

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER Issue 61 AUTUMN 2010



*Members being addressed at Winkburn.
(See report inside)*



Winkburn Hall



*Carlton-in-Lindrick Church
(See report inside)*

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

THE 2010 EXCURSIONS

GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE AND HARLAXTON MANOR - 23 MAY

Despite some initial hesitation about arranging a Thoroton excursion on a Sunday, in fact the outing proved very popular, with a full coach. The weather too was propitious, with hot sun all day - to the point that it was a welcome relief to enter the cool of these two stately buildings.

At both destinations, the welcome given to members by the guardians and guides was most kind. Again, at both places, we were given full and detailed guided tours by teams of knowledgeable and humorous volunteers.

Grimsthorpe proved a fascinating mixture of styles, from the medieval to the 20th century, as each resident had put his or her own particular stamp upon the buildings and the state rooms. All are in beautiful condition and clearly well cared for despite being obviously 'lived-in' as the present owner's home.

At Grimsthorpe we were given coffee and biscuits when we arrived, and a very generous soup and sandwich lunch before we left.

Harlaxton, which is now an affluent college of the University of Evansville, U.S.A., is also a building with an intriguing history and a proliferation of elaborate styles, even though the building was begun only in 1832 by a wealthy bachelor with the mysterious name of Gregory Gregory and having a consuming passion for architecture. Here, members were overawed by the Great Hall, the Gold Drawing Room, the Cedar Staircase, and the restored Conservatory. In the latter we were served tea and scones before we left for home.

Alan Langton

WORKSOP, CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK AND BLYTH - 26 JUNE

Another delightfully sunny day greeted the forty members as they journeyed through the Dukeries to Worksop. We were greeted with coffee by members of the Priory Church of Our Lady and Saint Cuthbert, and then entertained by a knowledgeable member of the congregation, Mr. Frank Underwood, who gave us a splendid historical outline of the church. Frank pointed out significant features, especially the original oak south door, and cleverly joined up the history of the Priory with local and national historical events. Members were particularly interested in the way that modern rebuilding of the east end sanctuary has been tastefully added to the lovely old Norman nave.

On our way to Blyth we stopped at the church of Saint John the Evangelist, Carlton-in-Lindrick, which is most probably a Saxon foundation and even has a few bricks which may go back to Roman times. Pevsner described the building as the most important late Saxon monument in the county. The church possesses some very interesting artefacts, especially an alabaster

carving of the Holy Trinity. The north aisle has the Becket Chapel with an altar stone dedicated to the murdered Archbishop, and first recorded in the will of a Carlton inhabitant in 1490.

At Blyth, where we stopped for a lunch break, we were welcomed by Mrs Linda Lees, a lively and charismatic lady, who has dedicated the last five years to investigating the historical details of what remains of the ancient and very large Norman Benedictine Priory, and preparing notes about the features for the benefit of visitors. The most special feature that has been restored is the great Doom painting on the east wall, until recently hidden by the large eighteenth century Mellish monument. Other features include a fifteenth century painted screen and the thirteenth century south porch and vaulted nave roof.

A most enjoyable day was completed with tea at Ossington.

Alan Langton

WINKBURN, 10 JULY

The sun shone yet again for this third visit when 51 members attended. The twenty or so who went by car were kept waiting on the lawn in front of the house as the coach passengers made their way from the gate which looked too narrow for the coach to drive through. This had the advantage that the house was slowly revealed as we walked down the curving drive past the trees hiding the house.

We were warmly greeted by Richard and Jane Craven-Smith-Milnes, the present residents and the latest in a line of family owners which stretches right back to the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Winkburn with its church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and in the 12th century it became a Commandery of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem. At the Dissolution, the manor, which comprised the whole

village and church, was acquired by King Henry's auditor, Thomas Burnell. It remained owned and occupied by his descendants, several times through the female line, until 1934. It was brought back into family ownership in 1980, by which time it had been empty for 20 years. Not surprisingly it was by then in a dire state of disrepair.

The Hall was built around 1695 by William Burnell on the site of an earlier house now lost. The architect is uncertain but it was quite likely Smith of Warwick. Originally, the main entrance was on the east face of the house, the opposite to the present entrance. This led directly into a large hall, now the dining room and the largest room in the house. The room is dominated by a magnificent mahogany dining table made by Ralph Craven-Smith-Milnes, the present owner's father, then

in his 80s. Here too are two of Winkburn's greatest treasures, the over door decorations, which are both of great interest and possibly unique.

As well as family portraits, the dining room also contains two large landscape pictures, loaned by the Welbeck Estate. The Estate's generosity in both giving and loaning various items to facilitate the restoration of Winkburn was readily acknowledged.

Moving on, the current Entrance Hall is the result of several major alterations over the centuries. The great stone cantilevered staircase was added around 1750, the four columns in the early 1800s, and the unusual cast iron balustrades in 1837. The ceiling above the stairwell boasts a fine plaster decoration which suffered more than anywhere else during the period of neglect. The repair to this ceiling and cornice was the work of Jane Craven-Smith-Milnes herself, and members admired the marvellous quality of the restoration, both here and elsewhere in the house. 1837 also saw the replacement of the original mansard roof with the present top floor. Much care was clearly taken to match the new storey with the existing architecture.

We also saw the Library and Drawing Room, both well proportioned rooms, each lit on two sides by four

elegant windows, which are a feature of the whole house.. A briefer look at the bedrooms on the first floor

allowed a little time to admire the fine series of framed prints displayed on the walls. A highlight were the two four-poster beds, one a recent exact copy by Vietnamese workers of the original English one.

A much welcome cup of tea in the large kitchen completed our tour of the house and fortified us to look at the church. This modest structure, lying in the shadow of the hall, is nevertheless of



much interest. It contains a full set of box pews which give it a special atmosphere. It is one of only a small handful in England dedicated to St. John of Jerusalem and contains some early features pre-dating the Hospitallers.

