

# THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 71

SPRING 2013



*Bestwood Lodge from a C19th print  
(Collection of Howard Fisher)*

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~ The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire ~  
~ The County's Principal Historical Society ~  
Visit the Thoroton Website at: [www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk)

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# FLOODS

As we all know there was extensive flooding in the county at the end of 2012 and our sympathies go to anyone whose home or other building was affected by the water.

Whilst looking through my postcard collection for another subject I came across this card showing very extensive flooding around the Prince of Wales' Farm in a postcard published by the Nottingham Evening News on 24 May 1932.



Grove Farm on Lenton Lane, now the University of Nottingham playing fields, was bought by Edward, the Prince of Wales (Edward VIII), in 1927 allegedly to facilitate his affair with Freda Ward the married daughter of the lace magnate Charles Birkin. The farmhouse was rebuilt by the Prince. The affair lasted to around 1933 and the farm was then sold with subsequent owners being George Shelton, John William and Nellie Burnett, Colin Burnett and acquired by the University of Nottingham in 1960.

The farm was situated on the banks of the river Trent, the flow of which can be seen in the picture by the white marks running in a diagonal in the lower half.

HF

(See also picture on back cover)

*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](mailto: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.*

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

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# WASH NIGHT IN RADFORD

Provoked by an encounter at the Djanogly exhibition hall.

*At the opening night of the exhibition 'SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING; The Authentic Moment in British Photography', the sensational exhibition inspired by Alan Sillitoe's groundbreaking novel and the film adaptation directed by Karel Reisz, including stills, works from Britain in the 1950s and 60s by national photographers, and striking documentary photographs by accomplished amateurs, whilst we waited for Shirley Ann Field to formally open the exhibition, ROBIN PHILLIPS recounted a story from his early days in Nottingham which he now shares with us all.*

It was early in 1964. As a bachelor in 'digs' in that select area, Wollaton Park, I dumped all my dirty clothes in what we used to call a 'grip' and cycled off with it once a fortnight to the launderette.

The launderette stood on the north side of the Ilkeston Road, close to Forster Street, doing a good business. I locked up my Raleigh outside the shop, came in, and joined three or four others sitting on two rows of plastic chairs. Instead of goggling at a television we were goggling, mesmerized, as we watched our loads of washing spinning round and round in one of the dozen or more machines.

It was evening, and closing time was approaching, so three elderly ladies were cleaning the floor, and talking to each other in voices loud enough to be heard over the rumble of the machines. Not for us to hear, you understand, but for them to hear each other. To them we were just pieces of furniture, obstructions that got in the way of their mops as they swabbed, and their conversation buzzed a few

inches above our heads. As a result they ignored us totally, and even talked about quite intimate family matters. So it was that I suddenly heard one of them say, 'So I said to 'im, I said,' and I woke up, and started listening. 'So I said to 'im, I'm looking forward to becoming a grandmother, but not THAT way, thank you!'

It must have been years later, certainly after some friends had given me our first washing-machine, that I realized how close the Sillitoe connection was. Just round the corner from that launderette was the street which is the setting of *The Rag-man's Daughter*.

Thirteen years later, for Queen Elizabeth's first Jubilee, they hung bunting up in Forster Street right across the narrow road. They already knew that the whole area would be re-developed, and they never took it down.



## MEMBERS' NEWS

The Society extends its deep condolences to Geoffrey Oldfield and our Treasurer, John Wilson, both of whom lost their wives in the weeks prior to Christmas and also to the family and friends of Mrs. Betty Lees who died within the same period.

Our very best wishes are extended to Dorothy Johnston for a long and happy retirement from the University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections department.

A very warm welcome is given to the following new members who have recently joined us and whose membership has been approved by Council.

Mrs. June Burton (rejoined the Society)  
Mrs. Ann Froggatt  
Mr. Arthur Walder

Mrs. Lucille Blackband  
Mr. Michael Stokes  
Mrs. Linda Ward

*Ed's note: New members are welcomed in the Newsletter after the membership has been confirmed in Council. This means that some new members who have joined between Council meetings are not listed until a subsequent Newsletter.*



## RECENT MEETINGS

### SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2012. THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORY LECTURE. THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE OF RUFFORD ABBEY, 1700-1750 BY SARAH LAW.

This year's Nottingham History Lecture was given by Sarah Law of the School of Geography at the University of Nottingham. Her lecture 'The Designed Landscape of Rufford Abbey, 1700-1750' gave her audience a brief introduction to her on-going researches into the gardens and estate of one of Nottinghamshire's most important country houses. Rufford was the third largest house in the county according to the Hearth Tax Returns of 1674. Though very little of this once important garden survives today, the wealth of visual material available from the Savile Papers deposited in the Nottinghamshire Archives allowed Dr Law to illustrate her lecture profusely. The surviving documents tell a complex story of the development of these gardens and Dr Law steered a clear and intelligent path through this detailed archival material. She introduced her audience to some of the extremely complex and unusual garden features which were designed for Rufford - such as the '1735' design for the water gardens - and she was able to put these features into their wider economic, aesthetic and social context of early-18th century Nottinghamshire.



Pete Smith

### SATURDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2012. THE NEVILLE HOSKINS LECTURE. THE RAISING OF THE STANDARD REVISITED: TWENTY YEARS ON BY PROFESSOR MARTYN BENNETT.

Professor Martyn Bennett is professor of early modern history and Head of the Graduate School at Nottingham Trent University.

Professor Bennett began by reviewing his lecture to the Society given in 1992 and subsequently published in the *Transactions*: 'the King's Gambit: Charles I and Nottingham in the summer of 1642'. (TTS 96 1992, 135-45). He explained in the twenty years since then a great deal of re-thinking and new research – social, economic, political, cultural and religious – had been undertaken concerning the complexities of the events of the reign of Charles I, not only by himself but also others, the outcome of which had resulted in a substantial re-appraisal if not an academic shift. This was not to admit failure or getting things wrong but rather a re-focusing of attention on the period by a new generation of scholars such as Professor Bennett, in contrast to an older generation of scholars who had interpreted the same events and evidence in a distinctly different manner.

In his re-consideration of the raising of the standard Professor Bennett now regarded it not as an opening move in the civil war but more of a symbolic act, an attempt to raise an army in England and Wales to oppose Parliament, with many of his supporters not in attendance as they were engaged on his behalf elsewhere, and thus a new phase of existing wars and rebellions. The antecedents of the wars in the three kingdoms had their origins in the 1630s. The Scots had been provoked by Charles' religious policies (1637) and Ireland rebelled when Catholics were denied the same reforms effected in Scotland, England and Wales (1641), and because the three kingdoms since 1640 were dismantling monarchical government.

It seemed extraordinarily complex, even bewildering at times, but members were expertly guided through it all by Professor Bennett's fluent, deft management of his material and his eloquence.

Trevor Faulds [chair of this presentation].

Professor Martyn Bennett first lectured to the Society twenty years ago when, as a young lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, he gave one of the early Nottinghamshire County Council sponsored autumn lectures. Back in 1992 he spoke about King Charles I raising his standard in Nottingham, the 'trigger' point for the beginning of the English civil wars in 1642. Now, twenty years on, with a string of books and articles behind him, Martyn took the opportunity to reflect on his earlier thoughts and ideas, and to suggest how they had stood the test of time!

In particular, he now saw the raising of the standard in Nottingham quite differently, largely because he viewed it not as the start of the *English* civil wars, but as part of a series of wars which took place in England, Scotland and Ireland, the American colonies, and even further afield.

