

THOROTON

Number 22: Winter 2000



MILLENNIUM LECTURE: 9 DECEMBER 2000

'Nottinghamshire from its Origins to the Eve of the Black Death, c.1000 to 1340':

Dr David Crook

This lecture, the third in the series of lectures in the Millennium Programme, will deal with the origins of the county, followed by a brief look at the county down to the mid-14th century under a number of topic headings. It will take place at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street, at 2.45pm.



Members (including one of the Society's youngest member, Hannah Nicholson) at Flintham for the Bingham Roadshow on 10 September. See page 4.

Website

Council, at its October meeting, approved a recommendation to upgrade the status of the Society's Website. We now have the domain name of www.thorotonsociety.org.uk, and will be making a series of additions to the site to increase the information about the county and local history which it carries. News and events which we cannot carry in the Newsletter will appear on the website, together with information for which we do not have space. So that Society members who do not have access in their own homes to the Internet will not feel discriminated against, we are co-operating with the County Library's NewLinc programme, which offers access to the Internet through the following libraries: Arnold, Beeston, Bingham, Bircotes, Cotgrave, Eastwood, Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Mansfield, Newark, Nottingham Central, Ollerton, Retford, Stapleford, Sutton-in-Ashfield, West Bridgford and Worksop. Just go along during normal opening hours and start surfing!

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



Reports on Millennium Celebration Events

Rushcliffe Heritage Roadshow, 12 July

This was the fourth Nottinghamshire Heritage roadshow in the society's series of six events – one in each of the historic wapentakes of the county. The roadshow concentrated on the Rushcliffe wapentake and was hosted by the Keyworth Local History Society in the palatial village hall.

Around 50 people attended the event which ran according to the now tried-and-tested formula of a series of introductory talks by a panel of heritage experts, followed by questions from the audience and then an opportunity to visit a number of well-stocked displays. The panel of experts included Mike Bishop, Nottinghamshire County Council's archaeologist, Suella Postles from Nottingham City Museums, Barbara Sharp from Nottinghamshire Archives Geoffrey Oldfield from the Thoroton Society and Bob Hammond from the Keyworth Local History Society. This formidable team provided many fascinating insights into the history of the area as well as setting Rushcliffe in a greater context of the landscape and material cultural history of Nottinghamshire.

Although few artefacts or documents were brought along for identification, the enthusiastic audience was treated to a vast array of displays in the second part of the evening. The County Archaeologist had prepared an informative display of the assessment of the historic landscape of Nottinghamshire, while Nottingham Museums provided a fascinating array of "mystery"



Elston Chapel (see page 4)

objects from the Social History collections. Nottinghamshire Archives had prepared an ever-popular collection of reproductions of local maps and documents which attracted great interest, and Thoroton stalwarts Jean Nicholson and Margaret Trueman provided a display explaining the history of both the Thoroton Society and the Rushcliffe Wapentake. However the greatest attraction of the roadshow was the magnificent display of publications and local artefacts prepared by the Keyworth Local History Society. The quality and range of the publications are a true credit to the society's members, whilst the extensive range of artefacts associated with country crafts and trades provided a wonderful insight into working life in the Keyworth area in the last two centuries.

Reluctantly, we had to leave the village hall by 9.30, but the interest generated by this roadshow will remain with so many of us for a long time. Hearty thanks are due to all those who contributed to a superb night, especially the organisers, Barbara Cast and Bob Hammond.

Steph Mastoris

Dr John Samuels explaining the medieval buildings behind Kirkgate, Newark, Newark Wapentake Visitation, 9 September. See page 4.



Broxtowe Wapentake Visitation, 20 July

On a blisteringly hot afternoon members of the Society met at Gregory Boulevard on the edge of The Forest, which in the 12th century formed the western boundary of Nottingham town with the Wapentake of Broxtowe. John Beckett led the visitation through Hyson Green, which became a settlement in the 1820s, and Radford, which in the 1790s Throsby described as 'a little paradise'. We passed over the medieval village of Sutton Passeys, now beneath the Crown Island - it was only at the insistence in the 1920s of John Holland Walker, Secretary of the Thoroton Society, that the name has survived as a streetname.

Our first stop was All Saints' Church in the relatively untouched village of Strelley. The church was rebuilt by Sir Sampson de Strelley in the 14th century. Marion Henshall gave us a potted history and we saw the fine 15th century wooden screen and the remarkably preserved tombs of Sir Sampson and Sir John Strelley and their ladies. We then drove past the site of Nuthall Temple, one of four Palladian villas in England built in the style of Italy's Villa Rotonda. Nuthall Temple was burned down in 1929, and Watnall Hall, demolished in 1958, is another example of the fate of many country houses whose upkeep could not be maintained.

