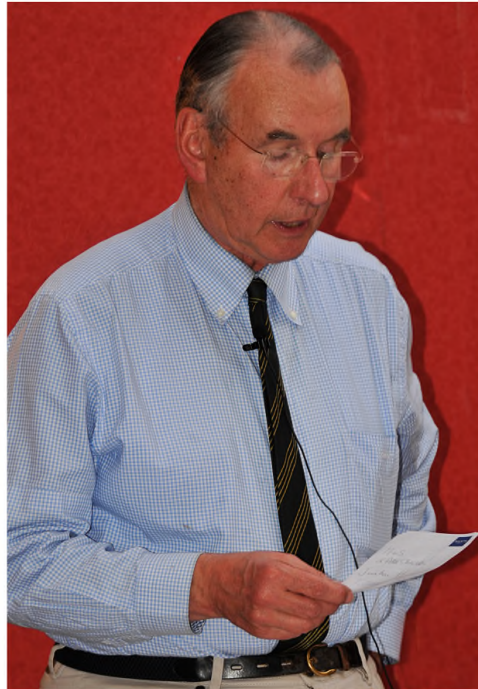




## *THE 2010 ANNUAL LUNCHEON*



Sir Andrew Buchanan, The Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire,  
proposing the toast to The Thoroton Society



# VISIT TO UPTON HALL

By Howard Fisher

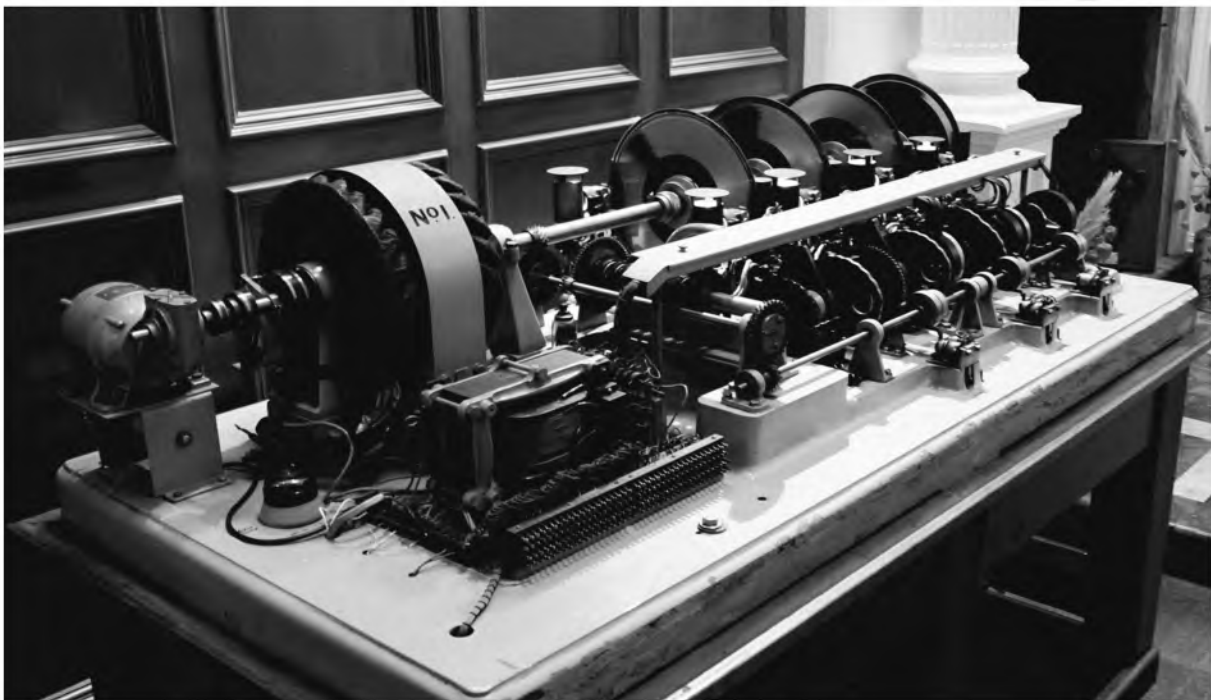


Thursday, 10 September 2010 saw a large group of members met at Upton Hall, the home of the British Horological Institute, for a tour of the Hall and the BHI museum.

We were taken into the Ballroom and received an introductory talk on the history of both the Institute and the Hall by Briony Dickenson, a member of staff who has been researching the Hall's history together with that of its various occupants and owners. After the talk Briony

out of wood apart from the weights. Another was an American clock known as the Marilyn Monroe clock because of its hourglass shape. This clock was made by Benjamin Franklin with a simple mechanism and a one handed face.

Our third introduction was to the original speaking clock used for the telephone service's time information service. We were told how the voice was selected and the work



took us into the museum and introduced us to some of the time pieces, including a very large one made by a local joiner, where every part 'Marilyn Munroe' clock because of the hourglass shape of its frame. This clock was made

the Swiss designer had to undertake on the recording to remove a slight hiss on certain sounds caused by the tooth configuration of

the lady selected to make the recordings. There was plenty of time to view the full collection and Briony, together with the Institute's General Manger, on hand to answer any questions.