He had always understood the importance of the Scottish and Irish elements of the crisis, but he had seen them as separate events, rather than (as now) closely integrated into what was really a British civil war, not an English civil war as such, and there were even overtones in relation to events in France and central Europe. This was not just a domestic crisis in which the main loser was King Charles I.



Martyn gave us a stimulating lecture. He is now a leading scholar in the field of Civil War studies, and it showed how his thinking had changed as a result of his own research, and his reading of contributions by colleagues in the field. Martyn, as members will know, is now the History editor for *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, and it is greatly to be hoped that he does not allow this post to stand in the way of publishing the article in a future edition of *Transactions*, just as his first lecture appeared twenty years ago.

John Beckett

## SATURDAY, 12 JANUARY 2013. THE NORA WITHAM LECTURE. 500 YEARS OF NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL BY MICHAEL BOLTON.

I feel that Norah Witham's memory was well commemorated by the lecture given to us by Michael Bolton on this occasion. Norah Witham in her meticulous administrative support for the Thoroton Society half a century ago would have appreciated the detailed knowledge and preparation which Mr. Bolton had investigated for this lecture, the technical skill with which he produced the programme, and the enthusiastic response he received from the audience.



Michael gave us an historical outline of the plans of Richard Mellers for the creation of a free school in Nottingham. After Richard's death it was his wife Agnes who put the plans into effect in memory of Richard. Agnes was supported by Sir Thomas Lovell, guardian of Nottingham Castle, and he eventually gained the granting of the charter by Henry VIII in 1513, indications of the details of which are contained in the coat of arms of the school and the school motto *Lauda Finem*. Michael's collection of illustrations of the growth of the buildings of the school from the original house at the junction of Barker Gate and Stoney Street in the sixteenth century to the significant site with its huge range of specialist buildings in the present day, were fascinating and interesting for the audience. His details of the changes in the curriculum over the centuries, the contribution made by a succession of headmasters, and the growth of the school roll from twenty to over 1,000 were most informative.

Another section of the talk gave details of famous former pupils, including several still prominent in our nation's life today. Michael completed his lecture by showing how over the years increasing opportunities have grown for boys from poorer backgrounds to benefit from the education given by the school: his wish for the future is that these opportunities should grow even more.

The range of questions at the end of the lecture showed Thoroton members' interest in what they had heard – and especially a wish to know how fraternization with the pupils of the Girls' High School had developed over the years!

The audience showed appropriate appreciation to Michael for his presentation.

Alan Langton



## **VISIT TO STANFORD HOUSE, CASTLE GATE, NOTTINGHAM**

The Society has been able to arrange a visit to Stanford House on Castle Gate, Nottingham, another property which has recently changed hands, rather like the visit to 17 Castle Gate which some members did in July 2012.

This visit is to be on Wednesday 10 April starting at 6.00 pm. Pete Smith has been able to arrange with the current owner, David Adjose, and his company for us to meet in the conference room, hear about the property from Pete, David and Elizabeth Robinson, then have a tour of the house, and finish with light refreshments.

The whole event should last about one and a half hours. The charge will be £5.00 per person, but the visit can only accommodate twenty people.

Members who are interested in the visit should apply to Alan Langton at 31, Parry Court, Hazel Grove, Mapperley, Nottingham, NG2 6DR with a cheque for £5.00 made payable to 'The Thoroton Society'.

It will be a matter of 'first come first .....'.



# REVIEWS

## A WALK THROUGH NORWELL

DVD published by Norwell Parish Heritage Group, 2012.

Cost £4.00 plus 75p p&p. Contact [emjones,norwell@btinternet.com](mailto:emjones,norwell@btinternet.com) or 01636-636-365.



Norwell Parish Heritage Group is a very active group, leading the way for such groups and local history societies in the way they publish the results of their research work. The *Newsletter* has reviewed several of their publications and, without fail, the works have been very highly praised, both for content and presentation.

Whilst this is not the first DVD reviewed in these columns, it is the first of its kind. The viewer is taken on a virtual walk through the village, accompanied by appropriate sounds. The images are all early 20<sup>th</sup> century ones, mainly from postcards published at the time and which are animated so that the feeling of an actual walk is created. The animations turn left, right and zoom in and out, as though the viewer is actually looking at the village scenes whilst walking along the streets.

Norwell is lucky, for a small village, that such interesting photographs were taken at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and that they have been preserved

and collected.

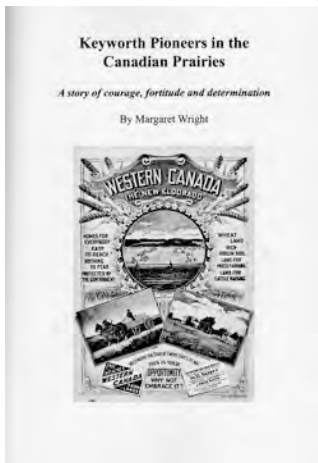
The Norwell Parish History Group has produced a fascinating DVD which shows, once again, that they lead the way in creative presentation of their village's history. Buy this DVD, it is cheap enough, and use it to stimulate your own way of presenting old images of village and town scenes as well as enjoying it for what it basically is, a stroll back in time through one of the county's very interesting villages.

HF

## KEYWORTH PIONEERS in the CANADIAN PRAIRIES: A story of courage, fortitude and determination.

Margaret Wright, *Keyworth & District Local History Society*, 2012, Price £2.50. Contact the editor.

This is the latest booklet published by KDLHS in their Occasional Papers series. 56 pages in A5 format and profusely illustrated this booklet tells the story of some Keyworth families who emigrated to Canada at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The author has had much contact with modern members of the families and has benefitted from their memories and photographs of their forebears, indeed, this story could not have been told without their help.



In 1896 the Canadian government had a publicity drive to encourage settlement in the Saskatchewan area of the Canadian prairies by way of a poster and associated publicity. The offer was a grant of 160 acres of land for a cost of \$10 and the conditions were that they had to live on the land for at least six months for three years and in that time to erect a house worth \$300 and cultivate at least 30 acres of the land.

This sounds simple enough but the pioneers had to build their houses of timber by themselves and to learn how to cultivate the land bearing in mind that none of them were from a farming background. That they succeeded and became successful in their new land is a story well worth the telling – they even named a settlement, Keyworth, after their home village here in Notts.

This sort of publication is ideal for Local History Societies to tackle, not too difficult to prepare for publication or too expensive to produce. The very modest selling price reflects the fact that they simply need to cover costs and not turn a grand profit and so makes them affordable for virtually anyone. Without them, much of the history of villages and peoples would remain unknown and our knowledge and understanding of the relatively recent past less rich. These booklets produced by various local history societies deserve to be bought by people who are not direct residents of the places concerned or direct family members because, although stories of micro-events, they do contribute greatly to a wider understanding of the place of ordinary folk in the history of our villages, towns, cities, counties and country.

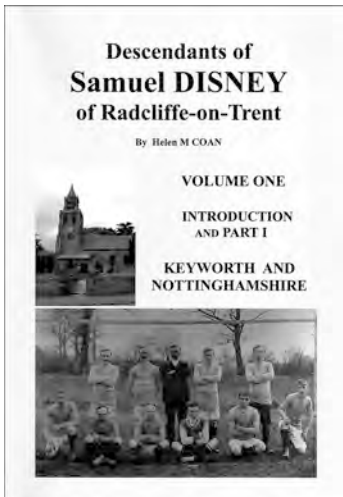
## DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL DISNEY OF RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT Volume 1 Introduction and Part 1 Keyworth and Nottinghamshire.

