

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 65

AUTUMN 2011



Members at the 2011 AGM at Flintham Hall *photo: David Hoskins*

Group photograph from our visit to Flintham Hall in the Centenary Year of 1997 photographed by Trevor Clayton



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

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

In the Autumn 2010 issue of the BALH's *Local History News* is an article written by Elizabeth Williamson, who is Executive Editor of the VCH, entitled *What's Next at VCH?* This article is reproduced with permission of the Editor of that journal.

'On 31st August [2010], we bid farewell to our Director, Professor John Beckett, who has returned to Nottingham University after a five-year secondment, having seen our HLF-funded **England's Past for Everyone** project through to a very successful conclusion. Not only did John oversee the publication of 15 EPE paperbacks in 10 different counties, the development of 2 websites and an education project, but he also acted as General Editor for several 'big red books' and started VCH activity in Cumbria, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Hampshire, building on the EPE model for volunteer research. And, although one might expect him to shake the VCH dust from his feet, he has taken on the role of VCH ambassador in those counties where new work has just started. John's energy and commitment are truly remarkable! Staff and supporters were able to thank him, some in person at a party held at the IHR on October 12th and others by messages in a specially crafted 'little red book'.

Now, despite fewer staff in VCH's London office and fewer full-time editors at work in the counties, there is no diminution in our ambition to keep the VCH show on the road and to make it better known and more widely used by both the academic community and general public. The most effective

means of reaching existing local historians and a new audience is our completely revamped website, which will be the subject of our next bulletin in *Local History News*. Our national and county sites will continue to give news of all the local history events, particularly those in which the VCH is involved, and to offer draft text hot off the PC. Our VCH Explore site, which has been redeveloped on a more accessible thematic basis, and our presence on British History Online gain us new users worldwide every day; our national website now provides online training in local history. In 2011 we will hold IHR-hosted local history study days and the annual Marc Fitch lecture, to be given on 12 July by Professor Jeremy Black. Our Locality and Regional seminar in the Institute of Historical Research continues, and we hope to start a new series of our paperbacks very soon.

Our core work continues to take priority, with a steady stream of 'big red books' planned for publication from now until 2013; this week we celebrate the launch of VCH Gloucestershire's volume 12 on Newent and May Hill, and in 2011 will see the publication of volumes from VCH Essex, Somerset and Oxfordshire. To find out more about those volumes and about all the latest VCH developments nationally and locally, please go to <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk>

Ed: Although this item is a year old I felt it worth reproducing because of the tribute it pays to our Chairman and the information regarding the VCH web sites.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mrs. Eileen Burton and we extend our sympathy to her family.

We warmly welcome the following who have joined the Society since the last Newsletter was published:

Mr. C. Poole
Mr. D. Adam

Mrs. M. Skelly

Mr. C. Skelly

THE THOROTON SOCIETY SPRING MEETING AND AGM

The 2012 meeting will take place on 28 April 2012 at Oxton Village Hall. Further details will be included in a future mailing to members.

SATURDAY SEMINARS

The most successful series of Saturday Seminars which was revived in 2010 into 2011 will again be held this coming Autumn in the History Department on the main University of Nottingham campus commencing at 10am. As a matter of policy and at the request of many attendees, the seminars are to be held on the morning of the Thoroton Society lecture series which are in the afternoon.

Saturday 8 October Chris Dyer *The Origins of the English Village Revisited (700-1200)*

This is a subject which threw off its 19th century restraints in the 1960s, and is now burgeoning with new and exciting ideas. What is a village? Where was the village? When was the village? are some basic and controversial questions. We ask who created the Midland nucleated village, and why? Were the decisions that lead to the formation of the often regular and coherent village forms made in pursuit of profit and order, or were environmental pressures at work? It brings to bear a range of disciplines, including archaeology, geography and place-name studies, and there is a danger that history is forced into the background. This seminar will guide newcomers to the subject through the thickets and blind alleys of research, and will bring old hands up to date.

Saturday 12 November Alistair Mutch

Gaddesby: a Decorated church in social and cultural context

The church at Gaddesby, Leicestershire, is one of the finest examples of Decorated architecture in the country. This session explores why it should be so. It starts by looking at some architectural features, notably buttresses, in their broader context. By this means an intriguing link with Merton College, Oxford is suggested. This then links the building to the wider events of the time and the figure of Robert Gaddesby, estate administrator whose connections enabled him to accumulate considerable wealth, much of which was lavished on the church and contributed to its fine architectural heritage. The church at Gaddesby is thus an intriguing example of the rise of secular administration and its influence on cultural developments.

Further dates with speakers to be confirmed are 10 December, 14 January 2012, 11 February, 2012 and 10 March 2012.

'THE NEW STATE OF ENGLAND'? *The Glorious revolution and its aftermath in the historic collections of the University of Nottingham.*

Opening in the Weston Gallery on 16 September 2011 this new exhibition explores the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and its aftermath through archives and rare books from the University's historic collections. The displays follow the figure of William Bentinck, one of William of Orange's closest confidantes and advisors, whose service was rewarded with the title Earl of Portland. He was the founder of a powerful political family, based at Welbeck Abbey in Nottinghamshire. The Portland papers with their letters and literature, poems and pamphlets, squibs and satire are a key source for this fascinating period in British history.

A series of free lunchtime (1-2 pm) talks accompany the exhibition:

Monday 10 October	<i>The Glorious Revolution and its Aftermath</i> - Professor Bill Speck.
Monday 31 October	<i>The Bentincks and the Bubble</i> - Richard Hunt
Thursday 10 November	<i>The Portland Collection and the University of Nottingham</i> Dr Dorothy Johnston
Thursday 1 December	<i>The Portland Archives at Nottinghamshire Archives</i> - Peter Lester

All held in the Djanogly Theatre

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

Nottinghamshire Archives now produces a most helpful and informative email newsletter. This has become essential reading for users of the Archives because it contains news of events and talks, tours and lists of new acquisitions as well as news of new developments in accessing information both locally and nationally.