The British Horological Institute was founded 15 June 1858 by London watchmakers who were concerned to protect themselves from cheap American imports. It was an immediate success and within its first year had established night school courses, a college, a library and a museum. It occupied premises in Northampton Square, London until its later move to Upton Hall. During World War 2 the roof of the London premises was blown off twice, by a bomb and then a doodlebug (the penultimate one to fall on London). The roof was repaired by quick patching on both occasions and, by the 1950s, required a lot of expensive work. The decision was therefore made to relocate to a more central position in England where servicing its 3,000 world-wide membership could be more efficiently carried out.

A suitable venue was found at Upton Hall, Nottinghamshire, which was bought for £30,000 and occupied by the Institute in 1972. The London premises were sold for £205,000 but the difference has been taken up over the years in renovating and preserving Upton Hall.

The Hall is a grade 2\* listed building on a site said to date back to AD956 when King Edwyn gave the land to Archbishop Oscytel of York. In 1335 Robert Bagenham had his home here and in the Civil War period the Squire was Martin Oglethorpe, part of whose Elizabethan house can still be seen. The Upton Enclosure map of 1790 shows a building on the site and this was owned by Robert Smith, MP, the third son of Abel Smith, the Nottingham banker.

However, Robert lived at Normanton Hall near Southwell and not at Upton. Robert had a successful political career and in 1796 became Baron Carrington of Upton. Why the name 'Carrington' was chosen is not known even in the Carrington family whose name

will be familiar to members through the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Carrington, a Minister in Margaret Thatcher's governments.

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the house was in the possession of Thomas Wright, third son of Thomas Wright another Nottingham banker. Thomas, the son, was destined to become a clergyman at his father's wish who left money to buy his son a parish and living to support him. However, it appears that Thomas had other ideas and married a wealthy widow, Sophia Frances who had been the wife of John Sutton, eldest son of Sir Robert Sutton Bt. Of Norwood Hall. Thomas and Sophia lived at Norwood but never owned that house.

The main part of the current house at Upton was built in neo-classical style by Thomas between 1828 and 1832 using the architect, W. H. Dunthorne (one of the founders of the Royal Institute of British Architects) and the house was then used to hold Thomas' extensive collection of paintings which, when sold by Christies after he died in January 1845, contained important works by painters such as Reynolds and van Dyke amongst others.

In 1855 the house was sold to Philip Richard Faulkner, a solicitor from Newark, who lived in it until 1894 without making any real changes. It was bought in 1894 by John Francis Warwick of the Warwick and Richardson brewery firm of Newark, and it was he who extended the house to build the west wing which houses the ballroom. In extending the house the symmetry of the original was lost. In 1895 a central heating system was installed.

In 1936 the house was bought by property developer, Sir Albert Ball, who sold it in 1941 to the Fathers of the Holy Ghost. However, it was requisitioned in 1942 to house partly sighted children evacuees and so did not become a seminary until 1945 with the title of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Theological Church.

The Hall was bought by the BHI in 1972 and they moved there in 1973 and have very carefully undertaken repairs and renovations to return the house to its original character. The Institute is to be congratulated for the way in which they are caring for the house.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

Please note a change of email address for the *Newsletter* editor, Howard Fisher, to

[handjaf@virgin media.com](mailto:handjaf@virgin media.com)

# THE WINTER TALKS

Talks are held at 2.45 p.m. at The Nottingham Mechanic's Institute, 3 Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ. At every talk the Society's bookstall is available for the purchase of a variety of books on local history subjects.

## **SATURDAY, 8 JANUARY 2011** – *The Nora Witham Lecture*

*"Spinster of No Occupation", Mary Ellen Shaw, 1859-1926*

Speaker: Dr. Rowena Edlin-White

When Mary Ellen Shaw died on Christmas Eve 1926, her death certificate stated that she was 67, the daughter of John Shaw, Registrar of Births and Deaths, St. Anne's District (deceased), of 86, Mansfield Road, and that she was a "spinster of no occupation.

Nothing could have been further from the truth: since the age of sixteen she had worked unceasingly as a daily governess and as an unpaid social worker in the poorer areas of the city, especially St. Anne's and Sneinton. From childhood, she had been familiar with the dismal yards and alleys only a stone's throw from her home and from the Wesleyan Chapel of which the Shaws were members; she saw the misery and despair of the urban poor and dedicated her life to alleviating it.

The Girl's Evening Home Movement, a Mother and Baby Guild and extensive district visiting in prison, workhouse and hospital were all preparation for her greatest achievement – Miss Shaw's Men's Bible Class. Supported by the Duchess of Portland, in 1900 she took on the problems of hundreds of poor working men in Nottingham and Mansfield – and she died in harness.

As the Revd. J. Freeman was to say at her funeral, she was a woman of whom not only the church, but the city of Nottingham should be justly proud.



## **SATURDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2011** – *The Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture*

*Charles II Never Slept Here – The so-called Charles II room at Newstead Abbey*

Speaker: Dr. Rosalys Coope, PhD, FSA; President of the Thoroton Society

To devote an entire lecture to the history of one room may seem an over-specialised – and fairly tedious – undertaking. However, this particular room really deserves to be rescued from the ignorance of its real history which arose from its having been shown to visitors for a century and a half under a completely nonsensical name. At the same time, the methods of research recently used to establish its true history, not least the archaeological examination of hidden structures, may prove of interest in themselves.