Dr. Helen M. Coan. Self-published in 2012. Cost £30.00 from the author (contact [helencoan@btinternet.com](mailto:helencoan@btinternet.com) - or through the Newsletter editor ISBN 978-0-9556733-7-5

Dr. Helen Coan lives in Cheshire. She has been researching the Disney name since 1966, is registered with the

Guild of One Name Studies and is the project leader for the Disney DNA study. In other words she is the acknowledged expert on the Disney family name. Her father was Harold Vernon Disney who started the family history study and who encouraged Helen to continue it.

This book is volume 1, volumes 2 and 3 will deal with the Disney families who moved into Derbyshire and into Quorn, Leicestershire respectively.



The book is A4 in size, has soft covers and 234 pages with many illustrations and diagrams. It is very nicely printed on glossy paper.

I will get the niggles out of the way first: these are mainly proof reading problems and some may, perhaps, be due to an unfamiliarity with Nottinghamshire, for example there are several references to Pierrepoint, both the family and the hamlet, which should be correctly spelled as Pierrepont – although later in the book it is correctly spelled. Early in the book Selby Lane, Keyworth is called Selby Road although all subsequent references are correct. The wedding photograph of Annie Rebecca Disney and Arthur Henry Wilson shows him in army uniform with a wound stripe of his left sleeve (the right arm cannot be seen) but the text refers to the stripe on the right sleeve. Towards the end of the book a few names appear underlined which is not consistent with the rest of the book. There are one or two other instances which I will not dwell on. All these can be easily remedied in a future print run if required.

I must emphasise that these are little niggles and in no way detract from the value of what is an extremely well written and meticulously researched book.

Helen has used all the sources and resources available to family historians and the detail she has used is the result of hours and hours of very patient work as well as much travel to visit the places and archive centres involved. It requires a very dedicated person to undertake such detail and to lead the world wide study of a family name in the way Helen continues to do. I am certain that her father would be very proud indeed of her work and the quality of this book were he able to see it.

Writing the story of a family is not easy, inevitably there is much repetition of words and a continuous listing of names and events of great similarity. The way this book is structured helps tremendously in following the various strands of the family and the very many trees relating to the differing strands of the family ensure that the stories and linkages can be easily followed.

It would, however, be wrong to think that the book is simply a list of names and events. It is much, much more than that; these are stories of the lives of the people concerned, many in good detail and this allows an understanding of the life of the people involved, of the communities and the places where they lived – this is as much a social history as a family history book.

The Disney name has been very strong in the history of Keyworth with its many family members taking full part in village life from the religious in all three churches to sport in the football and cricket clubs. The Disneys are interwoven with the story of the folk of the village. Sadly there are few of the family, direct or indirect, now still living there. The book provides insight into the houses, rented and those built by family members, and the businesses in which they were involved. Helen has done a lot of research into the village itself and there are new facts produced which add to the village's history. There are, inevitably, some contentious statements which would benefit from source explanation – for example, it is said that most of the girls in the village at one time worked in the hosiery factories in Nottingham in the periods after the railway came to Plumtree, I would be most interested in knowing the source for this comment.

The Disney name spread beyond Keyworth into several other villages and town of Nottinghamshire, indeed beyond the UK and Helen expertly follows all the strands in a well written and easily followed manner. It is an honest book, the author is not afraid to say when information has not yet been found or to say when family members disgraced themselves and appeared in court. A family's story would be incomplete without these details yet many family historians seem shocked to discover such facts; certainly not Helen Coan.

This book is a must for the bookshelves of anyone with a connection to the Disneys but also to anyone who has an interest in Nottinghamshire itself. It is also a model for any family historian intending to write up the story of their family. It is well worth the price and is a book that will not only adorn the bookshelf but which will be frequently taken down and referred to. Buy it, you will not be disappointed.

HF



**TIME GENTLEMEN PLEASE: Village Public Houses in South Nottinghamshire in days gone by.**

Bernard Heathcote, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2012.

ISBN: 978 0 902751 73 6

This book is a comprehensive survey of the history of pubs in the south of the county, specifically within the Hundred of South Nottinghamshire.

This is a 'must buy' for local historians and an inspiration to groups looking for a project! Its completion was delayed by a problem familiar to many researchers because much of the detail came from scanning microfilm of local newspapers in the Nottingham Local Studies

Library. These showed how much could be gleaned from Coroner's Inquests since the local pub often offered the best venue. The reports themselves provided so much fascinating local detail that the author was side-tracked into producing another book first – *Viewing the Lifeless Body*, also in this series and published by Notts County Council in 2005.

For each of the eleven villages included in the survey there is a comprehensive history of each pub and beer house, illustrated with photographs and drawings and with a list of the licencees over the years. Each village entry is also interspersed with fascinating extracts from the inquests held on the premises and these provide further nuggets of local history.

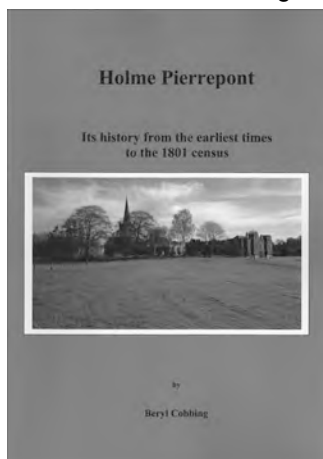
This is a welcome addition to the excellently produced series of monographs on local history published by the County Council, available from most public libraries, the Archive office or by post from Nottinghamshire County Council, Libraries, Archives and Information, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP. Cost £7.50 or, by post, £10.50.

David Bagley

HOLME PIERREPONT: Its history from the earliest times to the 1801 census.  
Beryl Cobbing, Ashbracken and Radcliffe-on-Trent Local History Society, 2012.  
ISBN 978-1-872356-13-6

Ashbracken is a small personal publisher based in Radcliffe-on-Trent which publishes the books of the Radcliffe-on-Trent Local History Society.

This latest book is A4 format with soft covers, 288 pages with excellent pages of sources (called Notes and References, a useful glossary of terms found in the book and a comprehensive index which is always an



excellent feature to include in local history books. It is very well illustrated with colour pictures, mono illustrations, line drawings, maps and plans, all of which adds up to a very nicely presented publication, as we have come to expect from Radcliffe-on-Trent LHS.

One aspect of the book that I am critical of, and I accept that I have long had a bee-in-my-bonnet about it, is the way of spelling the region's name. The book uses 'east Midlands' whereas I firmly believe the region should be expressed with two capitals as East Midlands. I recall several years ago, before I retired from paid work, that the Chamber of Commerce asked local businesses to put 'East Midlands' as part of their addresses and, of course, there was the publicity a few years ago about the name of the airport which, eventually reverted to East Midlands Airport. The use of small letters as 'east midlands' seems to be a peculiarity of historical writings as, in everything else I read it is used, correctly I argue, as 'East Midlands'.

Having got that item off my chest I return to the substance of this book. It is written in a style which is easy to read whilst fully conveying the detail of the extensive research which has gone into the work. The context of each period is fully explained and the first two chapters set the scene very well indeed.

This very well researched book takes us through time up to its 1801 cut off date in great detail with information gleaned from all the sources available to local historians. We are given insights into the people of the parish, both great and less great through wills, parish records and farm records. Obviously the Pierrepont family figure highly in the book but also the people of the parish, richer and poorer receive full consideration where information is available.

The parish constituted the townships of Holme, Bassingfield, and parts of Lamcote, Adbolton and Gamston, the former shared with Radcliffe-on-Trent and the latter two with West Bridgford.

