

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 69

AUTUMN 2012



The Park in 1849

(see article by Ken Brand)

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

OUTING REPORTS

LICHFIELD – SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012

LEADER: ALAN LANGTON

Our visit to this compact and well-pedestrianised town began with a visit to the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum, where we enjoyed a guided tour of the five floors of period rooms displaying the famous English Dictionary and personal items belonging to Johnson and his family – together of course with many hundreds of books.

After coffee in the Heritage Centre, we had a guided tour of a most impressive and well laid out exhibition of aspects of the local history of Lichfield. Most stunning was the display of the Staffordshire Millennium Embroideries. The whole centre is tastefully situated in the premises of the very large Saint Mary's church, combining a place for worship as well as the areas for the restaurant and for the exhibitions.

After free time for lunch we had tours of the cathedral booked, led by three very knowledgeable and entertaining guides. A wedding had just finished as we arrived, and the very cold wind made us pleased not to be standing in flimsy wedding garb outside the west front for photographs!

A Saxon church was first dedicated on this site around 700 AD, and the Norman cathedral was begun in 1085. The whole building demonstrates not only its progression of styles through the centuries, but also the loving care and dedication of the many people responsible for it over the years. It was a pleasure to view the 'Lichfield Angel' and the Chad Gospels in the Chapter House, as well as the mechanical platform which can be raised or lowered for services in the nave.

After the tour we enjoyed a good tea in the Chapters' Restaurant.

Alan Langton



Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum building in the centre of Lichfield

Photo: Howard Fisher



Lichfield Cathedral west front

Photo: Howard Fisher



At tea!
A person who was enjoying his first Thoroton outing enquired whether such a tea was normal and included in the outing cost. He was assured that it wouldn't be a Thoroton outing without an excellent included tea.

Photos: Howard Fisher

FOUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES – SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2012
LEADER: DR. DAVID KNIGHT

This fascinating trip for members consisted mainly of tramping through long (often wet) grass and having a vivid imagination about what might once have existed beneath our feet.

The first stop was at Oxton to see the site of an Iron Age fort at the top of a local hill. After quite a long walk, the views were splendid, and with the detailed explanation given to us by David, the plan of the fort in the hollow of the fields became recognizable. One or two sturdy members actually walked higher up the hill to enjoy the views.

From Oxton we journeyed to Norwell, mentioned in Domesday, and more specifically, to the site of Willoughby deserted village, where Michael Jones, a local historian, gave us a very detailed talk about what might have stood on this large English Heritage protected area. Of particular interest is the place where a manor house might well have been, together with obvious evidence of fish ponds and moats.

Our lunch stop was at Devon Park, Newark, where the remains the four corners of the Queen's Sconce now stand. This was the Royalists' stronghold during the Civil War, and it is one of the best surviving examples of 17th century military engineering in the country.

Our last stop was at Bingham where Adrian Henstock was able to give us first hand details of recent surveys done in Crow Close, the site of a medieval, or just post-medieval, village. Members were most interested again to try and imagine what might have stood in various parts of the field, and so too was a herd of cows who found it difficult to drag themselves away from Adrian's and David's talks. One of Adrian's local history colleagues proved to be an excellent cowman, shooing them away when they became too closely curious.

Tea was served to us in the Horse and Plough public house – once a Primitive Methodist chapel!

All in all, quite a tiring day, but one which David had planned with significant detail.

Alan Langton



A pause on the way up to Oxton hillfort to enable the leader to explain the situation of the fort; wet weather gear was required at this point as short showers were experienced throughout the morning. (see also back page)

Photo: Howard Fisher

WINE TASTING AND SOCIAL EVENING – 17 CASTLE GATE, NOTTINGHAM; 19 JULY 2012

On a wet and warm(ish) July evening, a group of Thoroton members knocked at the discrete green door and were admitted to one of Nottingham's secret gems. 17 Castle Gate is a Georgian town house dating from the early 18th century, now owned and restored by Weavers of Nottingham Ltd. and used by them for storing some of their stock of wine.

By special arrangement, Thoroton members were privileged to be shown parts of the building not normally seen by the public including upper rooms and deep cellars carved out of the natural sandstone below. All this whilst sampling some excellent wines, specially selected by Philip Trease and Mike Stacey and served in the principal rooms as we went around.



Members on the evening. Photo: David Hoskins.

In his introduction, Philip told us that the Trease family had been running the business since 1897 when his great-great-grandfather, George Trease, bought the then Weavers Vaults public house in Lister Gate. Philip then added that our evening was one of historical significance to the company as he introduced his niece, Rachel, as the sixth generation of the Trease family to be involved in the business and who was assisting with a wine-tasting for the first time.

In 1989 Weavers acquired the freehold of 17 Castle Gate, having previously only rented the cellars for wine storage, and embarked on a programme of restoring the principal rooms. We were invited to inspect the results of the restoration from the elegant entrance hall, with its original staircase, through to four reception rooms on the ground and first floors. We were introduced to such gems as pressed plaster as a wall decoration, original cornices and 'economy corners' where dado paneling was much less decorative where it was not in full view and there was less need to impress! One

of the rooms was dedicated to memorabilia of the wider Trease family, including Philip's great-uncle Geoffrey, the children's author.

Throughout the visit, our own Pete Smith, following on from his presentation *More Nottingham Townhouses* in February, was able to add an additional perspective to the commentary on what we were seeing. The more adventurous members were then able to climb the upper staircase to the unrestored second floor, with its decorative clues as to the status of the various people who had used the rooms there. The evening concluded with a visit to the upper cellars, still stocked with wine, where discussion centred on their possible original use as kitchens, and then the deep cellars carved out of the natural sandstone that underpinned the whole house.