The room belongs to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the period soon after William, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Byron (1688/9-1736), inherited Newstead in 1695. He began a series of alterations to his by then somewhat old-fashioned house. One addition was a building at the north end of the east range, on the empty site of the south transept of the demolished Priory Church; on its upper floor is our room.

William Byron was a man of considerable artistic and musical talents but he remained a shadowy figure compared with his successors, the 'wicked' 5<sup>th</sup> Lord and the poet 6<sup>th</sup>. It was said of him, though, that Newstead was 'renewed under his loving care'. Unfortunately, almost all he created was drastically altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but we can find something of him in this, his, not Charles II's room.



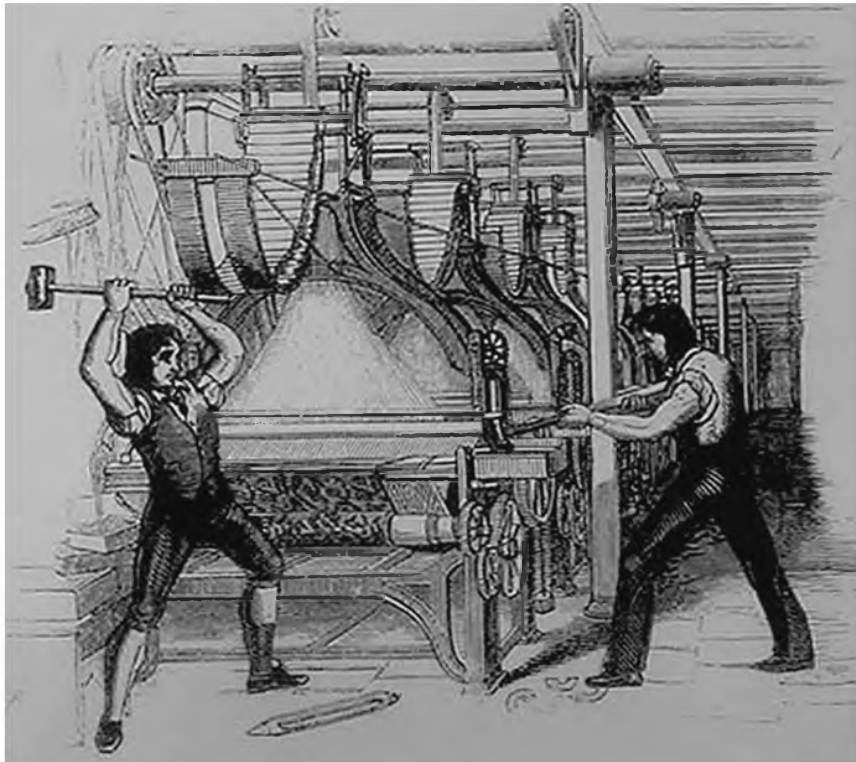


*The ceiling of the Charles II Room at Newstead Abbey*

**SATURDAY, 12 MARCH 2011 – *The Maurice Barley Lecture***

The Luddites: 200 years on.

Speaker: Professor John Beckett, BA, PhD, FRHistS, FSA – Chairman of the Thoroton Society.



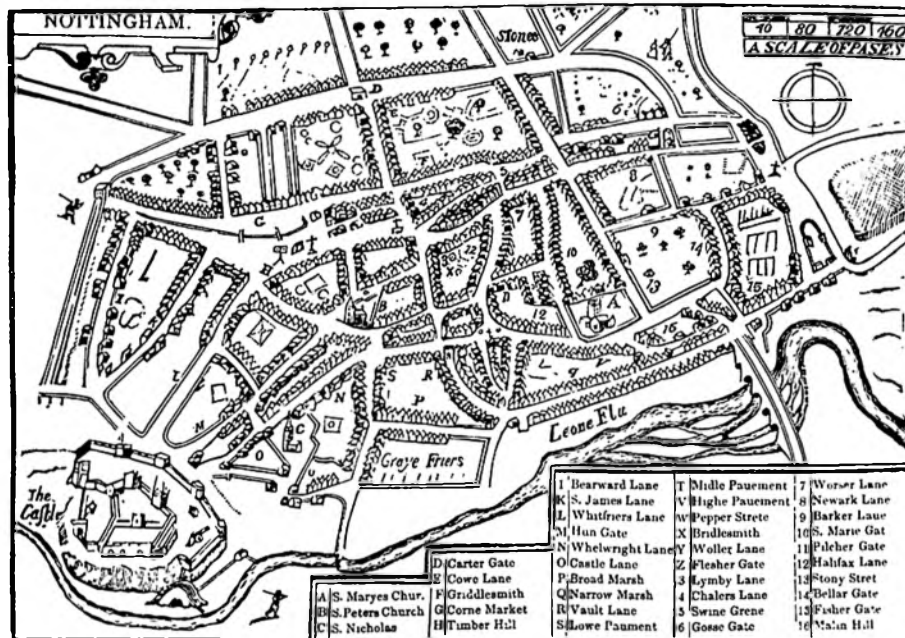
*Luddites smashing a loom*

In March 1811, two hundred years ago, the first stocking frames were broken by protesters who came to be called Luddites.

In this lecture, John Beckett will recall the events of 200 years ago, the context in which they occurred, and the legacy of the Luddite disturbances in and around Nottingham and Loughborough.

