

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 68

SUMMER 2012



*Gunthorpe in 1755 – see article inside
Photo by permission of Gunthorpe Parish Council*

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

THE SPRING MEETING 2012

BY BARBARA CAST

Towards the end of the wettest April since records began, we managed to have a dry day for our Spring Meeting and AGM in Oxton on 28th April. There were good numbers once again for the meeting in the very well appointed Oxton Village Hall.

After the usual welcome by our President, Dr. Rosalys Coope, the AGM took place chaired by Professor John Beckett. This year the business included approval of some fairly minor changes to the constitution which will now go to the Charity Commissioners for approval. Two new members were elected to Council, Andy Nicholson, our Webmaster, and Ceril Little; also two new officers, Martyn Bennett as our new Transactions History editor and Judith Mills as the Membership Secretary – we welcome them all.

In his Chair's remarks, Professor Beckett informed members that Council was committed to maintaining the size of the well-respected and attractive Newsletter, even though the postage costs would be higher. He also spoke of plans to explore other ways of making sure that members are fully informed of events and matters of interest as quickly as possible. Following the commitment to support and promote research made last year, John was able to inform members of the establishment of two new groups, the Research Group and the Victoria County History for Nottinghamshire Group.

Both are now formally sections of the Society. He thanked all the officers for their work this year and for their continuing support.

Following the business of the AGM, members were treated to a film, introduced by local historian Margaret Cooper and filmed by Adrian Todd, about some of the most interesting historic features of Oxton – its hillfort, the church, blacksmithing and farming, the tree planting that celebrated success at the end of the Napoleonic wars, a splendid well in process of excavation and more. (*Ed: Barbara modestly fails to mention here starring role in this film where she commented upon and described the hill fort site.*)

We then enjoyed a splendid tea, this time not a WI tea but very amply supplied by Catherine's Bakery of Calverton. Not having the WI in charge meant a lot more work for a number of members and so I give a big thank you to all of them – I hope your hands have recovered from the washing up!

After tea we moved across the road to the church where Colin Ashmore gave an interesting and entertaining explanation of the church's features. Following this many of the members went for a walk around the village, led by Colin and Margaret.

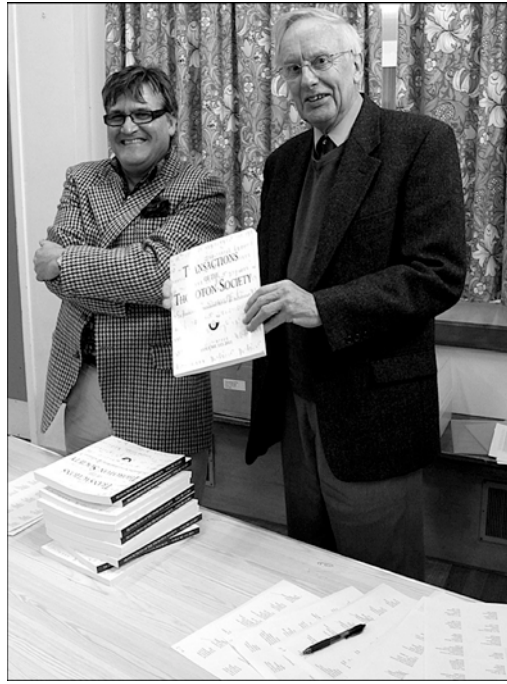
Again it was a very enjoyable day so, if you haven't yet attended one of our Spring Meetings, it can be thoroughly recommended.



The tea



Oxton Local Historian,
Margaret Cooper introducing
the film.



David Bagley and Professor Martyn Bennett
distributed copies of The Transactions



Oxton historian, Colin Ashmore and film-maker Adrian Todd
answer questions from the audience about the film.

AGM photos: Howard Fisher



THE LOST MANOR OF KIRKBY HARDWICK

BY TREVOR LEWIS

INTRODUCTION

The Kirkby & District Archaeological Group (KDAG) is only recently formed (2010) but rapidly, and unexpectedly, found itself engaged in supporting two phases of archaeological investigation in October 2011 and March 2012 on the site of Kirkby Hardwick Manor, which was demolished by the National Coal Board in 1966.

The Group's initial aim had been to follow up the discovery of a Neolithic axe-head on the eastern edge of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, using a field-walking project to see if there was more evidence of ancient settlement. This proposal was put on hold when it emerged that Mrs. Betty Kirk – a former resident of the house – had for some years been urging the authorities to undertake an excavation at Kirkby Hardwick. An application was made for Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) funding to Nottinghamshire County Council, which proved successful. In the meantime, the Committee (without much historical knowledge or research experience) started to find out about the site through visits, by acquiring historical information (not least G.G. Bonser's article in *Transactions*, 1912), archive material, maps and photos, and by recording the memories of others who lived at the house in the 1930s to 1960s.

CONTEXT

The site is 100 metres west of Sutton Parkway train station on the Robin Hood line.

Above ground little remains to be seen of the ancient manor house and its successors; only a long, thick stone wall with brick infill and few features, and a patch of modern quarry tile flooring in an outbuilding.



Remaining long stone wall.

Photo: Alan Kirk

Grimm's very accurate drawings from 1773, along with photographs from 1880 until demolition, reveal something much grander; a second storey with late-medieval or Tudor windows, fireplaces and chimneys; also more extensive walls with loop-holes enclosing the site to the east and south.



Left: Drawing of internal west and north interior walls by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm, 1773 *British Museum*.

Right: Photo 1880 of exterior north and west walls. *Manuscripts & Special Collections, University of Nottingham*



If these pictures hint at a building of considerable status and interest, the emerging history confirms it as a place worthy of re-discovery and extensive investigation. To an unusual degree the site encapsulates a national story from pre-historic beginnings to a post-industrial conclusion.

- a pre-historic flint core discovered on site in the course of the October 2011 excavation hints at ancient settlement close to the source of the River Maun.
- the earliest mention comes in the Sherwood Forest perambulation of 1232
- there is a series of powerful owners: Sir Richard Illingworth, the 4th Earl of Shrewsbury; the Dukes of Newcastle – powerful enough to avoid inclusion within the Forest boundary, (though the dovecote is included)



Sherwood Forest map of the late 15th or early 16th century.

British Library

- it provides one night's lodging for the disgraced and dying Cardinal Wolsey
- dereliction sets in, probably the outcome of Royalist ownership in the Civil War
- recovery of the manor by the Duke of Newcastle after the Restoration
- tenanted by yeoman farmers (Clarks) for 300 years – we have Thomas Clarke's diary and Samuel Grimm's drawings from the 1770s
- enclosure of surrounding common land
- the Industrial Age arrives: Nottinghamshire's first 'railway' (horse drawn from Pinxton to Kirkby, then free-wheeling to Mansfield via Kirkby Hardwick) opens in 1819
- hay ricks are burnt, supposedly by local Chartists
- the house has a mid-Victorian makeover, with mock-Tudor windows modelled on the ancient remains
- 1880s: Summit Colliery opens; spoil starts to spread towards Kirkby Hardwick; a brick works is established and railway sidings obliterate the fish ponds



Summit Colliery:
aerial photograph 1948



Sites and Monuments Record

Kirkby Hardwick can be seen on the extreme right centre of the photograph, arrowed.

