

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 72

SUMMER 2013



DRAGGING. Image from 'Emma's Sketchbook' (see review). Reproduced with kind permission of Mr. Robin Fryer and the editor of the book, Dr. Richard Gaunt.

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

OFFICERS

President: Rosalys Coope PhD FSA
Chairman: Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA
Secretary: Barbara Cast BA Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottingham,
NG14 7FX (email: barbaracast@btinternet.com)
Treasurer: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH
Membership Secretary: Judith Mills BAHons MA PhD (email: membership @thorotonsociety.org.uk)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual ordinary membership	£24.00
Associate member (at the same address)	£6.00
Student/Under 21	£6.00
Individual Record Section membership	£15.00
Combined Ordinary and Record Section	£34.00
Institutional ordinary membership	£24.00
Institutional Record Section	£20.00

RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact John Wilson (email: wilsonicus@btinternet.com)

RESPONSE GROUP

The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County. If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group co-ordinator, Barbara Cast – contact details above).

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes an annual Transaction volume which is distributed to all members. The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section and are available for purchase by other members and the general public. Quarterly newsletters are circulated to every member.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the following who have joined the Society since the list notified in the last newsletter:

Mrs. Sue Bestwick	Mrs. Tracey Bingham	Dr. Natasha Hodgson
Mr. Nicholas Molyneux	Mr. Cedric Richmond	Mr. John and Mrs. Una Sheffield

The following members have recently resigned:

Mrs. J. Avery	Rev. J.A. Banks	Mrs. G. Coldham
Miss R. Farrand	Mrs. B. Jenkins	Diocese of Southwell

Warwick University.

We wish Barbara Cast a good and quick recovery from her nasty accident in the Lake District when she sustained a broken ankle.

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 editor@thorotonsociety.org.uk

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

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

Acknowledgement of authorship and photographer will be given where the information is known.

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

The Thorton Society is a Registered Charity No. 237755.

William and Mary Howitt: A Literary Marriage

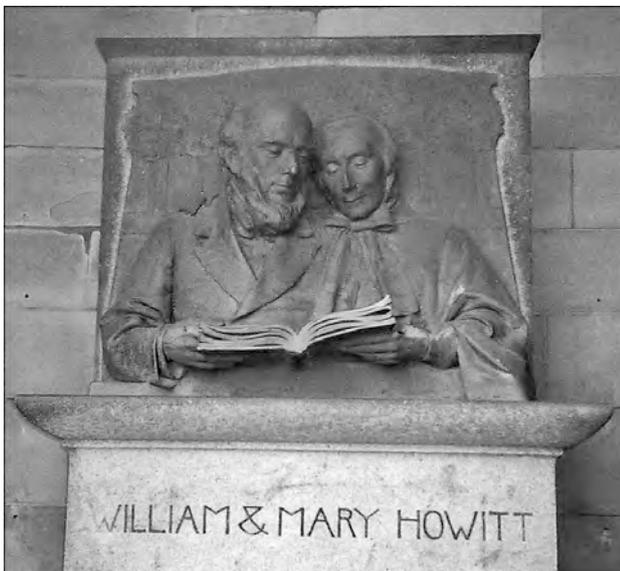
by Rowena Edlin-White

This article first appeared in *The Southwell Folio*, No. 10, July/August 2011 and is reproduced here by kind permission of the author, Rowena Edlin-White who has an fascinating talk on William & Mary Howitt available to Societies. Rowena may be contacted on ro@edlin-white.net for further details.

In the portico of Nottingham Castle, in company with other local literary worthies, you cannot fail to notice the handsome double bust of William and Mary Howitt. 'Who were they?' you might wonder, before passing on.

The Howitts are entrenched in the literary history of Nottingham, an intriguing couple with a phenomenal output of some 170 books between them from the time of their marriage in 1821, not to mention political pamphlets, periodicals and numerous translations.

They were both brought up as Friends - Mary Botham in Uttoxeter as a 'Plain Quaker', a strict



form; William in a more liberal strain, in Heanor. As a couple they gradually moved away from their Quaker upbringing, exploring mysticism, Catholicism and even spiritualism, but for a long time continued to use the characteristic 'thee' and 'thou' and refer to the day of the week as 'First Day', 'Second Day' and so on.