## JOHN SPEED 1610

By Ken Brand



In 2007 John Beckett and I were disappointed, but not surprised, that Nottingham City Council showed little interest in celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Thomas Hawkesley the greatest water engineer of the nineteenth century. With that in mind I doubt if the city will acknowledge the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Speed's Plan of Nottingham of 1610. This plan of Nottingham is an insert in the top left-hand corner of perhaps the most widely known early map of Nottinghamshire.

John Speed was born at Farndon in Cheshire in 1552. As he had no cartographic training he relied largely on the maps drawn by Saxton and Norden for his "Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain" published in 1611. The town plans came from a variety of sources. The whole project was beautifully engraved by the Dutchman, Jodocus Hondind the Elder. Many maps were sold separately, uncoloured, mostly as with Nottinghamshire dated 1610. Numerous editions of Speed's map were published with small alterations and additions down to 1770.

The plan of Nottingham gives a good if

somewhat generalised layout of Nottingham early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are a number of inaccuracies, for example the location of Carter Gate and Wheelwright Lane and the pictorial representation of housing is over generous on certain streets, for example, Broad Street and Greyfriar Gate. (This is judged against an accurate survey of 1739 noted in Deering.

Nevertheless, the plan has a rare sketch of the town's ruined castle and the surviving stretch of town wall and ditch extending to Chapel Bar. The 'wall' dividing the Market Square (G) is marked as are other features: the stocks and pillory, the Butter and Hen crosses but no Malt Cross. The earlier St. Nicholas' Church (C) is depicted complete with spire. Weekday Cross is drawn in approximately the correct position as is the gateway 'bar' at the top of Vault Lane (Drury Hill). Overall, the plan provides a chance to evaluate the extent of the survival of the medieval street pattern.

It is interesting to note the dominance of the route northwards from the Leen Bridge, via Hollowstone (not named), Stoney Street and beyond avoiding the centre of the town. Housing has spread to the foot of the

sandstone cliff, in Narrow Marsh and Broad Marsh, but development has not yet reached the Leen. The population was About 3,500 living in an area of some 2,000 acres.

Next year sees the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of those twin snapshots of Victorian Nottingham, 'maps' of 1861 by Salmon and by Jackson.

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## MYLES THOROTON HILDYARD'S PAPERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

*By Kathryn Summerwill, Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham*

The wartime exploits of the former President of the Thoroton Society, Myles Thoroton Hildyard, MC, MBE (1914-2005), can now be explored in detail thanks to the release of the catalogue of his papers, which are deposited in the department of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham.

Myles Hildyard joined the Nottinghamshire (Sherwood Rangers) Yeomanry on the outbreak of war in 1939. In 1941 the regiment was sent to Crete. After the fall of Maleme airfield Myles' unit surrendered to German troops and he was interned in a prisoner of war camp. Hildyard and a fellow officer, Michael Parish, escaped and spent the next three months hiding on the island, sheltered by Cretans before escaping in a boat to Turkey by way of Greek islands. Both subsequently received the Military Cross. This was not the end of his military adventures. He served in North Africa with the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, taking part in the Battle of El Alamein, and later worked as an intelligence officer. He accompanied the Normandy invasion, the reconquest of the Low Countries and the march into Germany as brigade intelligence officer.

The papers include his diaries and a series of letters home chronicling his experiences, *It*

*is bliss here: letters home 1939-1945* (London: Bloomsbury, 2005).

The original papers, which can be seen in the Manuscripts and Special Collections reading room at King's Meadow Campus, are much more extensive, contained in five boxes. They include interesting items collected by him on the field of battle, such as a postcard sent by an Italian soldier, and a document found in a German slit trench, reading 'Good by Tommy es grusst die Sturm+Kompagnie 11.8.44'.

The Thoroton Hillyard collection also contains 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century title deeds and estate papers relating to the family's property at Screveton and Flintham, Nottinghamshire.

An overview of the contents of the collection, and biographical details of family members, are available online at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/CollectionsInDepth/Family/ThorotonHildyard/ThorotonHildyardofScrevetonandFlintham.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/CollectionsInDepth/Family/ThorotonHildyard/ThorotonHildyardofScrevetonandFlintham.aspx).

A printed catalogue of the material is available in the King's Meadow Campus reading room under reference THF. The online catalogue is accessible at [www.mssweb.nottingham.ac.uk/catalogue](http://www.mssweb.nottingham.ac.uk/catalogue).

*Ed: The book referred to written by Myles Hildyard is available from Amazon in either paperback or hard back versions.*

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## SMOKING, ADVERTISING and the HISTORY of CONSUMER CULTURE

A one-day conference will take place on 18 May 2011 at the School of History, University of Nottingham.

The conference is part of the John Player's Archive Knowledge Transfer Partnership and is a chance for academics and heritage professionals to meet and hear talks based around three main themes: tobacco collections in the heritage sector, tobacco advertising and consumer culture and public health and smoking habits.

The keynote talk will be given by Professor Virginia Berridge (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and after the conference there will be the opportunity to visit the John Player's

Archive exhibition that will be running at the Museum of Nottingham Life from March until June 2011.

Abstracts are welcome around the three main themes and beyond and if anyone has an idea for a paper you are invited to contact the organizer before 30 November 2010. Similarly if anyone is interested in attending the conference the organizer would like to hear from you.