- purchase by the National Coal Board to avoid expensive compensation for subsidence and spoil spread; the house is divided up and leased
- demolition comes in 1966; the local authorities don't value the Manor as local heritage; visitor 'safety' is cited as a reason to demolish the medieval as well as the later structures
- the spoil heaps are landscaped and planted up; dog-walkers create a network of paths
- late 20th – early 21st century: a rise in interest in genealogy, heritage and archaeology: the past is valued again
- 2011 – 2012 sees excavations and a desk-top study to re-discover Kirkby Hardwick, with the longer term aim of conserving the ancient walls and creating a genuine "Local Improvement" in the environment for the benefit of Ashfield residents.

QUESTIONS IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER

Despite many references to Kirkby Hardwick in documents from the 13thC onwards (where it is also referred to as Sutton Hardwick, Hardwick-upon-Line, even Hardwick Hall) the first date when we can be certain that the site includes a significant residence in 1530, when the 4th Earl of Shrewsbury lodges the dying Cardinal Wolsey after a 25 mile ride from Sheffield Park on a mule. Of course it is highly likely that there was living accommodation from much earlier, rather than a mere land-holding, but this is just one of the gaps in our knowledge that requires filling with solid evidence. There are plenty of others. The house we know from later maps and photos stands within, and largely separate from, the late-medieval walls and has gone through several modifications, but we lack any certainty about their dates and extent. Persistent rumours also exist of a chapel at Kirkby Hardwick, and of lead coffins buried in the grounds, as well as cellars, passages and the inevitable (and well-attested) ghosts.

Disappointingly, of course, the archaeologists are more concerned with sober realities than the more romantic and lurid possibilities of the site: finding bodies is a hazard to be avoided, not embraced. The excavation is labelled 'an evaluation': only the upper strata of the site are to be uncovered and a major objective is to establish just what has been left after the demolition process. Has the archaeology been wrecked beyond the possibility of useful investigation?

THE EXCAVATION: PHASE 1: 3-15 OCTOBER, 2011

The Nottinghamshire County Council archaeologists were committed to the Project: David Budge (in charge), Emily Gillott and Andy Gaunt. They proved excellent in dealing patiently and expertly with interested members of the public and some 35 volunteer diggers, many of whom were new to excavation.

Some aspects of the organisation were the responsibility of the Project Manager at County Hall but KDAG was heavily involved in developing the community aspects of the dig: recruiting volunteers, arranging for visits by schools and a day centre, meeting with local residents, commissioning a video and photographic record, and seeking extra funds. VIPs, including Councillors and Ashfield MP, Gloria de Piero, visited the site on the 2nd Friday and an Open Day was held the following day. This proved unexpectedly popular, with over 60 visitors to the site, and brought us new information from local families, including a drawing of Kirkby Hardwick in the early 1940s.



John Gent drawing, early 1940s: his memory of Kirkby Hardwick.
 Permission from Elaine Scotney.

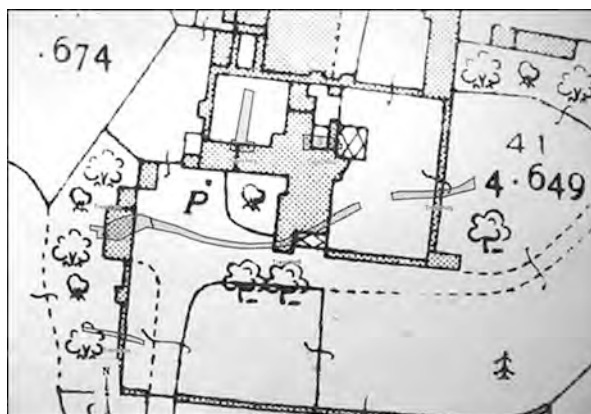
The site required two days of preparation with chain saws and a mini-digger to clear a minor jungle of self-set trees, shrubs, and dumped rubbish. Four trenches were opened over different parts of the footprint of the final house, along with an existing drainage ditch which had been cut through its south side, exposing some of the archaeology. The whole area is covered by spoil from the colliery to varying depths.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

We await David Budge's full report, but he has provided the following summary:

'The evaluation excavations at Kirkby Hardwick were very successful. They answered many of the questions they had been designed to address and revealed a variety of information about the site and its history. In particular they:

- demonstrated that destruction of the last phase of building on the site was not as complete as feared; walls have survived 4 or 5 courses high in parts
- revealed that good evidence for phasing exists in the remains of the final structures to stand on the site. For example, in the west wing of the house it appeared that an original (though not necessarily Tudor) stone built structure was modified at a later date by the insertion of a corridor and then brick-built cellars.
- found evidence of late-medieval or early Tudor activity lending weight to the theory that the original Tudor house may have consisted of three wings around a courtyard.



Location of the six trenches.

Alan Kirk

- were not able to eliminate the possibility that the 'garden wall' to the south west of the house could be Tudor (which, if it was the case, would suggest the structure was a gigantic house or palace).
- revealed the earliest evidence for human activity on the site, in the form of a prehistoric flint core
- demonstrated that the site has a high archaeological potential and that further investigation would be likely to reveal a wealth of information relating to the development of an important great house of Nottinghamshire from at least late medieval times onwards.

POSTSCRIPT

In a further article we hope to report on phase 2 of this project following a further period of excavation which took place between 19 March and 13 April 2012 which greatly increased our knowledge of the house – not least in the discovery of pottery which pushed the site occupation back to the 13thC and prompted a major rethink about its earliest shape and development.

In the meantime KDAG continues with the desk-top study, grappling with unfamiliar legal terminology, researching the Clarke genealogy and hoping to complement the archaeology with archive discoveries. A lively 25 minute video of phase 1 is now available, price £6.00 from 01623-755156.



GUNTHORPE IN 1755

In March 2012 a painting of Gunthorpe made in 1755 was unveiled in Biondis Bistro and it will be permanently hung in Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School. (*Ed: see front cover*)

The painting was seen on eBay by Councillor Cam Pearson and with contributions by Parish Councillors and County Councillor Andy Stewart, the painting was bought for the village. The councillors also paid for the restoration of the picture and collection from a warehouse in Portsmouth.

The artist was Harry Ellis who is thought to have been a church warden at Shelford.



THE HARLEY GALLERY RUNNERS AND RIDERS: THE RISE OF MODERN HORSE RACING

Showing until February 2014 is an exhibition at the Harley Gallery, Welbeck, Worksop is an exhibition telling how the Cavendish Bentinck family of Welbeck helped change the face of horse racing, to become the sport as we now know it.

The horse box was invented by the 4th Duke of Portland's younger son, Lord George Bentinck. Lord George realised that horses would race better if they were transported to races, and started to use a van to move them. This gave his horses an advantage, and his competitors quickly followed his idea. Lord George immersed himself in the sport; he was a renowned gambler, esteemed owner and encouraged reforms to better regulate the sport – including the use of a starting flag.

The exhibition shows the history of horse racing at Welbeck. It includes the rocking horse belonging to Lady Anne Bentinck (1916-2008). Lady Anne was a dedicated horsewoman who was still riding at 90 years of age; the rocking horse was named after *Donovan*, the 6th Duke of Portland's favourite horse. Also on display will be ornate racing prizes such as an elaborate silver 'George and Dragon' trophy, alongside personal items. The hooves of the legendary sire, *St. Simon's* which were gold plated and made into ink wells together with the 6th Duke's racing colours and paintings by renowned equestrian artists will be on show.

The exhibition will tour to the National Horse Racing Museum at Newmarket and be the first exhibition in their newly refurbished H.L.F. funded gallery.

