

# THOROTON

Number 32: Summer 2003



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



This year's Annual General Meeting, the 106th in the Thoroton Society's history, was held in Epperstone Village Hall on 26 April. More than ninety members attended the event. During the course of the meeting the officers were re-elected, and thanked on behalf of the Society for their hard work over the past year.

Mr Terry Fry stood down from Council and Mr Howard Fisher was elected in his place. Volume 106 of *Transactions* was

distributed to members. The Society's vice-president, Dr Rosalys Coope, was thanked for hosting the event, and members of the Women's Institute for providing a splendid tea. During the tea break, Andy Nicholson, the Society's webmaster, gave a demonstration of the Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway (see picture above).

After the Annual General Meeting Colonel James Gunn, who lives in Epperstone and has recently completed a book about the village, gave a talk about its history. After tea he led a walk along the main street to the church. Colonel Gunn, Rosalys Coope, and the Rector, Rev Michael Brock, then talked about the history of the church, and members had a chance to look around the interior and to stroll around the large graveyard.

**Neville Hoskins**

## FORTHCOMING LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

**Thursday 3 July: Bolsover and Sutton Scarsdale**

Leaders: Philip Jones and Trevor Foulds

**Thursday 10 July: Evening Excursion: Hemlock Stone and Bramcote Walled Garden, including the Ice House**

Leaders: John Beckett, Barbara Brooke and Alan Clayton

**Saturday 6 September: Owthorpe and Colonel Hutchinson's Garden**

Leader: Chris Salisbury

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~ 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)

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## Southwell Diocesan Church History Project

Work on this project has recently been proceeding at pace! Take a look at the website to see if your local church yet has an entry: [www.southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk). And, if you find there is a gap (!), why not become a volunteer yourself? The editors are Thoroton Society chairman Professor John Beckett and Council member Dr Christopher Brooke. Both understand the problems of writing and compiling a church history, and you will also find a sympathetic ear at the Local Studies Library and the Nottinghamshire Archives.

If you would like to become involved – even if only tentatively – get in touch with Mrs Janice Avery (telephone 0115-9515929; email: [janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:janice.avery@nottingham.ac.uk)), who will be happy to discuss the project with you, send you further information, and welcome you on board.

## Lost Churches and Chapels of Nottinghamshire

Almost every village in the county has an Anglican church, and many have one or more chapels, but what survives today is only the proverbial tip of the iceberg. Before all knowledge of our church and chapel heritage is lost, a project is underway which we hope will end in a Thoroton publication, listing all known churches and chapels in the county on a parish by parish basis.

The project is being co-ordinated by John Beckett and Howard Fisher, with help from Terry Fry, and the intention is to list all churches and chapels, whether surviving as such, or churches and chapels which have been demolished or converted to other uses.

If you would like to be associated with this project, particularly if you can help with particular communities across the county, please contact Professor John Beckett at the Department of History, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, or email: [john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk). All help is welcome.

## Local History in Pictures!

There are two new websites which include a great wealth of picture material relating to local history. Locally the site to click on is: <http://www.picturethepast.org.uk>. This is a Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire joint initiative, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to conserve and make publicly accessible the photographic heritage of the two counties, enabling people to see the richness and diversity of our area's photographic collections. Many of the images are irreplaceable. Digitising protects the originals from wear and tear and enables users all over the world to view the collection via the Internet. You can download the images, and

for a fee use them in publications. It is a real mine of pictorial information.

The other site is run by English Heritage at <http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk>. It is described as an online image resource for England's history and contains about 20,000 photographs. Funded by the New Opportunities Fund, it is part of a long-term goal to provide electronic access to around ten million items from the National Monuments Record. If you need pictures to illustrate your work, or you just want to browse the photographic legacy of our historic past, these are sites well worth visiting.

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## PROFILE OF HOWARD FISHER – NEW MEMBER OF THOROTON COUNCIL

Howard Fisher was born near Keighley, West Yorkshire in 1940 and attended Keighley Boys' Grammar School. On leaving school he joined Martins Bank, and eventually was moved onto Midlands relief staff before working at Market Street and Victoria Street branches in Nottingham. He left there to join the Cornhill Insurance company, whose office at that time was in Regent Street, Nottingham; and later joined the Nottingham family firm of Banwell & Associates as an accident investigator. He then managed offices in Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester, before returning to Nottingham to become MD.