We stopped briefly outside Greasley's parish church and Minton's tea rooms, named after D.H. Lawrence's Minton (Eastwood) in *Sons and Lovers*. We passed the remains of Beauvale Priory, a Carthusian monastery, and our next stop overlooked the site of Hags Farm, from 1898 home of David Chambers (one-time Vice-President of the Thoroton Society, and Professor of Economic History at the University of

Nottingham), and haunt of the young Lawrence. In *Sons and Lovers* Hags Farm appears as Willey Farm, and Chambers' sister Jessie was the model for Miriam Leivers. We then drove through the conservation area of Bagthorpe and on to Selston Common, site of riots in 1877 in response to an attempt at enclosure.

It was then on to Felley Priory, an Augustinian priory founded by Radulph Britto of Annesley. During the Civil War Felley was used as a garrison by Royalist troops. The Hon. Mrs Chaworth Musters gave us a guided tour and we saw the Tudor chimney and paintings by Stubbs, Devis and Lear. It was a perfect afternoon to wander around the lovely gardens, and to enjoy a splendid tea.

Philip Jones led the tour from here. We passed the ruined late Norman manor house of Wansley Hall, and drove on to St Katherine's church, dating from Norman times, in picturesque Teversal. As we sat in the Jacobean box pews, Stan Guest the church warden pointed out the Norman and 15th century doors. The manor house was last inhabited by Lady Carnarvon, wife of the excavator of Tutankhamun's tomb. Our return journey took us through Mansfield with its old cave dwellings on Rock Hill, and then past Papplewick Hall, built in the 1780s, and through Linby with its 18th and 19th century cottages, Castle Mill and two village crosses.

Thanks go to Marian Henshall, the Hon. Mrs Chaworth Musters, and Stan Guest; and to John Beckett and Philip Jones for a very lively, interesting and informative afternoon.

Janice Avery

**Rushcliffe Wapentake Visitation,
5 August**



Those of us who went on the Rushcliffe tour enjoyed a fascinating day out crowned with warm and sunny weather. Geoffrey Oldfield, ably assisted by our coach driver Keith, began by giving us a tour of Wilford, Clifton and Gotham, pointing out many architectural details on the buildings as we passed. We made our first stop at East Leake, where we were warmly welcomed by the Local History Society with coffee and biscuits, and given a chance to view their Millennium exhibition.

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A visit to St Wilfred's (originally St Winifred's) Church in Kingston-on-Soar followed, where we were delighted to meet Neville Hoskins and Norman Beilby who spoke about the church and its wonderful chantry. The village now possesses a splendid new sign for the Millennium, which we duly admired (see page 3). After this we toured the southern reaches of the county and ventured over the borders in order to have lunch in Loughborough and to take the opportunity to explore the town's market.

Our next stop was Bunny where Keith manoeuvred the bus expertly around the narrow lanes, and we enjoyed a stroll around the village and a visit to a superb millennial exhibition at the Church. An incredible amount of research and work had obviously been undertaken by a considerable number of people in its production and that of an excellent book. Having a little time to spare we took a tour around Keyworth, and finally travelled to Edwalton for a splendid 'Thoroton' tea given by the ladies of the W.I. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. Many thanks are due to Geoffrey, whose knowledge of the county is as encyclopaedic as it is fascinating and entertaining.

Penny Messenger

Newark Wapentake Visitation, 9 September

For the sixth and final wapentake visitation, the coach headed east from Nottingham on a fine Saturday morning. As we passed out of Bingham wapentake, Malcolm Fox pointed out the ancient boundary before we had our first encounter with roadworks on the Fosse Way. Having passed the site of the Battle of East Stoke, we stopped first to look around the village church with its simple headstone to the fallen.

Back across the Fosse, we left the coach in Elston to walk the short distance to the Chapel, which looked somewhat solitary, enclosed by railings in a field. Its history and links to St Leonards hospital in Stoke was listened to attentively by the group as well as by the field's occupants, two inquisitive horses.

On to Newark Castle where John Samuels joined forces with Malcolm to form an expert and enjoyable double act. We had an opportunity to climb up the remains of the tower and down into the undercroft, before John described some surprising results of his recent excavations in the castle grounds. After lunch we set off on a walking tour, stopping to look at timber-framed buildings around the market place (where our guides faced some competition from the stallholders) and the church before returning to the castle walls. We continued upstream by the Trent, over the locks and to a former mill site before returning via the riverside walk on the town side.

Our return journey stopped at Hawton for an ample buffet tea in the WI hall. The local vicar arrived on his bicycle to give us a very knowledgeable account of the church and its Easter Sepulchre. Further evidence of all the military activity in the area was provided by a musket ball hole in the church door. We drove back to Nottingham through the gathering dusk, pausing only to look at the Sibcote dovecote, and reflecting on an enjoyable and informative day in the southern section of this unusual wapentake.