This visit was made special by being taken around the house by its present inhabitants which gave a personal dimension during which we heard of the struggles and successes of the ongoing restoration of the Hall, all of which added to our pleasure in the visit. We came away full of admiration for the Craven-Smith-Milnes and grateful that a fine English country house has been restored to such excellent condition.

John Hamilton

The picture is of members outside the church

ARCHBISHOP HERRING AND THE CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK CONNECTION

By Ann Reddish

While researching the Herring Family History I came upon this collection of letters deposited at the Nottingham University Manuscripts and Special Collections Ref. PWV 120 / PWV 121 containing 76 & 51 letters in total.

In Thomas Herring's will his instructions are for all his papers to be destroyed. His friend Mr William Duncombe published his own letters in 1777 and apart from Sermons printed at the time and these letters to Chancellor William Herring they are the only works that survive. As a volunteer I have had the privilege and the opportunity to appraise these letters for the University.

Thomas Herring the Archbishop of Canterbury (1747-1757) was the cousin of William Herring Rector of Carlton in Lindrick (1743 -1762). They had a long standing correspondence throughout their lives, in one letter he

says he regards William a friend more than a relation. From the letters which were written to William you get an insight to Thomas Herring's character and way of thinking. He was foremost a modest but generous man both to his family, friends and servants, His will confirms this. In the year 1749 he made a reversionary grant to provide for members of his family.

Thomas was interested in all of his cousins. Through out the letters Samuel the brother of William is discussed often. The children of William seem to be closest and very special to him. The boys were taken under his care at an early age taking them to school and looking after them when they were ill. Young William when having the Pox was staying with Thomas and the letters give a good account as to his treatment and recovery. When the boys grew up they introduced him

to books some of them a bit risqué at which he had a good laugh. Voltaire, whom he may have known, comes up quite often. Religious books came under scrutiny and criticism.

When the boys graduated they were found preferment's in the Church, young William becoming Dean of St Asaph 1751

Through the letters one is informed about William's family life. He and his wife lose one son then his wife dies just before the post at Carlton in Lindrick is secured. Thomas points out that the new post is a new beginning. William's daughter Molly is a great comfort to him and later when she marries William Beardmore and they have a daughter he becomes a grandfather.

The period that the letters cover is of interest. The Austrian Succession and George II's War in Europe 1740-1748. He writes about Lord Vernon's campaigns. In letter 120/64 The Archbishop writes at length about a successful action against the Spaniards near Havana.

On the affairs in England he discusses many of the Acts to be passed in the Lords. Lord Harvey's Gin Act he chooses to abstain from believing it absurd. The House of Lords and life at Court plus all the intrigues of the times are hinted at. The Lisbon Earthquake disaster and violent weather are described. Most major news items of the time are mentioned and commented on.

Thomas Herring's promotions are discussed from his doubt on accepting the Bishopric of Bangor where he was never happy and therefore so pleased to leave to take the position of Archbishop of York then finally

Archbishop of Canterbury. Both in Wales and York he gives a good account of his visitations. Thomas's delight in later years was his Palace at Croydon. He spent a great deal of his wealth on improvements at Croydon and Lambeth Palace. In one letter he gives fine descriptions of Croydon Palace when he first came upon it and further letters describe the Gardens.

His conduct upon various occasions was most beneficial to his Country but never more so than when the Scottish Rebellion broke out in 1745: The rebels had defeated the King's troops at Prestonpans; this event spread panic throughout the country which had hitherto appeared sunk into lethargy. The good Archbishop immediately called a meeting of the Great County of York, over which he presided. On the Sept 24th 1745 he addressed the assembled nobility, gentry and clergy in an energetic speech to raise money and troops to quell the rebellion. The result being a subscription of £40,000; and similar subscriptions were made in various parts of the kingdom. On the Duke of Cumberland's return to York after the Victory of Culloden, the Archbishop at the head of the Clergy, met the Royal Duke on the 23rd of July 1746 and addressed him in congratulatory speech.

On the Archbishop's journeys around the Country, Chatsworth, Nottingham and Lincoln are mentioned. Surely Carlton in Lindrick and William would have been given a visit.

From these letters we are provided with an insight into the way of life of Thomas Herring Archbishop and William Herring Rector who lived in such times of turmoil.

THE DAKO BOYS

By Rachel Farrand

The UK National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNWIM) lists nearly 1,000 memorials in Nottinghamshire, a list which is not exhaustive. The database includes memorials which have either been lost or known to have been destroyed.

One Nottinghamshire memorial, known to have been destroyed in the 1990s, was raised by Oliver Hind, a Nottingham solicitor and philanthropist, to over 70 former boys of the 2nd Nottingham Boys' Brigade Company who died in the First World War.

Hind, a territorial army officer, had joined the Boys' Brigade in 1901 and was put in charge of the 2nd Nottingham Company, which met in premises on Rutland Street, in 1905. Hind was ambitious for the Company to increase its numbers, to be able to offer a greater range of activities and to open nightly and, by 1907, he had acquired more suitable premises in Dakeyn Street, in what had once been part of the county asylum. The building became known as the Dakeyn Street Lads' Club and the boys, aged between 12 and 17, who were expected to observe the regulations and wear the uniform of the Boys' Brigade, were popularly known as 'The Dako Boys'.

Research into the names on the memorial has highlighted an interesting piece of Nottingham's social history. In 1908. Hind informally helped two members

of the Company to emigrate to Canada and by 1911 had assisted 12 boys to make a new life in the Dominion. In 1913, inspired by the success of these old boys whom he had met on a visit to Canada two years earlier, Hind, with the financial support of J.D. Player, bought and set up a 270 acre farm (Dakeyne Farm) at Falmouth near Windsor in Nova Scotia, where boys would spend a year learning a range of agricultural skills. Hind's scheme was recognised by the British and Dominion authorities as a juvenile migration society and between 12 and 15 boys, all with the permission of their parents, went out each year to Canada. Ownership of the farm was transferred by Hind and Player to the National Association of Boys' Clubs in 1929 by which time several hundred Dako Boys had travelled unaccompanied to Canada to start a new life.