Our grateful thanks go to Pete Smith for his additional descriptions of the building, to the team from Weavers, Philip Trease, Mike Stacey and Rachel Trease, for their knowledge and assistance during the evening, and to Alan Trease for making the whole visit possible.

David Hoskins

THE COVER PICTURE – AN UNEXPECTED TREASURE

BY KEN BRAND

The painting shown, *The Park 1849*, is by William Henry Pig(g)ott (c1810-1901) and Edward Price (1800-1885) and has come up for auction by Mellors and Kirk. The painting was retrieved by the brother of the vendor from a skip when the Borough Club was demolished c1971 prior to the redevelopment of the site.

The painting is of significant interest as a prime example of the recording of points in time before photography became widespread. On the left hand edge is Newcastle Terrace sweeping round the houses by P. F. Robinson on Park Terrace; no. 15-17 being prominent. The land drops away below Newcastle Terrace, the presence of sheep, shepherd and sheepdog emphasise the rural charms of the hollow of the Park. The 4th Duke of Newcastle was still alive, but within five years the Nottingham architect, T. C. Hine, appointed by the 5th Duke in January 1854 to oversee the development of this prime location, would cut into those slopes to set out Newcastle Drive and subsequently erect some of the first houses within the Park.

With the eye of faith it is just possible to make out below the boundary wall of 15-17 Park Terrace signs of the initial attempt to construct the Park Tunnel which was in 1844 and abruptly abandoned until resumed and completed by Hine some 10 years later.

On the horizon centre right are the buildings of the Park Barracks. Here, in rotation, the

crack regiments of the British Army were based, a useful source of help in times of civil unrest. A well known engraving shows the Scots Greys parading in Nottingham's Market Place prior to their departure to the Crimea in 1854. On the right hand edge, Derby Terrace, possibly *Waltons* and early Park houses can be seen.

The Borough Club on King Street, was founded in 1893 and, following an architectural competition and some delay, the original winner, G. E. Statham, died suddenly and their new home was designed in a Northern German Renaissance style by G. S. Doughty. It opened on 24 May 1895 and, from the start, had no political attachments; it was simply a club for business and professional men, which included prominent citizens of the day.

The Borough Club purchased the Nottingham and Notts Constitutional Club on Market Street in 1958 and moved there on amalgamation allowing the demolition of the King Street building. Then in 1968 the Borough Club merged with the Reform Club on Victoria Street, which definitely had Liberal roots. Sometime thereafter this combined club of around 900 members moved on, vacating the Victoria Street building.

When the Borough Club left Market Street, a sale of the contents of the property included 28 pictures by the Nottingham artist, T. W. Hammond.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION

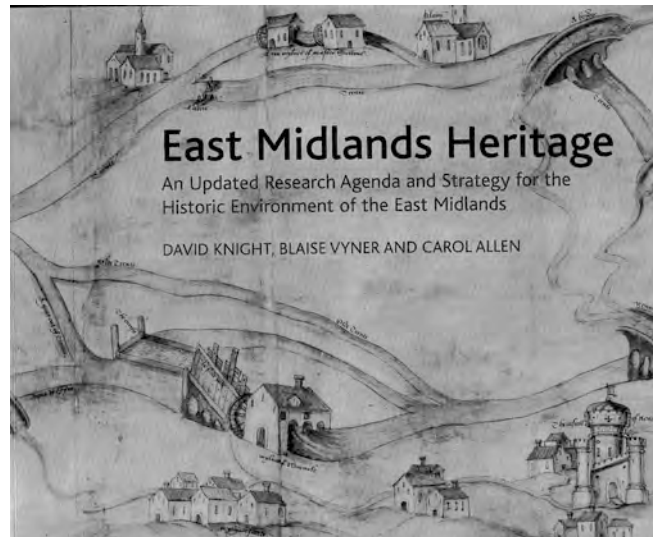
At the 2012 AGM some small changes to our Constitution were proposed and passed. Before the revised Constitution could be put into place it was necessary to submit the proposed changes to the Charity Commission.

The Commission has approved these changes so the Society now operates under the terms of the newly revised Constitution

BOOK REVIEWS

EAST MIDLANDS HERITAGE: AN UPDATED RESEARCH AGENDA AND STRATEGY FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE EAST MIDLANDS

David Knight, Blaise Vyner and Carol Allen: Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6, York Archaeological Trust and the University of Nottingham; 2012.



This volume which was compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community, represents the final stage for the East Midlands of the Regional Research Framework Initiative proposed in the 1996 English Heritage publication *Frameworks for Our Past* (Olivier, A, 1996). It builds upon the Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda presented in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* (Cooper, N. (ed.), 2006, Leicester. (www.le.ac/ulas/publications/eastmidsw.html)), and provides a framework for research across Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

Aims

The Strategy is intended as a resource for everyone with an interest in the archaeological and built environment resource of the East Midlands. It should not be regarded as prescriptive, but rather as a distillation of current views on research priorities and a tool for facilitating applications for research funds. The Strategy also seeks to assist curators, developers, archaeological contractors and consultants in the preparation of schemes mitigating the heritage impact of development, and hence complements planning guidance documents.