Judy Kingscott

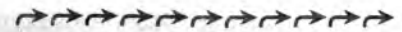
Bingham Heritage Roadshow, 10 September

The September sun shone as the Thoroton Roadshow reached Flintham, bringing an opportunity to discover the history of the Bingham Wapentake. By 2pm everything was ready: the professionals had perfected their displays, teacups were tabled, cakes were cut, and the organisers and hosts were relaxed and smiling. Among the first to arrive was the Mayor of Rushcliffe, perspiring politely in a uniform tailored for cooler days. Careering round the corner came the President of the Thoroton Society, unable to tame his new motorised chair. Another 100 visitors appeared, and the village hall hummed with activity.

During the afternoon people pored over photographs of Flintham and the surrounding villages, provided by Joan Bray from Nottingham's Local Studies Library. Visitors wrestled with writing in secretary hand, demonstrated by Mark Weaver from the Archives Office. Some considered the meaning of place names with Valerie Henstock, while others, with Jean Nicholson, discovered the history of the Thoroton Society. And tucked away in a tiny room, speakers developed many of the Roadshow's themes in a programme of talks.

Having seen, supped and circulated, visitors enjoyed other attractions organised by the Flintham Society, the afternoon's hosts. Some tried their hand at lace making with Elaine and Jenny, while the majority of visitors were waylaid by a sale of hundreds of second-hand books. Clutching their purchases, they staggered to the church, and to the village museum where a century of rural life through the eyes of a village shopkeeper was displayed. By the museum pond, Paul and Marjorie, a seventeenth-century couple, had pitched their tent and were busy simmering rabbit stew and boiling 'match' in preparation for a future battle. The afternoon's entertainments were simple but successful. Dr Thoroton would have approved!

Sue Clayton



Thurgarton Heritage Roadshow, 4 October

The last roadshow was held at Brackenhurst College (now part of Nottingham Trent University) in conjunction with the college and Southwell History Society. Displays were provided by the distinguished panel for the Thurgarton wapentake who were the archaeologists, Ursilla Spence of the County Council and Chris Brooke - Chris brought along his laptop to show the emerging diocesan church website; from Archives, Adrian Henstock with the latest in writing equipment (200 or so years ago) as well as archival material; Suella Postles of Brewhouse Yard; Robin Drury from Brackenhurst on farming; Trevor Foulds, expert on Thurgarton Priory's history; Bob Hardstaff of Southwell History Society - and for everything including the squeal - Steph Mastoris.

Brackenhurst's Boardroom was packed and buzzing with an interested audience who were treated to an excellent programme including a mini-bus trip to view some of the college's collection of vintage farming equipment and vehicles, along with their modern equivalents. We are most grateful to Professor Butcher and members of the staff for making the evening very special.

Barbara Cast

AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES

The Keith Train Memorial Lecture: 10 October

The annual Keith Train Memorial Lecture is now a firmly established feature in the lecture programme of both the Thoroton Society and the Nottingham Civic Society. On the 10th October over 120 members and invited guests from neighbouring Civic Societies gathered at the Djanogly Innovation Centre, Nottingham Trent University to hear this year's lecture given by Michael Gwilliam, the Director of the Civic Trust.

The speaker, using some excellent slides, ranged widely over entries in the various categories of the annual Civic Trust national award scheme. He stressed the need to find new uses for old buildings; this was essential if a city was to retain its unique character. He made particular reference to Nottingham, praising the Inland Revenue buildings and the new developments on the canal side between Wilford Road and Carrington Street. He enthused about the prospect of creating an urban renaissance in Britain such that those who looked to Barcelona and more specifically to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao for inspiration would find equally satisfying projects at home.

In answering questions at the end the speaker gave encouragement to those asking for advice on topics ranging from the impact of a supermarket on small local shops (Beeston) to the failure of Amenity Societies to recruit younger members. (Don't worry about it, attract those whose children have left home, have retired early, have time, enthusiasm and expertise).

Ken Brand

Dr David Knight's lecture: 14 October

The Autumn lecture series got off to an unusual start: it is rare for the lecture chairman to start by announcing that the speaker is over the road in the Police Station!

David Knight had the great misfortune to have his car broken into and his precious slides and notes taken. A very distressed speaker came to the YMCA, then went to report the incident, check his car, and wonder whether a non-illustrated talk was feasible. He was bravely prepared to do that on his return, but in the meantime Jean Nicholson had stepped into the breach with a box of slides taken by Nancy Mulholland, so David agreed to talk on a later occasion.