At least five men named on the memorial are known to have gone out to Canada and subsequently to have served in the Canadian infantry. William Burton, age 17, sailed to Canada on the SS Virginian, arriving in March 1913. He attested on 11 November 1915, joined the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion and was killed on the Western Front in September 1916. Frank Tomlinson was 19 when he left England, sailing on the SS Canada to arrive in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in April 1912. The ship's passenger list suggests that he

travelled out with six other Dako boys. Tomlinson joined the Canadian infantry (Manitoba Regiment) in December 1914 and was killed in France the following October. Another boy, George Williams, went to Canada in 1911 at the age of 17; the 1911 census for Nottingham records a brother aged 16 and a mother who was a widow. Williams enlisted in the Canadian infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment in January 1915 and was killed in France in 1916.

Burton probably trained at Dakeyn Farm, but as the farm did not open until 1913, Tomlinson and Williams may have been among the earliest group to have been motivated to emigrate by the example of the first two migrants and whom Hind also assisted by arranging their passages and employment in farming on their arrival in Canada.

There is much more work to be done to put together the stories of these young men who made the decision to leave England in the hope, or perhaps expectation, of

a better future in Canada. Juvenile migration, particularly that of young children through schemes which continued into the 1960s, has been the subject of much research, scrutiny and adverse publicity in recent years. Oliver Hind's scheme, though, was directed at young men who came from a densely populated, impoverished area of Nottingham, with inadequate school facilities and only the prospect of low paid, insecure and unskilled work. It was, perhaps, a natural progression for Hind whose vision for the Lads' Club was to provide boys with 'activities that would tend to cultivate their talents and enable their minds to develop' through which 'it could be made possible for them to break out of their predicament and enter a more desirable role in life which might contain a prospect of further advancement and development'.



2nd Nottingham Company, The Boys' Brigade

(DAKEYNE STREET LADS' CLUB).



Armistice Day Service.

The War Memorial as shown on the Armistice Day Service Programme

THE AUTUMN TALKS PROGRAMME

The Society's talks programme takes place at 2.45 p.m. at the Nottingham Mechanic's Institute, 3 Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ

OCTOBER 9 (Saturday) The Archaeology Lecture
Understanding Nottinghamshire's Past: priorities for archaeological research
Speaker: Blaise Vyner

Attention will be focussed in this lecture upon an on-going project aimed at establishing a research framework for the historic environment of the East Midlands (www.nottingham.ac.uk/tpa/research/project3/index.htm). Particular emphasis will be placed upon some of the key questions faced by researchers delving into Nottinghamshire's past, with examples drawn from a broad range of periods.

The project upon which this presentation is based commenced in January 2008 and represents the final phase for the East Midlands of the Regional Research Framework initiative proposed several years ago in the 1996 English Heritage publication *Frameworks for Our Past*. It builds upon the East Midlands Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda which was published in 2006 after extensive consultations between members of the historic environment community (Cooper, N, 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*, University of Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13).

The current project is being coordinated by David Knight and Blaise Vyner, building upon work carried out in collaboration with Carol Allen from January 2008 to April 2009. It has been made possible by partnership funding provided by English Heritage and is guided by a Steering Group with members drawn from the curatorial, academic, contracting and consultancy sectors.



Anglo-Saxon post-pit building excavated in advance of road construction at Glebe Farm, Brough, Nottinghamshire. (Photo: R. Holt; Trent & Peak Archaeology)

The Strategy has been developed in liaison with colleagues across the historic environment spectrum, including representatives of The Thoroton Society, and forms the basis of a five-year prioritised action plan aimed at stimulating and assisting research across the region. This will generate a published booklet and web resource, which will be reviewed annually by the Steering Group to assess progress and changing research priorities. Communications with regional stakeholders will be maintained and developed to ensure that updates of the regional strategy incorporate the views of the wider historic environment community.

OCTOBER 12 (TUESDAY) The Keith Train Lecture held in association with the Nottingham Civic Society
7.30 p.m. At Cathedral Hall, Wellington Circus, Nottingham.
Nottinghamshire Schools and their Architecture
Speaker: Elain Harwood

NOVEMBER 13 (Saturday) The Nottinghamshire History Lecture
Harmony and Good Company: The choir-band as a vehicle of sociability in Nottinghamshire
Speaker: Kate Holland

In the Georgian period church music in rural parishes was provided by a group of singers and musicians whose

membership was drawn directly from the local community. Undoubtedly one of the biggest attractions of participating in a choir-band was the opportunities it afforded for sociability and this must have been a defining factor for some members when joining. In Nottinghamshire you could be a member of a fashionable Society of Singers and enjoy the benefits of exclusivity; you could live in a parish where there was a tradition of holding an annual feast, usually at the local pub, in order to say thank you for your efforts in singing that year; or you could live in a parish where your choir-band travelled around visiting other parishes for the purpose of singing. So the choir-band was a vehicle for a wide range of potentially enjoyable social activity.

This lecture will explore when, where and why these activities were carried out in Nottinghamshire and looks at some of the relationships formed across the county boundaries in the process. Harmony and Good Company will abound!



