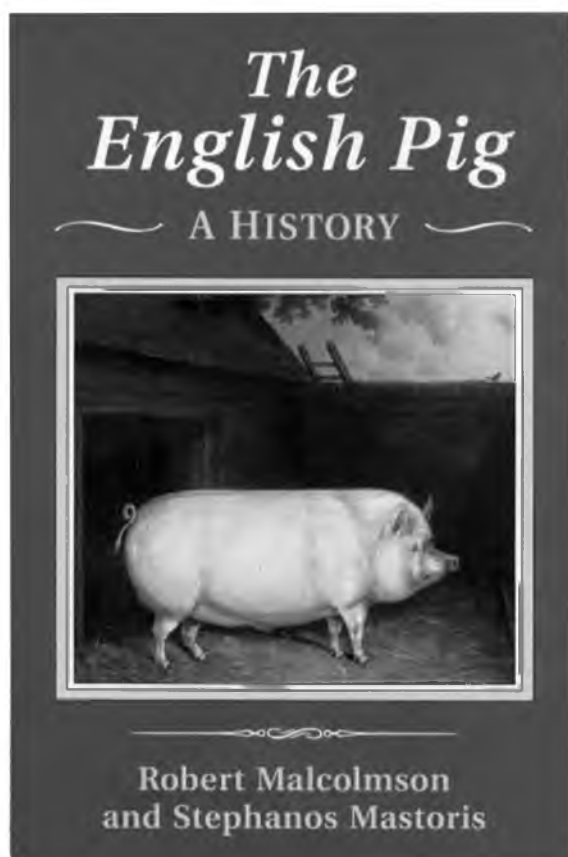


THOROTON

Number 25: Autumn 2001



AUTUMN LECTURE AND EVENTS PROGRAMME



The Thoroton Society has an exciting programme of events for the autumn, which you can read about in this edition of the Newsletter. And if you are wondering why we have a picture of a pig on page 1, turn to page 2 for further details! Steph Mastoris and Robert Malcolmson produced a bestseller with their book on *The English Pig*, which came out in 1998, and you can hear the Nottinghamshire end of the story in our December lecture.

Join us as well for the other events over the next few months, and try to pay a visit to the Djanogly Art Gallery at the University of Nottingham Arts Centre for the Trentside exhibition (see page 4), which will be the subject of our February 2002 lecture.

If you are a new member, or you have not attended many events in the past, do come along and make yourself known. I look forward to meeting you soon.

John Beckett, Chairman

Saturday 15 September: Visit to Nottingham University Campus: the Millennium Garden and other points of interest, led by Claire Wells. **Meet at 2.00pm in visitors' car park next to Hugh Stewart Hall.** The tour will not linger in the Millennium Garden, since Claire wishes to demonstrate other interesting features, for example the vine-leaved maple, and 'D.H. Lawrence holding a gentian'.

Tuesday 9 October: 7.30pm, The Post House, St James's Street (formerly The Albany Hotel):
The Keith Train Lecture - *The East Midlands into the Twenty-first Century* by Denis Morrison, Government Office of the East Midlands.

~ The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire ~
~ The County's Principal Historical Society ~
Visit the Thoroton Website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

3 November: Annual Luncheon 1pm, Thoresby Hall Hotel (see enclosed information). Speaker: Philip Jones.

The following lectures will be at the YMCA, Shakespeare Street, 2.45pm on Saturdays:

13 October: *Excavations of an Iron Age and Romano Settlement at Gonalston* by David Knight, Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit. (Chair: Barbara Cast) (This lecture was postponed earlier in the year; the lecture originally planned for 13 October on *The Tickhill Psalter* will be given early in 2002.)

10 November: **The Nottinghamshire History Lecture:** Dr Linda Lees, Nottingham Trent University. (Chair: John Beckett) Further details to be announced.

8 December: *The Nottinghamshire Pig* by Steph Mastoris. (Chair: Penny Messenger)

Until the 1920s family-reared pigs were a familiar sight in many Nottinghamshire homes, both in the countryside and towns. This illustrated lecture will look at the rise and fall of 'cottage' pig-keeping over the last 400 years. It should allow an opportunity for members of the audience to reminisce about cottage pig-keeping in the county and share memories of preparing and eating seasonal pork delicacies. Once you've heard the lecture, read the book (see front page)!

Mr Geoffrey Oldfield, M.A.

Members will be delighted to hear that Society's Council for twenty-five AGM, was appointed MBE in the Nottinghamshire's Heritage. Many of which have made such an important county. He has also been a valued and a regular lecturer to local and



Geoff Oldfield, who served on the years until he stepped down at the last Queen's Birthday Honours, for services to you will be aware of Geoff's many books, contribution to the understanding of our member of the Nottingham Civic Society, other societies throughout the area.

Library Service Changes

From 1 October Mrs Joan Bray is moving from her position as Head of Local Studies at the City Library (which also has a remit for the county in library matters), to become Head of Customer Services. For the past 7 years Joan has done a great deal to raise the profile of local studies across the county, and we wish her well for the future. She will continue her work with the Nottinghamshire Living History Archive, and doubtless still be seen at local history functions around the county. Her successor will be Roger Parish, at present Head of the Arts Library.

