

# THOROTON

Number 31: Spring 2003



## Retirement of Nottinghamshire's Principal Archivist



*From left: John Beckett, Adrian Henstock, David Lathrope*

Adrian Henstock has retired: the news, when it came, was shattering. He cannot possibly be as old as that, we all said, but it's true! His official retirement took place on 31 January 2003, and members of the Society were privileged to share with his colleagues at County Hall in a tribute to his work over so many years. We saw pictures of Adrian as a fresh-faced young lad, heard stories of his 'finds', and learned

of his involvement in building up the work of the Archives Office to the level of efficiency and competence that we know today. Many people were there to pay him tribute, including the Lord Lieutenant Sir Andrew Buchanan, David Lathrope, the Nottinghamshire Archives User Group, former colleagues, and our own Chairman Professor John Beckett. Adrian was presented with, among other gifts, an overhead projector. Perhaps the most abiding memory will be of the obvious affection in which he is held by all who worked with him and/or who know him. With a modest self-effacing demeanour, he sometimes tries to hide his scholarship. We hope that now he is released from the administration side of things, he will be able to return to his first love, and we all shall benefit from his deep insights into the history of Nottinghamshire - maybe with a little time off for Derbyshire, his county of birth. And, of course, he remains as Editor of *Transactions* and the *Record Series*.

**Keith Goodman**

**With this Newsletter please find papers for the AGM. Do join us at Epperstone 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](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk)

---

---

## National Archaeology Days: 19/20 July 2003

The Council for British Archaeology and the Young Archaeologists' Club are again organizing a major event aimed at families throughout the UK, which will be held over the weekend of 19 and 20 July. The CBA says: 'The aim is to encourage young people and their families to visit sites of archaeological and/or historical interest or museums/heritage and resource centres, to see archaeology in action and to take part in on-site activities.

'The event also provides an excellent opportunity to promote venues, and to encourage people to join in the work of their local societies.' The CBA will issue posters and press releases for all participants, and will also assist in promoting the event through targeting local and national television, radio stations, newspapers, relevant magazines, websites, etc.

Applications are welcome from all organizations, and you don't have to be running a field project – you could, for example, just open your office to the public for the day. For further information see [www.britarch.ac.uk/nads](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/nads) for the variety of events which took place last year, when 161 venues attracted around 90,000 visitors. The website also gives ideas for the current year.

If you wish to discuss the Days in more detail, or want a copy of the guidelines or an application form (which must be returned by 1 May 2003), contact Jan Cox, NAD Co-ordinator, Council for British Archaeology, or tel 01904 671417; email [info@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:info@britarch.ac.uk). Ms Cox can also supply details of the regular activities of the Young Archaeologists' Club, and the Council for British Archaeology.

## 125th Anniversary of Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery

Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on 3 July 1878. To commemorate the 125th anniversary, members of staff will present a series of talks about the building and the collections, which are historic in their own right. All talks are free, but it would be appreciated if people wishing to attend would telephone the Museum Office (0115) 9153651 to book in advance. Coffee and biscuits (£1.50) will be available from the Museum Café.

### The time: 10.30am. The venue: Studio 2, Nottingham Castle

The first talk will be given on 13 May, when Dr Trevor Foulds, Documentary Historian, will speak to the title '*Perfectly adapted: T.C. Hine's Conversion of Nottingham Castle into a Museum and Art Gallery*'. The series continues until 3 July. For full information consult the Museum's publication 'What's On' (out from April); or telephone Nottingham Castle Museum on (0115) 9153651.

## Nottinghamshire Local History Association Day School on The Elizabethan Age, 29 March:

Speakers include Dr David Marcombe and Mr Graham Beaumont. For further details and to book contact David Ross-Ellis, 128 Sandhill Street, Worksop, S80 1S7.

## Archaeological Investigations Project 2001

More details in the next *Newsletter*; but if you would like to find out how this is proceeding, see [http://csweb.bournemouth.ac.uk/consci/text\\_aip/online/index.htm](http://csweb.bournemouth.ac.uk/consci/text_aip/online/index.htm)

## Lost Village Sites in Nottinghamshire

Anyone with interests in the lost or deserted village sites of the county may like to look at Tom Smith's website <http://www.diplomate.freemove.co.uk/dmv.htm> which includes up-to-date references on the location of many sites in the county. Interest in the subject really began only in the 1960s, although the Thoroton Society's long-serving secretary Mr John Holland Walker was responsible for persuading Nottingham City Council to commemorate the name of one lost village, Sutton Passeys, in a street name in Wollaton. Subsequently our *Transactions* have carried a number of articles on particular lost villages, including Sutton Passeys (vol 80), Thorpe in the Glebe (vol. 85) and Keighton (last year). **John Beckett**