Developing the Strategy

The project was funded by English Heritage and has been guided by a Steering Group with members drawn from across the East Midlands historic environment spectrum. The project has also benefitted from the input of an advisory panel of period and subject specialists who, from the Nottinghamshire perspective, have advised on topics as diverse as hunter-gatherer activity at Cresswell Crags, Iron Age and Roman rural settlement, the origins and development of the Medieval open-field system and the morphology and use of Nottingham's caves. Beyond this, we have sought to consult widely with stakeholders across the region with the aims of integrating more closely archaeology and the built environment and of fostering closer links between heritage bodies. We have liaised extensively with individuals and organisations with interests in the historic environment, including developers, consultants and voluntary bodies, together with archaeologists and building specialists from the academic, contracting, curatorial and museum sectors. Representatives of other national and regional organisations, including English Heritage, the National Trust, Natural England and the Environment Agency, have also been widely consulted. We currently have a contact list of over 800 consultees that continues to grow as additional organisations and individuals with a strong stake in the regional heritage are identified.

Presenting the Strategy

Attention is focused in the first chapters of the Strategy upon the essential building blocks of research, without which the research strategies recommended in that work cannot easily be implemented. Following this, we present a series of tables aimed at summarizing succinctly, by period, the agenda themes and topics identified by consultation and the strategies recommended for addressing these. Many of the general themes identified in the period syntheses, such as the development of the agricultural economy or the growth of towns, overlap period boundaries. These are brought together in a final section, which identifies a number of overarching research themes to which East Midlands sites can make an especially significant contribution.

Publication and Website

A free copy of the Agenda and Strategy may be obtained from Christine Kyriacou at York Archaeology Trust (ckyriacou@yorkat.co.uk), while a digital version of this publication may be downloaded from the Trent & Peak Archaeology website (www.tparchaeology.co.uk/east-midlands-research-strategy). Details of public seminars, workshops and other documents produced during consultation, information on stakeholder conferences and details of forthcoming events aimed at advancing the strategy may also be obtained from the TPA website.

The future

The Agenda and Strategy are seen as living documents which will evolve as research objectives are met and as priorities change, and we anticipate regular revisions of Agenda topics and Research Objectives. The Strategy will be reviewed annually by the Steering Group, initially over a five-year period, while progress on the Research Objectives defined in this document will be assessed and priorities revised where appropriate. We welcome on-going input from stakeholders, who we hope will communicate with the project Steering Group via the project website.

The next key event is a conference to mark the publication of the Agenda and Strategy. The conference will be held at the Derby Roundhouse (<http://roundhouse-events.co.uk>) on Saturday, 15 September and will include a wide range of presentations focusing upon research spanning the Palaeolithic to Modern periods. A full programme, together with booking form and details of location, access and parking, can be obtained from the Trent & Peal website (address above).

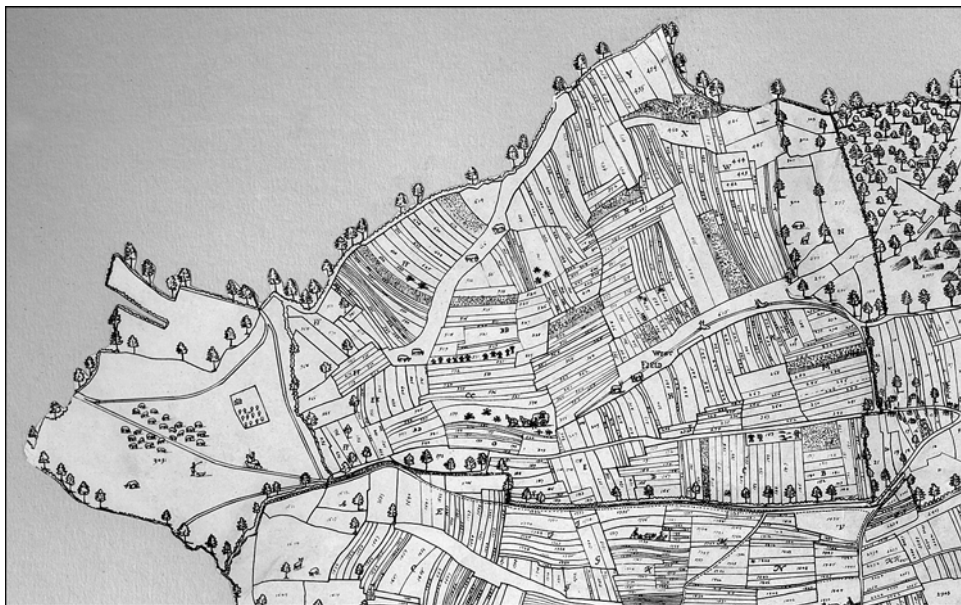


Langford, Nottinghamshire: the river terraces and floodplain of the Trent Valley preserve a remarkable wealth of evidence for the Romano-British settlement, as exemplified by this stone-lined well with a humanic silty fill containing animal bone and leather. The original cut for the well through river sands is clearly visible either side of the stone lining.

(Photo: Lee Elliott, Trent & Peak Archaeology. Original in colour.)



A laser survey by Trent & Peak Archaeology of the sandstone caves of Nottingham has added significantly to our understanding of their morphology and use. This laser plan of the caves below Willoughby House shows a circular cave with central carved column and table, benches around the wall and entrance flanked by pilasters, constructed in the mid-18th century by Rothwell Willoughby below his Georgian townhouse.
 (Image reproduced by courtesy of David Strange-Walker, Trent & Peak Archaeology. Original in colour.)



Laxton in Nottinghamshire is the only English parish where open-field farming is still conducted under the guidance of a court leet, and provides a landscape resource of international significance. This photograph shows part of a map recording the cultivation strips and other features of the open fields, compiled in 1635 by Mark Pierce.