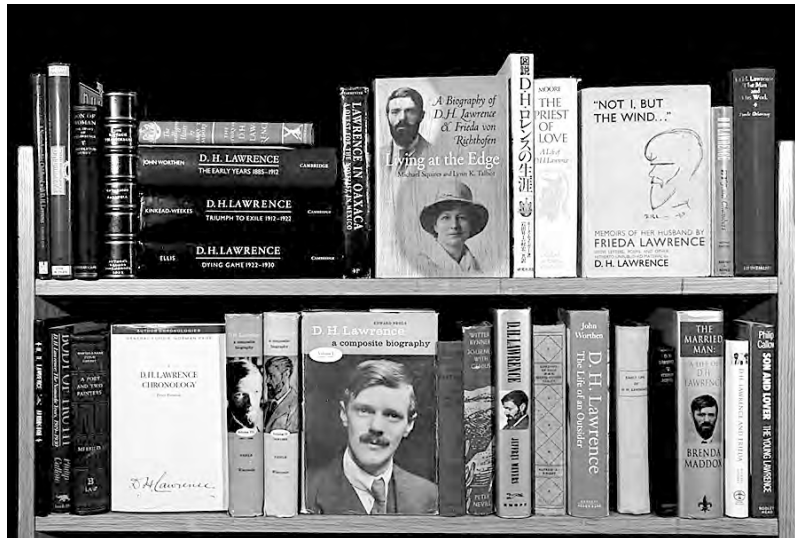


THE MANY LIVES OF D. H. LAWRENCE MEMOIR, LEGACY AND BIOGRAPHY.

Showing at the Weston gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre until 16 September 2012 this exhibition is curated from the collections of the University of Nottingham Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections D. H. Lawrence archive.

D. H. Lawrence, Nottinghamshire's most famous modern writer, has proved an endless fascinating, and controversial, subject for memoirists, literary biographers and the general public. Since his death in 1930, his legacy has been subject to continual re-evaluation in line with shifts in his literary reputation and changing perceptions of his impact on twentieth-century British culture.

The exhibition traces the origins and development of the biographical preoccupation with Lawrence. It begins with examples of Lawrence's own occasional self-reflective words and describes how quickly public confrontations arose in the early 1930s between friends, family members and other biographers who offered starkly differing accounts of his life and legacy. The story continues through the beginnings of modern scholarship on Lawrence to the present, showing how recent discoveries are offering fresh perspectives and generating new biographical narratives.



The display draws on original manuscripts and correspondence, contemporary memoirs and other resources in the University's nationally designated D. H. Lawrence collections. It features particularly the local celebration of Lawrence from the first major exhibition in 1960 to the present-day annual Eastwood festival.

A series of lunchtime talks take place in the Djanogly theatre at 1300:-

18 June: D.H. LAWRENCE IN TAOS

An uncut version of a documentary film produced and directed in 1968 by the Canadian, Peter Davis, will be screened. It features Lawrence's contemporaries in discussion about his life and legacy in New Mexico.

5 July: BEING ALDINGTON

In the context of the early biographers, Emeritus Professor John Worthen looks at the particular contribution of Richard Aldington, who not only knew Lawrence but was the occasional subject of his sarcastic wit.

15 August: CURATORS' ROUNDTABLE

Colleagues from Nottinghamshire heritage institutions discuss their experience of curating Lawrence's local legacy. (Including Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives and Eastwood's D. H. Lawrence Heritage).



NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to new members:

Mr. Clive Dundon
 Mr. Trevor and Mrs Pam Lewis
 Mr. Hugh Proctor
 Mr. P. Rogan

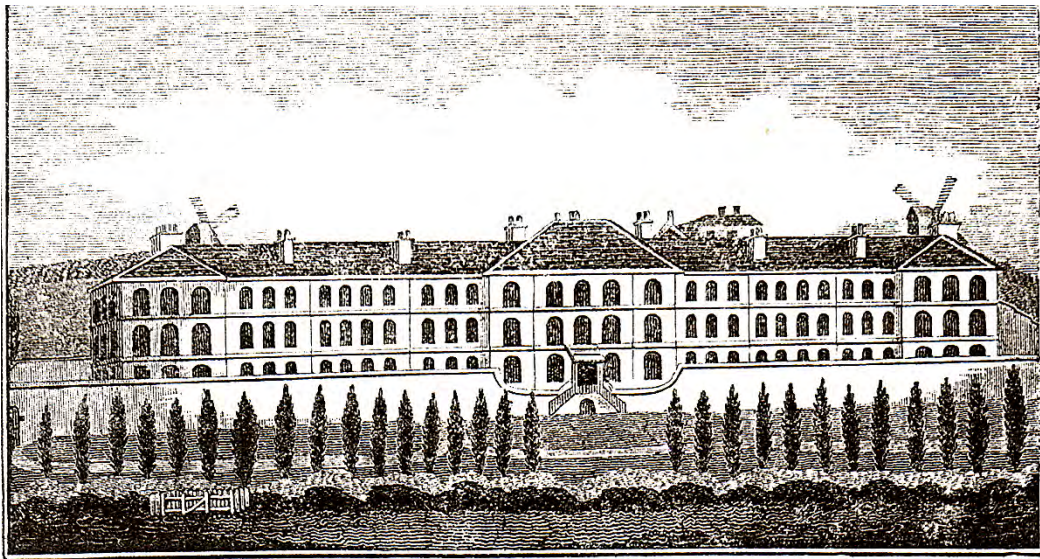
Mr. Richard English
 Mr. Kevin Powell
 Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Diane Richards
 Mr. M. J. Wilson



THE GENERAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, NOTTINGHAM, 1812-1902

(Also known as Sneinton Asylum)

BY TERRY FRY



THE GENERAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Source: opposite p160 of Blackner's History of Nottingham

Two hundred years ago the General Lunatic Asylum of Nottingham opened its doors for the first time. The Borough Corporation attended in their regalia at the official opening on 11 October, 1811 but the first patients, six paupers from St. Mary's parish, were not admitted until February 12th, 1812. It was the first County Asylum to open in England.

George III's mental illness in 1788 led to the problems of insanity being widely acknowledged. There were few asylums at that time, none in Nottinghamshire. Then in 1808 the Wynn Act was passed which allowed an asylum to be built in each county. Fund raising for an asylum had been going on for some years in Nottingham and now land in Sneinton was purchased. (The area is now King Edward Park on Carlton Road.)

In January 1808 the Overseers of the Poor reported that there were 56 lunatics in the county. On that basis an asylum was built for 80, which was much too small and led to serious problems.

Dr. John Storer, physician to the General Hospital, was the leading figure in raising funds and getting the asylum built. Also very useful was the Rev. J. T. Becher of Southwell who had helped to

design the workhouse there, and had much experience as a J.P. dealing with paupers.

The design was the work of two men: Edward Staveley, the Nottingham Borough Surveyor, and the architect Richard Ingleman. They studied the methods used by the Quakers at the York retreat and at Brislington House, near Bristol.