A complete picture of the parish and its people is provided and, as well as being a history of Holme Pierrepont there is much information herein which will be of value to others researching aspects of Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands because comparisons and contrasts can be made with Holme Pierrepont using the information presented in the book.

This is a high quality production, very well researched and it is sold at an attractive and affordable price.

Details from Marion Caunt on 0115-933-2685, email: radcliffeontrenthistorysociety@gmail.com or Ashbracken, 14 Cropwell Road, Racliffe-on-Trent, NG12 2FS, email: neal@ashbracken.com.

HF

MADE IN NOTTINGHAM

Peter Mortimer, Five Leaves Publications, 2012. ISBN: 978-1907-869-52-5

Peter Mortimer, the author of this book, was born in Danethorpe Way, Sherwood, Nottingham, 66 years ago. He moved away from the city in 1963 at the age of 19 and eventually settled in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where he abandoned his career in the newspaper industry to become a full time writer.



This book is the story of a month of his life when he decided to revisit Nottingham, in particular the Sherwood district he had known as a boy until the age of 19.

At first sight, this book has the appearances of a straight forward journey of reliving old memories, but quite early on it becomes obvious that there is far more to it than that. Indeed, the book takes on a multiplicity of aims and is, at first, a little confusing. Instead of a memoir of his boyhood, it soon becomes apparent that the estate the author knows from his youth sparks other memories and incidents, takes on at times the mantle of a documentary and at others, a social documentary not anticipated at the beginning.

Many of us experience the temptation of 'going back' and some actually take that step. Mortimer reveals that his experience was less than satisfactory in a number of ways, uppermost, it seems, is the feeling of not belonging any more. The longing to revisit the house in which he lived and the frustrations he suffered as a result of his failure to achieve his near obsession is a poignant reminder to all of us of the fact that time never stands still and longings for yesteryear are not often productive.

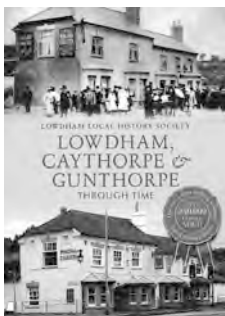
There are some inaccuracies in the text. These have been largely communicated to the author by one who knows the area and the personalities better than this reviewer. Additionally, there are sections of the book that detract from the enjoyment to some degree. For example, it is easy to imagine how some events or sights or conversations trigger other memories, but in the chapters containing reminiscences concerning Nottingham authors, the detailed descriptions appear to be irrelevant. A further distraction is the small postscripts that are added to most of the chapters. These seem to have been inserted for no apparent reason and add little to the interest of the book. Also, one could have hoped for photographs of somewhat better quality. One useful addition would have been a map that showed both the district of Sherwood and its relationship with the centre of the city.

These drawbacks apart, there are in this book, enough reminiscences to provide a spark to any reader, whatever their background or wherever he or she calls home, to recall similar events or sights of their own. Many of the memories of earlier Sherwood are easily transferred to one's own upbringing and surroundings and so many descriptions fit other cities and towns of the era that one can be transported to days gone by and this is very stimulating.

On the whole, reading the book is quite pleasing and will bring back memories of one's own youth, especially to those who knew the Nottingham of the 50's and 60's and, in particular, the area surrounding the district of Sherwood. It does, however, contain the warning that 'going back' may not provide the desired experience.

*Alan Butler.*

LOWDHAM, CAYTHORPE and GUNTHORPE THROUGH TIME  
Lowdham Local History Society, 96 pages. Amberley Publishing Co.  
ISBN 978 1 4456 0836.  
Costs £14.99. No index.



This is another volume produced by the Lowdham Local History Society, which consists primarily of photographs showing scenes of the parishes – 'Through Time'. The older photographs are in sepia together with modern photographs in colour.

In some cases the changes are very dramatic indeed whilst others show only minor alterations. All are thought provoking as the majority of these changes and developments have only taken place in the last 100 years.

As a study in the urbanization of a village, these well chosen photographs give much food for thought. This is a book which will take the local reader down memory lane and might well illuminate those questions: 'Do you remember when ...?'

A book with this pedigree is well worth considering.

*Jim and Pauline Chettle.*



## THOMAS HAWKSLEY REMEMBERS

*KEN BRAND has transcribed the following from a microfilm copy of a report in the 'Nottingham Daily Express' of 24 December 1878, the school-day recollections of Nottingham High School in its Stoney Street premises by Thomas Hawksley, the prominent Victorian water engineer.*

Society members who attended Michael Bolton's excellent Norah Witham lecture '500 Years of Nottingham High School' on 12 January 2013 will recall in the speaker's list of eminent old boys the name Thomas Hawksley appeared. Nottingham High School for boys rearranged the date of the prize giving in 1878 in order to accommodate the busy schedules of their now renowned old boy, Thomas Hawksley, one of the most prominent of Victorian water engineers. Hawksley had attended the school over half a century earlier.

It is interesting to note that this 'speech night' took place just two days before Christmas Day. In Hawksley's address he recalled his time in the old Stoney Street premises.

'I am one of the oldest of the "Old Boys" of Dame Agnes Mellers' educational institution –(Cheers) – and partly, perhaps, because of the well-known interest that I have always taken in its welfare and success, and, I may add, in its gradual development into a first class school, which may, ere long, become a worthy rival of Harrow, Rugby, Winchester and Shrewsbury. (Cheers).

Sixty years ago I was a scholar under the head master, Dr. Wood, at Dame Agnes Mellers' ancient pile of buildings in Stoney-street. The school was like a large barn, of which the headmaster occupied the one end and the second master the opposite end. You will easily conceive the amount of confusion which then prevailed, especially during the "canings" which were in those days frequently administered, and always with orthodox severity. (Cheers and laughter.) At that time appeals from the masters to governors anti justices of the peace

were wholly unknown – the boys accepted their "whacking" with becoming gratitude, and no doubt had their memories and aptitudes improved during the process. (renewed laughter.) The teaching, too, was of a similarly primitive order – mathematics, the living languages, and the natural sciences were wholly ignored. The dead languages, with some little writing and arithmetic, occupied indeed the entire field of tuition in schools of this class at the period of which I am now speaking. Nevertheless, scant as was then the amount of knowledge communicated, or indeed allowed to be acquired, in the greater number of the so-called foundation schools, that knowledge was for the most part well imparted, and if it did not very directly contribute in the majority of instances to the young scholar's success in after life, it must be admitted that it so framed the mind and improved the perceptive faculties as to enable him to acquire with ease and rapidity any other description of knowledge necessary to his subsequent career. (Hear, hear.) In this way I gained much myself, and am, therefore, happy to make use of the present opportunity to express my indebtedness and grateful acknowledgement to Dame Agnes and the many worthy (but now forgotten) executors of her beneficial trust, together with my intention to request my friends the present trustees to permit me to express myself in some manner the most agreeable to themselves, more substantial, and more permanent than mere verbal expressions. (Cheers.) But how different is the state of your school now to what it was in good old King George's time, of which I still retain a vivid recollection'.



## THE RESPONSE GROUP – KIRKBY HARDWICK

*Members will recall the article in the Newsletter, issue 68, Summer 2012 by Trevor Lewis about the lost manor of Kirkby Hardwick. The Kirkby and District Archaeological Group has continued to be active in their interest in the site but are concerned that recent developments will affect the work they wish to continue undertaking in understanding the history of the building. Barbara Cast updates on the Response Group action.*

You may remember reading in our Summer 2012 Newsletter an article about Kirkby Hardwick Old Manor and the excavations which had taken place recently, the findings of which had shown how ancient and interesting the site was, especially with its connections with Cardinal Wolsey and some of the leading families in the county.