(Copyright Manuscripts and Special Collections Section, the University of Nottingham)

David Knight (Trent and Peak Archaeology) and Blaise Vyner (Blaise Vyner Consultancy)

FOLLOWING THE FOSSE WAY THROUGH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE A46 – Cotswold Wessex Archaeology for the Highways Agency, 2012
A46 NEWARK TO WIDMERPOOL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, 2012.



Two booklets, the first of 12 pages and the second of 31 pages in softback.

The first deals briefly with the archaeological work and finds undertaken by Cotswold Wessex Archaeology and is written by Phil Andrews and the well known from Time Team, Phil Harding. The booklet is very well illustrated with colour photographs, maps, drawings and diagrams. It starts by outlining the project and the archaeological programme (which started as early as the 1990s). Over 60 archaeologists were involved in the work.

The booklet explains the context of the finds and traces them from the Hunter Gatherer peoples of the area and follows developments to the Anglo-Saxon period and later. It is essential intended for the lay-man, is not in any way academic in style, but is presented in a manner which anyone can pick-up and read through even without more than a casual interest in the subject matter.

The second booklet is an out-and-out publicity product for the main construction contractor, Balfour Beatty. Nevertheless, it has a plethora of colour pictures, plans and maps to give an interesting overview of the construction of what is stated to be *Britain's Best Built Road*. The planning history of the project is explained and there is an interesting page of key facts and figures amongst which are stated to be that over 8,000 design drawings were produced for the work, ecological considerations were high in the planning processes, at peak times up to 720 people were working on site and, since Summer 2010, no waste was sent to landfill.

Together these two booklets provide a most interesting insight into the A46 work from initial planning to completion and increase understanding of the requirements of major infrastructure projects.

Sadly, neither is now available in hard format but the archaeological one can be found as a PDF on the Highways Agency web site at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4406.aspx>

WILLOUGHBY BY NORWELL DESERTED VILLAGE, Norwell Parish Heritage Group, 2012.

This booklet of 56 pages plus glossary and index is No. 6 in the Norwell Heritage Booklet series and maintains the very high standards of the previous 5 products. It is softback, printed on high quality gloss paper which sets off the numerous illustrations, plans and diagrams extremely well. As with the previous booklets in the series it sets a standard to be aimed at by all Local History societies and groups in their publication quality.

Thoroton Society members have recently been fortunate enough to visit Willoughby deserted village (see *earlier report*) and the site is truly fascinating; it is a scheduled ancient monument in private hands and used for grazing and hay/silage production by the landowner.



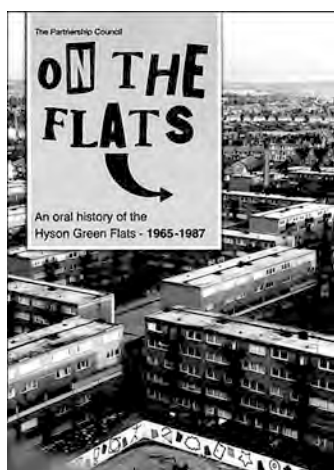
The booklet is written in an easy style which is accessible to a general reader whilst giving plenty of information for the historian. Whilst it does not use footnotes there is ample information about sources and I especially liked the frequent references in brackets to mentions elsewhere in the book relating to the particular subject being read about; this is an excellent feature. There are 'panels' where additional information is given which is not directly related to Willoughby, for example, about landed families.

There are many illustration, maps, diagrams and photographs although if there is a criticism, it is that some of these are rather small and so lose impact but, overall, they add to the pleasure of reading this booklet.

This is a well produced and written explanation about Willoughby and Norwell and is thoroughly recommended.

Details of the way to purchase this and the other booklets in the series are given on the Norwell Parish Heritage Group web site, easily found via a Google search.

ON THE FLATS: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE HYSON GREEN FLATS, 1965-87, Helen Bates, et al. (Eds.). Nottingham 2012, ISBN 978-0-9552030-1-5. (not for sale but available through Nottingham Central Library).



The Hyson Green flats were once notorious. In a Nationwide programme hosted by Frank Bough in the 1970s, they were depicted as hell on earth. Stories of the all-night Blues parties keeping residents permanently awake, of drink, drugs and violence, associated particularly with the underground garage area, and prostitutes queuing up for business, all made for an unsavoury reputation which culminated in the 1981 summer riots. But was it all as bad as this image suggests?

Helen Bates, with funding from the HLF, and with help from numerous volunteers, has revisited (virtually) the flats, twenty-five years after they came down, and the result is this book, with accompanying DVD of the same name, reflecting on the twenty or so years that the flats were occupied.

One of the problems with oral testimony is that we do not know how much people filter their memories. We have to ask whether those willing to take part in the project, and to be filmed for the DVD, were really remembering the flats or creating a rosy glow over an area which was certainly blighted, if not as socially dysfunctional as the media would have us believe. Many of the stories have a ring of truth: Rachel, for example, accepting her mother's assurance that young ladies standing on street corners were waiting for ice cream vans – until she saw them there in the middle of winter and began to ask different questions! Others are less convincing – were the Blues parties really so well 'accepted' in the flats as is suggested here? Nationwide certainly drew an extraordinarily negative image, building on a suggestion of the then prime minister, James Callaghan, that too many poor quality high or medium rise homes had been built in the post war years. And maybe calling them maisonettes was somewhat hopeful – they soon came to be known as flats locally.