Contact is: [andrew.newham@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.newham@nottingham.ac.uk)

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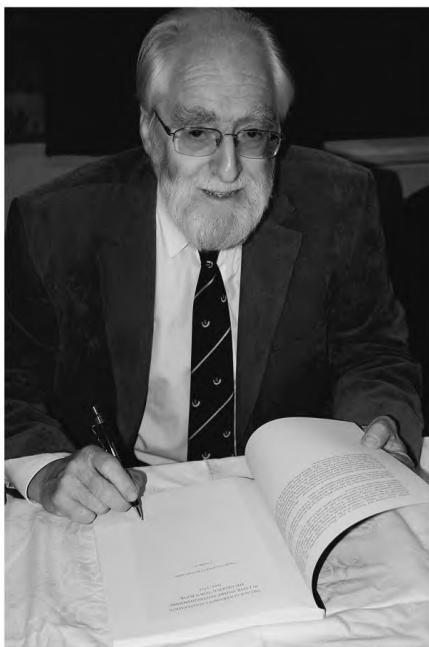
## THOROTON RECORD SERIES – BOOK LAUNCH

The latest book to be published by the Society in its Record Series was launched on Friday, 15 October, 2010 at Gedling Church.

The book is *Village Government and Taxation in Later Stuart Nottinghamshire: the Gedling Town Book, 1665-1714*. Edited by Edward White the book is reviewed later in this Newsletter.

At the launch Professor Martin Bennett of Nottingham Trent University gave an excellent introduction to the book and Edward White explained more about the research, writing and contents, introducing us to some of the people named in the records.

Our President, Dr. Rosalys Coupe presented the Rector of Gedling, Revd. Michael Taylor with a copy of the book and the event was nicely rounded off with excellent refreshments provided in the church.



*Edward White signing a copy of the book*



*Dr. Rosalys Coupe presenting the Rector of Gedling with a copy of the book*



# LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF SHERWOOD FOREST AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

A CONFERENCE REPORT by John Beckett

On 11 September 2010 over 90 people, including members of the Thoroton Society, gathered at Nottingham Contemporary for a day conference arranged by the Society for Landscape Studies in partnership with the Thoroton Society.

The conference looked at different aspects of the Nottinghamshire landscape and papers were given on Nottinghamshire in the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, and through the Viking ear, as well as on Major Hayman Rooke's attempts to reconstruct the county in the

Roman period.

We learnt about coal mining in the medieval period, and were shown a newly reconstructed map of Sherwood Forest for the same time. Not surprisingly, much of the day was concentrated on the Dukeries, with papers on Welbeck, Rufford (in the eighteenth century and the twentieth century), and Clumber. We hope that some of the papers will eventually appear in *Transactions*, and also that several of the lecturers might be induced to speak to the Society on future occasions.

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## THE HARRY JOHNSON AWARD 2010

This award is made every two years and jointly sponsored by the Nottinghamshire building Preservation trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. It is made to acknowledge the best restoration or best new building, within a village setting. Buildings must have been completed within the previous three years and the judges look especially for smaller buildings and individual effort.

This year's judges struggled to select winning buildings due to the high quality of those put forward for consideration and, in addition to the winners two others were highly commended.

**BEST RESTORATION:** The Coach House, Orston.



*The alterations have been designed to make the most of this small corner site near the church, using traditional materials and methods. The extensions retained the Victorian coach house feel, which the judges liked very much, fully satisfying the Award conditions.*

**HIGHLY COMMENDED RESTORATION:** The Old Warehouse, Coopers Yard, Newark.

*This is a long delayed resurrection of an unused building in a revitalized, former dockland, residential community. The work has been very well done and the original character has been preserved by the retention of existing openings, the use of sliding security doors and replica steel windows. New openings on the gable end have an industrial feel.*



BEST NEW BUILD: The Thomas Cranmer Centre, Aslockton.

*This is a major new building in the centre of the village, set back from the road and subordinate to the parish church of St. Thomas. High quality brickwork arches and stone dressings suggest its church connections, and the tall lead-clad roof dormers give a striking appeal and light to a future first floor. The judges thought this a worthy winner in the new build category.*



HIGHLY COMMENDED NEW BUILD : 'Halcyon', Farnsfield



*Highly commended for its appearance and the use of traditional and modern materials to provide a low impact bungalow in the rear garden of a 1950s property, the imaginative design meets the best infill practice. It is disappointing that the building is visible only from inside the site.*

*Report, the judge's remarks as shown in italic above, and the images were supplied by the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust.*

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*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 [handjaf@virginmedia.com](mailto:handjaf@virginmedia.com).*

*Items can be handwritten, typed or by attachment in Word file format, either suffix doc or docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are most welcome to illustrate an item.*

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*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.*

# THE SOCIETY'S RECORD SERIES EXPLAINED

By Adrian Henstock

Several new members have expressed a wish to learn more about the books published as part of the Society's *Record Series*. These are totally separate publications to the *Transactions* and can be obtained with an optional additional subscription. While the *Transactions* contain articles about local history and archaeology the *Record Series* exists to publish editions of the texts of important local archives together with a scholarly introduction. Unlike the annual *Transactions* the *Record Series* volumes form an 'occasional' series, with books appearing at approximately every two years or so (45 volumes have been published over the past 107 years).