Kirkby and District Archaeological Group, who had instigated the investigations, was becoming concerned about the future of this former Coal Board site, especially because of rumours that it was to be sold and the uncertainty about its current ownership. Having written to the County Council, KDAG asked Thoroton for support in their bid to retain the site for future investigation and interpretation. We sent the following letter to the County Council, including to the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Kay Cutts:

*The Thoroton Society, as the history and archaeology society for the whole of the county, has been made aware of an issue affecting one of Nottinghamshire's important historic sites. In the summer issue of our newsletter we featured the work which had been undertaken by the Kirkby and District Archaeological Group at Kirkby Hardwick, which is the site of an ancient manor house demolished by the National Coal Board in 1966.*

*The exciting history of this site, which was subject to a LIS funded archaeological investigation in 2011 and 2012, has only just begun to emerge. The site and remains of the Manor House are of great interest for their own sake but the house also has close connections with the last days of Cardinal Wolsey and has been in the ownership of some of the leading families of the area, the Earls of Shrewsbury and the Cavendishes, both of which families have Bess of Hardwick at their centre, and the Dukes of Portland.*

*The archaeological investigations revealed an even longer history, with finds showing that the site has been occupied for at least 800 years. Prehistoric artefacts have also been found in the area.*

*This is an issue of great concern for the heritage of Ashfield and of Nottinghamshire. The local archaeological group are very keen to see further investigations take place and are hoping to obtain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable a more comprehensive excavation in order to achieve a fuller understanding of the development of the site. The ancient walls, which are all that is left of the old house, also need to be stabilised and conserved.*

*We understand that one issue of concern is the ownership and/or potential sale to a private purchaser of this site. This would hamper further investigation of what is certainly a very interesting and important site.*

*It is therefore our request that the County Council retains ownership until the site is fully understood and, subsequently, its value to our county's history assessed and its future carefully considered.*

Soon after sending the letter by email I received a call from Cllr. Cutts who said that she hadn't previously heard of the concerns about Kirkby Hardwick and who was very interested and assured me that the County Council wouldn't sell the land, if it indeed belonged to them, without ensuring that it was fully understood. Indeed she said that the county authority would ensure that the site was afforded some protection whilst its historicity and value was further explored. Officers at the County Council have been asked to report back to councillors on its ownership – we are hopeful that there may be a good future for what is obviously a very important and interesting site. We wait to see what happens next.

*[Since writing the above it is understood that the land will be withdrawn from sale.]*



## **EMAIL AND THOROTON MEMBERS**

In the last *Newsletter* we told you about the Society's plans to use email more actively to keep in contact with members. In order to do this permission is required to add your address to our mailing list. Many members have already given this permission, but if you have not done so and would like to receive emails from the Society, please email [membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk). We undertake not to share your email address with anyone else, and will only use it to inform you of events and Society business.

Information from the Society will be sent to you using the [membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk) address, so please ensure this is added to your 'safe-senders' list.

*Judith Mills, Membership Secretary*



# THOROTON MEMBERS' USE OF THE COLLECTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

*Many members seem to be unaware of the facility afforded to Thoroton Society members at the University of Nottingham. It has therefore been decided to reprint, with slight amendments, the explanation given by Dorothy Johnston in Newsletter 48, Summer 2007.*

This article clarifies procedures for using Nottingham University's Library. The Manuscript and Special Collections Department (including the East Midlands Collection) is at the King's Meadow Campus on Lenton Lane (formerly Carlton TV Studios). The University welcomes members of the public to use the resources of Manuscripts and Special Collections including the open-access East Midlands Collection in the Reading Room. In addition, Thoroton members are entitled to borrow from this collection. They need to be registered as external borrowers of the University Library and will be given a library card, valid for one year.

To obtain a card visit the Reading Room at King's Meadow with proof of Thoroton Society membership, e.g. your programme card. Core opening hours for the East Midlands Collection are weekdays 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (5.00p.m. on Fridays) and the Reading Room is not open at weekends.

Members can also use the card to access the rest of the University Library for reference use.

The public are entitled to walk-in reference access, and the library card can be used for identification to library staff if necessary, and will operate the security gate system in the Hallward Library at University Park.

Enquiries about the facilities and collections should be referred to Mrs. Corinne Fawcett, Special Collections Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections, King's Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR, tel. 0115-951-4562 or email: [corinne.fawcett@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:corinne.fawcett@nottingham.ac.uk).

Information on the East Midlands Collection is at: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/collections/east-mids/](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/collections/east-mids/).



## EXHIBITIONS

WATER! PIPES, PUMPS, FLOODS and DRAINS in the University of Nottingham's Water Archives.

There is still time for Thoroton members to visit Manuscripts & Special Collections' exhibition on water which opened in January but runs until 19 May 2013 at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside. Drought conditions or torrential rain affecting water supply always makes headlines. Yet there is much more to the story of water. Our



ancestors built an impressive network of pumping stations, water mains, reservoirs and sewage pipes, in Victorian times and much of which is still in use today, to improve sanitation and provide clean drinking water for all. Earlier generations cut drains to reclaim agricultural land, and built canals, weirs and locks to improve navigation. In the twentieth century, scientists and engineers worked to predict floods and construct flood defences.

This exhibition focuses in particular on the city of Nottingham, and the work of the various authorities and public bodies charged with providing reliable water supply, sewerage and water treatment, and flood prevention schemes. It draws on original archives and photographs held by the University's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections.

*Floods in Nottingham, 1960.  
Courtesy of the Nottingham Post Group*

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S PEOPLE: ANCESTRAL STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Manuscripts and Special Collections will be collaborating with Nottinghamshire Archives to present an exhibition about Nottinghamshire families, to run at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside, University Park from 6 June 2013 to 1 September 2013.

Tracing our ancestors has proved a fascinating challenge for generations. Some researchers have sought evidence to establish a claim to a title, but increasing numbers pursue family history as a hobby, and want to know more about the lives and times of their forebears. Whether they were humble agricultural labourers, local dignitaries or incorrigible criminals, they all have a story to tell.



This exhibition celebrates the lives of Nottinghamshire's people and communities. It tells about very different experiences. George Africanus was a former slave who came to Nottingham and became its first black entrepreneur. Robert Weatherall, by contrast, was a local boy from a poor agricultural family who went to study at Christ's College, Cambridge.

Family historians today can draw on rich internet resources, but 'Nottinghamshire's People' showcases the original documents that provide the evidence for ancestral research. Through church records, private papers, maps, wills and many other sources, it uncovers a rich world that lies beyond the indexes of census and birth, marriage and death records.

*Catherine Drake (née Rooston) and her family outside their West Bridgford home c1902.  
Catherine undertook teacher training at Nottingham Day Training College (now the University of Nottingham)*

A series of talks will accompany the exhibition. Places are limited so please book in advance with the Lakeside Box Office on 1005-846-7777.

1-2 p.m. Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts Centre.

Wednesday, 26 June and Tuesday 9 July – STUDENTS, SINNERS and SURVEYS.

From diligent students to blasphemers brought before the Archdeaconry court, Assistant Archivist, Kathryn Steenson, introduces some of the diverse and perhaps surprising range of documents at the University of Nottingham that can help family historians put flesh on their ancestors' bones.

Wednesday, 3 July – WEAVING MY FAMILY TAPESTRY

With characters ranging from local weavers to Cambridge graduates and enthusiastic genealogists, adult-education teacher, Jenni Dobson, explores the threads of her own family history beyond BMDs.