No quibbles however. This has been an excellent community history project and Helen Bates and her team have done a superb job. The DVD includes archive footage coupled with recent interviews and testimonies, all of which can be read in detail in the book. Twenty-five years on memories are inevitably fading, but Helen and her volunteers have captured them here for posterity.

John Beckett

SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN

Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire since 1991, retired on 21 July 2012, his 75th birthday.

Sir Andrew has been a much loved and greatly respected figure during his 21 years in office, tirelessly travelling the county from his home at Hodsock Priory, and keeping in touch with numerous organisations as well as undertaking his royal duties. His final royal event was the visit of the Queen, with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, during the Diamond jubilee celebrations in June 2012.

Sir Andrew spoke about his work at the Thoroton Society Annual Lunch in 2012.

Sir Andrew and Lady Belinda were the guests of honour at a Service of Thanksgiving in Southwell Minster on 3 July, to which I was invited as Chairman of the Thoroton Society. In a number of moving tributes, the extraordinary range of Sir Andrew's activities were recounted, and a personal message from the Prince of Wales was read. Sir Andrew will be much missed as he retires from public duty to return to his farming.

Sir Andrew is succeeded by Sir John Peace, a businessman and banker.

John Beckett

SAVE BINGHAM MANOR HOUSE

The Grade 2 listed Manor House is at the north-east corner of Bingham market place. The architecture is unique within a wide area. Research by Bingham Heritage Trails Association suggests that the building dates from at least the early 1700s and was the premises of a successful plumber, John Bradshaw.

The building is boarded up and has been unoccupied for about 15 years. Many Bingham

people are seriously concerned about its future.

An open meeting to generate ideas for future use will be held at The Old Court House in Bingham at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 5 September. It is hoped to set up a small group of concerned residents, BHTA, the local authorities and interested professionals to develop sustainable plans for after-use prior to making an application for funds for purchase and restoration.

Geoff Ashton

THOROTON SOCIETY LUNCHEON 2012

The mailing this month includes your booking form for the annual luncheon, to be held this year at the Olde Bell Hotel and Restaurant, Barnby Moor.

You will be pleased to know that we have listened to the comments of some of our members that last year's lunch was rather expensive and so we have managed to find a highly recommended venue which is to provide us with a three-course lunch for the excellent price of £21.00 per person.

Barnby Moor is near to Retford, a few miles from the A1, and we hope that many of you will be joining us for this popular annual event.

This year we are marking the centenary of the death of Octavia Hill, social reformer and one of the founders of the National Trust, by having as our guest and after lunch speaker, Rebecca Speight, National Trust Director for the Midlands. As has become the tradition, the post-lunch talk is one of the highlights of the event's programme.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with old friends and new on 3rd November and enjoy a special meal together.

Barbara Cast, Hon. Secretary.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

It is with much sadness that we record the recent death of BARRY ALEXANDER. Barry was a stalwart of the Diocesan Church History project, writing the entry for the church at Gotham. He was a member of East Leake Local History Society and later of Gotham Local History Society. He was a member of the Latin group lead by Maureen Lillie to which my wife Jackie also belongs.

Barry was fun to be with and I spent several very happy times as we travelled to The Borthwick Institute in York when it was in the medieval building before its move to the York University campus, as well as to other archive establishments.

In his early 70s Barry moved to live in Poland to be closer to his Polish wife's family but he remained in contact by email and Christmas cards and letters. Shortly after moving to Poland Barry's wife was involved in a nasty car accident and Barry was very distressed by her injuries although she eventually made a good recovery. I recall him also telling me that he was learning to speak Polish from his brother-in-law as they took the latter's dogs for a morning walk in the forest close to Barry's new home and, at the same time, the brother-in-law was learning English from Barry. One wonders what the dogs made of the mixed sounds coming from the two men.

Barry will always be remembered by those of us who were privileged to call him friend.

Our sympathies are expressed to Barry's wife and extended family.

HF

We are also sad to record the death of Clive Barton and Mrs. Kingbell. Mrs. Kingbell was aged 93 years and a life member of the society. Our sympathies are extended to their families at a time of great sadness.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members and hope their membership provides them with much pleasure and fulfillment:

Richard Brackenbury
F. Coldham
Dr. Paul Elliot

Clive Cartwright
Robert and Margaret Cooper
Mrs. S. and Miss K. Wilson

Michael Cobb
Karen Davies
Judith Wright

Institutional Membership: Proquest Humanities Index, USA and Massman Internationale Buchhandlung GmbH, Germany.



Image relating to the exhibition, Balls, Boots and Players – see below.

EXHIBITION: BALLS, BOOTS AND PLAYERS –

Celebrating 500 Years of Nottingham High School in its Community

At the Weston gallery, University Park, Nottingham and curated by Nottingham High School in collaboration with Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham.
From Friday, 28 September 2012 to Sunday, 13 January 2013.

Four years after a young and enlightened Henry VIII came to the throne, a wealthy Nottingham widow championed a cause which resonates in classrooms, sports fields, boardrooms and corridors of power even to this day. With royal permission, her donations of land and property, and the promise of support from the good people of Nottingham, Dame Agnes Mellers founded a school 'evermore to endure' for the teaching and instruction of boys in good manners and literature.

This exhibition explores the relationship between Nottingham High School and its community, illustrated through the lives of the people who belong to it. Drawing on the school's own archives and from collections at the University of Nottingham, the display shows how the early efforts to organise education in a small market town helped lay the foundations for a great city driven by learning.

