

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



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

A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

THE 2009 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Our annual lunch event took place on 7 November 2009 on a glorious day and with a format which the Society has not previously followed. The usual practice is to hold this event at various venues throughout the county. This year the event was a moving feast because it was held aboard the Nottingham Princess river cruiser.

The day was bright, sunny and warm and those who had some misgivings about the boat likely to be cold soon had their worries dispelled as the warm sunlight ensured the interior was very comfortable.

We gathered at the landing stage of the Park Yacht Inn on Trent Lane and, whilst waiting to board our vessel, were able to enjoy excellent views of the award winning apartment development of River Crescent, Trent Park which is sited on the banks of the river.

Our boat, the Nottingham Princess, is one of a fleet of pleasure boats operating regularly from this location and available for private functions. She is a two deck vessel and our party occupied both decks with our tables attractively laid out for lunch as we boarded promptly at 11.30 a.m. The boat was very clean, tidy and comfortable. There was no queuing at the bar as can happen because there was a bar on each deck and the staff served quickly and efficiently.

Members who were seated on the lower deck were pleasantly entertained by a duo singing a mixture of folk and pop songs which those on the upper deck were unable to hear. However, John Beckett's welcome was broadcast throughout the boat on its PA system and both decks were able to hear Alan Langton as he said Grace before the meal. After the three courses and before coffee, Jim Chettle proposed a toast to the Thoroton Society in an amusing and topical manner and our President, Rosalys Coope graciously responded.

The food was hot, very well presented and served; the staff being most attentive and efficient so that everyone was able to enjoy their meal in comfort and no-one had to wait for service.

Leaving the Park Yacht Inn we sailed downstream, enjoying the scenery and identifying the places we passed. The river passes the industrial estate at Colwick and, although the views could not be described as pretty, we were able to enjoy seeing the old sugar factory from a different perspective. The building looked rather sad with its broken windows and dilapidated appearance but the solid brickwork and its proud chimney stood tall.

The Holme Pierrepont Water Sports Centre allowed us to see some slalom canoeing as we drew into the lock to experience the slow fall in water level which allowed us to continue the journey under the railway viaduct at Radcliffe-on-Trent and pass below Radcliffe Cliff to turn around at Stoke Bardolph lock.

When the meal was over members visited friends on each deck and many congregated on the after deck to watch the scenery and enjoy a good natter and exchange of views as is usual on these occasions.

The return journey was as pleasant as the outward one and afforded views of birds such as grebes, swans and, on the buoys at Holme Pierrepont lock, cormorants standing on their individual red buoys.

All too soon we were back at our departure point and had to disembark for our onward journey home. It was timely as the weather was beginning to turn colder,

It was very good to see some members present who are recovering from serious illness and to enjoy their company. As always, the company was excellent and the occasion yet again showed how the social aspects of our Society bring members together in congenial circumstances.

2009 will enter Thoroton lore as the year when we ventured to do something different which proved to be a resounding success for all who attended. Indeed, members were discussing other possibilities for the luncheon than our usual restaurant situations, whether this can be achieved remains to be seen and the 2010 lunch will be held at Blyth in the north of the county.

These events do not just happen and a great deal of work is involved in the planning, booking and arrangements for the day. Leslie Cram formulated the idea of a river cruise in his capacity of Programme Secretary and Barbara Cast, as

Society Secretary, made the bookings and seating plan as well as ensuring that all who attended had an excellent day. We owe a good vote of thanks to both of them.

The colour images on the covers, together with the black & white ones inside this issue, give a good flavour of the day and, for members who were unable to be with us, it is hoped provide an encouragement to come and enjoy future luncheons.