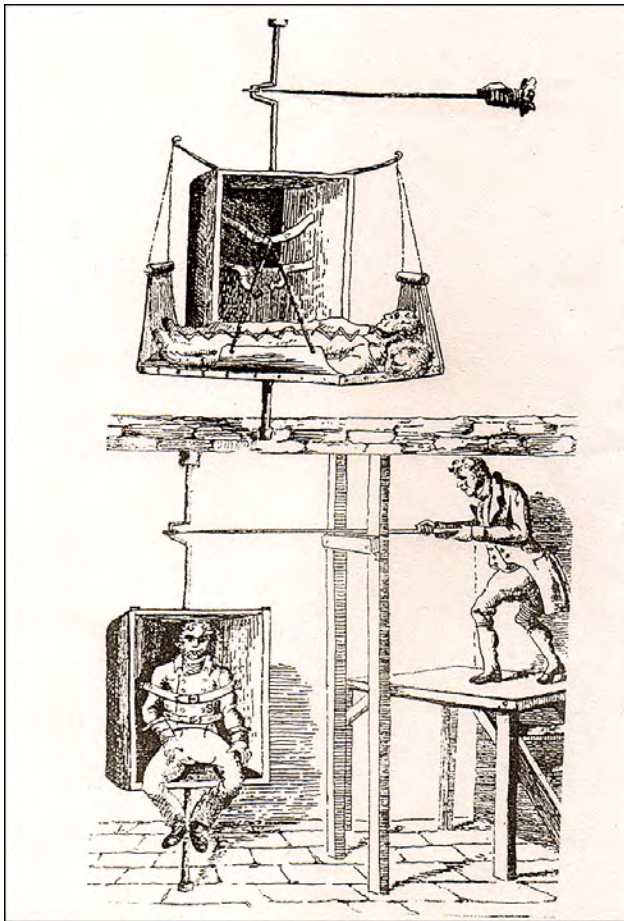
The asylum cost over £20,000. The sum was raised by voluntary subscriptions (seven twelfths), the county rates (four twelfths) and the Nottingham town rates (one twelfth). In other words it was partly a charity. There were three classes of patients: 1. Private, paying 15/- (75p) per week; 2. Part paying; 3. Paupers, who were paid for by their parish at 9/- (45p) per week.

Patients were supposed to be treated kindly, with little restraint and no corporal punishment, just as the Quakers did. However, there were occasional assaults and two patients were killed at Christmas 1814. Early on treatment consisted of emetics, purges, blood-letting



Dr. John Storer

and blistering. From 1827-30 the revolving chair was used, in which a patient was hurled round at 100 revs. per minute, resulting in vomiting, evacuation and even unconsciousness.



The revolving chair.

The diet was a boring repetition of bread, meat, cheese, milk and beer, but it was much better than that in the workhouse. By the 1850's some patients worked in the garden or laundry and got extra food. The asylum diet and cleanliness of the building prevented any major epidemics. The water supply and plumbing were very good by the standards of that day.

The Commissioners in Lunacy visited regularly and found it clean and quiet. However, four cells for noisy patients were built in 1815. Male and female patients were separated even in the airing yards. Physical restraint was never totally abolished; there were a few padded rooms, padded chairs and strait-jackets. There were many escapes in the early years, but by the end of the century the attendants were good at keeping the patients in and keeping them alive. There were no suicides between 1871 and 1886. The staff were above average for that time. Nurses and attendants had to clean and polish, make beds and meals, provide exercise, amusement, employment and supervision. They had to take temperatures, give enemas, apply poultices or a wet pack (cold wet sheets) for an over-excited patient. There were no night nurses until 1859.

By mid-century many patients were doing jobs such as picking coir, knitting or cotton winding. Others were helping in the tailor's shop or gardens, where they grew their own vegetables. There were some books and some games.

The constant problem of overcrowding led to demands for a new asylum. In 1855 the voluntary subscribers' interest in Sneinton Asylum was purchased by Nottingham Borough and with the money a new asylum called *The Coppice*, designed by T. C. Hine, was built, which opened in August 1859. It was for first and second class patients only, and Sneinton was now for paupers only.

Some of the reasons given for causes of insanity in 1858 were; intemperance (10 cases), epileptics (7), hereditary (19), religious excitement (1) and quarrel with a neighbour (1).

In the 1860s others were certified insane who suffered from brain disease, delirium tremens, typhus and dementia. This led to even more overcrowding and in 1874 the Government decided to give parishes 4/- (20p) per head to move pauper lunatics from workhouses to asylums.

This resulted in even more pressure on beds in Nottingham Asylum. Thus a new asylum was needed and, in August 1880, Mapperley Hospital, designed by George Hine, T.C. Hine's son, opened for pauper lunatics from the Borough of Nottingham only. Now the only patients at Sneinton were paupers from the county. There were so many empty beds that some patients were brought in from London in 1890 and from Hastings in 1891. However, this was only a temporary stop-gap and in spite of these other asylums the numbers being treated at Sneinton continued to rise. By 1900 there were 400 inmates. In the last quarter of the 19th century the building at Sneinton deteriorated badly. In 1891 the Commissioners in Lunacy condemned it as 'this inconvenient, ill-constructed, ill-adapted asylum'. It was now under the control of the County Council who decided to press ahead with plans for a new asylum to replace Sneinton. From then on 'this cheerless abode' was allowed to run down. Yet, in 1900, the Superintendent, Dr. Alpin, claimed it cured 'more than half of those who came to the asylum'. Not everybody who was mentally ill was confined to a Victorian asylum for many years.

The new asylum at Saxondale, near Radcliffe-on-Trent, was opened in July 1902. Nottingham Asylum at Sneinton then closed down, but for many years one wing of the building was used by the Dakeyne Street Boys' Club. All that is left now is one pillar on Dakeyne Street.



Staveley and Wood's map of 1830



A card posted 25 August 1918 showing the asylum building on the far right side



MISSING HOUSES: PROPOSALS FOR CLUMBER PARK

BY RICHARD GAUNT

The country house has been an integral part of the English aristocratic estate for over two centuries. However, Clumber Park has been a landscape without a house for nearly 75 years – posing a considerable day-to-day problem of management and interpretation for the National Trust, in whose care it now resides. For six months in 2011, ‘Support Structure’ – a partnership between architect Céline Condorelli and artist-curator Gavin Wade – were in occupancy at Clumber, as part of a series of artists’ residencies designed to connect more people to National Trust properties. Their proposals for the future of the mansion house site were published in a small booklet, *Missing Houses*, in February 2012. Several of the forty proposals it contains have already been realised; together with the booklet (proposal 1), the existing model of Clumber House was removed from its situation and mounted (temporarily) ‘on a large empty plinth in a large empty gallery’ at Nottingham Contemporary (proposals 12-13) whilst a series of horror films (expressive of the ghostly or ‘resurrected’ nature of Clumber House) were also staged – an adaptation of proposal 7. Members of the public were invited to attend a park walk-about in February, ostensibly designed to be a ‘run-through’ for a ‘Clumber Park zombie movie’ featuring ‘a couple who argue about where to build their house over the entire length of the film’ (proposal 8) and with similarities drawn throughout between the vanished mansion house of Clumber and the Kröller-Müller House, designed by Mies van der Rohe, in Wassenaar, The Netherlands, in 1912, which enjoyed parallels with it on several levels.

Though it is easy to be cynical about the practicalities of some of the proposals advanced by ‘Support Structure’ – including the annual construction of a 1:1 scale model of one of Clumber’s main pavilions on its original site ‘so that children in the local district can freely and with impunity burn down the model as a cathartic act’ (proposal 25) or the invention and circulation of ‘a myth of a ~Clumber Park alternative to the Loch Ness Monster’ (proposal 27), never mind the ‘Amsterdam style’ coffee shops charged with selling coffee comprised from Clumber-grown

cannabis (proposal 35) – the Trust is to be congratulated for encouraging re-consideration of the site’s future.