The story touches on the lace industry, international sport, military service, public service and migration. It demonstrates the intelligence and commitment of the men and women who dedicated their lives to the education of local boys, and whose influence spanned lifetimes. It encompasses the climate of change that blew a Nottingham miner's son through education to become the most controversial writer of the twentieth century and a watch-maker's son to become Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A series of talks will be held to accompany the exhibition. Places are limited so please book in advance with the Box Office on 0115-846-7777.

10 October, 1 to 2 pm Engineering Science Learning Centre, A09, University Park.

PURE and CONSTANT

Mr. Mark Whitmore, Director of Collections and Research at the Imperial War Museum, will explore the life and work of the distinguished water engineer and former Nottingham High School pupil, Thomas Hawksley. 'Pure and Constant' was the motto of the Nottingham Waterworks company where, from its inception in 1830, Hawksley was engineer.

9 November, 1 to 2 pm. Trent Building, Great Hall, University Park

KEN CLARKE TALKS

An opportunity to hear Nottingham High School's best known living old boy, Ken Clarke QC, MP talk about his life as a school boy in Nottingham and, amongst other things, arguably the most successful career in modern British politics.

13 November, 1 to 2 pm. Trent Building, Great Hall, University Park.

BOOTS, BALLS and PLAYERS

Former Nottingham High School pupil and talented sportsman, Mr. Tony Palfreman, will share his passion for sport in Nottinghamshire. Tony will take us on a tour from the school playing fields at Valley Road to Nottinghamshire FC and end up at Trent Bridge where he is now Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board.

4 December, 1 to 2 pm. Engineering and Science Learning Centre, A09, University Park.

KARACHI and the WILDS of INTERIOR SINDH.

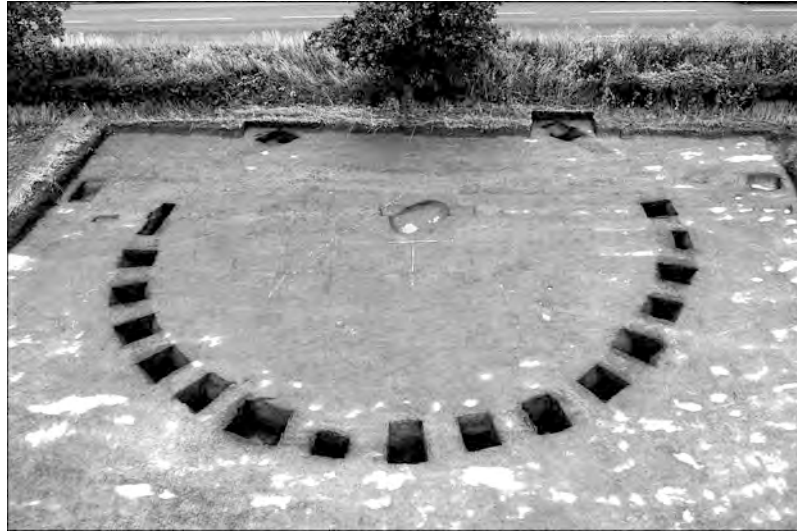
The BBC's Pakistan correspondent and Old Nottinghamian, Aleem Maqbool, will introduce us to his world – the life and work of a journalist in an area which is home to some of the earliest human settlements and where two of the world's major religions meet.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2012 – THE ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE A46 NEWARK-WIDMERPOOL ROUTE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Neil Macnab BA(Hons) MIFA; Associate (heritage), URS Consultants



Archaeological site found during A46 works

This talk will describe the findings of the A46 Newark to Widmerpool Route Improvement Scheme, a new 28km dual carriageway that has been constructed along the Fosse Way Roman Road. The talk will illustrate recent findings from the Late upper Palaeolithic onwards and will include the discovery of a Late Upper Palaeolithic open air encampment and associated flint scatters from Farndon Fields, a Neolithic/Bronze Age barrow from Stragglethorpe, small rural Iron Age settlements from Owthorpe and High Thorpe, extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement at Margidunum and Saxondale as well as a Saxon cremation cemetery from Saxondale Hill. Excavations at Margidunum were a particular highlight with extensive evidence for roadside settlement leading up to the scheduled Roman town as well as evidence for Iron Age and Roman exploitation and settlement in the surrounding landscape.

The talk will be given by Neil Macnab from URS, a leading consultancy practice and the scheme designers. Neil has been project archaeologist for the new road scheme since the beginning of the design process in 2004.

SATURDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2012 – THE NOTTINGHAM HISTORY LECTURE