Howard Fisher

THOROTON LUNCHEON 2009		GUEST LIST		TABLE NO	
Barnes Lois	5 Lower				
Beckett Christine	1 Upper				
Beckett John	1 Upper				
Bloomfield Peter	1 Upper				
Booley Alfred	3 Upper				
Bradford Ken	3 Upper				
Burke Robert	3 Lower				
Carl Barbara	1 Upper				
Cherry Jim	5 Upper				
Clarke Pauline	5 Upper				
Clarke John	3 Upper				
Coope Rosalys	1 Upper				
Cran David	5 Upper				
Cran Leslie	5 Upper				
Eard Patrick	1 Lower				
Ewart Roy	1 Lower				
Fisher Howard	3 Upper				
Fisher Jackie	3 Upper				
Ford Margaret	4 Upper				
Ford Tony	4 Upper				
Fry Terry	3 Upper				
Gamer Anthony	3 Lower				
Gamer Dave	1 Lower				
Goodman Ed M	2 Upper				
Goodman Margaret	2 Upper				
Granger Christopher	6 Lower				
Harrison John	6 Lower				
Haves Susan	4 Upper				
Hendrick Adrian	2 Upper				
Hendrick Victoria	2 Upper				
Hogg Janet	2 Upper				
Hogg Ann	6 Lower				
Hosking Ann	1 Upper				
Hosking David	1 Upper				
Hosking Sarah	1 Upper				
Howell Margaret	4 Upper				
Hutchinson David	1 Lower				
Hutchinson Shirley	1 Lower				
Johannes Dorothy	5 Upper				
Langton Alan	2 Upper				
Little Carl	2 Upper				
Little Derek	2 Upper				
McLure Diana	1 Lower				
McLure Ian	1 Lower				
Macdonald Penelope	2 Lower				
Miller Brian	3 Upper				
Miller Pauline	3 Upper				
Moore Carl	4 Upper				
Moore John	4 Upper				
Murphy Sheila	1 Lower				
Nicholson Joan	1 Lower				
Nicholson William	1 Lower				
Petersen-Turner Nick	2 Lower				
Pickering Rosemary	2 Lower				
Pringle Dennis	4 Lower				
Riddish Ann	5 Upper				
Riddish Peter	5 Upper				
Roberts Anne	5 Lower				
Roberts Julie	5 Lower				
Roberts Anne	7 Lower				
Robinson Betty	4 Lower				
Robinson Elizabeth	4 Lower				
Scott Madeline	5 Upper				
Simons Anthony	5 Lower				
Simons David	5 Lower				
Snell Margaret	1 Lower				
Stephenson Margaret	2 Lower				
Stobart Marion	1 Lower				
Wallbank Stephen	4 Upper				
Warner Tony	4 Upper				
Wells Claire	4 Upper				
White Gillian	6 Lower				
White Ted	6 Lower				
Wilson Anne	2 Lower				
Wilson John	2 Lower				

RECENT SOCIETY EXHIBITIONS

National Heritage Day was held on 12 September 2009 when many institutions opened their doors to the public. Our meeting place, The Mechanics Institute in Nottingham decided to have an Open Day and invited all the societies using their facilities to put on small exhibitions. Margaret Trueman and I put on an exhibition for The Thoroton Society.

The event was fairly successful but visitor numbers did not really justify the time spent. The lovely weather

possibly had an effect with people preferring to be outside.

On 21 September we took the exhibition to the Bramcote Local History Fair. This event was held in the evening and was very successful. We had a lot of interest in the Society and a number of people took our leaflets and programme cards.

Margaret and I would like to thank John Hamilton for his help on both occasions.

Penny Messenger

THE MYLES THOROTON HILDYARD LECTURE

Saturday, 17 October 2009

GOLD IN THE WARS OF THE ROSES: the 15th century coin hoard from Fishpool

Dr. Barrie Cook

Although suffering from the aftermath of a heavy cold, Dr. Cook, who is Curator of Medieval and Early Modern Coinage at the British Museum, gave an enthusiastic talk on the Fishpool Gold Hoard to a packed audience at the first meeting of the autumn lecture season at the Nottingham Mechanics. Dr. Cook's research interests include the recording and publishing of medieval and early modern coin hoards and the use of city views on coins



and medals of early modern Europe. He is at present working on a joint project with BBC Radio 4 to chart the history of the world through objects in the British Museum. The series is due to be broadcast from January 2010.

He concentrated his talk on the coins found in the Fishpool Hoard although there were nine pieces of jewellery found with the coins but Barrie freely admitted that he is not an expert on jewellery.

The coin hoard consisted of 1,237 gold coins, mostly English nobles (a noble being worth 6s.8d. or one third of a pound), half nobles and quarter nobles. They ranged in date from 1351, when gold coinage was introduced into England, to the latest coins in the group: 63 coins of Edward IV, of a particularly heavy type issued between 1460 and August 1464. The hoard also included 233 foreign coins: issues of James II of Scotland, Charles VII of France and Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy. Most of the nobles were made in London, but some (bearing a flag) were struck at the Calais mint. Barrie explained why some of the coins had been 'clipped'. This was not done fraudulently, but came about as a result of a revision of the currency in 1412, which led to a reduction in the weight of the noble from 120 grains to 108 grains (a grain is

equivalent to 0.0648 grams).

A lively discussion followed the talk on how and why the hoard came to be buried in the Ravenshead area. It is clear that the coins were deliberately concealed since they were found neatly stacked, suggesting that they had been in a cloth container which had disintegrated. The hoard's composition ruled out the possibility that it was wealth accumulated over many years, and any connection with neighbouring Newstead Abbey was very unlikely. It seems probable that it originally formed part of the Lancastrian Royal Treasury entrusted to someone fleeing south after the Battle of Hexham in May 1464. Why wasn't the hoard retrieved at a later date? Opinion amongst the audience varied. Some thought that perhaps the person simply forgot where he buried it; maybe in a barren landscape with no obvious landmarks, but Barrie was of the opinion that the person probably died before he was able to retrieve it and so the knowledge died with him.

