

THOROTON

Number 27: Spring 2002



Local History Week 4-12 May 2002

The Historical Association has designated 4-12 May as Local History Week, and has asked each county to contribute a programme of events. The Thoroton Society and the Nottinghamshire Local History Association, together with colleagues in the Local Studies sections of the City and County Library services, have joined to produce a booklet, which you will receive in the mailing with this newsletter. As you will see, a superb programme has been put together for Local History week, and we would like to encourage all members to participate as fully as they can. There are walks, talks, and exhibitions taking place, many of them organised and some given by members of the Thoroton Society. Do give your support wherever possible, and make this a week to remember in local history circles.

Commemorative tree planted at Flintham Hall



On 17 November last a group of Thoroton members and guests assembled at Flintham Hall to plant a tree commemorating Miles Thoroton Hildyard's forty years as president of the Society. The tree, a *Liquidamba styraciflua*, or sweet gum, was planted by Miles (with a little help from Neville Hoskins and John Beckett – see picture left) just to the west of the main entrance to Flintham. After the ceremony, Miles kindly entertained the visitors to a splendid, four-course lunch in the Hall. Neville Hoskins proposed a toast to Miles, and John Beckett proposed a toast to Rosalys Coope who had, a few days previously, celebrated her 80th birthday. Miles then led a brief tour of the Flintham Conservatory, and a few hardy souls walked around the gardens.

Before the party broke up, grateful thanks were expressed to David Rowbotham for his work in preparing the meal. Particular interest was shown in the Thoroton horn that David had depicted in icing sugar on the rather sumptuous sweets.

Another pic appears on page 2.

With this Newsletter please find papers for the AGM. Do join us at East Markham if you can, for what is always an enjoyable occasion.

~ The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire ~

~ The County's Principal Historical Society ~

Visit the Thoroton Website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

Planning Green Paper December 2001: *Planning: delivering a fundamental change*

The overall objective of this document is to deliver a fundamental change in the planning system, which at present is too complex. The government proposes to abolish structure plans, local plans and unitary development plans and replace them with a new single level of plan, to be known as a Local Development Framework. A statement of core policies would form the heart of the new LDF. 'It would be a succinct statement' of five key points, sufficient here to quote the last: '(A statement of) criteria based policies to shape development and deliver the strategy. These would form the basis of development control. The policies would need to cover key issues, such as housing, business

development, planning obligations, transport, waste disposal and recycling, and the historic environment.'

At present there are 25 National Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), in total 852 pages. This guidance is too prescriptive and often does not allow for local circumstances. Thus it is proposed to review all PPGs, commencing with nos 1,4,6,7 (Countryside), and of particular interest 15 and 16 (Historic Environment and Archaeology - 'following the review of policy on the historic environment').

Copies of the Green Paper are freely available. Access the DTLR by tel 0870 1226236 or email dtlr@twoten.press.net.

Ken Brand

New Members: Dr J O'Neill, G M Allen, Dr. R. S. Farmer, Miss C S Harrison, Mrs S M Gillespie, J Roper, Mr & Mrs P King, Mrs J Johnson, Mrs E E Burton, Ms C Phillips, Mrs A Simpson, Mr & Mrs R Stringfellow.



Nottinghamshire Living History Archive

The second Showcase for this three year project was held at Nottingham Forest Football Club on 24 November 2001. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Roy Greensmith, presented certificates to second round awardees who had completed their projects. Many had displays of their work, including CD Roms, videos, exhibitions and books. Among them, of course, was Jean Nicholson, our Programme Secretary, who has produced an excellent study of the north Nottinghamshire village of Everton. Our congratulations go to Jean and to the other awardees for producing another collection of excellent studies; and also to the project staff, Denis Hill and Samantha Holgate-Davey, for their hard work in bringing so many of these outputs to completion.

The picture on the left shows Jean Nicholson receiving her award from the Lord Mayor.