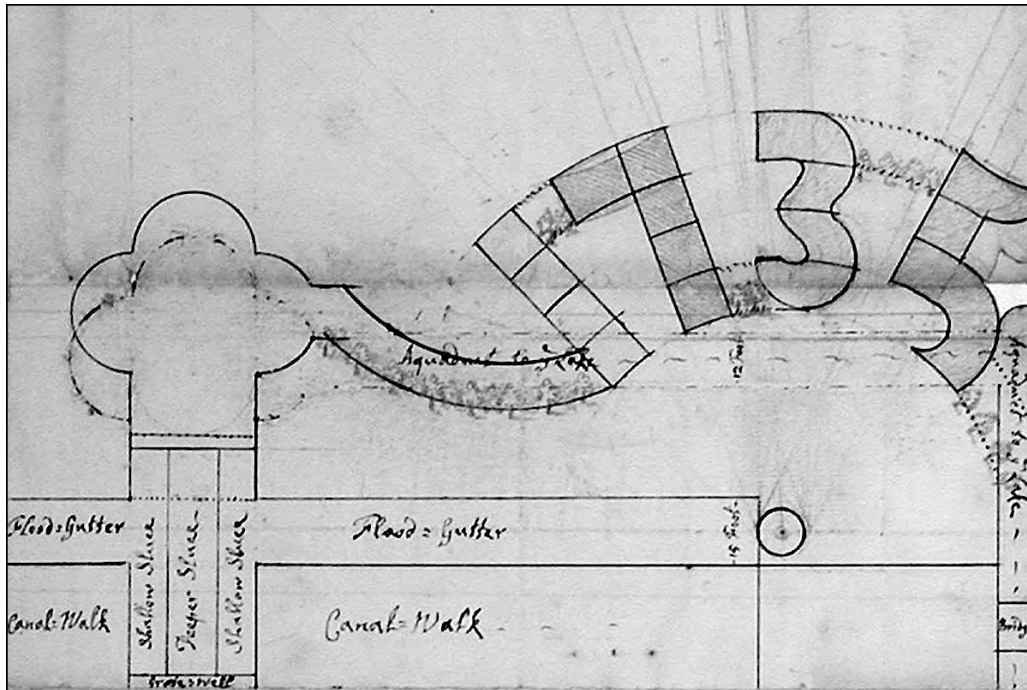
THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE OF RUFFORD ABBEY, 1700-1750

Sarah Law, School of Geography, The University of Nottingham.

This paper will examine the engagement of Sir George Savile, 7th Baronet (1678-1743) with the landscape of Rufford Abbey during the first half of the eighteenth century. It takes what might loosely be called an 'estate perspective'. Much past scholarship on landed estates has tended to be polarised; economic historians and geographers focusing on the tenanted landscape of the estate periphery, garden and cultural historians on the designed gardens surrounding the house.

The present study examines the essential connectedness of the estate: in the ways it was enjoyed, conceived and physically constructed. Archival data and archaeological evidence will be used to reconstruct, as far as possible, the form of the early eighteenth century landscape, to discuss the, at times conflicting, motivations underlying the interventions made and to draw attention to the wider geographies that underpin the creation of such elite landscapes: transport networks; access to material resources and expertise.

The question of authorship emerges naturally from such discussion and the respective contributions of Sir George, his steward, his gardener and named designers will be considered. By embracing the designed landscape in this wider estate optic, the study naturally highlights the competing interests and tensions – economic, aesthetic, social – at play within elite landscapes and provides a more comprehensive picture of the motivations and constraints which informed landscaping decisions.



Extract from design drawing for part of Rufford Estate

**SATURDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2012 – THE NEVILLE HOSKINS LECTURE
THE RAISING OF THE STANDARD REVISITED – TWENTY YEARS ON
Professor Martyn Bennett, Head of Graduate School, Nottingham Trent University.**



A period re-enactment group with Professor Bennett (centre)

On a rainy, windy August afternoon in 1642, King Charles I of Great Britain had the massive royal banner unfurled and raised in the precincts of Nottingham Castle, as a symbolic declaration of war on his enemies assembled in Westminster who had, he asserted, subverted parliament and made it 'unfree'. On a sunnier day in 1992, the event was recreated at Nottingham Castle in a commemoration staged by re-enactment groups and hosted by the renowned military historian, Professor David Chandler. That same year Martyn Bennett gave the Thoroton Society's lecture *The King's Gambit*, which focused on why Charles' opening move was made in Nottingham.

In the past twenty years a great deal has changed in our collective understanding of the war which commenced 'officially' that day in August. There is a greater appreciation that what began here was the fourth in a series of wars, and that a further two would begin before the pastiche of fighting ended in the 1650s. It is also more clearly recognized that there was not really an English Civil War at all. The series of wars which engulfed the British Isles and the American colonies cannot be defined as English, or Welsh, or Scottish or Irish, for the fighting in each embroiled the others and caused grief and hardship to men, women and children in all the nations of the British Isles.

This lecture will look at how our view of these wars has changed and how Martyn's own work on the civil wars developed following his lecture twenty years ago, and how this redefines Nottingham's place in the history of the Wars of the Four Nations.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Martyn Bennett was a lecturer at the newly christened Nottingham Trent University and the author of two books. Twenty years on, Professor Martyn Bennett is the head of the Graduate School at Nottingham Trent University having written a dozen books, including a biography of Oliver Cromwell.

SNIPPETS

THE FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

The meeting on 17 November takes place at 1400 in the archive office in Nottingham.

MEMBERS' DOCUMENTS TO TELL A STORY. Members bring along a document to discuss with the group.

COST: £5.00 to include refreshments and a raffle ticket.

THE CANAL & RIVER TRUST

As from 2 July 2012 British Waterways ceased to exist and was replaced by the Canal & Waterways Trust.

For more information about this new organisation visit their web site at: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

THE MOLEKATS

This is a group of three people who are based in Keyworth and who have done a great deal of work in the Keyworth area using metal detectors in a very responsible manner. Their discoveries are always written up in a proper scientific manner and they have excellent contacts with the British Museum, the Museum of London and other local museums.

Their latest work and publication relates to an extensive field survey in Plumtree which, in addition to the actual field work is accompanied by extensive paper archive research. The field was used by the Plumtree community to celebrate the coronation of King George V on 27 June 1911. The finds include many contemporary and other coins, livery button, .303 bullet, Bovril medallion, costume jewelry, lead spindle whorl amongst many other items fully listed in the report.