A very enjoyable lecture with the audience still pondering over the hoard's value and provenance as they dispersed homewards.

For further information on the hoard see:

Marion Archibald; 'Fishpool, Blidworth (Notts), 1966 Hoard: Interim Report', *Num. Chron. VII* (1967), 133-46

J. Cherry, 'The Medieval Jewellery from the Fishpool, Nottinghamshire Hoard', *Archaeologia* 104 (1973), 307-21

Copies of both articles can be found in the Nottingham Local Studies Library, Angel Row, Nottingham.

Trevor Foulds

FUTURE LECTURES

All held at The Nottingham Mechanics Institute, commencing at 2.45 p.m.

Saturday, 9 January 2010 - THE NORA WITHAM LECTURE

CONSERVATION AND DECORATION IN THE NATIONAL TRUST; recent work at Hardwick Hall and Belton

Andrew Barber is Curator Interiors for the East Midlands Region of the National Trust based at Clumber Park. His lecture will look at the history of the great set of thirteen tapestries telling the story of Gideon, from the Long Gallery at Hardwick Hall, which Bess of Hardwick acquired from the estate of the recently deceased Sir Christopher Hatton in 1592, and the challenge of cleaning and conserving over 400 years' accumulation of dirt and damage.

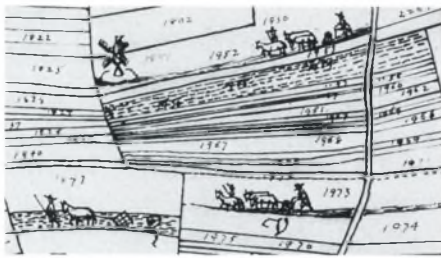
By contrast he will look at Belton House near Grantham, built in 1685-8 and at the decade long campaign to enliven and restore the grand state interiors to the glitz and glamour of their 1930's heyday at the time of the charismatic 3rd Earl Brownlow. Thoroton members will recall that we have recently visited both stately homes on our excursion programme.



Gideon

SATURDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2010 - THE MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE

LAXTON; THE CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE: Hugh Matheson



Detail from the twentieth-century tracing of Mark Pierce's estate map of Laxton, drawn in 1635 on the orders of the then Lord of the Manor, Sir William Courten. Published by kind permission of the University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections Department (reference MS 280)

Hugh Matheson represents the outright denial of the principle of primogeniture which, for centuries, determined the inheritance of property in England. In 1976 he came into the Pierrepoint estates in Nottinghamshire as the youngest child, of the youngest child, of the youngest child of the 3rd Lord Manvers. He has been a trustee of the National Trust since 2005 after serving for nine years as Chairman of the East Midlands

Regional Committee. The NT connection began in 1994 at the same time as he began to build a new house at Thoresby to replace the 84,000 square feet of Salvin's Imperial magnificence which is now a destination resort owned by Warner Holidays. Critical to the new building, which is far from complete, is the five years he spent as a bricklayer and plasterer after leaving University without a degree in 1969. The bulk of the collection of pictures and furniture is now in the house and the room currently under construction is the library to hold the books which have been on loan to Spencer House in London for 21 years.

The Pierrepoints owned the freehold of Laxton from 1640 to 1952 when it passed to the Ministry of Agriculture under the 'acceptance in lieu' provisions for death duties on the 5th Earl Manvers, whose estate was held in trust by the Master in Lunacy. Hugh Matheson will attempt to unravel the agricultural practice, principles of good husbandry and legal obligations which are of such enduring significance that they must survive the continual mutations of farming so that the unique inheritance of Laxton can persist.

SATURDAY, 13 MARCH 2010 - THE MYLES THOROTON HILDYARD LECTURE

THE LONGCASE CLOCK 1675-1900: Alan Middleton

Viscount Alan Middleton, FBHI, worked in antique clock conservation before becoming Keeper of Horology at the John Gershom Parkington Memorial Collection of Time Measurement Instruments in Bury St. Edmunds from 1986 to 2000. He was one of the horological experts on the Antiques Roadshow for eleven years until 2006. He is now Curator and Librarian at the British Horological Institute,

The BHS was founded in London in 1858 and moved its headquarters to Upton Hall near Newark in 1972.

Upton Hall houses the library and museum, has facilities for research and hosts seminars for the BHI examinations which award the Certificate in Clock and Watch Servicing and the Certificate in the Repair, Restoration and Conservation of Clocks and Watches. Membership of the BHI is offered at grades of Fellow, Member, Associate and Student.

Alan will talk with illustrations on the Longcase clock over the period 1675-1900. He will cover the subject broadly including examples from the USA.



The face of a longcase clock from Nottinghamshire.