Bow Brickhill Choir-band

DECEMBER 11 (SATURDAY) The Neville Hoskins Lecture
Archdeacon George Wilkins of St. Mary's, Nottingham
Speaker: Canon Michael Austin



George Wilkins (1785-1865) was a prebendary of Southwell collegiate church, vicar of St. Mary's, Nottingham, archdeacon of Nottingham, a pluralist and a committed polemicist. Not least he was perhaps the only member of the Southwell chapter ready to challenge the dominance of John Thomas Becher. Like Becher he was a 'Church and King' Tory. For him and most of his contemporaries the established church was not only the religious bulwark of the state but also the epitome of reasonable Christianity, that is of orthodoxy untainted by 'enthusiasm', the Christianity of the evangelicals. He called it 'that overheated furnace which mistaken zeal, like the officers of Nebuchadnezzar, lights for its own destruction.' If for no other reason the Church of England must be protected against zealous reformers, either within or outside its ranks. Wilkin's *The Convert*, published in 1826, is, like virtually all his writing, a polemic work. Here he takes issue with, successively, sceptics, Unitarians, Calvinists, materialists, Baptists, 'Papists' and Quakers. He does this in the light of the 'prevailing disposition of the times to consider anything which has been long established as not merely capable of amendment, but as absolutely requiring reform; and in that unlimited toleration which it is the boast of this country to extend to all religious opinions' and which regarded the Church of England 'as no longer entitled to the distinction of a *National Church*'. For this reason he had no time for parliamentary reform and for any attempt by what he called 'the aristocracy of numbers' to unseat those born to rule. He was quite a character!

BEAR JUGS and ALE MUGS A FURTHER NOTE

By John Wilson

The article in the previous issue of the Newsletter under this title reminded me that one of the items on display in the exhibition at the Castle Museum belonged to my great-grandmother and was donated to the museum by my father in 1954.

The piece is a salt-glazed stoneware money box, inscribed ANN WALES 1841.



The name is almost certainly an error, possibly by the potter who made the money box, as the family name is actually WALE.

The money box is some 15cm high and has four scenes of cherubs, possibly representing the four seasons. That immediately below the name bears a striking resemblance to a cherub figure found on Wedgwood pottery from the previous century. The box is topped by a

charming figure of a small dog.

Ann Wale was the daughter of Joseph Wale and his wife Hannah Kennewell. They lived in the village of Blidworth, Nottinghamshire, where Joseph was the village wheelwright. Joseph appeared to have been reasonably prosperous. In 1841, he had a workshop and two apprentices in Blidworth, and by 1851 he also employed a foreman. Thus, there was enough money to have made for his daughter an item which was probably quite expensive. However, things started to go wrong, as by 1856 there was a petition for bankruptcy in the London Gazette in the name of Joseph Wale, wheelwright of Blidworth. We have no information on

the causes of the bankruptcy. Ann, the eldest daughter, seems to have escaped the family's then poverty by marrying John Hunt in 1858. John was at various times recorded as a corn merchant, coal merchant and farm labourer.

Joseph and his family left Blidworth for Sheffield where he found work. He is thought eventually to have put his wheelwright skills to use as a railway carriage builder.

John Hunt was born in Basford, Nottingham in 1824. He moved to Blidworth and there met and married Ann Wale. John and Ann had a daughter, Sarah Ann, in 1864, at which time it appears that John was working for the Walker family who owned Forge Mill between Hucknall and Papplewick. Sarah Ann's birth certificate shows her place of birth as at Forge Mill, presumably in one of the mill cottages.

Sarah Ann Hunt (known as Annie in the family)

married John Malpass Wilson in 1891. My father, Albert Victor Wilson, was born to them in 1896. He donated the money box to the Castle Museum in 1954.

My thanks to Pamela Wood of the Castle Museum for permission to photograph the money box.

The photographs were supplied by John. The originals are in colour and as a consequence of the change to monochrome some detail of the pottery has been lost. Rd.



THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE ARCHIVED FOR POSTERITY

The Thoroton Society and Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway websites have recently been invited to join the British Library's UK Web Archive project which is designed to 'collect, preserve and give permanent access to key UK websites for future generations'. In practice this will mean that a regular snapshot of the websites will be taken every six months, the pages

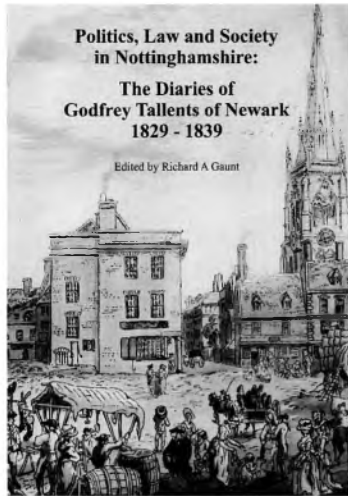
archived to the British Library's secure digital repository ('designed to enable the UK to preserve and make accessible its digital output forever!') and then made available for researchers in the future.

The UK Web Archive can be found at:
<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/okwa/>

BOOK REVIEWS

POLITICS, LAW and SOCIETY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: The Diaries of Godfrey Tallents of Newark 1829-1839

Edited by Richard A. Gaunt, 2010, Nottinghamshire County Council; ISBN 978-902751-65-1



Published by Nottinghamshire County Council in its A4 soft cover house style, this is a most interesting book, especially if read in conjunction with Dr. Gaunt's Thoroton Record Series book, *Unhappy Reactionary; The Diaries of the Fourth Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne 1822-50*.

Godfrey Tallents' diary is a record of a young man in his 20s, living in a wealthy and privileged family of Newark solicitors which handled the affairs of the Duke of Newcastle amongst others. Tallents solicitors was founded around 1781 by Phillip Tallents who had moved to Newark from Wingfield in Derbyshire a few years earlier. His youngest son, William Edward built the firm into the leading solicitors in Newark and entered into partnership with Edward Smith Godfrey who had interests in the law and banking. Tallents succeeded Godfrey as Town Clerk of Newark and gained other posts such as Clerk of the Peace, Clerk to the Lieutenancies of Nottinghamshire, Clerk of the Commission of Sewers for the county, Coroner, Alderman, Councillor for Newark East and Clerk of several Turnpike Trusts. In 1814 he became Clerk to the Newark Navigation Commissioners and this post was held by three successive generations of his family for 156 years.