Few visitors to Clumber fail to marvel at the beauty of the still-extant chapel or rue the decision (which long pre-dated the Trust) to deny future generations the pleasure of touring the once-splendid mansion house of Clumber. In spite of some valiant attempts by volunteers to provide more on-site information to visitors, in recent years, there is ample opportunity for an accurate, sensitive re-telling of the Clumber Park story, utilising the riches of the archives preserved at the University of Nottingham’s Manuscripts and Special Collections and drawing upon the expertise of locally-based scholars. Whilst the creative energy of conceptual thinkers like ‘Support



‘Support Structure’ enjoying a hot beverage at the end of the park walk-about. Photo: Kevin Powell

Structure’ is to be encouraged, this whole venture felt like something of an unrealised opportunity to highlight the lives and input of estate workers, farmers, labourers and builders as well as individual Dukes of Newcastle to the creation of the Clumber landscape. One can only hope that the Trust’s ‘New Art’ initiative (of which this residency formed a part) produces a parallel collaborative scheme which can help re-invest life into the Park, rather than treat it as a species of the ‘un-dead’.



NOTTS COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB IS 150 YEARS OLD

BY ALAN BUTLER

The history of the oldest football league club in the world goes back to 1862 (although a football club had been formed in Sheffield in 1857) when the Nottingham Guardian of November 28 reported that the 'opening of the Nottingham Football Club commenced on Tuesday last at Cremourne Gardens (in the Meadows district). A side was chosen by W. Arkwright and Chas. Deakin'.

Finding opponents in the early years appears to have been rather difficult. As there were no structures in place in the form of a recognisable football league; the 'Lambs' as the club was then known, played friendly matches with clubs in England and Scotland.

This state of affairs lasted until 1888 when Nottingham (no mention of County yet) were one of the founder members of the English Football League. Of the eleven other members, Derby County, Everton, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers were some of the more notable teams included.

In 1890, the now familiar black and white kit was introduced leading to the change of nickname to the 'Magpies', still the same today. This decade saw the start of an improved period for the club but things didn't look too good in 1892 when they were relegated to the newly formed second division. In the same year the club's near neighbour, Nottingham Forest, were admitted into the league with the backing of Notts. County. The improvement began in 1893 when they became the first Second Division team to win the F.A. Cup (for the first and only time!). In this match, played at Goodison Park, the home of Everton, they beat Bolton Wanderers 4-1.

Promoted in 1897 as champions they performed reasonably until, in 1900, they reached the dizzy heights of third position. This was to be a moment to savour as, over the ensuing years, there weren't many more highlights!

Notts. County played at several venues in the early years up to 1910. From 1883 Trent Bridge became their home until 1895 when, after a short stay at the Castle Cricket Ground, they moved first to Nottingham Forest's Town Ground and then, from 1899 to 1909, to the Forest's City Ground. In 1910

Notts. County moved to the ground which is still their home – Meadow Lane.

In the years from the turn of the century to the outbreak of the First World War, Notts. struggled to remain a First Division club. Their highest position in this period was ninth but for the majority of the time they languished in the lower half of the league, escaping relegation by the skin of their teeth on a number of occasions. In one season Notts. were doomed to relegation but escaped due to the number of clubs in the league being increased by one. This proposal had been put forward the previous season, a proposal that Notts. opposed strongly. Nor surprisingly, on this occasion, Notts. firmly supported the move! Between 1919 and 1951, the performances of Notts. County could be described as pretty dreadful. During this time they spent four seasons in Division 1, 11 in Division 2 and 10 in the old Division 3 South.

In 1947, an unexpected turn of events brought the most famous of players to the club; Tommy Lawton. Lawton was the centre forward at Chelsea and captain of the England team and was considered one of the greatest centre-forwards of all time. This seemingly foolhardy move on the part of Lawton changing from a thriving First Division club to a Third Division team appears to have been greatly influenced by the arrangement by Notts. County of a business appointment which he saw as a safeguard for his future.

Partnered by the equally talented Jackie Sewell, the Lawton era continued to progress but was unable to reach the heights of the First Division. The season 1949/50 was to end in promotion to Division 2 with reasonable performances in the next two seasons, the final league positions being just in the top half of the Division in each season. The dream was about to end, however, when, in March 1950 the Lawton/Sewell partnership was broken by the sale of Jackie Sewell to Sheffield Wednesday for a (then) record fee of £35,000. This move caused a storm of protest from the fans and also in the Boardroom. Exactly a year following this event, one of equal moment was caused by the sale of Tommy Lawton to Brentford. Without Lawton, Notts. struggled, taking only one point from six matches.

In November 1969 the legendary Jimmy Sirrel was appointed to the position of manager. This appointment produced immediate favourable results with promotion being achieved into Division 3 in 1970/71. The team almost repeated the feat a season later and finally finished fourth in the third Division. Promotion was not too long deferred, however, and the 1972/3 season resulted in their elevation to the ranks of the second Division. The first Sirrel era ended in his departure to take over as manager of Sheffield United at the end of 1976. His time there was not very happy and in 1978/9 he returned to Notts. In 1981, the team achieved the longed for promotion to Division 1 where they spent three seasons under Sirrel's guidance. 1983/4 saw yet another relegation battle which County lost to be followed a year later by yet another relegation to Division 3. This was doubly disappointing since the club was now in financial difficulties and these problems almost resulted in the demise of the club in 1986 and it was only with the support of players, directors and the fans that survival was achieved and the threat of liquidation avoided. With the arrival of a new Chairman, Sirrel was replaced by John Barnwell. Successive relegations were followed by

successive promotions and in 1990/91 Notts. returned to Division 1. Managers and players came and went until the arrival of Bill Dearden in 2002, but his task was that of working with the same squad of players for two years following the club's entry into administration. They were only rescued from extinction by the Blenheim Consortium. Dearden left soon after their arrival and Gary Mills became manager. Notts. were, however, unable to recover sufficiently from the former difficulties and were relegated to the league's bottom Division at the end of that season.

On 14 July 2009 the Magpies and their fans became excited to find that the Munto Finance Group had acquired the football club. The former England manager, Sven-Goran Eriksson was appointed as Director of football at Meadow Lane. Optimism ran high but hopes were soon dashed. The following year saw Munto short of funds which lead to a Management buy-out.

So, after a history spanning 150 years, Notts. County continue to strive for success. Their supporters are arguably some of the most loyal in the country. They are not too many in numbers but their dedication to what is above all a family club cannot be denied.



REPORTS OF MEETINGS

11 FEBRUARY 2012 THE MYLES THOROTON HILDYARD LECTURE

MORE NOTTINGHAM TOWN HOUSES: No.17 Castle Gate by Pete Smith

The 2012 Myles Thoroton Hildyard lecture was delivered by Pete Smith, Senior Architectural Investigator, English Heritage. In a little over an hour, Pete gave an absorbing and informative account of several of Nottingham's Georgian Town Houses.

Besides the expected 17, Castle Gate, he dwelt at some length on Sherwin House, 42 Pilcher gate; 27, St. Mary's Gate and 10-12, Low Pavement. With a deft interplay of maps, drawings and photographs old and new, Pete put the houses into a Georgian context and conveyed an idea of how they had been altered over time.

This was an interesting mix, showing the extremes of occupation. 41, Pilcher Gate has been for some time in a sad state, one of the oldest houses in Nottingham, built 1689-99 and much altered. Somewhat amazingly its original fine staircase survives. 27, St. Mary's Gate is in better condition but again lacks a current use. 17, Castle Gate, partly restored with original features, is used by the wine merchants, Weavers, for wine tasting and other events. Its cellars are used for storage.