W. E. GLADSTONE (1809-98): THE GRAND OLD MAN IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The bicentenary of William Ewart Gladstone's birth, on 29 December 1809, is being commemorated within Nottinghamshire with a series of related exhibitions and public events, to be held between November 2009 and March 2010. Gladstone was first returned to parliament as MP for Newark in 1832 but retained his close connections with the town and county after he retired from the constituency in 1846. Gladstone enjoyed good relations with many of the county's leading families, including the Dukes of Newcastle and Portland. In later life Gladstone was a trustee of the Newcastle development of Nottingham Castle and presence at the foundation of University a direct link between the 'Grand Old Man' (later life) and the history of the University

The commemorative events begin, exhibitions of Gladstone related material November and Newark Library from 25 exhibition, 'The Changing Face of Mr. Patrick Mercer, MP for Newark, on Friday by a talk entitled 'Gladstone and the 4th Gaunt, a Thoroton Council member, which associations through images and University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and the Nottinghamshire Archives. The Gallery, D. H. Lawrence Pavilion, December 2009 to 21 March 2010, Thursday, 10 December between 5 and 7 the University's mailing list for Weston Gallery events is asked to contact Manuscripts and Special Collections on 0115-951-4565. A series of talks and events will also be held to accompany this exhibition. Places are limited so please book tickets with the Box Office on 0115-846-7777.



estate which gave him a role in the the Park estate. Meanwhile his College, Nottingham in 1877, records (as Gladstone was popularly known in of Nottingham.

appropriately enough, in Newark, with at the Millgate Museum from 21 November. The Town Hall Museum's Gladstone', will be officially opened by 27 November. This will be followed Duke of Newcastle' by Dr. Richard commemorates Gladstone's local contemporary accounts from the and Special Collections Department exhibition, to be held at the Weston Lakeside Arts Centre, from 11 commences with a private view on p.m. Anyone who is not already on

Richard Gaunt

HENRY HURD SWINNERTON *by Ken Brand*

The name of Henry Hurd Swinnerton is rarely heard in Thoroton circles these days, yet Professor Swinnerton (1875-1966) was the first Head of the Department of Geology and Geography at University College, Nottingham. He was Professor of Geology from 1910 to his retirement in 1946. Away from his more technical papers his most popular book was *Fossils* in Collins' *New Naturalists* series, published in 1960 and written when he was in his eighties. So next year marks the fiftieth anniversary of its publication. When I set out to write this little note it was Professor Swinnerton's first,

rather modest, book *Nottinghamshire*, in the *Cambridge County Geographies* published in 1910, from which I was going to quote - in celebration of its centenary There is a copy of the unaltered second edition of 1920 in the Nottingham Local Studies Library, Angel Row and no doubt copies are in other County Libraries. It is worth seeking out for it does give a concise review of our county 100 years ago. The whole volume is also reproduced on Andy Nicholson's excellent *Nottinghamshire History* web site look under 'Nottinghamshire History Subjects'.

BOOK REVIEWS

Stuart B. Jennings, *'These Uncertain Tymes'; Newark and the Civilian Experience of the Civil Wars 1640-1660*. Nottinghamshire County Council, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-902751-62-0

Stuart Jennings is a well-known researcher and writer of local history, and his previous studies of the Newark-based regiment of Colonel William Staunton have made an ideal foundation for this informative and enjoyable 146 page book.

'These Uncertain Tymes' is an apt title for his detailed account of the impact of the Civil Wars on Newark and its citizens subsequent struggle for survival. The author starts by placing the town in context. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, Newark was the second largest town in Nottinghamshire, an ancient and thriving market town distinguished by somewhat dilapidated medieval walls and gates. By the 1630s Newark town was suffering economic difficulties resulting from reductions in trade along the river Trent. Poor harvests and falling trade in grain added further to its hardship, and as Newark approached the 1640s it was clearly a town ill-prepared, both economically and defensively, for the coming conflict. Despite its problems, Newark's riverside location meant that it was strategically important to the Royalists as a centre for communication. By controlling Newark, they would safeguard vital routes to King Charles' headquarters at Oxford and the important towns of York and Newcastle.