Wednesday 7 August – UNLOCKING THE PARISH CHEST: PARISH RECORDS AND FAMILY HISTORY.

Did your ancestors work on local roads, serve as a parish constable, or become a parish apprentice? were they baptized, married or buried at a local church? Peter Lester, archivist at Nottinghamshire Archives, uncovers the fascinating information for family historians kept in the parish chest.

Wednesday, 14 August – KINSHIP AND CONNECTEDNESS: THE SOCIAL AND PERSONAL IMPACT OF GENEALOGY.

Dr. Anne-Marie Kramer, Lecturer at the University of Nottingham's Faculty of Social Science, explores the meaning and significance of the recent boom in popularity of genealogy, from the personal impact on family historians and their families, to its influence on British society.



## **SUMMER EXCURSIONS 2013**

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY**

**BRODSWORTH HALL AND ROTHERHAM MINSTER**

**LEADER : ALAN LANGTON**

Brodsworth Hall was built as a family 'home' by the Victorian gentleman Charles Sabine Augustus Thelluson. Over the years the family members have made many alterations to the interior, and the appearance has become increasingly faded and worn. English Heritage has preserved this faded glory in order for visitors to reminisce about what this country house originally looked like. The excursion includes a tour of the house, lunch in the tea rooms and a chance to tour the gardens.

On the way back we shall call at Rotherham Minster, a Perpendicular Gothic parish church. The interior is full of colour and the original famous roof bosses are well restored, leading to an immense 1420 fan vault under the tower. The stalls have charming poppyheads of the Wise Men.

Tea will be provided for us before we return.

**SATURDAY 15TH JUNE      ASHFIELD HERITAGE TRAIL**

**LED BY CERIL AND DEREK LITTLE**

With the expert guidance of Denis Hill, Heritage and Development Officer for Ashfield District Council, we shall visit, among other sites, Annesley Old Church, Jacksdale early industrial tramway, historic sites in Kirkby in Ashfield, Skegby and Teversal, Kings Mill reservoir at Sutton in Ashfield, Selston Parish Church with its Druid stone and grave of an 18<sup>th</sup> century gypsy king, and many more. There will be breaks for morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea.

**THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST : LITTLE MORETON HALL AND CHEADLE CHURCH**

**LEADER : ALAN LANGTON**

Little Moreton Hall has been described as one of the finest examples of a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed moated manor houses in England. The wealth of the de Lostock family is displayed in the ornamental decoration and in the quality of glass used in the Hall. Of particular note is the fine Long Gallery and some beautifully painted 16<sup>th</sup> century panels in the parlour. We have a tour booked here, followed by lunch.

From Moreton Hall we will return to Nottingham via Cheadle, where Saint Giles church is one of Pugin's finest masterpieces. After a tour here, we will have tea in the town..

**TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER      : WELBECK ABBEY STATE ROOMS**

**LEADER : ALAN LANGTON**

The Thoroton Society has been allocated two tours, one at 10.30 a.m. and one at 2.00 p.m., each tour with a maximum of twenty people, so numbers will be limited. Transport will have to be provided by own cars, and the tours will last approximately one and a half hours. As well as seeing the Portland Collections in the State Rooms, the tour will include the chapel and the horsemanship rooms. It will not include the underground ballroom or the tunnels.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE VISITS TO BRODSWORTH AND ASHFIELD WILL BE POSTED WITH THE PAPERS FOR THE SPRING MEETING AND AGM.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR LITTLE MORETON HALL AND WELBECK WILL BE POSTED WITH THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER



## **THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**

Judith Mills updates us on developments since the report in the Spring 2012 Newsletter.

An article in the 2012 Spring *Newsletter* reported work being done by the School of Humanities at the University of Nottingham to help community history and heritage groups apply to the Heritage Lottery

Fund for grants under its *All Our Stories* programme. The programme was highly successful with the HLF receiving nine-times as many bids as they expected – there were 104 from the East

Midlands region alone – but it rose to the occasion by allocating more funds to the scheme. Forty-six East Midlands' projects were funded: six in Nottinghamshire, eleven in Derbyshire, seventeen in Leicestershire, seven in Lincolnshire and five in Northamptonshire.

In January 2013, the School of Humanities was awarded a follow-on grant by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to support fifteen of the successful community groups with their projects. The work will be led by Dr Richard Gaunt (a former Editor of the Thoroton Society's *Transactions*) and Dr Judith Mills (Membership Secretary) will be part of the project team. The grant will pay for academic staff time to provide specialist advice and training to the community groups which will be able to tap into a vast range of resources such as finds identification, help with accessing archives, support with documentary research, using social media, website design or training in taking oral testimony.

Four Nottinghamshire projects are part of the project. They are:

- 'Remembering Wartime Thoresby' (The Stonebridge Trust) Using the pictures and documents dealing with the requisitioning of Thoresby Park for military service during World War II to stimulate and record the stories of estate workers and visitors.
- 'Burgage Earthworks Project' (Southwell Community Archaeology Group) An archaeological survey through test-pitting of the Burgage Green area of Southwell, informed by detailed research of available maps, images and documents.
- 'Flowers, Forests and Folklore' (Southwell Care Project) An exploration of the cultural and horticultural heritage of Southwell by adults with learning disabilities.
- 'The Raleigh – A workers' history of an

iconic Nottingham Factory' (Hanby and Barrett). Aims to create a living history archive of the

factory through the words and images of its former employees.

In the rest of the East Midlands, the University will support projects in Barrow-on-Trent, Bonsall, Charnwood Forest, Chesterfield, Corby, Cottesmore, Darley Abbey, the Derwent Valley, Killamarsh and Leicester, and will help with a project in the Meon Valley in Hampshire. The work being done ranges from histories of towns, villages, schools and other communities to recording the experiences of factory workers in the twentieth century.

Two further community-based projects have also been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The first of these, *The Social World of Nottingham's Historic Green Spaces: a community history project*, will be led by Professor John Beckett and a research team which includes Dr Judith Mills and Dr Paul Elliott from the University of Derby (and a Thoroton Society member). The project will bring together The Friends of the Arboretum, The Friends of the Forest and Nottingham Women's Group to carry out research on the changing uses of the Forest Recreation Ground, the Arboretum, and the General and Rock Cemeteries with the aim of uncovering and making new information available to the public, and informing the City Council's management plans for these spaces.

The second project *Trade and Traffic on the River Trent and Associated Waterways, 1850-1970* is a collaborative project with the Friends of Newark Heritage Barge, to be led by Dr Richard Gaunt and Philip Riden (also a member of the Thoroton Society). The project will focus on the history of the Trent, including both trade and traffic on the river and the lives of riverside communities and river-based families, with the objective of understanding how the Trent has shaped the history and social structure of the region.

For further information about the project to support HLF-funded community projects, and research into the 'Green Spaces' of Nottingham, please email [Judith.mills@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Judith.mills@nottingham.ac.uk). Anyone interested in contacting the River Trent research team, should email [philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk).



## **SPECIAL THOROTON SOCIETY LECTURE**

**MICHAEL WOOD – AUTHOR, BROADCASTER and HISTORIAN**  
***LAXTON AND KIBWORTH: a Story of England***  
**THURSDAY, 18 JULY 2013, 17.30 AT NEWARK TOWN HALL**

Michael Wood is probably the best known documentary film maker working today, at least if we exclude David Attenborough! Michael has made well over 100 documentaries for both British and USA television, covering a vast range of subjects

including Domesday, Shakespeare, the Conquistadores and the Story of India.