William was steered towards architecture as a career, beginning with a four-year apprenticeship to a carpenter in Mansfield, a subject of little interest to him, except for the proximity of Sherwood Forest which fired his poetical imagination. Here he ceremoniously tore up and scattered his indentures to the wind. After several years on the family farm, he settled for a career as a pharmacist, practising briefly in Hanley.

Mary and William were both keen walkers and admirers of landscape in the Wordsworthian fashion and they enjoyed a late honeymoon in 1822, travelling some 500 miles on foot around Scotland and the Lake District. They wrote up their experiences for the *Staffordshire Mercury*. In August

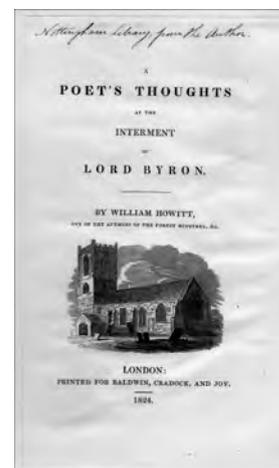
the same year, they settled in Nottingham. The following spring, Mary was thrilled to see a famous local attraction – acres of purple crocus flowers in the Meadows – and wrote her poem *Wild Crocus in Nottingham Meadows*.

One of the first things they did was to join the Nottingham Subscription Library which had only recently moved to Bromley House on Angel Row. They remained members until 1836, enjoying the company of like-minded people. Their arrival coincided with their first collaborative book, *The Forest Minstrels and Other Poems*, published in 1823, the title poem inspired by William's ramblings in Sherwood forest. Of course, they presented a signed copy to the Library where it may still be perused, along with many of their other publications.

From their home on South Parade, the couple were soon involved in the local literary scene, writing more poems than prescriptions, and the chemist's shop on Parliament Street was taken over by William's brother, no mean poet himself.

When Byron died in 1824, his body was brought back to England for burial. On the 18 July, en route to his funeral, it rested overnight in a public house behind the Exchange and the Howitts went to do homage. Mary wrote, 'We laid our hands upon the coffin. It was a moment of enthusiastic feeling to me ...'. William followed the procession to Hucknall and his poem *A Poet's Thoughts* was written immediately afterwards. The Howitts duly acknowledged Byron's controversial life, but took the view that he was a poetic genius and deserved due respect as such.

The proliferation of periodicals and annuals at this period gave the Howitts many opportunities to



exercise their literary muscle. Mary, in particular, found her feet writing moralistic stories and poems for the young – her famous poem, *The Spider and*

the Fly comes from this period. William, meanwhile, wrote a number of books based on his travels, e.g. *The Homes and Haunts of the British Poets* and *Visits to Remarkable Places*, which are still valuable as early travel books. They both began to make a reputation for themselves, whilst bringing up a large family (Mary gave birth to eleven children which survived but several more were still-born).

In May 1831 they had a surprise visit from Mrs. Wordsworth and her daughter Dora, the poet's wife being taken ill whilst travelling home, and for the first time they met the great man. 'He is a kind man, full of strong feeling and sound judgement ... My greatest delight was, that he seemed so much pleased with William's conversation,' wrote Mary. Actually, William scandalised the Wordsworths with his opinion that the Church of England should be devolved forthwith, but maybe they were too polite to argue!

Embroided in politics

That same year Nottingham was inflamed (literally) by the Reform Riots, and the Howitts were firmly on the side of the poor, anticipating an English revolution. They stood on the roof of their house in South Parade and witnessed the burning of the Castle.

William was getting more embroiled in local politics, and was elected 'against his will' as a Radical alderman in 1835. He began to find his council duties an impediment to his writing and they began to think of leaving Nottingham for somewhere quieter. In August 1836 they moved to Esher in Surrey – though not before undertaking a three-month tour of the north of England and Scotland, once again walking 'hundreds of miles'.

In Esher they became friends with Byron's widow and her daughter the Countess of Lovelace, getting involved with them in educational reform and opening village schools, while Mary educated her six surviving children at home. They were also involved in the Anti-Slavery movement during this period, William's brother Godfrey and family emigrated to Australia, and Mary wrote that she was 'thankful that we have no emigrating mania upon us ... we will abide by old England'. But this didn't last and by 1840 they had decided to move to Germany for a few years for their children's education.