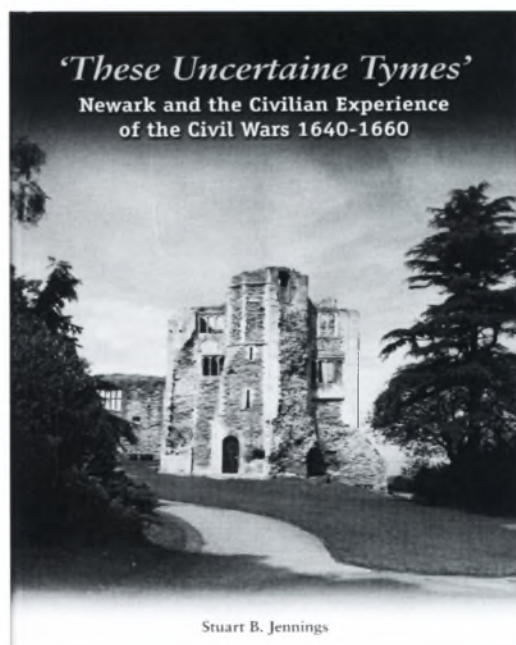
A superb narrative captures the tensions within the town during the descent into civil war and during the subsequent sieges, as Parliamentarian Nottingham sought to break the Royalist's grip on Newark. As the opposing sides prepare for conflict, soldiers and townspeople alike are seen to be working together to fortify their town. Within ten weeks the ramparts had been strengthened and ditches dug around strategically important locations. The author uses fascinating contemporary eyewitness accounts in bringing the conflict to life as it develops. There are vivid descriptions of an early skirmish, which tests the town's defences of artillery bombardment and Parliamentary cavalry charges viewed from the top of St. Mary Magdalene's spire. The ebb and flow of Royalist and Parliamentary fortunes culminated in the third and final siege, ending in the surrender of Newark in May 1646. Events during and after the sieges, and their impact on the lives of the ordinary inhabitants of Newark are skilfully described and analysed, and the use of contemporary descriptions provides a series of snapshots of life for both soldiers and citizens. Due to the ruinous state of the castle, the task of billeting soldiers fell to ordinary citizens in Newark and the surrounding villages. Costs are itemized for the cleaning and repair of stables and the removal of filth from surrounding streets. A fascinating account is given of how ingredients were obtained for the manufacture of gunpowder. The quality of food deteriorated during the winter of 1645-6 causing conflict between town and garrison, but not as severe, perhaps, as a surviving example of Parliamentarian propaganda suggests.

A grim picture of the town emerges, with typhus, an occupational hazard for soldiers serving in seventeenth

century armies, quickly spreading through the population during 1643 to 1645. According to a contemporary account, Royalist soldiers brought plague into the town in 1646, which may have helped avoid immediate occupation of the town following surrender. Interesting references from primary sources include public orders recorded in the Borough minute book detailing instructions on how to control the plague. Snapshots of individual family tragedies reveal an example of a father and four children dying within 21 days of infection. The author states that both diseases killed more of Newark's civilians than the fighting.

Despite the effects of the Civil War, documentation indicates leaders and civilians of Newark were determined to maintain a semblance of normality, including the provision of poor relief and education. An analysis of marriages between 1630 and 1659 reveals, surprisingly, an increase over the period 1644-1646 as the uncertainty of the war encouraged couples into wedlock. An equally detailed analysis of the baptismal registers of the parish church provides an insight into contemporary childbirth statistics, with an increase in births shown for the years 1643-45. The author's opinion is that, despite difficult times, 'couples continued to fall in love and create new families'.

Following the execution of Charles 1 in January 1649, England, Wales and Ireland were declared to be a 'commonwealth and free state'. The author reveals that it was not until 1650 that the new republican authorities focussed their attentions on former Royalist Newark. Royalist aldermen were removed from the Corporation, an act that almost caused complete chaos, and there is a wonderfully detailed account of how the town corporation remained largely in the hands of wily Royalist supporters.



The medieval church of St. Mary Magdalene did not escape unscathed, and the events of the 1640s and 1650s are covered in the churchwardens' accounts for this period. It is suggested that lead from the roof may have been used to manufacture musket balls for the Royalist garrison; medieval glass was deliberately destroyed by Puritan iconoclasts, and several other furnishings, including the organ and pulpit were removed before they too became victims of the new regime. Fasts, sermons and enforcement of Sabbath observance describe the new regime's impact and the abolishing of Christmas celebrations is revealed.

The book has a pleasing layout with well-spaced text. Its narrative is well supported by a contents page and index, and with photographs, maps and tables. There is a useful chronology of the first Civil War relating to Newark along with extensive end-notes and bibliography for those who wish to read more about this fascinating subject. This book deserves to be widely read by local historians and anyone with an interest in this period and Newark's history.

Colin Pendleton

Philip E. Jones, *Turning Back the Pages in Ravenshead*, 2009, Nottinghamshire County Council ISBN: 978-0-9027151-64-4

Recently published by Nottinghamshire County Council is this collection of Ravenshead images compiled by lifetime resident of the village, and well-known Thoroton Council member, Philip Jones.

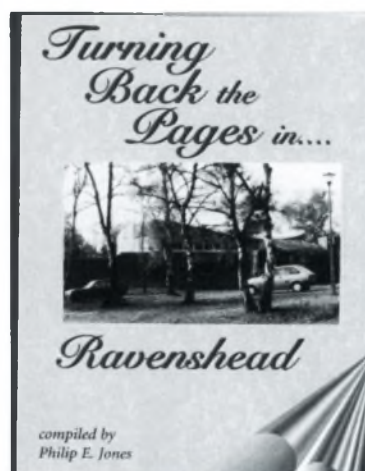
The book has 40 pages, 38 of which carry images, all in black and white but reproduced to a high quality. Each image is captioned by Philip in a most informative way and the book provides a record of the history of Ravenshead which is of wider interest than just to residents, current and past.