In the past publications have ranged from editions of mediaeval monastic charters, clergy lists and probate inventories to local tax returns, civil parish records, diaries and letters, and historical maps. A full list can be found on the Society's website ([www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk)) by clicking on 'Publications' and then on 'Record Series'.

The current subscription to the *Record Series* for individuals (as opposed to institutions) is £ 15 pa, but members of the main Society can have a **combined subscription for £ 34, (ie.£ 24 + £10), thus saving £ 5.**

Whilst the majority of older volumes are out of print they can be seen in many local libraries, but stocks remain of a few recent volumes in addition to the latest one published last month. These can be purchased at a **reduced members' rate** by post from Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG, ([archives@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:archives@nottscc.gov.uk)) or by pre-arranged personal visit (tel. 0115-9581634). The available books and prices are as follows (plus p&p):

***A Nottinghamshire village in war and peace: the accounts of the constables of Upton, 1640 - 1666.*** Ed. by Martyn Bennett. A vivid insight into the life of a village close to the besieged town of Newark during the Civil War. **£ 9.95.**

***Sherwood Forest in 1609: a Crown survey by Richard Bankes.*** Ed. by Steph Mastoris and Sue Groves. A detailed written survey of land within the original Sherwood Forest, with maps of some 20 parishes in central and south-east Nottinghamshire. **£ 14.95.**

***A Nottinghamshire Bibliography: Publications on Nottinghamshire History before 1998.*** Ed. by Michael Brook. An exhaustive list of over 8,700 books, pamphlets and articles arranged by place and subject. **£ 10.**

***Village Government and Taxation in Later Stuart Nottinghamshire : The Gedling 'Town Book', 1664-1714.*** Ed. by Edward White. The unusually complete financial accounts of the constables, churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Gedling, providing insight into contemporary government of any village. **£ 16.95.**

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## ANGLO-SAXONS ONLINE

Anyone who wishes to delve into Medieval history can now find the entire collection of more than 550 manuscripts at the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge at [www.parkerweb.stanford.edu](http://www.parkerweb.stanford.edu).

Among the Parker's treasures is the earliest surviving version of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the principle source of English history in the Dark Ages, and the Saint Augustine Gospels, which may have been brought from Rome by St. Augustine in 597 and is the oldest illustrated Latin Gospel Book

in existence. The Bury Bible (c1135), one of the world's greatest illuminated manuscripts, is also now available, as is the thirteenth century chronicle by Matthew Paris, containing one of the oldest depictions of an elephant drawn from life and a depiction of Tartar atrocities.

The project to digitize over 200,000 pages was carried out in collaboration with Stanford University Library in the USA.

*Art Quarterly and Review, p7, Summer 2010*

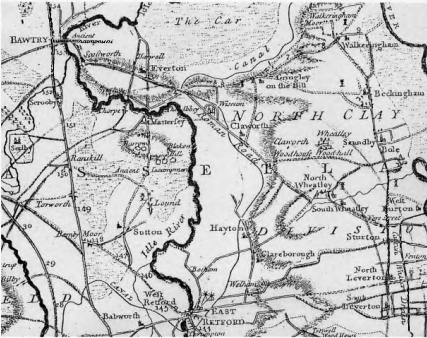
## BOOK REVIEWS

**Jean M. Nicholson, 'A Godly Inheritance': the History of the hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, West Retford, and the Denman Family** (Trinity Hospital, 2010)



### 'A Godly Inheritance'

Jean M Nicholson



Jean Nicholson's long awaited book has at last hit the bookshops – and the Thoroton Society bookstall. Since 1997 Jean has been working on her history of Trinity Hospital, wading through the records (many of which needed cleaning before she and, until his death in 2003, Joe could decipher them).

The story is well told, of how John Darrell left funds in 1665 to establish a hospital for sixteen poor men in the manor of West Retford. He also left money to help a Retford boy go to Exeter College, Oxford, annually.

Jean tells the story with her usual enthusiasm, illustrating it with family details, maps and pictures, and plenty of information about West Retford itself.

I am sure Thorotonians who read the book will want Jean to organize a Society excursion to the area, with an opportunity perhaps to meet the fifteen bretheren who still enjoy a 'quiet retreat' at the Hospital, and to set in context this remarkably long lived piece of charitable giving by John Darrell.