Travels and translations

Both Howitts were natural linguists, and whilst living in Heidelberg, Mary learnt Danish in order to translate the works of Hans Christian Anderson, who became a rather difficult acquaintance, labouring as he did under the misapprehension that the Howitts had made a fortune out of his books. The truth was, they barely covered the cost of printing. Mary also learnt Swedish and translated

18 novels of Frederika Bremer, who was to become a close family friend. For this, Mary was awarded a useful pension of £100 a year from the Literary Academy of Stockholm. Both Anderson and Bremer were introduced to the British public through Mary's talents.

Back in London during the 1850s, both Howitts contributed anonymously to Dickens' *Household Words*. They began a similar enterprise of their own – *Howitt's Journal* – but it was a financial flop and only ran to two volumes. On the whole, Mary's series of children's stories - often set in the Uttoxeter of her childhood – proved most remunerative. Their daughter Annie married Alaric Alfred Watts, son of the painter, and through him the family got to know the pre-Raphaelite painters and their set: Millais, the Rosettis, Holman Hunt and William Morris. They lived in an artistic, even Bohemian, milieu – a long way from their strict Quaker origins.

In 1851 William went to Australia with their sons, Alfred and Charlton, to join Godfrey in the gold fields. They were away for two years and sometimes Mary and the rest of the family – now living in Highgate – heard nothing for months, or only through the newspapers. She found this period particularly trying but, encouraged by a neighbour, Angela Burdett-Coutts, threw herself into the Anti-Slavery campaign, meeting Harriet Beecher Stowe during her tour of Britain. She also joined Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Elizabeth Gaskell in raising a petition for the Married Women's Property Act. If nothing else, their Quaker origins had given the Howitts a strong belief in the equality of all people, irrespective of race or gender.

The family still hankered for a permanent home abroad, and in April 1879 William, Mary and their youngest daughter, Margaret, left for a year in Switzerland and Italy. Mary was now 71 and William 78, but they walked and climbed mountains and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. By 1874 they had settled into a summer home at Meran in the Tyrol, spending their winters in Rome, where they joined a lively, artistic, ex-pat community.

William died in Rome on 3 March 1879 and was buried in 'that most beautiful of all burial places, the Protestant cemetery'. After his death Mary and Margaret built themselves a home of their own at Meran on the proceeds of Mary's Swedish pension. Mary had become more and more interested in Catholicism and in May 1882 she was baptised into the Roman Catholic church. She died on 30 January 1888, ready to join her beloved husband. But here was a problem! Now she was a Catholic, Mary was not, strictly speaking, allowed to be buried with Protestants! Special permission had to be obtained from the Vatican before she could join William and lie in the good company of Shelley and Keats and all the other artists and writers who had happened to expire in the 'eternal city'.

Recent Lectures

9 FEBRUARY 2013 – THE MYLES THOROTON HILDYARD LECTURE LOST CHURCHES AND CHAPELS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE JOHN BECKETT AND HOWARD FISHER.



This lecture was given jointly by two speakers well known to members of the Thoroton Society, John Beckett, our Chairman, and Howard Fisher, the editor of the newsletter. The lecturers are both interested in the spread of churches and chapels throughout the County and with the history and position of those which have been lost over time. Some of them because of the loss of their parishes and some through demolition and/or conversion into industrial premises, barns, garages or even homes.

John Beckett spoke first and showed several slides of the sites of churches long since demolished, whose original position is unknown to the casual observer. Some of these existing in parks and public gardens with the walls almost entirely lost. As an example, St. Philip's Church, Pennyfoot Lane, was built in 1879, its parish was created out of the existing neighbourhood parish of St. Luke's and catered for a large area of very poor housing. The housing was cleared in the late 1950s and the Church which now had no parish was demolished in 1965. The site now houses the Bio-City research complex.

Howard Fisher concentrated on the lost chapels of the County, particularly those in the Keyworth area. Some of these had been in existence for a very few years and had been converted into houses and adjuncts to houses in the form of private garages. One had spent a number of years as a framework knitter's shop. Howard showed several slides of these buildings in their various existences. Several members had known the buildings as chapels, some had ancestors who had been involved in their services in the heyday of their time as chapels.

Members of the audience were inspired to ask lots of questions showing a considerable personal interest in what was for many members an unusual subject. The lecture was stimulating and well presented and we look forward to the *Record Series'* forthcoming production on this fascinating subject which will surely inspire more members to look carefully at buildings in the future.

Penelope Messenger.