The Molekats, who also bill themselves as South Nottinghamshire Field Detectives, are an excellent example of what amateur detectorists and researchers can add to local knowledge. It is good to be able to comment on such local activities.

THE AEROFILMS COLLECTION

This collection of aerial photographs is being conserved and digitized by English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland and Wales.

The website went live on 26 June 2012 with 16,000 images. The full Aerofilms collection has over a million images, many from the early days of aviation made by ex-WW1 pilots from low altitudes which was a dangerous flying technique. Many are on glass plates which require careful conservation.

There are unidentified images and the public is being asked to contribute by identifying them wherever possible.

The web site is at: www.britainfromabove.org.

SATURDAY SEMINARS

The very popular Saturday Seminar series commences for its third year on 13 October 2012. Held in the History Department at Lenton Grove on the University of Nottingham campus and commencing at 10.30 am the series will follow the same format as in the first two years because it has proved to be so popular with attendees.

From 10.00 am coffee/tea and biscuits are served at a cost of 50p to early arrivers whilst the cost of the lectures are £5.00 which includes refreshments at the mid-way break.

There is usually a book stall for browsing and purchases at very cheap prices and the subject matter of the books available is very diverse and countrywide.

The programme up to December 2012 is:-

13 October: VIRTUALLY INACCESSIBLE: NOTTINGHAM'S SANDSTONE CAVES AND THE WORK OF THE CAVES SURVEY – Dr. David Strange-Walker, York Archaeological Trust.

10 November: THE TRAVELLER'S EYE: TRAVEL LITERATURE AND ITS VALUE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY – Dr. John Chandler, VCH Gloucestershire Editor.

8 December: CLARE PICKERSGILL, CURATOR, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, will talk about the conservation and curatorial issues involved in creating the University's recently opened museum, and there will then be a privileged visit to the museum.

No booking for these seminars is required – just attend on the day. They all coincide with Thoroton Society lectures in the afternoons, enabling a full day of enjoyment to be experienced.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2012.

There are many places and events connected with the Heritage Open Day events from 6 – 9 September 2012. Visit the website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk to find a full listing of places available to visit during this event's period.

The website was a little clunky when I last visited but it does contain much useful information.

One building to be open for public inspection on Saturday, 8 September from 10 am to 4 pm is George Martin's Barn on Main Street, Keyworth. This barn dated 1651 and built by farmer, George Martin, remains much as it was when originally built. It is presently used by Keyworth Amateur Dramatic Society as a store and workshop and has not been previously opened as part of the Heritage Open Day event.

There are many other places open through the county for this event to provide a really interesting day out.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

The events programme for the Archives is now available from October 2012 to March 2013.

The Lunchtime Talks series is focused on the theme of 'Architecture'; all talks are held in the Archive offices and commence at 1.00 pm on Wednesdays. Cost is £4.00 per talk and booking through the Archives is essential.

The titles are:

31 October: From Gothic to Art Deco: Nottinghamshire Architecture in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.

14 November: Thomas Cecil Howitt: Architect of Nottingham.

28 November: Architecture and Community: The Making of Forest Fields.

12 December: Understanding Nottinghamshire's Churches.

On Friday 14 December a selection of festive readings from diaries is to be given at 2.30 pm. Cost is £5.00 including tea and mince pie. Booking essential.

The Wednesday Workshop series continues at £4.00 each, again booking is essential. Times are 2.30 pm.

17 October Parish records

21 November Southwell Minster Archives (note start time is 2.45 pm)

16 January Sources for the Civil War in Nottinghamshire.

Archive Skills Workshops are also available at £4.00 with essential booking:

12 October The Old Streets of Nottingham

16 November Wikipedia Workshop.

For full details of these and other events contact the Archives.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

There are special events to be held at various libraries including Angel Row, Aspley, Bilborough, Sherwood, Clifton, Bulwell and Basford.

Some of these look very interesting and relevant to Local Historians, for example:

Saturday, 8 September at Central Library: Survival of Victorian Nottingham, 2.15 pm, free entry.

Thursday, 20 September at Sherwood Library: A Victorian Time Capsule, 10.00 am, free entry.

Thursday, 4 October at Clifton Library: The Laxton Court Leet and Jury, 10.30 am, free entry.

Tuesday, 9 October at Basford Library: Laxton – England's Last Open Field Farming Village, 10.30 am, free entry.

Thursday, 18 October at Sherwood Library: Picture the Past, 10 am, free entry.

Thursdays 1 and 15 November at Clifton (10.30 am) and Sherwood (10 am) Libraries respectively: Sir Ralph Epperstone – The Medieval Physician, free entry.

Wednesday, 16 January 2013 at Central Library: Building and Place Workshop, 10 am to 4 pm, £15.00.

These are only a selection of what is being offered; for full details contact local libraries or visit the website of the Library and Information Service.

THOROTON's *ANTIQUITIES OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE*

The Society has been notified of a copy of the 1677 book which is for sale.

This copy was bought by the vendor's father in the 1930's and has been carefully kept in a slip case ever since. It is understood that the spine was professionally rebound sometime before the above purchase.

If anyone is interested in acquiring this book please contact the vendor direct; John Howlett, on 01925-602255 or by email at jfhowlett26@btinternet.com.



Dr. David Knight explaining features of Oxtou Hill Fort to the outing group on 9 June 2012.

Photo: Howard Fisher



*Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt. KCVO, KSt J who retired as Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire in July 2012
(See article inside)*

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. Consent for permission to publish images of Thoroton Society members attending Society events is implied by attendance at such events. All views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily shared by the Thoroton Society, its officers or Council members.