## The British Great House: articles by Peter Smith

Members have been pleased to be made aware of the articles on Nottinghamshire Houses in the *Georgian Group Journal*, and might appreciate knowing about more papers by Peter Smith, originally given to conferences on the British Great House at Oxford University, Department of Continuing Education and later published by Rewley House Oxford (ed. Malcolm Airs). They deserve to be more widely known, although some libraries do have copies. Of particular interest are: 'The Architecture of Nuthall Temple' in *The Later 18th Century Great House*, 1997; 'Wollaton Hall: comfort and security' in *The Regency Great House*, 1998; 'Welbeck Abbey and the 5th Duke of Portland, Eccentricity and Philanthropy' in *The Victorian Great House*, 2000; 'Welbeck Abbey and the 6th Duke of Portland' in *The Edwardian Great House*, 2001; 'The Survival of the Fittest, Welbeck Abbey and the Great Houses of Nottinghamshire in the Twentieth Century' in *The Twentieth Century Great House*, 2002. **Neville Hoskins**

---

## REPORTS OF LECTURES

### 14 December 2002: *Family Names and Local History*: Professor David Hey



December's lecture had everyone spellbound as Professor David Hey demonstrated how families could be tracked to their original abode by analysing where their namesakes died in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He explained how families had single ancestors from a particular place and that, in 25% of cases (and up to 50% in some areas) the family name would be locative. In his study Professor Hey uses less common names – eg in the research period those named Dyson (son of Dionysia) died in a tight area centred on Linthwaite, Yorks, strongly indicating the origin of that name. Nottinghamshire names include Gabbitas (only 26 died in the chosen period, 10 in Retford and the rest in nearby settlements), Widdowson and Daft; Footitt is from the Lincs/Notts border and Nettleship on the Notts/Yorks border. David amused the Hon Sec by demonstrating that her name (her proudly-midlander husband's family name) originated on the Essex/London border; that the President's long-distant ancestor might have borne the pet form of Osgood (Hoskins); and that the Chairman's name was too common to form part of his study! More about this

fascinating area of local history can be found in Prof Hey's book *Family Names and Family History*. **Barbara Cast**

### 11 January 2003: *The Nora Witham Lecture – Thurgarton Priory: the survival of the medieval fabric*: Dr Jenny Alexander

It was a pleasure to introduce Dr Alexander to members again. It is difficult to believe, from the few fragments remaining of Thurgarton Priory, just what a fabulous building it once was. More than a hint is provided by the magnificent West Front, and Dr Alexander assured us there was once a south-west tower with a south aisle behind. This was not always the case in Augustinian priories, eg Newstead, which never had a south aisle, though the arrangement of its West Front fools us into believing there was one. Without archaeological excavation the length of the nave and the entire church, west to east, will never be known, but the builders of the nave were very well informed about the latest in 13th-century design and the solving of problems posed by difficult sites and budget constraints. Dr Alexander traced clear references to Lincoln Cathedral and Southwell Minster, and ranged far and wide from Staffordshire to Northumbria and Scotland for other influences.



Even so, Thurgarton Priory exhibits some uncommon traits that set it apart from the run-of-the-mill design elements available in the 13th century. She also focused on a fabulously ornamented 14th-century ogee niche set in a re-set medieval window, now above the present altar. It still bears traces of original paint and the shadow left by a statue could be discerned. Stylistically it has much in common with the design and carving of the Easter Sepulchre in Hawton church. Architectural history is never easy to convey without recourse to some technical terms, but Dr Alexander succeeded admirably. I for one just loved 'nodding ogee with seaweed' - it all made absolute sense when you saw the illustration. Nottinghamshire lost an architectural gem when Thurgarton Priory was demolished, and the 'Jacobean' house built on the site after the dissolution was a very poor replacement. **Trevor Foulds**