9 MARCH 2013 – THE MAURICE BARLEY LECTURE PEVSNER IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: A BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND EXPERIMENT ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

This year's Maurice Barley lecture was given by Elizabeth Williamson, Executive Editor of the Victoria County History. Between 1976 and 1997 Elizabeth worked for the Buildings of England series, better known to Thorotonians simple as 'Pevsner', and in that time she was responsible for updating the first editions (which had been written by Sir Nikolaus himself) for the East Midlands counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Rutland.

In the first edition of *Nottinghamshire*, published in 1951 (and selected with Middlesex and Cornwall as the starting volumes to the new series) Pevsner specifically thanked Maurice Barley, Keith Train, Norman Summers and, more generally, the Thoroton Society for their input. Elizabeth called upon Barley, Train and Summers again when she came to revise the first edition, and consulted many other Thoroton members, among them our President, Rosalys Coope (who, sadly, was unwell and unable to attend Elizabeth's lecture).

We heard about Pevsner's interest in Southwell, his methods of working, the origins of the Buildings of England series, the development of interest in vernacular architecture, the challenges faced by a Pevsner 'reviser' (including Elizabeth's exploits by bicycle), and much else besides.

Elizabeth finished with reference to Elaine Harwood's recent work, some reflections on modern architecture (including the University of Nottingham's Jubilee campus), and the hope that it will not be too long before there is a third edition of *Nottinghamshire*. 120 people packed the Nottingham Mechanics' hall, a measure of the interest that there is in the buildings of Nottinghamshire.



John Beckett.

ALFRED S. BOWLEY

9 February 1920 – 8 February 2013



Alf, as he was known to his many friends, died just one day before his 93rd birthday, after a long illness. He was born and brought up in Basford and late in life wrote the first history of that suburb. He left the Ellis School at the age of 14 and went to work in the offices of Smith Brothers & Co Ltd., valve manufacturers in Bobbers Mill Road. In his spare time he was a keen Scout and later took a leading role at Walesby Camp.

But he was eager to join the Police and reasoned that a few years in the Army would be a useful step in that direction. Alf was a strapping young man, well over 6ft. tall, so the Grenadier guards were glad to accept him in 1938. He thought it would only be for a short time 'but Hitler had other ideas', as Alf said. At the outbreak of the second World war he and the rest of the 3rd battalion of the grenadiers were sent to France. Alf was one of the lucky survivors to be evacuated at Dunkirk in 1940.

Soon he was posted to North Africa, 'fleas and sand', followed by active service in Italy, France and finally Germany. He was involved in the fierce fighting at Monte Cassino in Italy, where his sense of humour came to the fore in one unfortunate incident. The Grenadiers were being shelled by so-called 'friendly fire' from their own artillery, so an officer sent Alf down the mountain to investigate. When

he reached the battery he was amused to find the officer in charge was an old friend from Basford who told him the guns were worn out. 'Well, can't you point them at the Coldstreams instead of us?' asked Alf.

He had reached the rank of Sergeant Major (he said he was a Sergeant Survivor) when he was demobbed in 1945. Then he achieved a twin ambition – he joined Nottingham City Police as a constable and married the love of his life, Muriel. After a successful career in the City Police he retired with the rank of Chief Superintendent. He worked in the Central Division, Traffic Division and the police H.Q. at Epperstone. On one occasion he told Christopher Dean, then a police constable, that he would never make anything out of ice-skating.

Alf enjoyed a long and active retirement. He loved walking with his friend, Bill Clarke, and devised many routes which had to include a pub which sold apple crumble. Naturally it was the teas he liked most on Thoroton Society outings. He joined Wollaton Probus and eventually became its President, as he did of the Basford Local History Society. In 1998 he published a little book entitled *Basford – Village to Suburb* after asking my advice about it. I shall always treasure his comment in the Acknowledgements: 'Terry Fry

reviewed my work with a stern and professional eye ...'.

He was now keen to learn more and was accepted for the Local History Certificate course at the University of Nottingham. After completing the course he went on to study for an M.A. in Local and Regional History under the guidance of Professor John Beckett. His dissertation was called *Towards a National Police Force? Policing in 20th Century Nottinghamshire*. He was awarded his M.A. in September 2003 at the age of 83.

One of the most extraordinary events of his police career was the so-called Popkess Affair of 1959. Captain Athelstan Popkess had been appointed Chief Constable of Nottingham in 1929 and later was successful in introducing police cars with radios and a forensic science laboratory. But in 1959 he became involved in trying to sort out various questionable activities associated with the City Council, which led to his suspension. To find out more, read Alf's article *Politicians and the Police in Nottingham: the 'Popkess Affair', 1959* in the *Transactions* vol. 108, 2004.