Howard retired in December 1999. He holds certificates in Local History and Medieval Studies from the University of Nottingham. His interests - other than Local History - are gardening and photography. He has been married to Jackie since 1985, and has two daughters from a previous marriage; and also two grandchildren.

<p>Simon Jenkins (The Times and England's Thousand Best Churches) will be giving the <b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SUMMER LECTURE</b> on FRIDAY 27 JUNE AT 8pm at The Minster School Hall, Church Street, Southwell <b>Tickets (price £10) from Becketts, 13 Market Place, Southwell, tel. 01636 812291</b> <b>or 0115 9374961</b></p>
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## REPORTS OF LECTURES & EXCURSIONS

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### **8 March: 'Sundials, Noondials and Meridian Lines' by Mr Douglas Bateman**

The last lecture of the winter season was well attended and perhaps encouraged members to think of summer days to come. The speaker is secretary of the British Sundial Society which, although founded only in 1989, already has an international membership of over 600. Mr. Bateman began with illustrations of a few conventional dials, explained something of the theory, and defined some basic terms such as 'analemma' - that (in his words) strange figure-of-eight like curve which formed the principle feature of the rare, accurate and very elegant dial he designed for the H.Q. building of the Defence Research and Evaluation Agency at Farnborough. The mathematics had to allow for the elliptical orbit of the sun, the longitude of Farnborough, the 'skew' in the orientation of the curtain wall, the thickness of the glass, and the problem of leap years.

Mr. Bateman then embarked on a tour of meridian lines and other dials, including one in

Bologna Cathedral and two survivors in this country, one at Ramsgate Maritime Museum (a hardboard strip replacing the brass one stolen about 1976) and the other at Durham Cathedral (carved on the floor and wall of the cloisters). Calling at Burton Joyce on the way south, we saw the Millennium Dial on Church Road, before returning to Bromley House Library to view Nottingham's own meridian line treasure.

The quality of the slides enhanced members' enjoyment of a well-presented lecture on an unusual subject. The speaker had also brought along a display of models and examples of portable dials, which was much appreciated.

Members will have a chance to see another type of dial - the sundial maze at Bramcote Hills Park - on the evening of Thursday 10th July, when a joint excursion organized with Bramcote Local History Society will be led by Barbara Brooke and John Beckett (see further details enclosed).

**Neville Hoskins**

### **10 May: Excursion to South Nottinghamshire Churches**

The excursion got off to a slow start because of heavy traffic in Nottingham, and the fact that Forest were involved in the 'play offs'. Once clear we made good time to Plumtree and the first of Chris Brooke's erudite and succinct 'sermons'. Saxon foundations, Norman blank arcading and the Bodley & Garner restoration - it made a fitting start to the day. Cotgrave was our next port of call, with its impressive and sensitive restoration after the recent fire, showing that modern architects are quite the equal of their forbears. Its modern glass was particularly attractive. Lunch at Langar followed. Some members of the party checked out the Unicorn's Head - it is, after all, listed in Pevsner. However, the Chips 'n' Cheese soon diverted attention from the architectural merit of the building.

Langar Church, the 'Cathedral of the Vale of Belvoir', with its impressive central tower and its monuments to the Scopes & Chaworths, was visited after lunch, and then it was on to the ruins of the old church at Colston Bassett, which were viewed from the road during a brief stop en route to Kinoulton. Very different from the medieval churches seen so far, Kinoulton Church was built of brick in the Georgian Style in 1792-93. Finally we visited Willoughby-on-the-Wolds - a Simon Jenkins \*\*church, notable particularly for its alabaster tombs of the Willoughby family. A splendid tea in the church rounded up the day.

**Keith Goodman**

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### **Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway**

After the successful preview of the Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway at Bromley House in March, arrangements are in hand for it to go 'live' on a revamped Thoroton website on 7 July.

You will still be able to find the Society's website at [www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk), but the front page will look a little different, and this is partly to accommodate the Gateway. We have made some alterations to the Gateway in response to feedback at the Bromley House preview, but would still welcome comments about content and 'useability'.

If you would like to contribute a pathway please get in touch with the Gateway researcher Dr Denise Amos at [denise.amos@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:denise.amos@nottingham.ac.uk).