To receive a copy please email the Archives at archives@nottscc.gov.

EXCURSION REPORTS

ASHBOURNE - SUNDAY 22 MAY 2011

Wet and Dry in Ashbourne

The 38 members and friends who took this excursion were, in fact, fortunate with the weather which was blustery but required raised umbrellas only twice and then for short periods only.

We were very fortunate to have Adrian Henstock as leader for the day; Adrian was raised in Ashbourne and knows the town like the back of his hand.

On arrival we were provided with a welcome cup of tea/coffee with biscuits in the Parish Hall, where, once a slight confusion with a baptism party had been sorted out, Adrian gave an outline of the history of the town before the tour started with St. Oswald's Parish Church.

There is slight evidence for the existence of a Saxon church on this site and a priest and church with land is mentioned in Domesday but there is little remaining of the Norman church other than remains of a crypt under the south transept and fragments of stonework in the north-east corner of the nave. The present church was begun at the beginning of the thirteenth century and built in the Early English style, with the first part to be completed being the chancel which was dedicated by Bishop Hugh de Patishul in 1241. We were unable to see the commemorative plaque because of building work inside the church. However, the plaque is the oldest such plate in England and probably the second oldest in Europe. William Rufus had given the church to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral in 1093. The nave and tower were completed in the late thirteenth century. The most impressive spire was added early in the fourteenth century and stands at 212 feet and weighs over 300 tons which has caused maintenance problems in the church over the years.

Ashbourne was a prosperous town due to Peak District lead and sheep, the church reflects the wealth of the parish. In 1698 the church suffered storm damage necessitating removing and rebuilding some twelve feet of the spire

and associated roof repairs which took five years to complete.

In 1760 a gallery was added adjacent to the north wall of the nave over an existing gallery known as the 'Scholar's Loft' but, and despite the ongoing prosperity of the town, the church appears to have fallen into some disrepair. In 1838 a new curate described the building as 'cold and damp, and decayed and deformed'. Apparently several windows in the chancel were blocked-in and urgent repairs costing £5,000 were completed and the church reopened in 1840. Stained glass windows were added which caused John Ruskin to complain to the vicar that the new glass on the north side of the chancel was 'the worst piece of base Birmingham manufacture I have ever seen'.

Sir Gilbert Scott undertook restoration work in the late nineteenth century which involved changing the chancel roof line and adding crenellations as seen today.

The first organ was fitted in 1710 made by Valentine of Leicester but this was replaced in 1858 by the Reverend J. R. Errington with another made by William Hill of London.

The interior of the church is impressive and in the Boothby Chapel are fine alabaster effigies of several important people from the parish, members of the Cockayne, Bradbourne and Boothby families

Adrian amused us by recounting the battle the Reverend Errington had to install his own organist, Bernard Parkin. The previous organist, Andrew Loder, refused to give up his post which resulted in difficulties for some time before Loder eventually ceased his resistance and emigrated to Australia.

Another amusing incident recounted by Adrian involved the weather-cock on the church spire. In 1873 it required replacing and the then vicar, Reverend Edward Moore, climbed the spire and replaced it himself; this gave rise to an

amusing cartoon showing his action. This bird was affectionately known to local children as 'Charlie-Chuck-Chuck'.



After leaving the church we walked along Church street towards the Market Place, stopping frequently to admire the Georgian buildings and listen to Adrian's explanation of the style and his contemporary quotations about the families who occupied the properties. Not to be missed is the Elizabethan Grammar School building which is very close to the church, even now, divided as it is into three separate units, it is a most impressive building.

As we walked along Church Street, we were shown Adrian's family home together with his Grandparents' house.

Our walk was greatly enhanced by Adrian's meticulously researched information, delivered in an inimitably amusing style which maintained our interest at all times.

The day finished back in the Parish Hall with an excellent tea, as is the tradition on Thoroton excursions.

Howard Fisher

ILKESTON, BEAUVALE and GREASLEY SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2011

The leaders for this excursion were Derek and Ceri Little.

The excursion revolved around the historical connection of sites associated with the de Canteloupe family, their manors, their church foundations and the priory which they founded.

After coffee in the Canteloupe Centre attached to St. Mary's church in Ilkeston, we enjoyed a talk by a member of the church and had plenty of time to look around this large and well endowed building. The amazing fact is that in the nineteenth century it was decided to extend the church, and the nave was doubled in size and the tower rebuilt stone by stone at the new west end. Two hours in the town gave a chance to visit a well run museum and to witness an annual carnival procession.

The visit to the site of Beauvale Priory was like stepping back in time to when the Carthusian monks found the beautiful valley where they could follow their silent order, disturbed only by the song of the birds and the presence of sheep. We meditated before the modern memorial to prior Lawrence and prior

Houghton who were executed in 1534 for refusing to acknowledge Henry VIII's authority over the church in England. What the present owners have achieved in only five years is a real work of dedication and energy: not only have they gained the full support of English Heritage to restore the parts of the building which remain, but they have also created detailed plans for the future development of tea rooms and an education space for school and other parties.

After a splendid tea (not monk's fare!) we travelled to Greasley church, originally associated with the de Cantelupes who occupied Greasley castle. Another interesting talk and tour explained that coal mining in the nineteenth century had caused the chancel and tower of the church to break away from the nave, a disaster which led to a major restoration and virtual rebuilding in 1896. Only parts of the outside walls of the chancel are original stonework now.

Our thanks to Derek and Ceri Little for their excellent organisation of the day.

Alan Langton

SCAMPSTON HALL AND BIRDSALL HOUSE, THURSDAY 14 JULY 2011

We may well ask what the connection is between a famous hall in Nottinghamshire and two properties near to the Yorkshire town of Malton. The answer lies in the Willoughbys of Wollaton.