10-12, Low Pavement houses Nottingham's Carluccio's Italian Restaurant, so the basic layout can be experienced by diners. However, Pete suggested a trip up the stairs to the toilets at the top of the building would give a feel of Georgian attics and possibly roofscape.

I was particularly impressed by the way Pete cross-referenced aspects of the façade of these houses to others both locally and farther afield. For someone fairly well versed in Victorian architecture, where documentation is plentiful, to go back a century in such detail was truly a revelation to me.

Ken Brand



10 MARCH 2012 THE MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE

THE EARLY WEST FRONT OF LINCOLN CATHEDRAL by David Taylor

Maurice Barley was brought up within a short distance of Lincoln cathedral, and so it was highly appropriate that this year's lecture was given by Dr. David Taylor of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, who worked with Maurice earlier in his career, and spoke about his own work on the west front of Lincoln cathedral in its earliest days in the late 11th and early 12th centuries. The front is all that now remains above ground of the first cathedral, most of the present-day church having been built onto it in the following centuries. Previous work had concentrated mainly on the Romanesque decorative frieze running across its façade, but it was argued in 1997 by Alan Vince and David Stocker that the first building was originally a defensive free-standing tower later attached to the body of the church. Dr. Taylor has tried, through a detailed survey carried out over a period of six years, to establish for the first time what can be learned about the sequence of building during those early years by deduction from his study of four of the 36 voids and chambers that lie behind the façade.

He identified three phases of building. The first went up to a distinct break in the building just above where the frieze is now, and within the interiors on both the north and south sides there is evidence of heavy burning, a feature not previously identified and not visible on the outside of the building. He concluded that this fire brought the first phase of building to an end. The builders of the second phase made marks, in the form of a crude diagonal cross, on some of the burnt stones which it was thought could be saved and re-used. They were used to help raise the height of the wall, but whether this work was completed is not clear because it was superseded by the ambitious third stage, which built much higher still and began the work on the western towers, as well as adding the Romanesque frieze. The first phase was that built during the lifetime of Bishop Remigius after 1072, during which the cathedral was consecrated in 1093 before it was burnt. Dr. Taylor thinks that this fire was an earlier one than the recorded ones of 1124 and 1141, and that the second phase may have been begun by Bishop Robert Bloet (1094-1123), with the third being commenced under Bishop Alexander (1123-48) and perhaps continuing under Robert de Chesney (1148-67) and even Bishop-elect Geoffrey Plantagenet after 1174, during whose time bells are known to have been placed in the towers.

Dr Taylor concluded with a critique of the idea that the first building was defensible and possibly a free-standing tower, and included structures possibly to be identified as arrow-slits, machicolations and garderobes. He re-interpreted some of these features as possibly being connected with religious ceremonial as singing galleries rather than defence. The talk was illustrated with excellent photographs, diagrams and coloured drawings of important sections of stonework. Dr. Taylor's work has already been published in the *Archaeological Journal*, volume 167 (2010), where it is possible to read the full argument in detail and see the colour illustrations of the structures on which it is based.

David Crook



THE TRENT VALE PROJECT – UPDATE

BY HOWARD FISHER

Readers will recall an article in issue 66 (Winter 2011) about the Trent Vale Landscape Project event at Low Marnham.

On Monday and Tuesday 23/24 April 2012, the Project held a workshop at Norwell Village Hall where Gillian and David Wing of Strawberry Glass, Spalding, (www.strawberryglass.co.uk) taught attendees the basics of working in leaded glass. The workshop was limited to 10 participants to ensure good individual tuition and there was a waiting list of almost twice this number, proving the popularity of the event.

The intended theme for the pieces produced at the workshop was to be inspired by the Trent Valley landscape and/or local ecclesiastical glass; however, wide interpretation of the theme was allowed.

Day one was taken up by learning how to cut glass, selecting suitable glass, creating a cartoon to work from and grinding glass. At the end of this day, each student had a piece made up of cut and prepared glass and we all

showed them on a light-box and discussed the motivation for the piece.

Day two involved the preparation of lead came, fitting the cut pieces into the lead, soldering the lead, attaching hanging hooks and the final cementing of the panel.

Each day was full of hands-on activity and we were all rather tired at the end of each day. However, this was offset by the exhilaration of having created a piece of work which, without exception, looked very good. This was in great part due to the skill, patience and help of our tutors who were excellent in showing how to undertake each task and in helping us as individuals when we required advice – which was not infrequent! However, the final pieces were our own work.

This was a very successful workshop, the group, from diverse backgrounds, gelled from the start and on each day there was a great buzz between participants and tutors. The Trent Valley Project is to be congratulated on a most successful event which will have lead several participants on to a new craft activity.



Above: Working on the cartoon. Left below: At the light box Right below: final cementing.
Photos: courtesy of John Redgrove from colour originals



MARGERY BOOT'S CANTEEN

BY JUDITH WRIGHT, Archivist, Boots UK.



Margery Amy Boot was the youngest daughter of Jesse and Florence Boot (of Boots the Chemists). She was born in 1892 at Snig Hill in Sheffield, but grew up in Nottingham. During the First World War, Margery established a refreshment centre for sick and injured soldiers in northern France. She raised the money from donations. Boots staff magazine at the time, *Comrades in Khaki*, recorded the following in April 1915:

“... we must, each and all of us, feel a glow of pride in the fact that one of the most urgent needs has been provided for by Miss Margery Boot, the younger daughter of our Chief. This lady’s work lies in northern France and its value and extent cannot be over-estimated. The journey of the wounded soldiers from the field to the base hospitals on the French coast is inevitably one of great hardship and severe discomfort ... and it was a high-minded womanly inspiration that led Miss Boot to establish a kitchen and café at one of the principal railway junctions to succour those so greatly in need of kindly ministrations. As soon as the project was brought forward its merit was widely acclaimed. The French military authorities, the British Red Cross Association, medical men, soldier men, in fact every one best qualified to judge, warmly endorsed this proposal; and encouraged by this consensus of favourable opinion, Miss Boot proceeded to give practical effect to the scheme. Her first requirement was assistants, with some of her own pluck and capacity for personal service – she got them. Next

she needed money and provisions – she got them. Then on December 28th she left for France, where she is still carrying on the good work.

Lady Samaritans at the café render to the sick and wounded men those delicate little attentions that mean so much and they provide comforts in the way of warm nourishing food with cocoa, tea, coffee, milk etc. It requires no great imagination to appraise in some measure the value of this mission. Many a long train brings wounded men to the junction. They are tired, disconsolate, fretful through pain and worn by hardship and the helping hand performs an act of truest mercy. It is worthy of note that among the first contributories to the fund raised by Miss Boot were the Crimean and Indian War veterans at the Dorothy Boot Homes in Wilford. These old souls gave of their scanty means to a cause whose worth they understood so well. Whoever wishes to follow their example will find gifts of money, provision, etc. gratefully received by Lady Boot.”

This letter follows, from Driver Alfred E Carr:

“I was very pleased to read in your letter that your concert for the funds of Miss Boot’s coffee stalls was such a success. I feel immense gratitude myself, as three boys in my own section actually received the benefit of these arrangements. The coffee came just at a most thirsty and trying part of our journey. All the boys were just then short of tobacco and cigarettes owing to not having received any pay for the last few weeks. You can imagine our enjoyment and appreciation. It put us all in a very amiable mood.”