### 8 February 2003: *The Maurice Barley Lecture - The French Medieval Gentleman at Home*: Professor Michael Jones



Michael Jones, recently retired Professor of Medieval French History at Nottingham University, delivered the 12th Annual Maurice Barley Lecture. With Mrs Diana Barley in the audience, Professor Jones's subject was one of which Maurice would certainly have approved. Using examples from Brittany, Normandy, the Loire Valley and further south, he illustrated the development of a specifically French seigneurial architecture from the 10th century to the late Middle Ages – eg the wall fireplace appears much earlier in French buildings than in British. The tower may have a defensive function in some buildings in certain locations and at some times but, in general, it is a symbol of knightly status that recurs throughout the period in different formats for different ranks. A telling example was the case of a man classified as a knight by his contemporaries because he owned a chess set! With slides from the humble Breton motte to elaborate half-timbered and towered houses, this was a

fascinating journey through the nuances of architectural symbolism and lordly status, illustrating again that the medieval knight is preoccupied with more loftier concerns than his next fight. **Sarah Speight**

---

## NOTTINGHAM CITY HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

This year sees the centenary of the opening of Bagthorpe Workhouse and Infirmary – better known nowadays as Nottingham City Hospital. The first workhouse Master and Matron could not have foreseen on 18 March 1903 that 100 years later it would be one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe.

Various events are being held throughout the year, including:

**Tuesday 18 March: Centenary Day: 11.30am: A fully illustrated talk** by porter and archivist Paul Swift will focus on the hospital's history. An illustrated book *The People's Hospital*, which documents the personalities and developments behind the hospital's success and includes many personal recollections and anecdotes, will be on sale.

**And at 6pm: Multi-faith celebration of healing** at St Mary's Church, Nottingham

**Saturday 5 July: Tour of the hospital, displays and outdoor carnival attractions.**

**Sunday 9 November: Concert at the Royal Concert Hall**, showcasing the talents of many members of staff and people connected to the hospital.

Everyone is invited to attend the events above. For up-to-date information and further details check the hospital's website at [www.ncht.org.uk](http://www.ncht.org.uk) or ring Claire Taylor on (0115) 9691169, ext 34532.

## WALK OF FAME

The ongoing saga of the initiative to commemorate some of Nottingham's eminent past and present citizens (including Torvill and Dean and Paul Smith), by means of a suitably inscribed and located plaque, has taken a new twist. After no movement for almost three years, some (unknown) person or body has come up with a new name: *Walk of Fame*. This is somewhat ominous, as it appears to mean only those 'worthies' will be chosen whose associated building lies on a convenient circular walk in the centre of Nottingham. Even more ominous is the fact that thirteen plaques have already been commissioned - without, apparently, consultation taking place about the suitability, or otherwise, of the inscriptions.

Though there is an air of despondency about this note, I do hope a worthwhile scheme will restart and progress. As members may recall, a few years ago a

plaque to William Clarke, founder of Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, was erected at the Bell Inn, where he was a former landlord. More recently, following pressure from the Byron Society, a plaque to Lord Byron was placed at Swine Green (where Victoria Street slides into Pelham Street/Carlton Street). This is the first of many to be sponsored by the *Evening Post*.

There is some controversy about fixing plaques onto listed buildings (though this doesn't seem to have much influence on the London Blue Plaques fixed to Georgian and other historic houses!) – and, perhaps inevitably, my particular moan concerns the absence of a plaque for T.C. Hine, whose actual house (25 Regent Street) survives, but its location, close to the Playhouse, is allegedly off the beaten track.

**Ken Brand**

## NEW MEMBERS SINCE OCTOBER 2001

Allen, G M  
Bates, K  
Bradley, Mrs M A  
Brock, J  
Burton, Mrs E E  
Cawthorne, G  
Conway, Miss J  
Dawson, M.  
Ebbins, Mrs S  
Elliff, K R  
Farmer, Dr R S  
Garrett, Mr & Mrs H H

Gaunt, Dr R A  
Gillespie, Mrs S M  
Harrison, Miss C S  
Hunter, Mrs B J  
Johnson, Mrs J  
Johnston, Mrs S  
Jowett, Mr & Mrs S  
Kempson, M  
King, Mr & Mrs P  
Mansfield, Mr & Mrs K  
Marlow, J L

Noble, Mrs G  
O'Neill, Dr J  
Phillips, C. Ms  
Purdham, Ms A  
Rawlings, Mr & Mrs D  
Roper, J  
Scott, Mrs. M  
Severn, J E  
Shannon, H  
Simpson, Mrs A  
Stringfellow, Mr & Mrs R

---

## Wollaton Village Dovecote Museum (Dovecote Drive, opposite the Library)

This working model of a watermill will be open on the following dates in 2003, from 2-5pm:

11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 13 September, 14 September

For further information and school visits contact Maureen Jones on 0115 9282567

Please send contributions for *Newsletter* No. 32 by 30 May 2003 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](mailto:janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk)). The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society or its Council.