In 2010 his *Story of England* was transmitted to great acclaim. Based on Kibworth, Leicestershire, it traced the history of the parish from its earliest

times. In 2012, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, he produced the eight-part *Great British Story* shown on BBC television. Michael has filmed on many occasions at Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

We have now invited Michael to present a Special Lecture at Newark Town Hall covering both of these

locations. The evening will provide an opportunity to meet Michael and other members of the Society in relaxed surroundings. There is a charge for this evening event, which will include a glass of wine and light refreshments.

Further details are in the sheet enclosed with this Newsletter.



## **ARCHAEOLOGY NOW**

A series of talks and handling sessions that focuses on current archaeological work to be held at the University of Nottingham Museum at the Lakeside Arts Centre.

These talks allow professional archaeologists, related specialists and community groups to share their exciting work with us as it is happening and include local, regional, national and international projects.

Book through the Lakeside Box Office on 0115-846-7777

### **WORKING WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS**

Saturday, 23 March 2013, a Drop in Session 1.30 to 4.00 p.m. Angear Visitor Centre, admission free.

What happens to archaeological finds once they have been excavated?

Come along and find out by participating in a number of activities including sorting archaeological material, drawing and recording finds and conservation.

### **THE MAKING OF LIFE AND DEATH IN POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

Wednesday, 17 April, 1 p.m. Djanogly Recital Hall admission free.

Dr. Paul Roberts, Senior Roman Curator at the British Museum, will talk about his major new exhibition at the British Museum *Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum*.

This exhibition will display over 250 objects from recent excavations alongside earlier well known finds, many of which are displayed outside of Italy for the first time. The exhibition will focus on the Roman home exploring the lives of individuals in Roma society, not the classic figures, such as emperors, gladiators and legionaries, but businessmen, powerful women, freed slaves and children.

Following this talk there will be the opportunity to handle local Roman artifacts in the Museum.

### **ANCIENT GLASS**

Friday, 10 May, 12 noon. Djanogly Theatre, admission free.

Professor Julian Henderson, specialist in ancient glass, will discuss ancient glass and technology.

### **GLASS BEAD MAKING**

Friday, 10 May, 14.00 to 16.00 – Visual Arts Studio. £15/£10 per person.

Mike Poole will offer a lesson in glass bead making and the opportunity to make replica beads.

### **FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY – FINDS ROAD SHOW**

Wednesday, 17 July, 12.00 to 15.00 – University of Nottingham Museum

Join Charlotte Burill (Finds Liaison Officer for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) and Emily Gillott (Community Archaeologist from Nottinghamshire County Council), who will be identifying any finds you may have from Nottinghamshire and will also be displaying the Portable Antiquities database for England and the Historic Environment Record for Nottinghamshire.

### **ANCIENT CRAFT FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**

Saturday, 20 July. 11 to 4 p.m. – Lakeside arts Centre.

Participate in different craft sessions taking place throughout the day. Activities will include the construction of a mosaic, weaving and cave painting.



# SNIPPETS

## THOROTON PROGRAMME ALTERATION

After the programme for 2013 was printed and distributed an unavoidable change of date arose. Please note that the date for the Keith Train Lecture which is held in association with the Nottingham Civic Society has been altered to Tuesday, 12 November 2013. The venue remains the same, Cathedral Hall, Wellington Circus, Nottingham, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

## FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The festival will run from Saturday 13 to Sunday 28 July 2013. In 2012 over 1,000 events were organised throughout the UK involving groups large and small. In the Summer issue of the *Newsletter* we will list events which have been notified to be held in our region.

## PROPOSED SCAN AT THE HEMLOCK STONE

Reported on the BBC local web site in December was an item about the Hemlock Stone and two other stones in Nottinghamshire which are to be investigated to see if more information will be revealed about them.

## OPEN CHURCHES WEEKEND 2013

Many members have taken advantage of the Open Churches weekends which have been held in the county for the past few years.

The 2013 weekend will take place on 13 and 14 July in the northern half of the county and 20 and 21 July in the southern half of the county.

Further details will be available on the website at [www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk](http://www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk).

## ARMED FORCES DAY 2013

Nottingham has been chosen to host the 2013 Armed Forces Day. This is a national event held to celebrate the efforts of military personnel, past and present and is an opportunity to show support for the men and women who form the Armed Forces, from currently serving troops to Service families; from veterans to cadets.

The Day itself is the culmination of a week-long programme of celebrations. On the Monday of the week, cities, towns, villages and members of the public raise the Armed Forces Day flag to show their support. Later in the week thousands of men and women who make up the Reserve Force wear their uniforms to work in celebration of those who give up their free time to serve their country.

Details of the Nottingham events are not available at the time of writing but will appear on the City's web site and in the local press.

In 2012 over 30,000 people lined the streets and seafront of Plymouth on the day to watch a parade and Drumhead Service which was concluded by a display by the Red Arrows.

## NEW LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A new historical society has come into being in Blyth and Hodsock (Honorary President - Sir Andrew Buchanan: Chairman - Martin Grocock JP: Archivist - Mike Griffiths), with the express aim of putting the history of the backwater which is north-west Nottinghamshire back on the map. 'It's been a struggle to get the thing properly constituted but, at last, we've managed to do it and can now boast some 70 members'.

The society hopes to be forging strong links with similar societies in the area and, naturally, with the Thoroton Society.

## SPEAKERS LIST – SUE CLAYTON

In reporting about Sue's list of speakers in the Winter 2012 (70) issue her email address was incorrect with the omission of a letter 'a'. The correct contact address is: [susanaclayton@btinternet.com](mailto:susanaclayton@btinternet.com).

## 50+ YEARS OF TRANSACTIONS BACK ISSUES

One of our oldest members wishes to dispose of his run of Transactions from 1959 to date as a single set. Offers in the form of a donation to the Society or another charity to Geoffrey Oldfield on 0115-923-4834.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S PEOPLE

The Nottinghamshire Ancestral Tourism Partnership presents a programme of events and activities for 2013.

7 June to 1 September: *Ancestral Stories from the Archives* exhibition and associated talks at the Weston Gallery.

19 to 23 March: Edwinstowe Library Local and Family History week.

23 March (09.40 to 16.15): Nottinghamshire Local History Association *Stories of Nottinghamshire Folk* day school at Ravenshead Village Hall.

April to October: a series of talks at Nottingham Central Library.

19 May (11.00 to 15.00): Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair at Mansfield Library.

15 June: Boots Archives event at Lenton House, University of Nottingham.

16 June (13.00): Pilgrim Fathers talk at Babworth Church.

30 June (13.00): Pilgrim fathers talk at Scrooby Village Hall.

22 June (10.00 to 15.45): Nottinghamshire Family History Society Family History Day, Galleries of Justice, Nottingham.

June to September: a series of exhibitions, talks and walks by Worksop Library.

29 and 30 June: Bassetlaw Museum Farm festival.

9 July (18.30): Newark Air Museum talk at Nottinghamshire Archives.

July and August Saturdays: Nottinghamshire Family History Society Monumental Inscriptions recording at Mansfield Cemetery.

For further details contact the venue or pick up the Nottinghamshire's People brochure from your local library or Tourist Information centre or via the web at [www.nottinghamshireroots.com](http://www.nottinghamshireroots.com).

## DAY SCHOOL – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The NLHA is holding another of its very successful series of Day Schools at Ravenshead Village Hall on Saturday, 23 March 2013, commencing the first talk at 10.00 and finishing the event at about 16.15 with the title of *STORIES OF ORDINARY FOLK*.