*John Beckett*

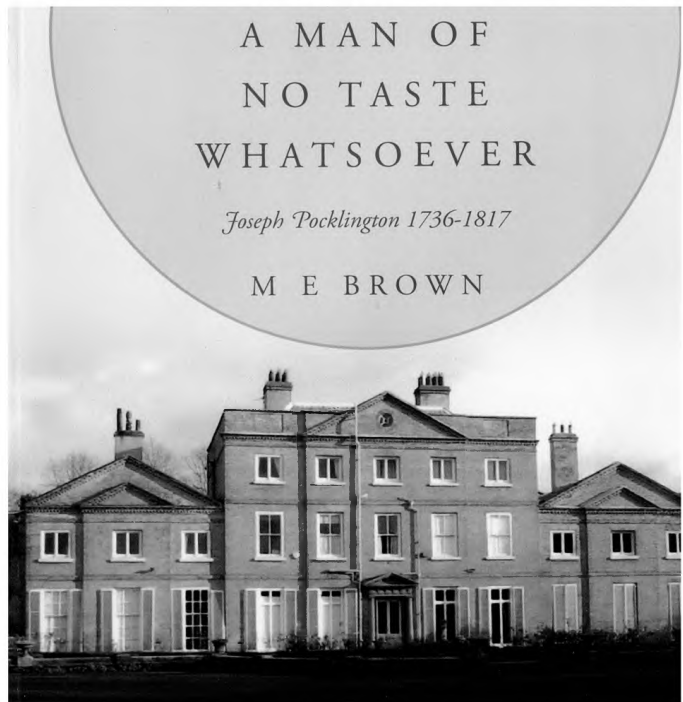
**M. E. Brown, *A Man of No Taste Whatsoever: Joseph Pocklington 1736-1817*** (Author house, 2010)

Joseph Pocklington is best known for upsetting Wordsworth and Coleridge by his activities on Derwentwater in the Lake District, while contributing to the promotion of tourism in the area. Until I read Margery Brown's book I had no idea that he was also a landowner in Nottinghamshire, albeit a rather eccentric one with a taste for vulgar display.

He built Muskham Hall in the 1790s, although it was demolished in the 1830s and has left little trace of its short history.

The book is as much about Cumbria as it is about Nottinghamshire, but that is the nature of the sources (although these are never cited). Pocklington died at Muskham, and there is a memorial to him in Newark church.

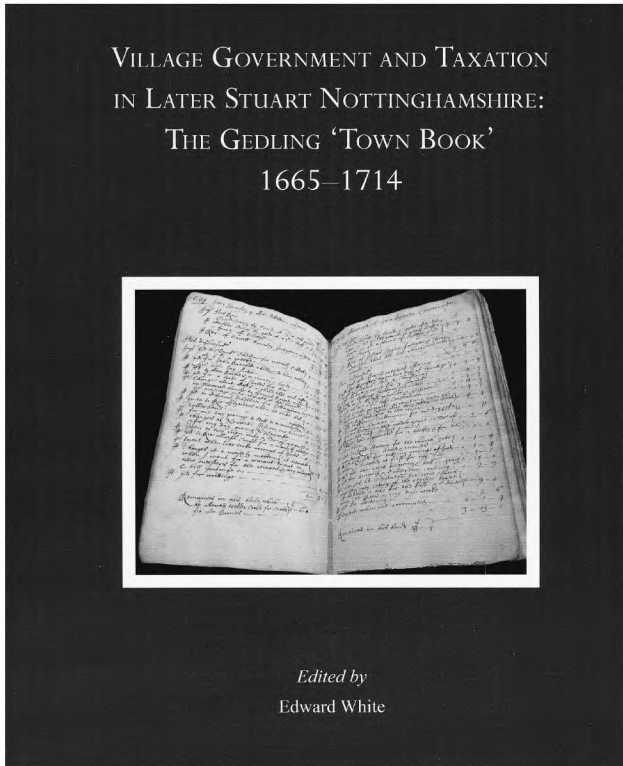
An interesting book, well worth reading: Pocklington's eccentric behavior is at last brought out into the open!



*John Beckett*

**Edward White ed., *Village Government and Taxation in Later Stuart Nottinghamshire: the Gedling "Town Book", 1665-1714* (Thoroton Record Society, 45, 2010)**

During the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the government shifted responsibility for local government from the manor to the parish and the county. The manor court became responsible for the administration of copyhold and oversight of the agricultural cycle, and in many cases across the Midlands it stopped meeting altogether. Meantime the parish had to adapt to the new roles. It had long been traditional to appoint churchwardens to maintain the fabric of the church, hence the survival of churchwarden's accounts, but with the transfer of responsibility to the parish of the poor law, and law and order, as well as tax collection and other positions, additional officers were required to undertake the new roles.



Ted White's volume of the Gedling Town Book not only makes a welcome addition to the Nottinghamshire literature, which included Martin Bennett's edition of the Upton Constable's Book in the *Record* series, but provides intimate details of how the parish took over the responsibilities and divided them among the leading farmers. The town book includes financial accounts for the years 1664-1714 for all three officers, churchwardens, constables and overseers. The leading farmers served their turn in each position, acting as a governing elite. Various compiled by the schoolmaster and others, the book records the work of the officers, and gives details relating to taxation and other income, expenditure, and wider issues of local government including suicides, sudden deaths, policing, and vermin control. The churchwardens had to look after the fabric of the church, the bells, the clock and the windows; and the overseers to deal with the poor, including those on long and those on short term assistance, funerals, apprenticeships, illegitimate children and vagrants. Much of the work was mundane, some was harrowing, and always there

was the need to raise taxation.

The document speaks for itself, but in the best tradition of a record society publication Ted has written an excellent introduction designed to help the reader understand the limits of the evidence in the town book but telling us also about the community of Gedling in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Town Book offers us a glimpse behind the proverbial curtains of the village, to get a sense of everyday life as local people sought to get on with making a living, and keeping themselves warm and fed. If you are not a member of the Record Society do buy a copy and enjoy the read.

*John Beckett*

*Ed: For details about the Record Society please refer to Adrian Henstock's article in this issue.*

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## MEMBERS

A warm welcome is given to new members joining since the previous issue of the *Newsletter*.