Southwell Church History Website

Volunteers are still needed to write brief church histories for the Southwell Church History Website. If you can access the internet, take a look at <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk> to see what is involved. But you do not actually need to be an accomplished surfer to take part in this project, since the work of compiling a church history does not require the use of a computer. Volunteers are

issued with a Briefing Paper which sets out what research is needed, and how to go about it. In other words you can do the whole thing from books - and even submit your finished history in handwritten form if that is what suits you best. If you are interested, ring Rosemary Gatie on 01636 817210 for further details, or speak to our chairman, John Beckett, at a future Thoroton event.

Council for Independent Archaeology: 9th Congress, University of Nottingham, 22-23 September

If you are concerned about the current divide within archaeology between amateur and professional, or perhaps official and unofficial, this is a conference you might like to drop in on, since it is being held in Nottingham. The CIA is particularly concerned that the great British tradition of amateur archaeology is being steamrollered by officialdom at a time when the success of *Time Team* suggests that interest in archaeology has never been so considerable. Workshops will look at the role of English Heritage, the position of county archaeologists, treasure hunters, lottery funding, and various other current issues, as well as addressing issues raised by the Valetta Convention. For more information about the CIA see www.archaeology.co.uk/cia/ and to attend the conference contact Mike Rumbold (tel. 01327-340855, e-mail mikerumbold@clara.net).

Nottinghamshire History Week: May 2002

The Thoroton Society is working with the Nottinghamshire Local History Association to put together a programme of events for the Nottinghamshire History Week in May next year. This has been masterminded by the Historical Association, and it is hoped that individual local history societies will be involved. Look out for more information in forthcoming Newsletters.

REPORTS OF LECTURES 2001

NORTH NOTTINGHAM CHURCHES VISITATION: 9 June

Leaders: Jean Nicholson and Michael Jackson

All great journeys have a first step and the Thoroton Society started its visitation of all of the churches in Nottinghamshire by journeying to the north of the County. Aply led by Jean Nicholson, we went first through the salad days, or at least the celery fields, of Jean's youth to Clayworth where we had coffee and visited the church -much restored in 1875. Noted for its outstanding wall paintings, we learned of the Laycock family and their place in High Society. West Stockwith was next, a beautifully light church built in 1722 in brick by the executors of a one-time ship's carpenter.

After visiting the White Hart our next call was Misterton, with its fragment of glass depicting a 15C

Bishop in a north window and its John Piper window in the East – good to see that the Piper window gives its message from both the inside and the outside of the church. Next was Walkeringham with its monument to Francis Williamson. Tea was taken at North Wheatly with, for some of us, the first strawberries of the season. We walked up to the church with its primitive and rugged staircase up to the tower and passed on the way the Old Hall – an absolute riot of decorative brickwork. Many thanks to Jean Nicholson and Michael Jackson for setting the standard for our future visits. And to the spider, guarding the hand towel in Clayworth Village Hall!

Keith Goodman

LORD BYRON'S LAST JOURNEY: 11 July - Leaders: John Beckett and Ken Brand

Members met at Radio Nottingham at the end of London Road – or one might say at the head of the Flood Road – and with slight variations due to changes in the street pattern the route of Byron's last journey was followed.

Lord Byron's cortege left London for the family vault at Hucknall on 12 July 1824. The party reached the Flood Road in Nottingham at 5pm on Thursday 15th. The bells of St. Mary's church tolled as the cortege passed across Plumtre Square and along Fisher Gate and Carter Gate to the bottom of Hockley. The destination was the Blackamoor's Head, an old coaching inn on the corner of High St. and Pelham St. The procession moved up Hockley, Goose Gate and Carlton St. and then gently down Pelham Street. Byron's coffin was placed in the front parlour and the public was permitted to file past. The *Nottingham Review* reported "many thousands were admitted".

John said this route was chosen as the slopes involved were less severe than, say, Hollowstone. Similarly the journey to Hucknall next day left the Market Place via Long Row, turning at Chapel Bar into Parliament St. and then to Milton St. and Mansfield Road, and so onto the Hucknall road. The sheer size of the crowds gathered to pay their respects and the narrowness even of a widened Clumber Street may have helped influence the choice of route. Nottingham townfolk turned out in their thousands, when the funeral procession "extended a quarter of a mile." It had indeed become a public spectacle - but "the utmost silence prevailed."

At strategic points John described aspects of Byron's life and the appearance and social life of Nottingham in 1824. I commented about the changes that had taken place: I hope they were of interest but I felt it did tend to upset the feel of 1824. There was a general response that it had been a good night out, and we had kept dry!

Ken Brand

Note: Byron's last journey and the contemporary layout of Nottingham, can be followed on H.M. Wood's "Plan of Nottingham in 1825" available at the Society's bookstall. Wood, the Borough's assistant surveyor and sometime Councillor, was to the rear of the procession that moved off from the Market Place on 16th July.