As would be expected there are several pictures of what the countryside looked like before the 1960s and later housing developments took place and which show the reader what was lost in these developments. Ravenshead is, of course, not alone in losing parts of the countryside to such development and we are seeing today the prospective loss of large tracts of greenbelt land to similar developments as, for example, at Sharpbill in Rushcliffe. Philip's book is a reminder to record such land before it is subsumed in concrete.

Of particular interest in the book are the pictures of buildings no longer extant; the ex-Army hut bought in 1946 and erected as St. Peter's Church Hall used until 1971; the Free Methodist chapel built in 1864 which was reputed to be the smallest chapel in the county at 25x27

feet and gave Chapel Lane its name; Newstead hospital opened in 1942 by the City of Nottingham as a TB sanatorium and the old Post Office which closed in 2000. There are several other such representations of much interest.

The book costs £3.95 from the Thoroton bookstall and libraries in Nottinghamshire. It can also be bought direct from the author at £4.50 including p&p, contact Philip at 40, Regina Crescent, Ravenshead, Nottingham, NG15 9AE.



Howard Fisher

Mark Dawson, *Plenti and Grase: food and drink in a sixteenth-century household*, 2009, Prospect Books. ISBN: 978 1 903018-56-9. £30.00

Dr Mark Dawson gave the Thoroton Society's Nottinghamshire History Lecture in 2008 on the subject of food (*Transactions 112, 2008, pp.159-76*) and he has now published a study of eating and drinking at Wollaton Hall. Mark spent many hours working through the Willoughby family papers, which are housed in the University of Nottingham's Manuscript Department, and has as a result been able to answer all sorts of questions about what they consumed in an aristocratic household. The book has two main sections, one dealing with supply and the other with demand. Supply is about where the Willoughbys bought their food, whether locally or from London, and from markets, fairs and other suppliers. It is about what they ate, including bread, meat and dairy products, fish, fruit and vegetables, salt, vinegar, honey, wine, sugar, spices and dried fruit. The second main section looks at how the food arriving at Wollaton was

processed for the table, and then how it was eaten. We learn about storage and preservation, about cooks and their kitchen, mealtimes, menus, dining arrangements, salted herrings, turkeys, food spicing, beer, and much more besides. This is the story of an aristocratic rather than a representative household - the book's title is not helpful, although if you worked below stairs at Wollaton you could eat pretty well.

Mark Dawson provides a wealth of detail about the food of our ancestors, and in particular a new perspective on a house we all know and love. Finally, hands up: how many Thorotonians knew that 'the perfumed scent of rose-water was much prized in Tudor cookery' (p.171)?

John Beckett

Ed: My wife was given a recipe for Christmas cake by her first husband's grand mother which included rose-water. It was slightly oily and added moisture to the cake. It could be bought at a shop in Darlington in the 1970s.

THOROTON SOCIETY OFFICERS - AND WHAT THEY DO

Following requests from Members for an explanation of the functions of the Society's Officers, our Secretary, Barbara Cast, has compiled the following explanation of the various duties of the individuals concerned.

The Society relies on its Council and officers to keep it active, continually developing, interesting and attractive to members and potential members; also fulfilling its principal aims of study and research. Over the last couple of years there have been a few changes and we felt it would be helpful to let members know who does what, and who you should contact if there are enquiries, or even what role you might feel you would like to take on at some point.

The business of the Society is undertaken by its Council, which in turn delegates its day-to-day business to the Standing Committee or to one of the officers which make up the Standing Committee. The Society has no employees; all tasks are undertaken by volunteers.

The Chairman, John Beckett, has a leading role in guiding the direction which the Society takes: he chairs Council and the Standing Committee and is involved in all aspects of its work, including its publications. The Editors, Richard Gaunt (lead editor), Keith Challis (archaeology) and Adrian Henstock (Record series), together with the Publications Committee, determine and manage the Society's Transactions and Record Series publications.

The Hon. Secretary, Barbara Cast, has an organisational and administrative role, arranging Council meetings, the AGM and the annual lunch. She also compiles the annual report, draws up guidance for officers (called the Thoroton Year) and responds on behalf of the Society to national and local matters of concern or interest. If in doubt as to where to make enquiries, Barbara is the first port of call and will direct queries to the appropriate person.

The Hon. Treasurer, John Wilson, is responsible for ensuring the Society is on a sound financial footing and reports regularly to Council and the Standing Committee on the current situation. He manages all financial affairs for the benefit of the Society, makes sure all payments

etc. are made and draws up the annual accounts.