The outing of the Society on 14 July not only gave the forty members excellent tours of two historic houses, which today enjoy a close

business relationship, but also gave us significant historical information to fill in the gaps about what had happened to the Willoughbys since they left Wollaton in 1729.

Scampston is particularly famous for its walled garden of nine acres, designed by Piet Oudolf, a leader in the new European Movement. It also has a delightful family

house, full of famous paintings (including works by Gainsborough) and antique items of china, which create a home that exudes warmth and welcome. We were given a full tour by Sir Charles Legard and his colleague before enjoying an appetizing lunch in the new visitor centre.

Our excursion continued to Birdsall House, set in most idyllic scenery, which on 14 July was bathed in splendid sunshine. Birdsall is not normally open to the general public, and members were struck by familiar scenes of Nottingham, the river Trent, and Wollaton Hall portrayed in pictures on the walls, revealing the connection between the family's former

occupancy of Wollaton Hall and its present home in Yorkshire.

Again, members enjoyed excellent tours of all the rooms at Birdsall, conducted by the Honourable James and Lady Cara Middleton, where we saw items of art and antiques, reflecting the result of many years collecting by the Middleton family.

We were treated to tea and biscuits in the large family dining room before leaving for our journey home.

Alan Langton.

Ed. Alan is too modest to say in this report that he was the leader for this day which was superbly organised, including the excellent weather.

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2011 - The Archaeology Lecture

ROMAN ARTIFACTS AT SOUTHWELL

Ursilla Spence, Senior Archaeology Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

A number of recent archaeological finds in Southwell have been attributed to the Roman era. In this lecture, Ursilla Spence will review the finds that have been made and explore their significance in the understanding of Roman settlements in Nottinghamshire.

SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2011 - The Nottinghamshire History Lecture

TRENT BRIDGE SCHOOL 1909-1919

A decade of loyalty, service and endurance

Dr. David Nunn, retired teacher and author

Dr. David Nunn retired early from a career in teaching in the Nottingham area and undertook a PhD at the University of Nottingham looking at the contribution of Nottingham schools to the 1914-18 war effort. His thesis was published as a book, *Britannia Calls: Nottingham schools and the push for Great War victory*, in 2010, but he has since been working further on school records, and in this lecture he will use newly discovered material relating particularly to Trent Bridge School as an illustration of the education community's contribution to the Great War victory.

Between its opening in 1909 and the start of hostilities in August 1914, teachers at Nottingham's Trent Bridge elementary school mirrored national trends by inculcating, by today's standards, excessive patriotism and respect for militarism into their 8-14 year old pupils. This was achieved by implementing a curriculum preoccupied with imperialism and by obeying a government edict imposing military style drill on children of elementary school age.

During the Great War, three former Trent Bridge pupils died in action (a small number because most of the original school intake were aged eight and therefore never old enough for Great War military service). Four male teachers served in uniform, one was killed and two seriously wounded. Women colleagues assisted 1915's recruitment drives and worked throughout the conflict to alleviate poverty. Shakespeare's 1916 Tercentenary became a Trent Bridge celebration of Englishness and the school participated in Nottingham's Patriotic Fair a year later. Trent Bridge children supported war charities, cultivated allotments, filled sand and grenade bags and visited hospitalized soldiers. This loyal stance was maintained despite hardships and stress caused by 'double shift' working when the school was turned into a military hospital, acute teacher shortages, fear of air raids and the scourge of influenza.



*Bernard Courtney Laws, teacher at Trent Bridge School.
The first Nottingham teacher to enlist and the first to die at the front.*

SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2011 - The Neville Hoskins Lecture

HERALDRY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Dr. Clive Cheesman, MA, PhD, FSA, Richmond Herald, College of Arms

The College of Arms is part of the Royal Household and is the official repository of the coats of arms and pedigrees of English, Welsh, Northern Irish and Commonwealth families and their descendants. Coats of Arms have been, and still are, granted by Letters Patent from the senior heralds, the Kings of Arms. A right to arms can only be established by the registration in the official records of the College of Arms, of a pedigree showing direct male line descent from an ancestor already appearing therein as entitled to arms, or by making application through the College of Arms for a grant of arms. Grants are made to corporations as well as to individuals.

Clive Cheesman is one of the 13 officers of the College of Arms, known as heralds, who specialize in genealogical and heraldic work for their respective clients. He holds the office of Richmond Herald and was the officer responsible for confirming the Arms of the Diocese of Southwell to Neville Hoskins when he queried the multiple versions in use around the county. Clive Cheesman has ancestral connections to Nottinghamshire and will explore the many and varied uses of heraldic devices in the county.

The full achievement of arms for the College of Arms with descriptive labeling.



SNIPPETS

An article in the Newark Advertiser at the end of July referred to the ongoing controversy over the Roman villa at **Southwell**. It would appear that English Heritage are still unwilling to schedule the site and that the developer is considering the sale of the site to an Irish consortium regardless of the outcome of the planning application for 29 homes on the site.

A recent announcement is that the **Forest Recreation Ground** in Nottingham is to have a makeover costing £5 million. This will restore the grounds and transform the Grade II listed lodge and pavilion buildings into a new visitor centre. Work possibly starting in autumn 2011

VERNON RADCLIFFE, 10 March 1926 -11 June 2011

Vernon Radcliffe died on 11 June 2011 aged 85 years. He was a long-standing member of the Thoroton Society, a Council member from 1968-9 and was elected a Vice-President of the society at the 1988 AGM.

Robert Howard delivered the eulogy at the funeral, Dr. Caroline Graves-Brown, Curator of The Egypt Centre, University of Swansea and Brian Loughborough former Director of Nottingham City Museums have provided memories and information about Vernon from which the following is derived.

Vernon Radcliffe was born in Rotherham and attended the grammar school in that town. He developed an interest in local history being inspired by the town's Clifton Park Museum, and whilst at school he started measuring rainfall and submitting information to *British Rainfall* journal; he was awarded the MBE in 1997 for his work as a voluntary rainfall observer.