His son, Godfrey, born 1812, followed him into the law having been educated at Charterhouse. He succeeded to many of his father's offices and became very successful in his own right.

He started his diary on returning to England after a period on the Continent, when he was articled in Derby, working alongside William Jessop junior, the son of the well-known engineer.

Dr. Gaunt has selected entries from the diaries which well illustrate the social, business and political life of Newark and the county. Tallents was closely involved in the political machinations of the time, working for

Newcastle's 'Reds' and recorded various incidents during times of electioneering. It will be remembered that W. E. Gladstone represented Newark during this time.

Business affairs are included to show the scope of representation for the landed gentry which the firm held but it is the social life which will probably catch the general reader's attention more than other aspects. There seems to have been an almost incessant round of balls and dinners which the young Tallents attended; there are numerous mentions of very late nights and the consumption of prodigious amounts of alcohol. It was not infrequent that Godfrey arrived home in the early hours of the morning to have a couple or so hours of sleep before needing to be up and at business. On one occasion he lists the fact that he and two companions consumed in one evening, seven bottles of wine, six of Port and one of Sherry.

However, as his business life developed he appears to have calmed down a great deal and the diaries terminate with his marriage in 1839 to his cousin, the first of his three marriages.

This book is a compelling read, very well edited by Richard Gaunt who provides footnotes in explanation of certain matters and, of great help in following the various people mentioned, several pages of biographical notes.

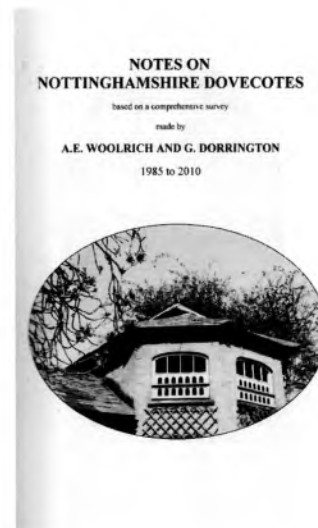
The book covers a wider field than just Newark and follows elections in Nottingham and, occasionally Derby. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of our county.

Howard Fisher

Available from the Nottinghamshire Libraries and Archives at £7.50 or by post at £10.50 including p&p from Libraries, Archives and Information, Communities Department, 4th Floor, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP. Cheques payable to Nottinghamshire County Council.

NOTES ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DOVECOTES

By A. E. Woolrich, 2010



This book of 100 pages, A4, is privately published and probably home printed on an inkjet printer by Mr. Woolrich. It is part of the results of a labour of love carried out between 1985 and 2010.

Between 1985 and 1987, Eddie Woolrich and Gerald Dorrington were responsible for the restoration of the dovecotes at Wollaton Hall and Wollaton village under the supervision of John Severn who was fascinated by dovecotes and who published an introduction to the subject in 1986 in which he listed all the dovecotes that he had seen or been made aware of in Nottinghamshire. Eddie and Gerald used this book, together with a 1927 book by Joseph Whittaker, *A Descriptive List of Medieval Dovecotes in Nottinghamshire*, as the starting points for their survey of all known dovecotes in the county, both extant and vanished.

The result of their work is a book in which the dovecotes they found information about are listed under



The dovecote at Thoroton

the name of the village or town where they were situated. Mr. Woolrich says in the Introduction that the book is not a formalised and structured account of the work the two men carried out but rather a set of jottings and field notes. Nevertheless, what we are offered is a most useful document which greatly adds to the knowledge of these historic and intriguing buildings and which is a great credit to the two men concerned. Sadly, Gerald Dorrington died without being able to see the published results of the work.

The book's information can be expanded by reference to a database lodged with the Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Buildings Section and with a paper file which includes photographs, survey reports, drawings and correspondences which is to be lodged at the Nottinghamshire County Archive in Nottingham. Additionally about 2,000 photographs can be accessed at the Bassetlaw Museum, Retford, many of them online on the Museum's web site. If seeking these photographs search under 'Local Photographs' then 'Welchman Photographs', subject Agriculture and lastly Agriculture dovecotes. This reviewer needed to contact the Museum before he found the images!

The book contains a useful section of explanation of the terminology connected to dovecotes but I would have liked a section dealing with the history and usage of the structures as part of the Introduction; it is not until well towards the end of the book (page 96) that some information is given but, as this is not a book that most

will read through from beginning to end, more likely dipping in and out as particular places are visited, I consider that an expanded section of history would have been most interesting and useful at the front. The book has a chapter of facts and figures which provide added



The well-known dovecote at Sibthorpe

interest and value.

There are some photographs in the book.

These are minor comments and do not detract from an interesting, readable and very valuable addition to the historical factual literature of our county. Eddie Woolrich is to be congratulated in producing this book and thereby making available 25 years of enthusiastic pursuit of the dovecotes of Nottinghamshire. Do buy a copy.

Howard Fisher

Available at £10 plus £1.50 p&p by contacting the author at eddie.woolrich@talktalk.net or by phone on 0115-929-9278.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:-

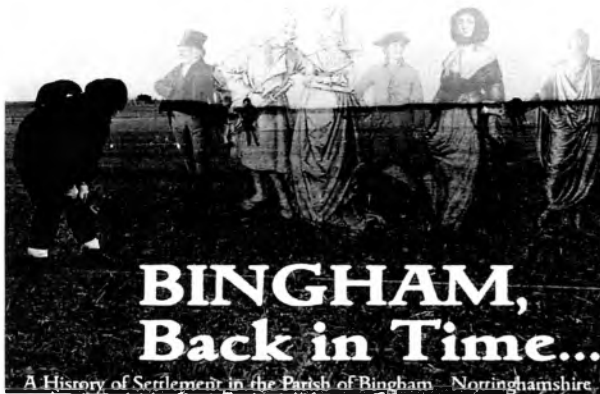
Dr. C. A. Baker
Dr. D. P. Clifford
Ms. P. Curtis
Mrs. J. Oakland
Mr. M. Payne