The speakers are:

Valerie Henstock      *Reading between the Lines – Stories from Parish Registers*

Peter Hammond      *Joseph Woolley - The Diary of a Framework Knitter*

Victoria Preece      *A Common Fate – People in the Workhouse*

Chris Weir      *When the Bands Played On*

The cost is £6.50 for members of NLHA and £7.50 for non-members. Although pre-booking is preferred there is no objection to just turning-up on the day.

The NLHA is also continuing its series of Local History Forums at Nottingham Angel Row Local Studies Library on 26 March, 3 September and 3 December 2013. These take place from 10.00 to 12.30. See the Library web site for further details.

## THE HARLEY GALLERY

On 25 May 2013 the Harley Gallery at Welbeck near Worksop, opens a new exhibition *EDWARD HARLEY: THE*

## GREAT COLLECTOR.

From opulence and obsession to debt and despair this exhibition follows the fortunes of Edward Harley, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Oxford, exploring his background, family and marriage, through his spectacular collections of art, decorative crafts and fine books.

The son of one of the most powerful politicians in the country, Edward Harley married Henrietta Cavendish-Holles – the wealthiest heiress in Britain. Harley filled his family's home with a hubbub of activity – writers, poets, artists, bibliophiles would be regular visitors. He was a dedicated collector; his collections were extensive, extravagant as he passionately sought the rarest and most beautiful things. He surrounded himself with the finest thinkers and finest things. Even when his wealth was gradually dwindling he continued to add to his collections, often driving up the price of objects in his lust for ownership and eventually bankrupting himself and having to sell his collections and his family home to settle his debts.

At his death in 1741 his library contained 50,000 printed books, 7,639 manuscripts, 14,236 rolls and legal documents, 350,000 pamphlets and 41,000 prints. The manuscript collection was sold to the nation after his death to settle his remaining debts, at a price far less than he paid. These manuscripts formed the basis of the British Library and are still known as the Harleian Collection.

The Harley Gallery has recently announced plans to build a new Gallery which will show objects from The Portland Collections, the fine and decorative art collected by this family over the centuries which include many objects purchased by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Oxford. This exhibition may be considered a taster for the new Gallery development due to open in Autumn 2015.

Further details of the exhibition opening times are at [www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk).

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

Ask the Archivist - Library Surgeries. An archivist is available to talk about local and family history, and provide advice on sources both within the library and at archives. Free and no booking is required.

Monday, 22 April	1400 to 1600 at CALVERTON Library, St. Wilfred's Square, NG14 6PF
Thursday, 16 May	1400 to 1600 at MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE Library, Church Street, NG19 8AH
Thursday, 13 June	1400 to 1600 at KEYWORTH Library, Church Drive, NG12 5FF
Thursday, 11 July	1400 to 1600 at EASTWOOD Library, Wellington Place, NG16 3GB
Monday, 12 August	1430 to 1630 at RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT Library, New Road, NG12 2AJ
Friday, 6 September	10.00 to 12.00 at OLLERTON Library, Forest Road, NG22 9PL

Wednesday Workshops – An opportunity to find out more about different types of archives.

All commence at 14.30 at the Archive office and last for an hour. Cost £4.00 per person. Booking is essential.

24 April	Non-conformist records.
15 May	Records of Landed Families and Estates.
19 June	Records of Royalty.
17 July	Apprenticeship.
21 August	Hospital and Asylum Records.

### Summer Talks.

All are free but booking is essential as places are limited.

Wednesday	5 May	14.30	Life and Times of Richard III by Jenny Moran of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.
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Thursday	9 July	18.30	Local, National and International – RAF Ancestral Research by Howard Heeley of the Newark Air Museum.
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Archive Skills Workshops provide opportunities to get new skills or brush up on old ones.

Cost £4.00 and booking is essential. Workshops last for 1.5 hours.

Tuesday	30 July	10.30	Reading Parish Registers (English)
Tuesday	6 August	10.30	Reading parish Registers (Latin)
Tuesday	13 August	10.30	Interpreting Dates
Friday	27 September	14.30	Maps and Plans.

Further details and booking from the Nottinghamshire Archives, by phone on: 0115-958-1634 or via the Archive's web site.

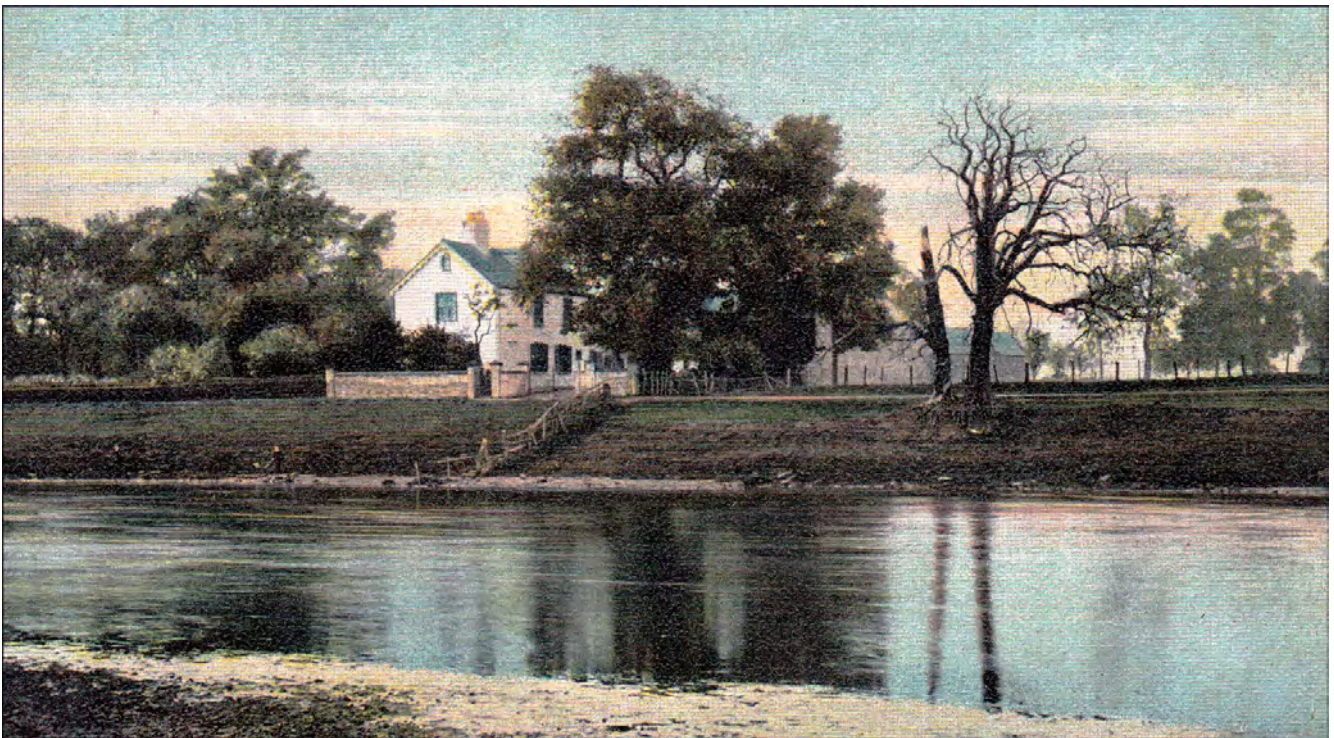
Two photographs from the outing to Melbourne in August 2012 which were omitted from the Winter 2012 newsletter due to lack of space when they were received.



*Melbourne Hall*

*Interior Melbourne Church*

*Photos. by Kevin Powell*



*Grove Farm from a postcard in the collection of Howard Fisher*

*(See article on page 2)*