On leaving school in 1944 he was immediately conscripted into the army and served with the Royal Signals in India and Malaya. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1947 and returned to his home town. He worked in the local Labour Exchange and upon seeing an advertisement for a 'resident observer' at the King's Observatory, Kew, he applied for and gained the post which involved the measuring of rainfall! After three years he became a museum assistant at Sheffield City Museums but a few years later moved south to a post at the Vestry House Museum in Walthamstow. In the mid 1950s he moved to Gunnersby Park Museum. He was involved with the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, the Middlesex Local History Council and served on the then Standing Conference for Local History. He attended meetings of the Council for British Archaeology and was co-founder of the Acton Local History Group.

In 1959 he married Gladys having met her at the National Buildings Record Library.

In 1964 Vernon was appointed as the first curator of the Newark Museum where he remained until retirement in 1991. Robert first met him in 1973 at a meeting of the Midland Area Museum Service when Robert was a Birmingham City Councillor and at the 1976 conference he introduced Robert to the then

curator of Mansfield Museum, Susan Griffiths, and the couple have been together ever since.

From 1964 Vernon was active in the Nottinghamshire Local History Association and the Newark Archaeological and Local History Society was formed in Vernon's front room as a successor to the Newark Archaeological Research Committee which had been founded by Maurice Barley.

Caroline Graves-Brown's memories of Vernon are from working with him for five years in the 1980s when she was the assistant curator at Appletongate Museum, Newark. She remembers that he had a dry and quirky sense of humour which really required being present with him to appreciate.

Caroline says that 'Mr. Radcliffe' as they called him, had a prodigious memory and knew every detail there was to know about Newark. On one occasion the local paper wanted a photograph of a boating disaster and she was sent to find it. Anticipating having to look through hundreds or even thousands of photographs to find it, she recalls Vernon telling her the exact year and so her task was simplified. She says 'Mr. Radcliffe always stood up for values in which he believed and would not be swayed by views simply because they were fashionable, he was a truly ethical man, even willing to make himself ridiculed to do what was right ... He greatly admired loyalty. When a paid job was available in the museum he believed that it should be offered first to a youth opportunities person who had previously worked for us rather than putting the application out for all to apply. ... His enthusiasm and dedication to promoting and protecting the heritage of Newark was exemplary. He once told me how flattered he was because a researcher had assumed he was a volunteer rather than the museum curator. That showed ... he still retained the enthusiasm of a volunteer ... He was a very kind and thoughtful person. Every year he always sent me a letter around about Christmas with news from Newark, and continued to do so even though I hadn't worked for him for some 20 years.'

Caroline ends her memories with 'To summarize, Mr. Radcliffe was a very brave individual, always willing to do what he thought was right even if it didn't fit with what everyone else believed. He was also kind, farsighted,

loyal, hardworking and generous with his time, he had a quirky sense of humour. I feel privileged to have worked with him'.

Brian Loughborough says; 'I remember Vernon being at Gunnersby Park Museum and also at Newark in the early days when I was at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. Both Vernon and his wife were very hospitable and helpful to me as an innocent young sprog.

Vernon was a joiner of various organisations that he thought worthwhile and he always

expected them to be well run and clear about what they were doing. His pithy comments at the Midlands Federation and the Society for Folk Life Studies would always enliven any meeting and subsequent discussion.'

The Thoroton Society sends its condolences to Vernon's wife and family.

RUFFORD ABBEY UNKNOWN DRAWINGS

By Pete Smith

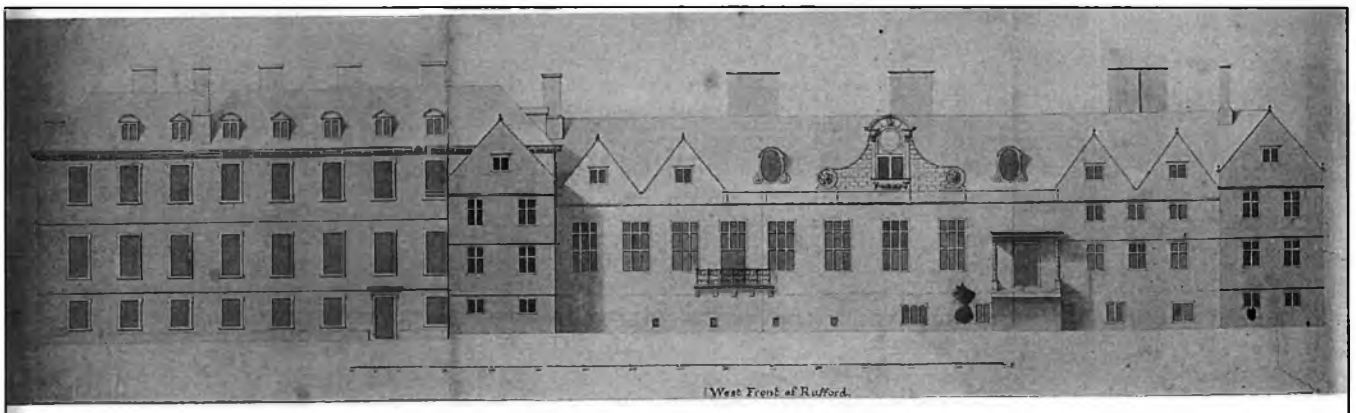
Only days after my article *Rufford Abbey and its Gardens in the 17th and 18th Centuries* was published in the English Heritage Historical Review, Vol. 4 in May 2009, a group of 22 previously unknown drawings of Rufford Abbey and Ollerton Hall were offered for sale at Sothebys by Lord Savile.

These drawings have since been purchased by the Nottinghamshire County Council (with the assistance of the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries) and they have now been re-united with the remainder of the Savile drawings at Nottinghamshire County Archives.