NOTTINGHAM'S VICTORIAN CHURCH HERITAGE: 26 July - Leaders: John Beckett and Terry Fry

The Victorians built churches as if they were going out of fashion. In the 20th century the bulldozer moved in: we are left with a random selection, from which four churches were chosen for this excursion.

We moved through what John Beckett termed the three phases of church building, beginning in the 1840s with St John's, Carrington, largely sponsored by Ichabod Wright of Mapperley Hall. Terry Fry provided a potted history of the church, and pointed to some of its more idiosyncratic features. The second phase of church building followed the 1851 religious census, and took us to All Saints, where Arthur Bennett and Clarence Rickard, with a little help from Neville Hoskins, showed us around this beautiful T.C. Hine church, financed by William Windley.

We visited two churches from the third phase of church building in the 1880s and 1890s. St Catharine's (1896) a little known church on St Ann's Well Road,

by R.C. Clarke, was a gem, and Mrs Driver gave us an illuminating tour. St Stephen's, Hyson Green (1898), by W.D. Caroe in Arts and Crafts mode, replaced St Stephen's, Bunkers Hill (demolished in 1896) and thus this is a church full of artefacts often older than the building itself. John Beckett told us about the church, Rev. Ruth Worsley showed us around The Vine (1984), and long-time parishioners Eric and Christine Towle provided refreshments.

This was an excellent afternoon out, all in bright sunshine. More than anything else it showed us just how frequently the Victorians built churches on a shoestring, while still obeying the rules and regulations of the Gothic revival. Only at All Saints, where money was less of a problem, was an architect given his head, with magnificent results. We were saddened to learn the church does not have a guaranteed future.

NEW BOOKS

Nottingham in 2010

The Greater Nottingham Partnership has recently published *Greater Nottingham in the 21st Century: reflections on the future* (Nottingham Trent University, The Work Institute, 2000, ISBN 1 84233 039X), a compendium of ideas discussing how the city might look a decade into the new Millennium. Contributors include Bob Cullen, City Council Leader Graham Chapman, Dame Pat Morgan-Webb of New College, city centre manager Jane Ellis, and Nottingham Trent vice chancellor Ray Cowell. The book is well worth dipping into – it is too large, and too dense, for much else – if only to get a flavour of where Nottingham might be going in manufacturing and services, education and health care, crime, new technology, and governance, a concept which I had not previously come across when used in the form employed here.

John Beckett

Great Nottinghamshire Gardens

This new publication, researched and written by Thoroton council member Philip Jones, was launched at Rufford Country Park on 8 August by Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Culture, Colin Bromfield. The book includes a brief historical description of 14 Nottinghamshire gardens, including Bromley House, Thrumpton Hall, Wollaton Hall, Woodthorpe Park, the Arboretum, and Nottingham University's Millennium Garden. It gives details on current planting and information on access, and contains illustrations in full colour. It will be of interest to local historians and gardeners as well as to the county's many visitors each year.

Great Nottinghamshire Gardens costs £5.99 and is on sale at larger libraries (including Nottingham Central), major bookshops, and through the bookstall at Thoroton Society events.

City Heritage Series

Nottingham City Council's Local Studies Library has joined forces with The Local History Press to launch a series of popular local history books. The series is edited by local historian Steve Zaleski, and the first two books – which Steve has also written! – will be launched in September by Councillor Leon Unczur, Chair of the Cultural and Community Services Strategic Board. One book is on royal visits to Nottingham, and the other on Nottingham canal. If you want to know more about the series, contact Susan Griffiths at The Local History Press Ltd, 3 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, NG7 2DS.

Flintham Museum

In May museums from twenty-two countries were finalists in the European Museum of the Year 2001, held in Pisa. Flintham was among the thirty-eight museums (members will remember it as one of the venues for the Thoroton Society's 2000 Roadshows). The Flintham Museum was described by the judges as 'possibly the smallest museum visited during the 24 years of the Award's existence'. It did not win a prize, but merited a special paragraph in the judges' published report. This stated 'our judges were impressed both by its charm, its regional influence and the professional approach of the volunteers who work tirelessly for it'. The Flintham Museum, Inholms Road, Flintham opens Sundays 2-5pm from April to October, and at other times by appointment (contact 01636 525111 for further details).

Sue Clayton

'Trentside': Exhibition

This exhibition of images of the River Trent will be shown at the Djanogly Art Gallery, University of Nottingham, from 29 October to 16 December. Nicholas Alfrey, curator of the exhibition, will be lecturing to the Thoroton Society in February 2002 on *The Smug and Silver Trent*.

Nottinghamshire Local History Association Saturday 27 October

The NLHA invites you to dig for history – come and see how fashion in gardening has been as fickle as fashion in clothes over the centuries. The event will take place between 9.45am and 4.15pm at The Village Hall, Lambley. Entrance fee is £6.50 to NLHA members; £7.50 to non-members. To reserve a place, contact David Ross-Ellis, 128 Sandhill Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 1SY.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mrs. B.M. Maddison, M.J. Hanson, D.A. Hoskins.

Please send contributions for *Newsletter* No. 26 by 5 November 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.