The next edition of *Comrades in Khaki*, May and June 1915, praises the value of her work, and mentions that her canteen helped 47,769 soldiers up to the middle of April. It refers to the necessity for the canteen to move locations and feeding 5,170 wounded soldiers within the first seven days of being in the new facility. A fully trained nurse was also in attendance, always ready to change a dressing or bandage and a call was sent out requesting socks to clothe the feet of the endless stream of bare foot men who came through the doors.

Unfortunately, *Comrades in Khaki* ceased publication in May 1916 due to shortages in both paper and the labour market, so no further information is available. However, Margery's benevolence did not end there. After marrying in 1921 and having three children, she opened Dedisham Convalescent Nursery School with her husband in 1929. Margery served as the Vice-President, along with the Duchess of Norfolk, the President. The school was run for 'the benefit of delicate children up to seven years of age, who could not otherwise have a long period in country surroundings and have a chance of being restored to normal health'. Margery was personally involved with aspects of the day to day running of the Convalescent Nursery, for example, 'the sun-giving aspect, the simple and charming furnishings in which are lovingly printed linens in delightful colourings and design touching on "the Wind in the Willows" story which adorn the screen covers, window curtains, bedcovers, etc.; this scheme, brought into practice and inspired by the Hon. Mrs. A. M. Holman, and which includes an emblem allocated to each child, for example, Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck. etc. All the children have their emblem worked on all clothing, towels etc., and therefore know what is theirs without a doubt'.

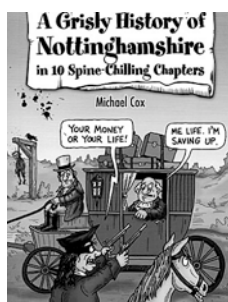
Margery died aged 95 in 1987, at her home in Jersey.



BOOK REVIEWS

A GRISLY HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE IN 10 SPINE-CHILLING CHAPTERS.

Michael Cox. 2011, Nottinghamshire County Council. £5.95. ISBN 987-0-902751-72-9



Michael Cox is a local children's author who addresses a variety of historical events that happened throughout Nottinghamshire's past. However, what makes this book different to other historical books is that it looks at things that people are less likely to have known about. For example, the tale of Robin Hood is known in several parts of the world, let alone just Nottingham, although events such as the River Trent once running red due to all the fighting in the 15th century is less known and may not be known. Likewise about the Great Cheese Riot in 1764 as a

response to overpriced dairy products.

The layout of the book is split into ten chapters, making it easy to read and therefore appealing to a younger audience. The activities of guessing correct answers and true and false questions also show its intention for children and allows them to engage in their own learning. Although it being intended for children, and it having a chapter specifically including 'nice things' for those that may not like the more gruesome parts of Nottingham's history, words throughout the book such as 'grisly' and 'pongy', and the pretend splatters of blood on the pages show that this children's book is most likely intended for boys, and those who enjoy reading about gruesome events. The jokes make the seriousness of any events light-hearted and enjoyable to read, such as a man trying to sell his wife.

The fact that Cox is looking at local history is important as it shows that there is an interest in educating people about the history of where they are from. Overall I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to find out about Nottinghamshire's history, as although the way it is written and the illustrations show that it is a children's book, I see no reason why adults couldn't also

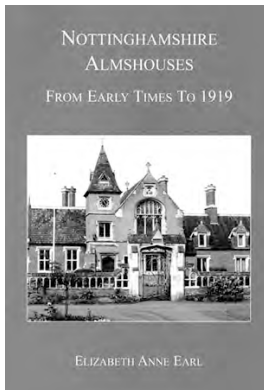
enjoy the book as well as learn from it!

Charlotte Butler. (Ed: Charlotte is a first year history student at Teesside University)



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ALMSHOUSES FROM EARLY TIMES TO 1919

Elizabeth Ann Earl, 2011.. Self-published. ISBN 978-0-9532092-1-7



This is a soft-back book of 78 pages with many black & white illustrations and a couple of maps to locate sites in the county and city.

The book is more of a gazetteer than a detailed history of each almshouse covered. Each entry gives some salient points but the author explains in her Foreword that, out of the many references that she noted during her research, she has used a couple at random in the entries 'for the purpose of succinctness'.

What I find strange is the comment that some almshouses have been omitted; why? This devalues the book and, at least, a list of ones not detailed could have been provided and would be most useful to readers and other researchers.

There is an index but it only lists the names of the almshouses covered and so is of restricted value. The author lists references for each entry and provides a bibliography.

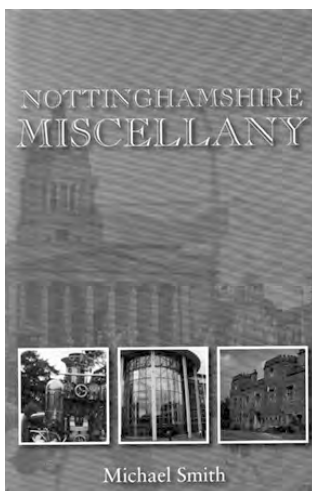
Given the reservations mentioned and the feeling that the book is intended for a general rather than a more local history minded reader, it is a useful book and is recommended to anyone with an interest in almshouses in the county.

Howard Fisher



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MISCELLANY

Michael Smith. 2011. The Derby Books Publishing Co. Ltd. ISBN 978-185983-817-4 £12.99.



A hardback book of 288 pages with some black & white illustrations and nicely printed on quality paper.

The author, Michael Smith retired as Vice-Principal of Castle Donington Community College in 2005. He holds a BA(Hons) degree from the Open University, an MA from the University of Nottingham and a Local History qualification from Keele University. He has worked as a WEA lecturer and has also lectured for the University of Nottingham and has written seven books.

This is not a book to read from cover to cover but one to dip into because each page has several facts about the county. Although there is no index (one listing at least place and person names would have been very useful) there are 34 chapter headings making it a relatively easy task to locate an item on a particular subject. The cover blurb describes the book as 'A guide book, a history book, a gazetteer

a sporting compendium, a dictionary of biography and a fund of factoids for the quiz fanatic'; to a greater or lesser degree it is all of these.

The book starts with a chapter 'Introducing Nottinghamshire' which lists various facts about the modern county and it then moves on to a section on history and ends with a section called 'This and That' where items that don't fit elsewhere are included. Some of the items will date quickly,

particularly those relating to politics but, nevertheless, these listing are a useful reminder of the position as at 2010.

A great deal of research has gone into this volume and the result is an interesting book, full of facts and figures which will delight the reader. My only real criticism, and it applies to many local history books, is the quality of the illustrations; in this book they are overly dark resulting in a loss of much detail which is a great shame.

Nevertheless, this is a book which is recommended to anyone with an interest in our county.

Howard Fisher



WRITING OUR HISTORY AND DIGGING OUR PAST

The School of Humanities at the University of Nottingham has received a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under its *Connected Communities Initiative*. The project, *Writing Our History and Digging Our Past: Enhancing and Expanding Community History and Archaeology Through Academic Engagement* builds on existing collaborations between the University and community groups with the aim of assisting voluntary groups in the East Midlands and beyond to investigate their local history by providing access to the expertise and resources of professional arts and humanities researchers.