The drawings include a mid-18th century set of survey drawings of the Abbey, which most importantly illustrate the west entrance front as

it existed before Anthony Salvin's alterations, carried out between 1837 and 1841 (see picture below). They also include a number of late 18th century views of the Abbey, and a group of elevations and plans of Ollerton Hall and designs for a new church at Ollerton. Many of these drawings have been identified as the work of the well known 18th century architect, James Gibbs. All these drawings will be illustrated and their importance discussed in Richard Hewling's forthcoming article entitled *Sir George Savile's Architectural Drawings* which will be published in the English Heritage Historical Review, Vol. 5, 2011.

The drawings are catalogued as Nottinghamshire Archives, DP/97/1/1-13; DP/97/2/1-5; DP97/3/1 and DP97/4/1.



A survey drawing entitled 'West Front of Rufford' by James Gibbs c1750, showing the west front before it was altered by Anthony Salvin, 1837-41. It illustrates the former porch with its single Salomonic columns, an iron balcony to one of the large windows and an elaborate curved gable, flanked by oval dormer windows, crowning the central section of this facade. Nottinghamshire Archives DP/97/1/7.

BLEASBY'S WARTIME AIR CRASHES

By Barbara Cast

Even though deep in the countryside, the villages in the area around Southwell saw a good deal of wartime action in the last war. With so many airfields in this part of Nottinghamshire just across the river and in Lincolnshire, the skies were constantly flown over and, as has been seen in recent news of memorials being erected in villages round about, such as Hoveringham, there were a significant number of aeroplane crashes.

Bleasby, my home village, did not escape these events: two Lancasters and a Wellington came down, with the loss of the crews. On 6 February 1941 a Wellington, R1014, with a crew from 304 Squadron, a Polish squadron, came down near to Station Farm shortly after taking off on a training flight from RAF Syerston. All four Polish airmen, Sergeants Cymborski, Janczyk, Lichota and Tofin, were killed.

Two Lancasters collided over Bleasby on 1 September 1943: this was recorded in the village school logbook. They were flying at night without lights, one flying from Metheringham and the other just returning from Germany and heading for Syerston. The wreckage was scattered over 40 acres of fields between Rudsey Farm and Brickyard Farm and all sixteen aircrew died.



Just one of the memorials to crashed airmen in the county - this one is on Tollerton airfield

THE THOROTON SOCIETY LUNCHEON 2011

Included with this issue of the *Newsletter* is a flier about this year's annual luncheon which is to be held at the Hemsley, University of Nottingham. This is the building which used to be the staff club and comes highly recommended.

We are very pleased to be able to say that the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt. Revd. Paul Butler, and Mrs. Rosemary Butler, will be our guests. After lunch Bishop Paul has agreed to give a short talk on the King James Bible, the 400th anniversary of which we celebrate this year. The Bishop is an expert on this bible.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with old and new friends on the 5 November and enjoy a special meal together.

Barbara Cast, Hon. Sec.

NEW WEB SITE FOR WOODBOROUGH

By David Bagley

Over the last nine years a local history team in Woodborough has developed an extensive website concerning all aspects of Woodborough's heritage. In the last few months this has been overhauled, extended and improved in its presentation and ease of reference.

www.woodborough-heritage.org.uk now provides over 200 articles, equivalent in length to some 700 A4 pages, all illustrated with a wealth of photographs taken from a database of over 4,500 images.

At the time of Domesday, Woodborough was a hamlet of 200 souls on the edge of Sherwood Forest, owned by three Saxon thanes who were promptly dispossessed by William the

Conqueror. Articles on the website illustrate how the village boomed in the 19th century to be a centre of framework knitting, followed by the growth of market gardening which took advantage of the fertile soil of a sheltered valley.

Little change followed until the 1970s when two new estates doubled the village's population to the present 2,000 but the main part of Woodborough remained unchanged and is principally a Conservation Area.

All aspects of the village's heritage have been covered by the website and its contents have been carefully regrouped into main areas which can be expanded through menus to simplify retrieval.

BYRON MEMORIAL BOOK

An article on the BBC web site gave information about a book bought at a bring and buy sale held at a church in Savannah, Georgia, America for \$35 which turned out to be a memorial book from Byron's family vault in Nottinghamshire.

The book records the personal tributes and several poetic laments left by over 800 people, many famous figures of the period, who travelled to the poet's final resting place in St. Mary Magdalene church in Hucknall. The book was apparently placed in the vault in 1825 and by 1834 was full. How the book went to America is not known although an 1849 report suggests that the then parish clerk gave it to a friend and another from 1890 suggests that the

book was taken to the USA when a family which then owned it emigrated.

The book was bought in Savannah by Mrs. Marilyn Solana who, after online research contacted experts at the National Library of Scotland where a curator, David McClay realized what the book was and inspected it when attending a conference in the USA.

Mrs. Solana later travelled to Edinburgh to present the book to the National Library of Scotland which holds the world's most extensive collection of works by Byron in its John Murray Archive. A digital copy of the book after conservation work has been carried out will be given to Mrs. Solana and the church at Hucknall.