We are sad to report the death of Mr. A. P. Ford

BINGHAM BACK IN TIME: A History of Settlement in the Parish of Bingham, Nottinghamshire

By Peter Allen, Geoff Ashton and Adrian Henstock.
BHTA with Lowdham Writers' Group. 2010.
ISBN 978-0-9554359-3-5

BHTA BINGHAM HERITAGE TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Those members who attended the Thoroton AGM at Bingham in April will remember the presentations given by members of the Bingham Heritage Trails Association about their recent Heritage Lottery Funded project on the history of settlement in the parish from pre-historic times to the present. Its principal object was an archaeological field-walking exercise to collect pottery, flints and other artefacts from the surface of all the fields

in the parish after ploughing. It is believed this may be one of the few exercises in the country to encompass *all* periods on a parish-wide basis.

Over 52,000 finds were recovered, the oldest being a 450,000-year old worked flint and the most recent fragments of crockery from a World War II NAAFI canteen.

The project was a major exercise in community archaeology, involving over 100 volunteers who contributed some 6,000 person hours in field-walking during four winter seasons, often in poor weather conditions, in addition to washing, sorting, bagging, and data-basing the finds.

A secondary project was to study historical maps of Bingham, which included translating the written descriptions of landholdings from a 107-page Manorial Survey of 1586 written in Medieval Latin and converting the information into a conjectural map of the farms and cottages and the furlongs and strips of the four open fields.

The results have now been published in a lavishly illustrated full-colour book, including over 70 maps and photographs of typical flint and pottery finds; these will be a valuable guide to identifying similar specimens found throughout the county.

Adrian Henstock

£12.50 from Bingham Library, the Lowdham Bookshop or £15 post paid from BHTA, 3, Quantock Grove, Bingham, Nottingham, NG13 8SE

DR MAURICE CAPLAN

Born in Liverpool in 1914, Maurice left school at the age of 14 and became apprenticed to a Liverpool hairdresser. After completing the apprenticeship he worked in the hairdressing salon on the cruise liner, *Empress of Canada*.

When war broke out he joined the Merchant Navy in September 1939 and served in all theatres of the war until being demobilized in late 1945 or early 1946. He then took advantage of a Government scheme to enable ex-service personnel to obtain higher education. After studying on his own he passed the matriculation for mature students and went on to Leeds University where he obtained the BA in English and History. Maurice was a highly intelligent man who read widely and possessed an almost photographic memory.

His dissertation for the MA on the subject of the Poor Law in Nottinghamshire was of such high quality that it was upgraded to a PhD thesis and Maurice became a Doctor of Philosophy. The thesis has come to be regarded as a standard work on the Poor Law and has

been cited many times by scholars and researchers.

After university Maurice became a secondary school teacher and a lecturer for the WEA in which organisation he had been active for a number of years. He was also prominent in communal affairs, serving for an extended period as co-chairman of the Nottingham Board of Guardians, as it then was. He was one of the two co-founders of the Miriam Kaplowitch home for aged persons in Nottingham.

Maurice Caplan had a strong sense of family loyalty but he was known to members of the Thoroton Society as a most likeable man and someone who took his sense of history very seriously. He was an authority on the Poor Law and wrote an article on this subject for the *Transactions* of the Society as well as a booklet on the subject called *In the Shadow of the Workhouse* published in 1984 by the University of Nottingham

Maurice died on 2 January 2010 aged 95 and is sadly missed by all who knew him.

THE WHITE BOOK OF SOUTHWELL: Progress Report

Members will remember that a small committee has been formed to edit the White Book of Southwell. This is the main medieval cartulary (or register) of deeds relating to the Minster and its estates. It was known to Robert Thoroton and has been exploited by most subsequent generations of historians both national and local. Some contents have been published in their original language or in translation but no systemic edition has ever been undertaken. Mainly compiled between 1335 and the mid-fifteenth century, it currently consists of 476 pages and contains around 620 separate items, many of considerable length, the latest dating from 1610, though the vast majority concern the period c1180-1460. Beginning with papal bulls, royal and archiepiscopal charters granting various privileges to the canons (or prebendaries), the White Book supplies important evidence not simply for ecclesiastical history but for broader social and economic development in medieval Nottinghamshire. Whilst in addition to the 'historical' material, it furnishes a remarkable (and surprisingly little investigated) amount of linguistic evidence, personal, place, and field names, for instance.

Preliminary work to get a draft transcription in electronic form before more advanced editorial attention is given to individual items has recently made excellent progress. Currently around 95% of the text has been

captured and the wide-ranging nature of the contents has been confirmed. Since full publication is still several years away, the Committee is happy to share this material with those interested in the history of individual parishes covered by the White Book, on the understanding that both text and commentary is still at a draft stage. Broadly speaking the area covered coincides with the 28 parishes which latterly formed the Peculiar of Southwell, bounded by the west bank of the Trent from Fiskerton and Rolleston to North Leverton and Eaton, and the eastern edge of Sherwood Forest from Oxtun and Blidworth northwards, with rich documentation for town life at Southwell itself. Anyone wishing to use this material should contact Professor Michael Jones (mcejones@btinternet.com).

See picture on back page, the caption for which is: The earliest document copied into the White Book: a notification by Henry I to the sheriffs of Nottingham and barons of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire that he has confirmed to Archbishop Thomas of York all his customs over his lands, especially those of the church of Southwell, and ordering justice to be administered in accordance with the right of the canons of St. Peter's [York], Nottingham [?17 October 1109].

Michael Jones

CRESSWELL CRAGS

Cresswell Crags ambition and hard work has been recognised in the 2010 Derbyshire Heritage awards having been named as Museum of the Year.