Howard Fisher is our Newsletter Editor and under his editorship this paper gets more and more attractive and informative. He welcomes articles and ideas for the Newsletter.

Our Circulations Secretary, David Bagley, does an excellent job in ensuring the Newsletter and information on events is sent to every member in good time.

We now have a dedicated Membership Secretary, John Hamilton, who deals with membership enquiries and applications and also ensures that our leaflets are displayed as widely as possible.

The arrangements for drawing up and managing the annual programme are in process of change: Leslie Cram, who has been masterminding the programme for a good number of years, has decided to relinquish the role so that he can concentrate on other things. The Society is most grateful for all he has done to ensure an excellent programme is provided. We will, from January, have a duo of programme secretaries with David Hoskins taking responsibility for lectures and Alan Langton for excursions.

We are also most fortunate to have an excellent webmaster in Andy Nicholson who keeps our website up to date and looking exceedingly attractive and professional.

There are also representatives to undertake specific oversight roles on county and city planning, archaeology, and to sit on various bodies relevant to the Society's interests. They report back to Council on a regular basis.

The Society is indebted to the Lecture Team of Peter Reddish, David Hoskins and to Margery Penn and Elizabeth Robinson for their invaluable input to the lectures; also to the bookstall team of Penny Messenger, Margaret Trueman and Philip Jones.

This is not a comprehensive list of all those who play important roles in the Society's activities but should give a fair guide to who does what.

MAKING HISTORY: 300 YEARS OF ANTIQUARIES IN BRITAIN

Currently showing at Lincoln The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln, this exhibition contains unique treasures from the Society of Antiquaries of London. Guest curated by Dr. David Starkey, the exhibition explores the creation of the nation's heritage over three hundred years since the founding of the Society in 1707.

Rarely seen objects such as the hair and part of a Roman bronze These will be displayed alongside archaeological collections as well as narrative illustrating milestones in interpretation and communication of Associated events include *Ages* (10 December at 7 pm); *The* (15 December at 7 pm); *Antiquarian Stained Glass Workshop for Beginners* (28 November 10 am to 3.30 pm) and *Stained Glass Workshop for 12 to 18 year olds* (12 December 10 am to 3.30 pm).



Lindsey Psalter, a lock of Edward IV's equestrian statue found in Lincoln. objects from the museum's own some more recent finds to provide a the discovery, recording, preservation, our past, both nationally and regionally. *Lincolnshire Saltmaking through the Discovery of Roman Lincoln Heraldry* (1 December at 1 pm);

Details at www.makinghistory.sal.org.uk and www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/eventDetails.asp?Eventcode=49449.

EAST MIDLANDS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

A Climate change workshop was held in the county last July in the first part of which the group looked at scoping the the range of climate change impacts on the historic environment. The matrix of impacts has now been developed to include detailed comments and contributions from participants. This is available from the workshops page of the CBA website at www.britarch.ac.uk/conservation/climate/workshop where there is a link to the Nottingham Declaration website carrying details of the workshop and its outputs.

Joint regional priorities for leadership on climate change and the historic environment - based on the workshop findings - are expected to be adopted by the East Midlands Heritage Forum.

- Access for owners, their agents and contractors to advice and guidance on the management of historic assets in new climatic conditions

- A robust, shared and simple methodology for the assessment and registering of risk to heritage assets from new climatic conditions, and from proposals for adaptation and mitigation
- Guidance for policy makers to ensure regional and local plans address vulnerabilities and opportunities of the historic environment (e.g. On NI188, the wealth of case studies from the workshop, and on issues to be addressed in a further workshop)
- Making a clear case, widely accepted, for the positive contribution that utilizing and reusing historic assets can make in adapting to climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

A summary report of the event and next steps will be published during the autumn.

THANK YOU, LESLIE

Leslie Cram is stepping down from the post of Programme Secretary having undertaken this task since the AGM 2004 with his first programme of events starting in January 2005. During his term in office

Leslie has given us a varied programme of outings and speakers which many of us have enjoyed.

Thank you, Leslie, from all members, for the work you have done on our behalf.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since the Autumn Newsletter:

Miss B. F. Doherty
Mrs. C. Wilkins

Mr. J. Eedy

Miss R. Farrand

Mr. & Mrs. J. Schrodell

THE MANSFIELD and BASFORD POOR LAW UNION LETTERS AN OPPORTUNITY

There are thousands of underused and unlisted letters, memos and reports from the Basford and Mansfield Poor Law Unions held at The National Archives, Kew.

The National Archives is running an archival project called 'Living the Poor Life' which involves groups of people with an interest in local, family and social history.

There are currently around 200 volunteer editors, from all over the country, working on around 105 volumes of nineteenth century poor law correspondence records. These volunteers download digital images from the project website and then write up catalogue entries for the records which then go into the electronic catalogue making them word searchable. The document images are provided online at no cost.