ON THE FLATS - HYSON GREEN FLATS HISTORY PROJECT

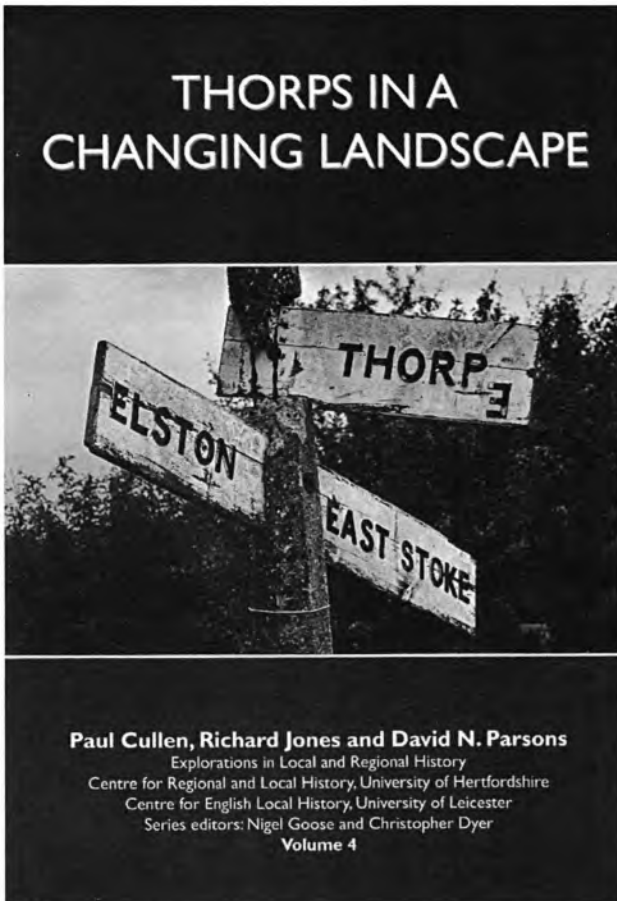
Helen Bates wishes to promote this Heritage Lottery funded project to highlight work being done to research the history of Hyson Green through oral history interviews and archive based research. The project is also gathering material from ex-residents to deposit in archives which might otherwise be destroyed. An example is the archive of the Hyson Green Traders' Association, gained by the project after the closure of the

Association's office earlier this year.

There is a web site at www.hysongreenhistory and at the end of this year a booklet will be produced to accompany an exhibition at Brewhouse Yard museum describing the story of the Hyson Green flats.

If any reader has information about the flats, Helen can be contacted at helenb@partnershipcouncil.co.uk.

BOOK REVIEWS



THORPS IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Paul Cullen, Richard Jones and David N. Parsons.
(University of Hertfordshire Press).
ISBN 798-1-902806-82-2

This book of just over two hundred pages is full of detailed information about places which are called *Thorp* or have *thorp* as an element of their name; that is, all those which are not *throps*. If you are a place-name junkie, as I am, this is a book for you. It examines the long-held premise that a *thorp* is a minor or satellite settlement of a larger or more important place, using new and old research to forward the authors' conclusions on what actually was a *thorp*. It also looks at the differences between the *thorps* of the Danelaw and the (mainly) *throps* of the English region.

The authors, using all the available linguistic, documentary, topographical and archaeological evidence, put forward a new hypothesis of what the origins of *thorps* might have been: that they were not merely 'secondary settlements of no specialized function relating to the last wave of Scandinavian land colonisation'. Looking at many test cases, including several Nottinghamshire *thorps*, Cullen and co find that they appeared in areas which had long been occupied, especially in good arable areas.

There is strong evidence that they began as small, regularly planned settlements based on a single street - a linear form which survived in the 19th century in many cases. The premise put forward is that they were beginning to be established from the later 9th century to house the considerable labour force needed for crop production; they were, it is proposed, settlements intended for a dozen or so manorial tenants of more or less equal status; and that they did act as specialized areas away from the longer established livestock holding settlements.

Fascinating to those interested in settlement development and agricultural organisation, this book is well worth dipping into for its insights into a village type common to Nottinghamshire. Here the reader will find examples in Easthorpe and Westhorpe, Bilsthorp, Owthorp, Thorp-in-the-Glebe, Thorp-by-Newark etc. An interesting addition to the corpus of place-name books. It was co-written by Paul Cullen who, members may remember, gave an excellent lecture on Nottinghamshire place-names a few years back.

Barbara Cast

TURNING BACK THE PAGES IN MAID MARIAN WAY

Compiled by Nottinghamshire Archives
ISBN 978-0-902751-71-2

The *Turning Back the Pages* series of books produced by the Nottinghamshire Archives team introduces its readers to the history of the county and city of Nottingham in an entertaining and innovative way by using archival photographs and other illustrations to tell the story of a particular element of history. In this, the latest book in the series, Chris Weir and Nick Scott turn the focus onto Maid Marian Way to show the development of the road and what the area looked like before the demolition teams got to work.

It cannot be disputed that, at the time this road was planned, traffic volumes were increasing in Nottingham and that some foresight was required to find a way of handling traffic in and around the west part of the city centre and that a road was needed to cope with increasing traffic levels, not only for the immediate future but the long term future as well. However, was it really necessary to so brutally destroy a large segment of the historic part of the city? The pictures in this book show exactly what was sacrificed to make way for Maid Marian Way: the old street pattern, St. Nicholas Church Trust school, Watson Fothergill's St. Nicholas church rectory, Collins' Almshouses, other lovely buildings of great interest and, it has to be admitted, some less lovely ones.

The same destructive attitude applied to the demolition to create the monstrous Broad Marsh shopping centre, an offense to the eye no matter what the current tinkering will produce.