The new visitor centre [*pictured on the back page*] was amongst six contemporary buildings from across the East Midlands to be short listed for a RIBA award in the nation's top competition for architecture. OMI Architects were also nominated for The Bridge of Discovery for Cresswell Crags Museum & Heritage Centre and both projects were runners-up in their categories.

The landmark new exhibition *Great Excavations* opened to the public on 12 June 2010 and charts the history of archaeological investigation over the past 200 years in one of Cresswell Crags most celebrated caves, Church Hole. This cave houses the only known Ice Age art in Britain. First excavated in 1876 the cave and its

artefacts gave an insight into the prehistoric tribes sheltering there thousands of years ago.

Re-excavations in 2006 by Sheffield University of the Victorian excavation's debris have shed light on the thoughts and processes of the people who explored the cave over 200 years ago.

The exhibition will run until Winter 2010. Special events will run alongside the temporary exhibition with Victorian costumed interpreters describing the site and artefacts. The meadow will have a host of Victorian games to entertain the whole family.

Sheffield University's dig season lasts for 14 days from 16 August 2010.

Further information can be obtained from the museum on 01909-720378 or the web site at www.cresswell-crags.org.uk.

BOOK OFFER

Jean Nicholson has a pre-Christmas offer for her new book *A Godly Inheritance* which is the history of the Holy and Undivided Trinity Hospital at West Retford and of the Denman family. Jean's offer is for the book at £7.50 plus p&p direct from her at 38, Green Lane, Lambley, Nottingham, NG4 4QE or by phone at 0115-

931-2998. The book can be collected from her at Thoroton autumn meetings.

It will also be on sale at Trinity Hospital on 11 September when the hospital is open for the heritage week end. The normal price of the book is £10.50.

CALL FOR TRUSTEES

The United Charities of Abel Collin is a 300 year old charity providing homes for people of modest means who are aged over 60 years and able to live independently.

The Charity has a five-acre site in Beeston, Nottingham, consisting of 62 houses and bungalows which can accommodate up to 100 people. A full-time warden lives on the site. The Collin's Homes is a friendly, supportive community and arranges many social activities throughout the year.

The current body of voluntary trustees has a diverse range of knowledge and experience, but there is a need

for additional volunteers to expand this further. The Charity is seeking new trustees with knowledge and experience in local authority operation, the care and social services sector, accounting and budgeting, property management, the legal profession and information technology.

Trustees meet eight mornings each year to discuss plans, risks, property maintenance and development and management.

Further information by telephoning the Administrator, Mrs. Janice Avery on weekday mornings 0115-922-4826 or by email at: abelcollinsadmin@btconnect.com.

LADIES' DAY: Powerful, political, pious - Women in local history

The Nottinghamshire Local History Association is holding its autumn day event on 30 October, 2010 from 10 am to 4.15 pm at Oxton village hall with the above title.

The speakers for the day are:-
Valerie Henstock - The Governor's Wife - Lucy Hutchinson

Rowena Edlin-White - Women in the Minster

David Templeman - Two Queens and a Countess
(Interaction between Elizabeth 1, Mary Queen of Scots and Bess Of Hardwick

Jean Nicholson - Wanton Wenches and Wayward Wives (From Frances Willoughby to Freda Dudley Ward.

The cost for the day is £6.50 for NLHA members and £7.50 for non-members.

Advance booking is preferred to: David Anderson, 35, Sycamore Road, East Leake, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 6PP.

It is also possible to pay at the door on the day.

THE GEDLING 'TOWN BOOK'

The long-awaited next volume in the Society's Record Series (volume 45) is expected to be published in September. Entitled *Village Government and Taxation in Later Stuart Nottinghamshire: The Gedling 'Town Book', 1664-1714*, it has been edited by Thoroton member Ted White with a foreword by Professor Martyn Bennett of Nottingham Trent University.

The volume contains transcripts of the unusually complete financial accounts of the constables, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Gedling which were recorded in a single manuscript volume called the 'Town Book'. These provide insight into the actual working of local government at village level at this period, the process of raising both local and national taxation, and farming and village life in general.

The extensive introduction by Ted White analyses the accounts to show how an ordinary English parish coped with the day-to-day demands of raising taxes for such matters as church repairs, policing, relieving the poor, and national wars. As well as being of interest to local historians in Nottinghamshire, it is thus an exemplary study which will be of value to parish historians throughout the country.

Over 200 pages long, the volume contains numerous tables, maps and illustrations. It will, of course, be free to subscribers to the *Record Series* and will be available to members of the main Society at a discount; at present the price has not yet been decided.

Adrian Henstock

Deadlines for items for the Newsletter are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November of each year. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Howard Fisher, 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ or by email to hf773@btinternet.com. Items can be handwritten, typed or by attachment in Word file format, suffix doc. not docx. Pictures, diagrams, maps are welcome to illustrate an item. All copyright remains with the authors and photographers and may not be reproduced without express permission of the author and Newsletter Editor. Any views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the Thoroton Society, its Officers or Council members.

BBC - HANDS ON HISTORY

History is a major priority on the BBC over the next two years and to compliment the programmes, BBC Learning is launching *Hands on History*. The aim is to work closely with partners in the heritage and community sectors to inspire families and communities to explore their histories.

The campaign launches in August with a 'Norman' season and the second phase with the working title of *High Street History* is due to start in late October - supporting a major BBC One TV series. The series follows families running a range of shops in a typical British High Street that has been 'taken back in time' to different eras between 1870 and 1970.

The BBC would like museums, libraries, archives, local history societies and any related organisations or

groups to take part in the campaign and to build on the enthusiasm generated by the TV series.

The TV series is being filmed by the same company which makes *Who Do You Think You Are?* And is hoped to do for community history what WDYT YA has done for family history.

A designated week of activities is planned for late November in the East Midlands. Heritage Lottery funding might be available to support specific projects stimulated by the TV series.