John Beckett

St Ann's Revisited

More about Jean! Jean and Joe Nicholson, with the help of their three children and granddaughter Hannah, mounted an exhibition at the Nottingham Central Library of photographs taken by members of their family of the St Ann's District. The exhibition entitled 'A Photographic Journey in Time 1901-2001' was opened on 13 January 2001 by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham Cllr Roy Greensmith, and ran until March 2002.

John Beckett

Flintham Tree Planting (see article on page 1). On the right the Society's President, Neville Hoskins, watches as Chairman John Beckett helps to plant the tree, under close supervision from Miles Thoroton Hildyard. Among those looking on are Adrian and Valerie Henstock, Jean and Joe Nicholson, Michael Riley, Barbara Cast, Christine Beckett, Rosalys Coope, Philip Jones, Diane Barley and Ann Hoskins. Flintham Hall is in the background.



REPORTS OF RECENT LECTURES AND EVENTS

8 December 2001 - 'The Nottinghamshire Pig' by Steph Mastoris

This was a delightful talk on the relationship between pigs and humans from medieval times to the present. Keeping a pig was an important source of income for poor people: 'everything used but the squeal'. In some cases pigs were kept communally and rooted through forests with permission for a payment to the owners. We were shown some fascinating slides including a delightful picture of swineherds from the Duc de Berri's book of hours, and a stone carving of a pig eating acorns at the Chapter House in Southwell. Slides showed late 19th and 20th century pig owners with the pig's carcass (killed at the time of the first frosts). After this the housewife took over. Pig keeping declined in the 1930s but revived during World War II. The talk produced many questions and anecdotes from the audience, who remembered grandparents keeping pigs. Altogether this was a most enjoyable and fascinating insight into an aspect of rural life hitherto unregarded. The afternoon concluded with shortbread pigs and a hot punch, both pronounced delicious by all present. **Penny Messenger**

12 January 2002 - 'The Tickhill Psalter' by John Fox

John Fox's talk on the Tickhill Psalter delighted a large audience. John explained that the Psalter did originate in Nottinghamshire and not South Yorkshire, as the name might suggest. It was written by John Tickhill who was Prior of Radford (Worksop) Priory, 1303-14.

John showed a fascinating series of slides illustrating the beautiful workmanship and the range of narrative illustrations. There are 482 cartoon-like illustrations of scenes in the life of David and Solomon. The Psalter is a rich source of information about life in the 14th century with some 50 varieties of foliage illustrated: does this make it the earliest Nottinghamshire flora?

John's enthusiasm was reflected by the questions and discussion after the talk. For further reading, see the articles by John in *Nottinghamshire Historian* Autumn/Winter 2000 and Spring/Summer 2001, or *The Tickhill Psalter and related manuscripts illustration in England during the early Fourteenth Century* by Donald Drew Egbert. The Psalter is now in the New York Public Library. **Jean Nicholson**

9 February 2002 - The Nora Witham Lecture: 'The Smug and Silver Trent' by Nicholas Alfrey

Last Autumn Nicholas Alfrey curated the magnificent exhibition 'Trentside' at the Djanogly Art Gallery, University of Nottingham, covering most of the length of the river Trent. For his lecture he concentrated on paintings and photographs with particular relevance to the Nottingham area. Illustrated by a series of first class slides, Mr Alfrey dwelt on various aspects such as how the Trent has been poorly represented in topographical



Neville Hoskins and Nicholas Alfrey

literature and in British landscape art. Some owners had declined to allow their paintings to be removed to Nottingham for the exhibition, but fortunately a photographic record had been made, allowing a comparison between the two 17th century Siberechts, 'Nottingham and the River Trent' and 'Nottingham from the East' (attributed). One particularly interesting illustration was Arthur Spooner's 'The Nottingham Boat Club 1894', which the Club was obliged to sell in 1986. The original's whereabouts are unknown; a copy hangs in the clubhouse. The speaker also showed recent photographs including a striking aerial view of Clifton Bridge (1971) which was contrasted to earlier paintings of Wilford as a secluded retreat. With illustrations from the late 17th to the late 20th centuries, we saw that the Trent had not been completely neglected; and that an interest in the artistic representations can add a new dimension to the study of local history. **Neville Hoskins**