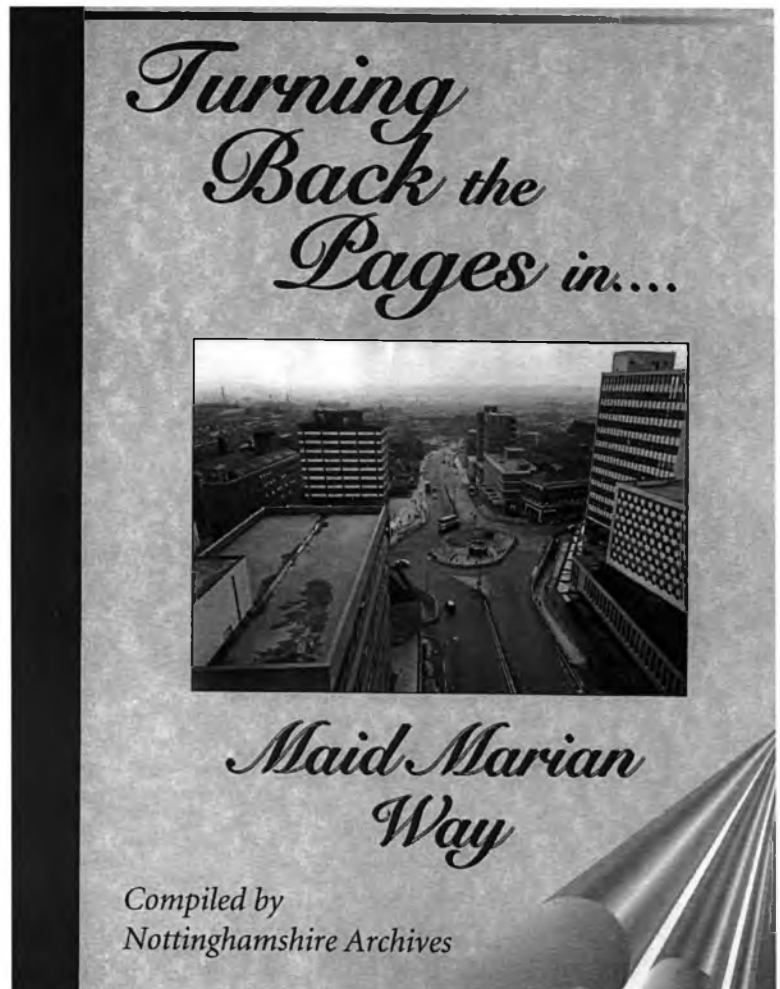
Nottingham was once described as the 'Queen of the Midlands', a title now in contention as visits to our neighbouring cities of Derby and Leicester clearly demonstrate. Could not those responsible at the time for the planning and sanctioning the destruction of large parts of the historic city have been more creative, more sympathetic to the history and fine buildings of the area? Was there really no alternative? At least campaigning by the Civic Society prevented more destruction for a complete inner ring-road but innovative attempts to control traffic were apparently dropped after motorists complained. Other cities similar to Nottingham didn't make the same judgments as did the planners here and so those cities have retained good buildings and street layouts that Nottingham lost.

Maid Marian Way has been described as one of the ugliest streets in the UK. Whether this is a just description I leave readers to decide for themselves but really, is it so bad? In producing this book the Archives staff provide us with pictorial evidence on which to base a judgment. Setting old views against more recent ones with captions to establish the viewpoints is an excellent way to inform the reader and this book does this in a clear, unbiased and informative way.

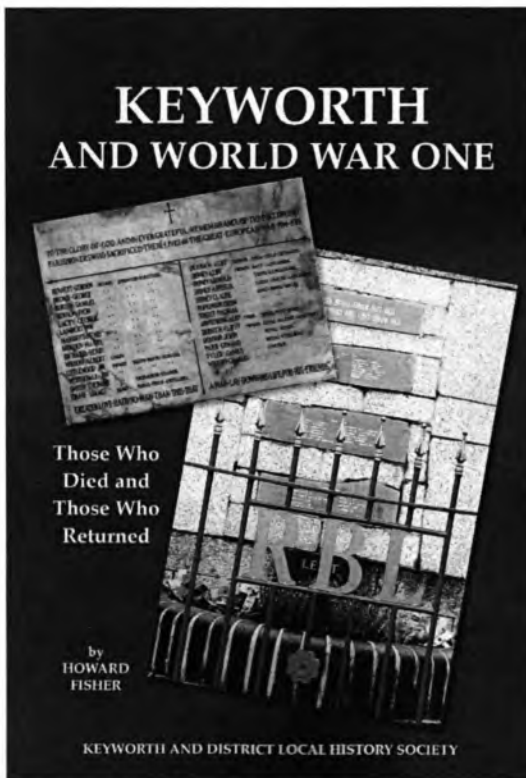
This is a book which should be bought by every family in the city and its environs and used to seek to influence those we elect to office not to repeat the mistakes of those who planned and sanctioned the loss of so many buildings in the city in the past, and to seek to preserve what remains of the historic environment. Even a short walk around the city centre and the Lace Market clearly shows just what state some of the most important buildings of the city are in. It is to be hoped that action can be taken to preserve for the enjoyment of our grandchildren and their children elements of the city's history.

Buy this book, enjoy the pictures and the memories they induce, but also reflect on the fact that there are still treasures in this city which it is essential to preserve. Modern architecture of an imaginative and innovated design is surely welcome but in so doing we must not lose that which was excellent and innovative at the time it was erected.

The book costs £3.95 and can be bought from the Nottinghamshire Archives and major libraries. It can also be bought by post by sending a cheque for £6.95 (which includes £3.00 p&p) payable to Nottinghamshire County Council at Libraries, Archives and Information, 4th Floor, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP



Howard Fisher



KEYWORTH AND WORLD WAR ONE: Those Who Died and Those Who Returned.

Howard Fisher. (Keyworth and District Local History Society). ISBN 978-0-9524602-4-4

Just like many towns and villages throughout the country, once the First World War had ended, Keyworth erected a war memorial to those who had died in the war. Placed in the parish church it listed the names of twenty seven men plus each one's rank and regiment. At the time the marble tablet was officially unveiled, those present at the ceremony would have known almost everyone listed there and which particular families they were drawn from. With the passage of time this communal knowledge would gradually dissipate especially as new families came to live there and the village grew in size. Nowadays only those with a specific family link might be expected to know something about any of those listed. To rectify this unsatisfactory state of affairs Howard Fisher has spent four years searching the relevant source material and the fruits of his research are now available to all in *Keyworth and World War One* published in 2011.

