thoroton Council Member Dr Trevor Foulds explains how research undertaken by himself and Gavin Kinsley of Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit is revealing how the 1st Duke of Newcastle's 17th century palace was modified in the early 18th century and sensitively renovated and restored by T.C. Hine in the 1870s.

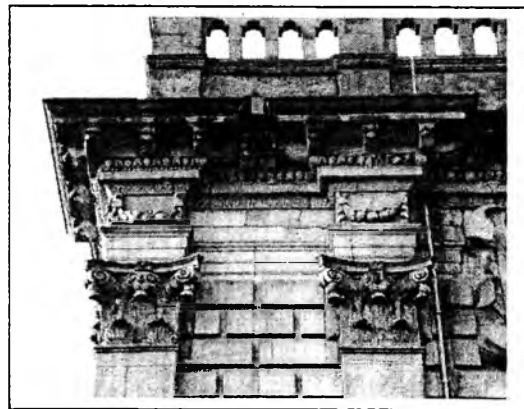
Although started by the 1st Duke of Newcastle, Nottingham Castle was completed by his son, the second duke, who also decorated and furnished the interior. He died in 1691.

The picture below of the west front shows T.C. Hine's major exterior modification, the provision of an official entrance to the new Museum. Above it, in the centre and behind the colonnade, is a highly carved early 18th century door, which probably replaced a 17th century balcony.



Although the interior of the building was gutted when rioters demanding Parliamentary Reform set the building alight on 10 October 1831, the exterior was not seriously damaged. Nineteenth-century paintings and photographs reveal fire damage, but this was not extensive, and when Hine restored the building in the 1870s he preserved and reinstated the architectural integrity of the exterior of the East Front and elsewhere.

Undamaged original decoration and masonry was left in place by Hine, as is clear from the modern photograph below showing the cornice, its egg-and-dart motif and the swags, the capitals and the rustication, all of 17th century origin.



Hine had various problems to overcome. A new pierced parapet had to be built on top of the old one to screen the new roof line. He inserted arches to cover the blocking of the third-storey windows, the blocking having been put in to provide more wall space on the inside on which to hang pictures.

Dr Foulds' research is continuing, but despite careful research in the most obvious places he has failed to find many illustrations of the pre-1876 building, photographs of Hine's restoration, or of the kitchens which became the 1891 textile gallery, or of the rebuilding of the outer walls and gatehouse in 1907-8. Can you help? If so ring Trevor on (0115) 915 3622, or e-mail him at: trevor@notmushby.demon.co.uk.

▪ National Archaeology Days 2000 - 22 & 23 July

Come and see local archaeologists at work at Nottingham Castle and in the Caves of Nottingham and give them a helping hand. Take part in Nottingham Castle's Treasure Hunt, and at Brewhouse Yard Museum take part in Roman, Saxon and medieval games played by people of all ages long ago.

Contacts: Nottingham Castle (0115) 9153651; Brewhouse Yard Museum (0115) 9153600.

- **Fill the gap in your run of TRANSACTIONS.** The following are available, less 1965: Vol L (1946) to Vol LXXXVI (1982). Speak to Neville or Ann Hoskins - tel. 9781816.



BOOK LAUNCHES AND REVIEWS

NEWARK PARISH CHURCH

St Mary Magdalen, Newark, described by Pevsner as being among the 'two or three dozen grandest parish churches of England', now has its own comprehensive history. Brenda Pask's magnificent study was published on 4 March with a ceremony in the church attended by a large congregation including Miss Jean Moore, Mayor of Newark.

Professor John Beckett, launching the book, congratulated Miss Pask on a splendid production which brings together research on the church building and the people connected with it - among them the infamous eighteenth-century cleric Dr Bernard Wilson who was briefly excommunicated for 'chiding and brawling' at a church meeting, and organist William Hunter, who shot himself in the Song School House in 1802!

Professor Beckett commented that the book 'commemorates the generations who have worshipped at St Mary's, celebrates the present - with all its problems of falling numbers of declining income - and enlightens the future generations that Brenda confidently anticipates will maintain this magnificent building'. Copies of Miss Pask's book are available from The Rector, Church Rectory, Bede House Lane, Newark, NG24 1PY; (hardback price £41, softback £21, both include postage).

Brenda Pask has also authored Newark Parish Church's entry on the Southwell Diocesan Website:

<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk>

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Barbara Brooke and Nigel Brooks, *Stapleford at the Dawn of the 20th Century* (Stapleford & District Local History Society, 2000: £4.50). Copies available (£6 incl. p&p) from Stapleford & District Local History Society, 57 Westerlands, Stapleford, Nottingham, NG9 7JE. Cheques payable to the Society.

Stapleford and District Local History Society was formed only five years ago, but under the enthusiastic leadership of Barbara Brooke, eleven members have come together to produce this splendid little book about a community which became a thriving industrial village in the second half of the 19th century. Subjects covered include education, employment, transport, sport and leisure, shops, public services, churches and law and order. The book is excellently illustrated and in publication terms it represents another triumph for Susan Griffiths' Local History Press, to which *all* local history societies should turn for advice when preparing their own publications. Congratulations also to Stapleford Town Council and Broxtowe Borough Council for financial support. The book is a snip at £4.50, and an excellent read.

John Beckett

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Malcolm Dolby, *North Nottinghamshire from the Air* (Retford and District Historical and Archaeological Society, 2000: £8.50 incl. p&p). Copies available from Bassetlaw Museum, Amcott House, 40 Grove Street, Retford, DN22 6JU. Cheques payable to Retford & District Historical & Archaeological Society.

This book was advertised by Eric Coddington in *Newsletter* No.19 and launched in conjunction with the Bassetlaw Roadshow on 8 April (see article, p.2). Malcolm Dolby and team have produced an excellent set of overhead pictures for this beautifully illustrated book on the Bassetlaw Hundred of Nottinghamshire. Malcolm's captions bring the pictures to life, and provide an excellent overview of an area of the county perhaps less well known than it should be to members of this Society. With Center Parcs, three power stations and several collieries among the illustrations, the book reminds us that the north of the county is not just agricultural in its interests.

John Beckett

Please send submissions for the third *Newsletter* of the year by **4 August 2000** to Mrs Janice Avery, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD (telephone 0115 951 5929, fax 0115 951 5948, or email janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk). 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.ethulu.demon.co.uk/thoroton/htm>