We extend our condolences to Alf's wife Muriel, his sister Audrey, half-brother Marshall and other relatives. He will be much missed by the many friends who attended the funeral at Bramcote Crematorium on 22 February 2013.

Terry Fry.

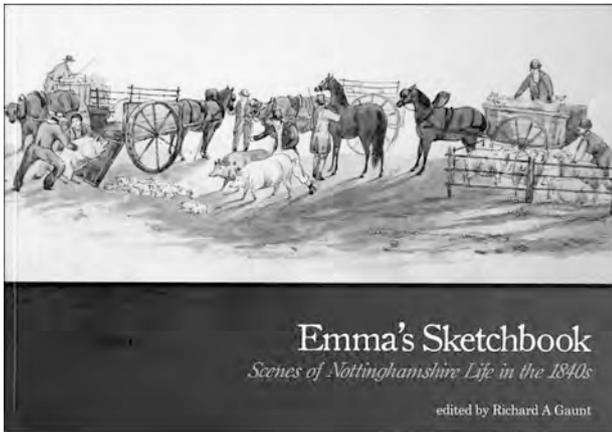
Reviews

EMMA'S SKETCHBOOK, SCENES OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIFE IN THE 1840S.

Ed. Richard A. Gaunt. Nottinghamshire County Council, 2013.

ISBN: 978 0 902751 74 3

The Emma of the sketchbook is Emma Elizabeth Darwin (1820-1898), daughter of Sir Francis Secheveral Darwin and his wife Jane Harriet Ryle.



She was a cousin of the Victorian polymath Sir Francis Galton and half-cousin of the naturalist Charles Darwin, their shared ancestor being their twice-married grandfather, physician and poet, Erasmus Darwin of Elston Hall. In January 1842 she married Edward Wilmot, land agent to the 4th Duke of Newcastle at Clumber, and son of Sir Robert Wilmot (3rd baronet) of Chaddesdon. Emma excelled in one of the 'accomplishments' expected of the middle class lady of her time, she was an artist of some distinction.

Dr. Gaunt has specialist research interests in the use of biographies, diaries and autobiographies, is a noted authority on the 4th Duke of Newcastle and maintains a scholarly interest in the cartoons and caricatures of the age. This expertise he uses to furnish thirty or so pages of valuable historical context to the world of Emma and her husband, and which provides an absorbing introduction to this collection of fifty of her drawings and watercolours of Nottinghamshire in the first five years of her marriage, 1842-47.

Social problems dominated the economic and political scene in the 1840s. Food prices were high, a depression threw many people out of work and there was turmoil in response to the rapid changes that came with industrialisation. We can detect little or nothing of this in the drawings of Emma Wilmot and, in its place, we are treated to quiet depictions of architecture, nature, animals and rural life. There are familiar local landmarks such as Clumber Park, Welbeck and Newstead Abbey, Cresswell Crag, Worksop church, Manor and Priory as well as the, now disappeared, Blyth Hall (p.60), demolished in 1972 to be replaced by up-market housing. There are two remarkable drawings of Steeley chapel in

ruins (pp. 75-6), before its restoration in 1880. When Emma came to see this amazing example of Norman architecture, it was decayed and almost hidden by foliage. She illustrated the porch and the celebrated triple arch of the roofless chancel. There are three drawings of Worksop Manor as it was being demolished (pp. 65-7). The Duke of Newcastle had bought the estate in 1838 and Emma recorded the transformation, as the Duke sold off the windows, doors and roof of the house and then blew up the walls with gunpowder.

At Newstead she drew the abbey's south façade, from across the Leen, and then the elaborate sixteenth-century octagonal fountain in the cloister garth, with its grotesque figures, immortalised in Byron's *Don Juan*, 'here perhaps a monster, there a saint' (pp. 57-8).

On the inside front cover, it's a surprise that the view down Sparken Hill, through the trees looking north towards Worksop, has hardly changed in one hundred and seventy years. Agricultural practice *has* changed; a mixed team of horses and oxen apparently groom a pasture with a drag harrow (p. 44), a group, including bonneted women, harvest carrots with long-tined forks and trim them, perhaps for over-wintering in sand (p.47), and turnips are sown with a double-tube seed-drill (p.48). Drills were expensive and, despite being invented long before, were perhaps only just coming into general use in Nottinghamshire. If there is any turmoil, it is at Langwith by Warsop in September 1842, where a magistrate on horseback and brandishing a whip, gives chase across the fields (p. 410). But are the retreating figures that he pursues, Chartist agitators or simple poachers; we are not to know?