Nancy's slides provided an impromptu quiz. Taken within walking distance of Pennyfoot Street in the 50s and 60s, they proved a real puzzle, even with a knowledgeable audience - in fact some were not 'identified', including, surprisingly, a church under demolition and a porticoed chapel. Among rare slides of historic importance were two of the Victoria Hotel fire in the late 1960s.

So it is commiserations to David Knight; and thanks to Jean for providing a fascinating substitute at short notice.

Neville Hoskins

Health, Hope and Charity: 'It's The Poor wot got the Blame': 28 October

So ran the title of the one day conference of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association, held on 28 October at Woodborough Village Hall. In the morning, Marion Wallwork, a member of the Council of the National Trust, spoke about the Poor Law and workhouses in general, followed by interesting slides of the Southwell Workhouse. Terry Fry then referred in particular to pauper lunatics and asylums in his talk on the treatment of the mentally ill in Nottinghamshire.

In the afternoon, there were five short talks. Margaret Bagley introduced us to the Gordon Boys Home in Nottingham, designed to rescue homeless lads who wore blue uniforms while working as messengers etc. Derek Walker commented on the attempts of 'the well-intentioned Mr. Brown', Rector of Eakring, whose attempts to improve the lot of the inhabitants were regularly thwarted by an obstreperous community. Barbara Gallon compared the rigours of the Mansfield Workhouse (1728-1837) with the Union Workhouse which succeeded it, and Rosemary Wood spoke about the benefits of the Woodborough Male Friendly Society which flourished from 1803 to 1954. Finally, Joan Bray made a plea for more groups and societies to visit the Local Studies Library in Nottingham for a guided tour to see what is on offer.

John Beckett



MEETINGS IN 2001

- 13 January:** Geoffrey Oldfield, 'Nottingham Housing in the Twentieth Century': chair John Fox
10 February: Susanne Smith, 'The Southwell Workhouse Project': chair David Bagley
10 March: Maurice Barley Lecture: Rodney Cousins, 'Mud and Stud Houses in Lincolnshire': chair Ken Brand
14 March: Joint Lecture with the British Geological Society, Keyworth: speaker Mike Bishop

ALLOTMENTS IN MID-19th CENTURY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Jeremy Burchardt is seeking information on various aspects of Nottinghamshire allotments 1820-60, particularly in regard to land access by framework knitters, allotment provision and Chartism, and the promotion of allotments by James Orange. Anyone who can help is asked to contact Jeremy Burchardt at Rural History Centre, PO Box 229, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AG.

Society President Miles Thoroton Hildyard, and City Local Studies Librarian Joan Bray, examine historic photographs at the Bingham Roadshow. See page 4.



Georgiana 4th Duchess of Newcastle

by Janet Roberts. This 28-page booklet tells the life story of Georgiana Elizabeth, daughter of local coal owner Edward Miller-Munday and the Dowager Lady Middleton. Born in 1789, she grew up at Shipley Hall near Ilkeston, and married Henry Pelham Clinton, 4th Duke of Newcastle. The illustrated booklet includes extracts of love letters

between the Duke and Duchess. Price £2.99 post-free; available from Janet Roberts, 21 St John's Place, Mansfield, Nottingham, NG18 5NS.

MILESTONES 2000

A request for all interested in saving these often neglected historic highway markers was made earlier this year in the national press. Since then great interest has been expressed throughout the country and it is hoped to form a national society. If you are interested in joining this, require further information or are willing to pass on information on milestones, guideposts, boundary or other way-marks in your own locality, contact Mervyn Benford, Cloudshill, High Street, Shutford, Banbury, Oxford, OX15 6PQ, or e-mail m benford@bigfoot.com.

Welcome Back!

Members who attended the AGM in April 2000 will recall that we said goodbye on that occasion to Dr Carol Allen, who was stepping down as Archaeology editor of *Transactions*. As it happens, a whole series of events since April mean that Mrs Pamela Marshall, who was to have been the new Archaeology editor, is unable to take up the post, but Carol has returned to the East Midlands and has slipped back into her old position! Our grateful thanks to Carol.

Standing Committee

To facilitate the Society's business, at its October meeting Council agreed to establish a Standing Committee, which will have a particular remit of looking at strategy and planning. Further details in subsequent Newsletters.

Woodborough Local History Group has just produced *Woodborough Heritage: a Village Trail*, a brief, illustrated guide to the village, and an excellent introduction to Woodborough. Enquiries to David Bagley: tel. (0115) 9652511.

Council for British Archaeology

Advance Notice: AGM and Reports Meeting, 24 March 2001 at St Hughes Church, Lincoln

Please send contributions for *Newsletter* No.1 of 2001 by 14 February 2001 to Janice Avery, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD (telephone 0115 951 5929, fax 0115 951 5948, or e-mail janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk). The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.