The Internet provides access to all manner of information including the World War One soldiers records - where they have survived. This means for some soldiers there is a wealth of available documentation but for others (the majority) there are only the basic details. In order to fill out the individual portraits the author has sought out family information courtesy of the census and parish records. Where the relevant service file has survived we have access to a complete description of the man in question taken from the medical report drawn up at the time of enlistment - even down to the colour of their eyes and chest size. The medical records log any subsequent injuries or illnesses including sexually transmitted diseases. We learn where they train and when and where they embark for the front. The personal records rarely if ever tell you anything about the circumstances surrounding an individual's death. The author has drawn on battalions' war diaries to try and rectify this and he reproduces what was written in the relevant diary in the lead up to each person's death. This information is not yet available over the Internet which necessitated repeated trips to the National Archives at Kew. Howard also provides details about the cemetery where each one was buried or the monuments bearing their names in the case of those whose bodies were never recovered. Searching the various electronic indexes via the Internet using the keyword 'Keyworth' enabled the author to pinpoint a further five individuals with a connection to the village who died in the war but whose names do not appear on the Keyworth memorial. Their profiles are also included in this book. Repeating the keyword search on all the extant service records brings up the records of some who survived the war. This has allowed Howard Fisher to create short profiles for a further twenty three local men who fought in the war. There were quite a lot more whose records have not survived. The Keyworth Absent Voters list for 1918 provides the service number and regimental details for a further forty five men and the author reproduces this information at the tail end of his book along with twenty seven more men where the specific service information was not provided. He ends with a further three local people where service details are lacking but who are known to have served in the war. Included here is the only woman mentioned in the book, Ellen Disney, who was a staff nurse in Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps.

Where the author has gained access to photographs of the people in question these are included. We have some photographs of individual graves along with general shots taken at each of the cemeteries. Also featured are a number of photographs of soldiers at the front, reproduced by courtesy of the Imperial War Museum. It all helps to make for a most attractive publication which should ensure that 'We will remember them!'

Stephen Zaleski

The book costs £7.50 and is available from Keyworth Post Office or from the author and Keyworth & District Local History Society. If to be posted an additional £3.00 is required to cover p&p. Cheques payable to the KDLHS.

ROMAN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mark Patterson (Five Leaves Publications, Nottingham). ISBN 978-1-907869-12-9

Having a professional interest in history and involved as an amateur in local archaeology, I found this book both entertaining and informative.

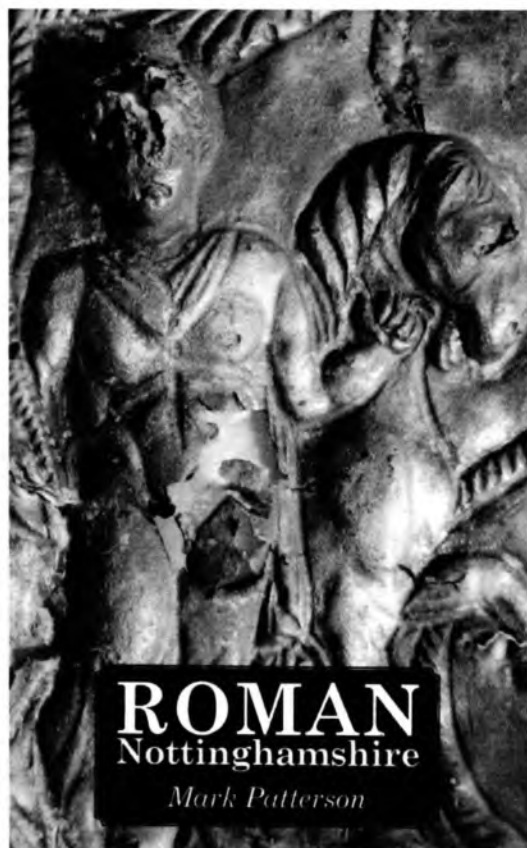
My brief episodes with Malcolm Todd at Margidunum and Malcolm Dean at Broughton Lodge left me with the beginnings of a concept of the Romans in Nottinghamshire and the relative importance of the Fosse Way in the evolution of settled communities.

The thoroughness of Mark Patterson's research has successfully laid to rest the occasional flights of fancy of the more imaginative early archaeo-historians and by incorporating the most up-to-date material from the field research prior to the dualling of the A46, he has taken our knowledge into the twenty-first century.

For a piece of scholarship and research as broad-ranging as this, Mark has succeeded in producing a well illustrated book which is packed with information and yet remains eminently readable.

He uses a relaxed style of address which this reader found inviting, sadly not always the case with scholarly works.

For the student and savant alike, this book represents a body of work which, in any study of Nottinghamshire's history will rank as a work of reference to which we will return time and time again, not least for the invaluable bibliography as a source for inviting still further study and research.



Keith Barton

Mark Patterson will be giving an illustrated talk on Roman Southwell at Southwell Library on 22 September 2011 at 7 pm. Tickets at £3.00 are available from the Library (01636-812148) or email southwell.library@nottscc.gov.uk.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

The group will be holding a meeting on Saturday 22 October 2011 at The Meeting Room of Arnold Library, starting at 10.30 am for about an hour. New members to the Group will be very welcome to join us.

The Library is at the junction of Front Street and High Street in Arnold and is part of the Leisure Centre complex. There is a large public car park close to the Library (pay and display £1.00 for 2¹/₂ hours) and has good disabled access. The Meeting Room is accessed either through the Library or the Leisure Centre.

There are two main items for the meeting:-

1. With the approach of the centenary of the Great War, it has been suggested that Thoroton should produce a book. One possible topic is *The folks back home*, a study of the effects of war on daily life in Nottinghamshire. The discussion will be around this idea, and suggestions for suitable areas of research, and also possible chapter authors, will be welcomed.
2. An opportunity for members to talk briefly about research work in progress.

Please contact John Wilson, email wilsonianus@hotmail.co.uk telephone 0115-926-6175 if you wish to have a 'slot' to discuss your current work.



Afternoon tea at Ashbourne

Alan talking about Ashbourne church

The old grammar school at Ashbourne



At Bird sail House



Scampston Hall, built in 1690 and remodeled 1795-80