Almoner – not a word you hear often today, but Neville Hoskins insists it is the right one for the job! The officers are concerned that we have no obvious way of keeping in touch with members who are ill, or for some reason unable to attend lectures and excursions. Would anyone like to be the Society's 'almoner', someone who will keep in touch with the older and perhaps more infirm members, and make sure the officers, Council, and, where appropriate, members, know how they are? Contact the Chairman (0115 9515936) if you think this might be a task you could undertake.

Anthony Meats meets the Lord Mayor

A few years ago Brewhouse Yard Museum staged an exhibition of 24 watercolours by Anthony Meats. Six of these excellent pictures of streets and buildings in Victorian Nottingham have been generously donated by the artist to the community. On 14 December last the Lord Mayor Councillor Roy Greensmith presented the works at an informal gathering at Hyson Green Library on Gregory Boulevard, where they will be on permanent display.

The artist, who again exhibited at the Royal Academy in 2001, now lives in Buckinghamshire,

but was born and lived in Nottingham for twenty years. He is also an architect, as may be evident from the carefully observed buildings in his paintings. He commented on the high quality of the brickwork, even in two up/two-down terraced houses. Brian Ashley, Assistant Director of Libraries, Information & Museums, said he 'hoped that the paintings will form part of a larger event relating to the culture and heritage of Nottingham in the New Year'.

Terry Fry

Call for gardening enthusiasts!

Chris Salisbury is investigating the mid 17th century garden of Colonel Hutchinson of Owthorpe, who was Governor of Nottingham during the Civil War and the subject of the famous memoirs by his wife, Lucy. Work is currently being undertaken in the Wilderness (Fishpond Wood SK 67703340), which consists of 6½ acres of earthworks, mostly fishponds. Eventually it is hoped to investigate the garden and the site of the Manor House, all under permanent pasture. Anyone seriously interested in helping with excavation, augering, archives, drawing and woodmanship, contact Chris on (0115) 9375496.

Southwell DAC Church History Project

Are you fascinated by local history? Interested in churches or church sites?

Want to do some research on a church/church site in the county?

The Southwell DAC Church History Project aims to compile a historical record of every parish church/ church site in the county. Are you interested in researching your local parish church, or another in the county? More volunteers (individuals or groups) are needed to prepare entries for our website, guided by a comprehensive briefing paper. No previous experience is necessary, and you don't even need a computer – word processing is preferred, but typed or legibly written submissions are acceptable. Internet access would be useful but not essential. Full acknowledgement of authorship will be made on the website.

For more information contact Janice Avery, tel (0115) 9515929; or email janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk

Pub History Society

The Pub History Society has been formed to co-ordinate research into the history of public houses, inns and taverns, to encourage research, and to celebrate this unique heritage. The public house has an importance to society far wider than just industrial archaeology or the variants of drip mats. Pubs were community centres long before the term was invented, a place to conduct business, and a place to relax with friends. Architecturally they are of great interest, both outside and inside. There have

already been a number of histories of the public house, notably Peter Haydeon's *The English Pub* (1994). There are also a number of local studies undertaken by enthusiasts or local societies. Many family historians find they have publicans in their family trees and would like to know more. To find out more about the Society please contact Simon Fowler, 13 Grovewood, Sanydcombe Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3NF, or visit www.uk-history.co.uk/phs.htm. Philip Jones

Bookstall

If any member of the Society has a book or books they feel would be of interest to other members, but do not wish to keep themselves, we would be pleased to sell them at the Society's bookstall. Penny Messenger

Annual Luncheon

This year's Annual Luncheon will be something special – put 2 November in your diary now – places will be limited, and this is a venue you will not want to miss. As for the food, cast your mind back to the Whatton AGM! More details to follow...

Please send contributions for *Newsletter* No. 28 by 26 April 2002 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.