### **Joe Nicholson**

Many of you will already know that Joe Nicholson died on 1 June. Joe was for a number of years the Society's lanternist, and always gave tremendous support to Jean, our Programme Secretary. As this newsletter goes to press, we extend our condolences to Jean and to her family.

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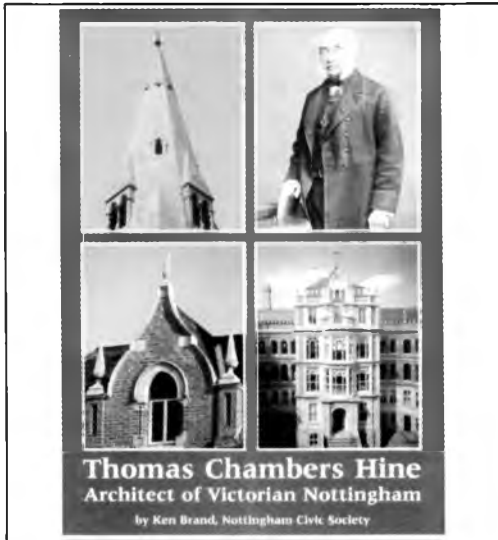
**NEW MEMBERS since the last Newsletter: Mr. & Mrs. R Hawthorn, Dr. S Burch.**

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Ken Brand, *Thomas Chambers Hine: Architect of Victorian Nottingham*  
(Nottingham Civic Society, 2003: ISBN 1 902 443 08 X)**



No one has done more to raise the profile of T.C. Hine than Ken Brand, and with this book he draws together much of the research he has collected over the past twenty or more years. The book examines Hine's early life, his entry into architecture, and then the vast range of buildings for which he was responsible in and around Nottinghamshire. If, today, we think of Hine's name as being synonymous with the Adams and Page warehouse on Stoney Street, as well as the Park Estate, this book reminds us of just how considerable his talents were in a whole range of areas from hospitals to churches, from warehouses to hospitals, and from stations through Nottingham Castle, to domestic houses.

The problem is how to judge Hine. Apart from Cranfield Court, a large country house in Bedfordshire, and a handful of churches in Derbyshire and Lincolnshire, he seldom worked beyond the Nottinghamshire border. Since he also

refused to participate in architectural competitions we cannot really assess him at a national level, so we shall never know just how important he was in the pantheon of Victorian architects. Although not stated as such this is an update of Mr. Brand's earlier civic society pamphlet, but now with many more pictures and an excellent colour section which will surely make this a bestseller for Christmas 2003! **JVB**

**Mark Jancovich, *The Place of the Audience: Cultural Geographies of Film Consumption*  
(London, British Film Institute, 2003: ISBN 0851709427)**

Despite the somewhat off-putting title, this is a historical case study of the history of cinema-going in Nottingham from the first film showing to the present day. It looks at where the cinemas were in the town, who went to them, and what their motives were for attending. The book arises as the result of a major research project directed by Professor Jancovich over the past five years, and is likely to have implications for our understanding of cinema-going as a social activity in the twentieth century. Unfortunately, at £50 it is not a snip to buy - but if you are interested in cinema, try and persuade the Local Studies library to acquire a copy! **JVB**

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## MACE

The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) is the recently established moving image archive for the English Midlands. MACE forms the final part of a network of public sector national and regional moving image archives which collectively care for the UK's moving image heritage. It is currently housed by the University of Nottingham and is working to establish a new purpose-built facility in the region incorporating viewing facilities and climate-controlled storage.

MACE is collecting film, videotape and other moving image material which relates in any way to the Midlands. This may show scenes in the Midlands, or it may have been made by organisations or people based in the Midlands. We would like to hear from anyone in the region who has film or video or knows where moving image materials are being kept and may be in danger of neglect or destruction. We are also eager to hear from people with material that tells us more about film-making and exhibition in the region. If you can help please contact:

**Media Archive for Central England**, Institute of Film Studies, School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 846 6448 Fax: 0115 951 4270 or email –

**Director: James Patterson** [james.patterson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:james.patterson@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Archivist: James Taylor** [james.taylor@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:james.taylor@nottingham.ac.uk) (website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/film/mace/>)

Please send contributions for *Newsletter* No. 33 by 1 August 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.