Within the records are local allegations of cruelty to individual paupers, instances of workhouse disturbances, accounts of political and Chartist activities, letters referring to children in the south sent to the northern mills, reports on medical matters, accounts of those suffering breakdowns and other mental health problems, and details of thousands of paupers: those who did not share in Britain's position of the 'Workshop of the World'. These records are essential for family and local historians and anyone interested in the history of poverty, pauper education, public health, labour matters and wages.

TNA supplies scanned copies of the documents, full training and support as well as helping to publicise the 'hidden histories' found by volunteers.

To volunteer or request further information please contact Dr Paul Carter, c/o The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU or via email: paul.carter@nationalarchives.gov.uk.

Thoroton Council member, Philip Jones, has been involved with the Southwell Union Correspondence Project run by TNA for several years and has found it a very worthwhile project.

MAPPING THE MOMENT: PERFORMANCE CULTURE IN NOTTINGHAM, 1857-67

This newly launched project which can be found on the web at www.nottingham.ac.uk/mapmoment investigates the performance and entertainment culture of Nottingham in the mid-nineteenth century. In a collaboration between theatre history and geographical information science, based at the University of Nottingham and supported by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, an interactive map of Nottingham has been developed which will enable users to find out about the kinds of performances and entertainments which were happening in the town, and about the audiences who might have attended those performances. Working in partnership with local archives, museums and libraries, the site enables digital access through the map to a large amount of material on entertainment and social culture which has previously been difficult to access. The material has been collected from newspapers, diaries, playbills and other sources, including the 1861 population census.

The map of Nottingham which forms the centrepiece of the website is designed to make the data collected

through the project accessible to local historians and researchers in a context which stresses the inter-connection of sites of entertainment - and the performances themselves - within the boundaries of the nineteenth century town. We hope that in doing so our research helps to recover a sense of the social and cultural landscape through which spectators of performance in Nottingham would have moved on their way to the theatre, lecture rooms, concert halls, or the town's Goose Fair during the years of the study,

The period 1857-67 was chosen for the project because it was a time of change and renewal in Nottingham. The 1850s and 1860s saw the town's population increase by 29,000 and the housing stock nearly double. There were also important changes in the performance culture of the town, registered in particular by the building of the new Theatre Royal at the top of what is now Market Street, itself replacing the much narrower 'nuisance' of Sheep Lane, and the regeneration of the surrounding area.

Joanna Robinson

THOROTON'S ANTIQUITIES - 1ST EDITION

What is believed to be a first edition of Thoroton's Antiquities of Nottingham, said to be complete and in very good condition, is for sale. The contact number is 01522-703786. No price has been quoted.

CBA EAST MIDLANDS MEMBERS RESEARCH DAY

The East Midlands branch of the Council for British Archaeology is holding a Members' Research event on Saturday, 27 March 2010 at Lowdham Village Hall.

There is a huge amount of work being conducted by local archaeological and historical groups and it is hard to keep up with the range and variety of projects conducted over the whole of the East Midlands area.

CBA East Midlands in conjunction with the Bingham Heritage Trust Association, are hosting a 'Members' Research Day' where all groups are invited to attend to present the results of their research. Formal spoken presentations, display boards and posters are all welcome.

For further information please contact D. Garton, 12, Collington Street, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1FJ or daryl@dgarton.plus.com.

EDITOR'S APPEAL

I am very conscious of the fact that much content in the Newsletters is orientated around Nottingham and the south of the county. This is, to a large extent, inevitable with the universities and several cultural centres based in and around the city of Nottingham. However, there are many events, exhibitions and developments, all with a historical context, taking place in other parts of the county and I would like to be able to publicise and report on these to make the Newsletter inclusive of all

Thoroton members' interests wherever they be located in Nottinghamshire.

I therefore appeal to a reader, or readers, based around Mansfield, Newark, Retford and Worksop, to become regular contributors with news from their areas. This need not be onerous, just to make sure that I can cover the whole county which, after all, The Thoroton Society serves.

Please contact me if you can help.

The DEADLINE for the Spring issue of the Newsletter is 1 February. Items should be sent to the Editor, Howard Fisher at 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ or by email to hf773@btinternet.com. Images are particularly welcome to accompany items. All copyright remains with the authors of items which cannot be reproduced without explicit permission.

Any views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the Thoroton Society or its Officers and Council members.



Leslie Cram who is leaving the role of Programme Secretary



Keith Goodman who has handled the arrangements for our outings for several years as well as providing many photographs of speakers and events for the Newsletter: Keith is stepping down from the outings post.



David Hoskins who has taken on the task of arranging our lectures as joint Programme Secretary with Alan Langton who is to handle the excursions. Alan is pictured on the front cover saying Grace at the luncheon.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE LUNCHEON