Dr. C. A. Baker  
Mr. D. J. Garwood  
Mr. M. Payne  
Mr. A. E. Woolrich.

Dr. D. P. Clifford  
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Ibbotson  
Mr. M. Roberts

Ms. P. Curtis  
Mrs. J. Oakland  
Mr. D. H. Wileman

It is with much sadness that we record the death of Mrs. S. G. C. Morton of Edwalton.



## LOCAL HISTORY SATURDAY SEMINARS

Saturday morning seminars are once again a feature of Nottinghamshire Local History. The seminar programme is lead by Professor John Beckett and he is supported by a small Committee of mainly Thoroton Society members.

Held in the School of History, Lenton Grove on the University of Nottingham's main campus they commence at 10.00 a.m. and finish about 12.30 p.m. The dates for 2011 coincide with the dates of Thoroton Society lectures because many people like to attend both.

The cost of the seminar is £5.00 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits during the break.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8 January 2011   | Mark Page: Corby to 1870: Agriculture, Industry, and Common Right in a Woodland Community                  |
| 12 February 2011 | Jenny Alexander: The Pories and the Rockeries: researching Felley and Thurgarton Pories in Nottinghamshire |
| 12 March 2011    | David Hey: Surnames, DNA and Family History  |

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## NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

The Nottingham Civic Society Newsletter number 143 has been received.

The newsletters are always worth reading, well illustrated and containing interesting information about the City and its buildings, past, present and future.

This issue contains a review of the newly completed alterations to the Newton and Arkwright buildings of the Nottingham Trent University's city campus, and the Cross Keys building (formerly the Town Arms) at Trent Bridge. There are other interesting articles and features.

Do find a copy to read or, even better, support the Civic Society by becoming a member.

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## WDYTYA

Did you catch the BBC One family history programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* in August when it featured Alexander Armstrong? If not you missed a lengthy interview with our Chairman, Professor John Beckett who was able to guide him through members of the Boughton family.

John's appearance was reported in the Nottingham Evening Post of 20 August with a page long feature and photograph of John.

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## DOMESDAY BOOK ONLINE

The Domesday Book can now be accessed online at [www.domesdaybook.co.uk](http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk) following the completion of a digitization project led by Stephen Baxter of King's College, London. The project is part of a lengthy academic project to compile details of all the Anglo-Saxons for whom records survive. The project is named Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (PASE).

The database for the Domesday Book is easy to use, free although one has to put up with irritating adverts.

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## SPRING MEETING AND AGM

The Society's AGM day bears a new name from 2011 to better reflect the day with its short AGM, talk and guided tour around the place where it is being held. Make a note – Saturday, 30 April 2011 at Flintham.

# THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON 2010

By Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

Once again we struck lucky with our choice of venue for this year's annual luncheon. The Charnwood Hotel at Blyth is a pleasant hotel, well run and the staff were warm and welcoming. The meal itself was excellent, not even a tiny whisper of complaint was heard! The waiting staff were extremely professional, serving the food on hot plates at table in the old fashioned way which everyone appreciated.

We were honoured and pleased to welcome Sir Andrew and Lady Belinda Buchanan as our guests. Sir Andrew is, as I am sure you know, the Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire, acting as the Queens representative in the County. He is, therefore, a very busy man and, after lunch, he told us a little of the role and of the activities in which he is involved. He is due to retire on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012, the day after the main festivities for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have finished, so it will be a splendid last year in office for him.

Lady Belinda and he are pleased to have recently moved to a smaller house near to Hodsock Priory, leaving their son George and his wife to manage the big house and its wonderful snowdrop garden. Sir Andrew's farming is still an important part of his life and he looks forward to spending more time on it.

Members enjoyed the event which was blessed with excellent weather. If you haven't been to a Society Lunch yet, book it in your diary for next year – they are always enjoyable. Where will it be in 2011?

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## VACANCY

The Society has a vacancy for a new Membership secretary to take over from John Hamilton at the 2011 AGM.

A volunteer is called for and if thinking of taking up the post John will be very happy to explain the role and what it involves.

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## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT BY MERTON PRIORY PRESS

Canon Michael Austin's latest book is announced at a retail price of £14.95 from booksellers or Amazon. *A Time of Unhappy Commotion – The Church of England and the People of South Nottinghamshire 1820-70.*

The book is a study of the Church in South Nottinghamshire between the 1820s and 1850s through a wealth of previously unused sources, including the local press, books and pamphlets written by the clergy, and in particular a newly discovered record of a visitation of Southwell deanery made in 1855. It brings to light much detail on what the church was doing and not doing, what some of its clergy thought it should be doing, and how it related to other individuals and institutions.

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## BROMLEY HOUSE

Bromley House is resplendent in its alterations and decorations to the entrance hallway which is now bright and cheerful in its buttercup yellow and Cornish cream paintwork. Restored portraits and on the stairway and beyond, a new carpet in warm cherry and black together with subtle lighting provided the finishing touches.

New lockers are provided on the first floor for depositing of bags and visitors are requested to use them and also to remember to turn off mobile phones when entering the library.

## MORE FROM THE LUNCHEON 2010



*The Charnwood Hotel, Blyth; our venue*