The project is holding a series of events for voluntary groups with the aim of identifying and helping to develop community-led research projects for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) recently launched *All Our Stories* grant and other funding programmes. The project has been able to provide small 'pump-priming' grants for a range of projects with the aim of supporting bids to the HLF and other funding bodies. Work funded by these grants includes a pilot project to record the memories of miners and the remains of the mining industry in the East Midlands; visits to libraries and archives in scoping exercises to identify resources for further research into stone quarrying and the history of barges on the river Trent. The grant is also contributing to the costs of providing training workshops being organised by the Southwell Community Archaeology Group and a public event organised by the Friends of Nottingham Arboretum. The money will also be used to assist with the costs of planning further projects on the Poor Law, the former Raleigh factory (now Jubilee campus) and producing an updated version of a handbook for voluntary researchers working for Victoria County History.

Visit the web site for information and existing projects: www.nottingham.ac.uk.connectedcommunities/index.aspx

For information about the HLF *All Our Stories* initiative:

www.hlf.org/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Allourstories.aspx

Dr. Judith Mills



FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

The official launch of the *Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives* (which has already acquired the acronym FONA!) took place at Nottinghamshire Archives on Saturday, 24th March 2012. After a short business meeting, at which a constitution was adopted, subscription rates set and a committee for the year elected, Elain Harwood, the well known historical researcher and writer who has worked on a number of projects for English Heritage, delivered a characteristically lively, well-illustrated and enthusiastically delivered talk to the assembled membership about the importance of archives for researching and understanding historic buildings. This drew upon Elain's published work as well as current research interests relating to the built heritage of Nottingham.

The Friends has been created to act as a body with its own distinct identity and purpose – it does not seek to replicate the existing Archives Users Group (which is a representative and deliberative body that is consulted about the day-to-day operation of the Archives service), nor as another historical society of talks and walks. Membership will not only demonstrate tangible support for the

archives service but help to accrue funds which the organisation will be able to commit to specific purchases which will enhance the collections and services which Nottinghamshire Archives offer. FONA will also act alongside the Users Group and other bodies as advocates for the Archives Service. FONA is clearly keen to gather as many members as possible and offers several categories of membership: individual, joint (two adults at the same address), family (two adults and children under 18), junior (16-18), institutional (for historical societies and groups) and corporate (commercial bodies, businesses and profit-making organisations). Individual members will be invited to attend the programme of events and members' benefits are currently being planned. Institutional and Corporate members will be able to help influence the direction of FONA through sending representatives to the group's AGM.

FONA's programme for 2012-13 includes a visit to the Southwell Minster Library (in May), an opportunity to explore accessions from Southwell deposited in Nottinghamshire Archives (in July), a talk by David Hey (in September) and a pre-Christmas social event relating to documents which help tell a story in the lives of individual members. FONA hopes this programme will provide a pattern for future years but would love to hear from anyone with offers or suggestions of archive-related events or visits to sites of interest. A website and e-presence is in active preparation. In the meantime, anyone with enquiries or suggestions as well as membership enquiries, may address them to FONA's chairman, Richard Gaunt at richard.gaunt@nottingham.ac.uk

Dr. Richard Gaunt



NOTTINGHAM'S CITY OF CAVES

The *City of Caves* attraction re-opened on Saturday 11 February 2012, having been closed pending the re-development of the Broadmarsh Centre. The entrance has been made brighter and airier than before, but the most startling thing before going down into the caves themselves is the screen that shows a 3-D visualisation of the many caves under Nottingham. People of all ages have been entranced by it. Dr. David Strange-Walker and the team at Trent & Peak Archaeology have done an extraordinary job in uncovering the caves for the public, making the inaccessible accessible through their survey.

The 3-D visualisations show how striking and unexpected the caves truly are. We can see underneath St. James' Street, and then, randomly, we move to Rouse's sand mine on Peel Street, the Park Estate, passing through Victorian architecture to the sandstone underneath, and the Willoughby House caves. These clips can be watched on YouTube. We do not need underground rivers when we have these extraordinary, man-made caves. They can be simultaneously sinister, charming and practical, as well as gloomy, depressing and uplifting places to work (or spend time) in.

The *City of Caves* shows how the caves were used throughout the centuries, explodes some myths, and encourages people to think about Nottingham's history in general.

James Eady



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

The County Archives have a monthly programme of monthly Wednesday Workshops; on 20 June the subject is 'Record of Royalty' to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; 25 July is 'Apprenticeship Records' and 15 August 'Nottingham City and its Records'. There are also 'Archive Skills' Workshops in June and August. Between 15 May and 10 June is 'Rufford's Right Royal Extravaganza' where a selection of Archives is on display together with workshops and activities.

On 10 July there is a talk entitled 'Nottinghamshire's Sporting Heritage' and on 18 July is the Youth Heritage Conference at Lakeside for 16 to 21 years olds.

Full details of all events and booking forms are available on the website and from the Archive office in Nottingham.



SNIPPETS

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

It has been suggested that the Bibliography written by Michael Brooks had some items relating to the County omitted. Whilst the current review and update is being undertaken, the team concerned would like members with knowledge of any items not included in the earlier version to contact them with details. Please contact the Society's secretary.

PETER HOARE

Peter's article *The library world of Nottinghamshire in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century*, published in *Transactions* last year, has been highly commended (i.e. runner-up) for the Library History Essay Award for 2011, in what was apparently a particularly strong competition. This award has been made annually since 1996 by the Library & Information History Group of the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (CILIP) and is sponsored by Emerald publishing.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

Denise Amos reports the addition of sections relating to Tollerton, Luddites and Canals.

BRITAIN'S FIRST PHOTO ALBUM

The last programme in the series by John Sergeant included an interview with our Chairman, Professor John Beckett who was talking about the old Nottingham racecourse on the Forest.

ENGLISH MONASTIC ARCHIVES PROJECT

The project has now identified, described and listed records of the monastic houses of England. Available at www.ucl.ac.uk/history/research_projects/monasticarchive/info, searches can be made in various ways including parish level.

There is a similar web site relating to wales at: www.monasticwales.org.

HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT

History of Parliament is now available online at www.historyofparliament.org and is the authoritative record of MPs and elections starting from 1386 and extending well into the 19th century.

Researchers are still writing articles about the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries plus some from the 15th century but there are already more than 21,000 biographies and 3,000 articles available about politics and elections across the country on the site.

This is an ongoing project with new items being frequently added.

JOHN WILSON

Our Treasurer has had a paper entitled *Studies On Weather and Public Health in Nottingham 1905 to 1926* accepted by the Royal Meteorological Society's journal *Weather*.

THOROTON SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP

Next meeting is at The Mechanics in Nottingham on Saturday 2 June starting at 10.30 am



Above: James Pollard, 1840. Crucifix winning The Oaks

Below: Abraham Cooper 1836. Lord George Bentinck's horse Elis with box

Images courtesy The Harley Gallery.



DEADLINES for items for the Newsletter are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November every year. **COPY** should be sent to the EDITOR, Howard Fisher, 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ or by email to handjaf@virginmedia.com.

Items can be handwritten or typed in Word format, either suffix .doc or .docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are all most welcome to illustrate an item. Images can be submitted on CD, as an email attachment (preferably 300 dpi JPEG) or sent for scanning. Images will be adjusted to suit the publication.

All copyright remains with the author and photographer. No item may be reproduced without the express permission of the author and Newsletter editor. Due regard for copyright issues must be given when sourcing items for illustration. Acknowledgement of authorship and photographer will be given where the information is known.

All views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily shared by the Thorton Society, its officers or Council members.