Any interested parties can contact Helen Sykes, the BBC Learning Project Manager for the East Midlands at BBC East Midlands, London Road, Nottingham, NG2 4UU, 0115-902-1895 email: helen.sykes@bbc.co.uk from Tuesday to Friday each week,

THE BRITISH PATHE ARCHIVE

British Pathe is one of the oldest names in the motion picture industry having been established in London in 1902 after the company was founded by Charles Pathe in the 1890s in Paris with the company trademark of the cockerel, the French national emblem. The company produced newsreels until 1970 and has accumulated a rich assortment of historical film footage.

The archive material is now being organised following its open access on-line and counties like Nottinghamshire need the attention of knowledgeable local people to provide information to the archive.

Nottinghamshire at present has 75 videos online which can be accessed at:

<http://www.britishpathe.com/workspace.php?id=5334&display=list>.

As the Archive's knowledge of the area is limited they have only been able to search place names as keywords but many villages and smaller towns would not have been written down in the canister notes by the cameramen at the time of filming. The Archive, therefore, hopes that local people will view the films and if they can identify landmarks, establishments, notable figures or special events it will help to identify more videos specific to Nottinghamshire.

There are 90,000 old reels on the main website at www.britishpathe.com so a browse of these might produce some unidentified as yet local material.

Further information can be obtained from Jack Cullen, Media Officer, British Pathe Ltd., The Media Centre, 3-8, Carburton Street, London, W1W 5AJ or by email: notts@britishpathe.com.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST: READING, WRITING AND ARITHMETIC IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM HISTORIC COLLECTIONS

A new exhibition by the University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections Department will be showing at the Weston Gallery, D. H. Lawrence Pavilion, Lakeside, University Park from 10 September to 19 December.

The subject of the exhibition is the teaching of basic education over the centuries, and the ways in which children were helped along the path to literacy. Drawing heavily on the Brigg's Collection of Educational Literature, it features some of the early tools for learning the alphabet, the primers and spelling books intended for young children, and also some of the recreational reading books and games that were available. Children's exercise books showing their progress in writing and arithmetic can be seen, and examples of fine penmanship are also displayed.

Levels of schooling for young children varied enormously, with some getting none at all, and others having rudimentary schooling in free schools, or local village schools. Privileged children from wealthy homes such as Clumber Hall or Welbeck Abbey, had governesses to teach them at home. Snippets from the collections give an insight into the experience of school, focusing mostly on the 18th and 19th centuries. D. H. Lawrence's experiences of school, both as pupil and teacher, are touched on, and visitors will be bale to see one of his school text-books. Documents relating to schools in Mansfield, Greasley and Cuckney will be on display, as are records from High Pavement Sunday School.

A series of lunchtime talks will be held to accompany the exhibition but places need to be booked in advance.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

As members were informed at the AGM, Council has approved a small increase in annual subscription rates. The need to do this has arisen because the income the Society is receiving from its reserves has fallen away very rapidly following the fall in interest rates almost to zero. Costs continue to be tightly controlled, but the Standing Committee believes that the Society should not be drawing on its reserves to meet current normal expenditure. An increase in subscription rates is therefore regrettably essential.

As from 1 January 2011, when the next subscription is due, rates for Ordinary Members will increase by £2.00. All other rates remain the same and the new rates are:-

Individual Ordinary member	£24.00
Associate member at the same address	£6.00
Combined Ordinary & Record Member	£34.00
Student member	£6.00
Record series only	£15.00

NEW STANDING ORDER MANDATE

As a result of the new subscription rates, it will unfortunately be necessary for members who pay by Standing Order to provide a new mandate for their bank. With the next subscription request at the end of the year, therefore, we shall include a new mandate form. It is requested that all members who wish to pay in this way will complete the form and return direct to their bank. On this occasion we would also ask members to let us know when they have done this, so that our records can be noted, and so remind members of their Standing Order when we ask for future subscription payments.

We are sorry to put members to this additional work, but trust that the need for it will be accepted. Regrettably the bank does not allow us to operate Direct Debits which would obviate the need for a new mandate.

John Wilson, Hon. Treasurer.

LUNCHEON 2010

In this mailing members will have received a flyer about this year's annual luncheon which, this year, is to be held at the Charnwood Hotel, Blyth. We very much hope that members will take the opportunity to enjoy meeting with old and new friends on 6 November and having a special meal together.

TRANSACTIONS FOR SALE

A set of the *Transactions* formerly belonging to our late President, Neville Hoskins, is available for sale for Society funds. It comprises over 80 volumes covering the years 1920-2008 but lacking volumes for 1930, 1935, 1943-44 and 1952-53. Offers for the set are invited at around £175. Anyone interested should contact Jean Stanbridge at Nottinghamshire Archives (jean.stanbridge@nottscc.gov.uk or 0115-950-4524. Purchasers will need to be able to collect the volumes from the Archives in Nottingham at a pre-arranged time or pay for carriage.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to all those members who have taken the trouble to complete the questionnaire sent out earlier this summer. The response rate has been very good. The replies will now be analysed and reported to the Standing Committee and Council. All of the comments and suggestions will be taken into account and a report published in due course for all members to see.

LOWDHAM BOOK FAIR

Thoroton took a stand at the well-established Lowdham Book Fair on 26 June to promote the Society, explain what we do, answer questions and sell some of our publications. A good deal of interest was shown by the crowds attending and it is hoped that some new members will materialise. Officers quite often use opportunities like this to raise our profile and we are grateful to those who are willing to spend time in this way on behalf of the Society. We are always pleased to hear from members interested in helping at such events. A special thank you to Philip Jones for being 'on duty' for more or less the whole day.



The New Visitor Centre at Cresswell Crags



The White Book of Southwell
(See report inside)



Carlton-in-Lindrick



Winkburn church