Emma's sketches are of considerable charm, and show her interests lay in landscape, animals and architecture. Her 'pleasure of ruins' and the relish she takes in crumbling structures and trees is evident. Her human figures seem little more than incidental details in the scene, usually shown in profile, with faces often obscured by bonnets. If there are any more sketchbooks of her work, they have yet to be found, but it is surely inconceivable that she ceased to draw and paint in the 1840s; she lived for half a century more. Forty years later, in April 1882, we know she was present at the funeral of her kinsman, Charles Darwin, in Westminster Abbey. Perhaps a further sketchbook waits to be discovered. It would be fascinating to see what Emma made of that occasion as she and the Darwins, the Galtons and the Wedgewoods mingled with Hooker, Huxley, Alfred Russell Wallace and the great and good of the Victorian era.

Dr. Tom M. Smith.

Spring Meeting and AGM, 2013 – the Pictures



The AGM and lecture were held in Ravenshead Village Hall





Graham Crisp reviewing the VCH Group's work.



Steph Mastoris demonstrating his progress on the map project which is going well and, with the help of Andy Nicholson, will provide an excellent search facility. It is hoped to publish a DVD in the Record Series in the relatively near future.



Philip Jones told us about the history of Ravenshead.



All photos by Howard Fisher



Members in St. Peter's Church and the Reverend Chris Rattenbury telling us about how the church was founded and built, including showing us a rare example of a film of the construction work.



The Reports

Last year we had the wettest April for a hundred years but a dry day for the Spring Meeting: this year it was probably one of the driest Aprils, and then there were rain showers on 27th April as our President, Dr Rosalys Coope, reminded us in her welcome. However, the weather didn't spoil a most interesting day. Again good numbers attended and we were well accommodated in Ravenshead Village Hall.

After the welcome by Rosalys, the AGM continued chaired by Professor John Beckett.

In his Chair's Remarks, Prof. Beckett thanked his colleagues on the Society's Council for all their support over the year. He also thanked Dorothy Johnston who was standing down from Council this year as she prepares to move to Oxford. Dorothy has been of great assistance to many members undertaking research in her role as the Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham.

John also paid tribute to those members who had died during the year – these included Eric Coddington who had been so supportive of the forthcoming Welbeck Map Volume, long-standing and loyal members Alf Bowley and Freda Oldfield, and our Treasurer's wife, Anne Wilson.

We were very pleased to elect a new Vice-Chairman, the eminent historian and polymath, and local boy, Sir Neil Cossons. Trevor Foulds, David Crook and Philip Jones were re-elected to serve on the Council.

John commended the latest volume of Transactions, edited by Martyn Bennett and Keith Challis. Those attending were able to take their copies home with them – and many took friends' and neighbours' copies too which greatly helps the Society with the escalating postage costs. Also he thanked Howard Fisher for the latest Record Series volume, edited from Archbishop Drummond's parish visitation returns of 1764. Further volumes were in

varying stages of completion and we look forward to those. Also in the final stages of preparation by Andy Nicholson is an online bibliography, building on Michael Brook's printed volume.

Again the informative and attractive newsletter, edited by Howard Fisher, was praised. This year, another Society addition, two most attractive banners which will be used to publicise the Society at events such as the Great Nottinghamshire History Fair. Thanks to David Hoskins for overseeing their design and production.

We had the usual efficient report from John Wilson, the Hon Treasurer, who assured us of the Society's financial health - it was agreed that members' subscriptions should not be increased this year. There were also progress reports on the Research Group from John Wilson and on the Victoria County History for Nottinghamshire from Graham Crisp. Both of these groups were formally established at the last AGM.

Following the business of the AGM, Philip Jones, resident of Ravenshead, gave a most interesting illustrated talk on the parish's history and development from small and isolated parts of Blidworth Parish into the substantial settlement Ravenshead is today.

We then we had a super tea provided by Abbey Gates WI and members had a chance to chat and to admire the wonderful maps of William Senior which Steph Mastoris was showing – the result of impressive manipulation of the (virtual) originals by Andy Nicholson.

After this, Philip led members to the church where the local incumbent explained its history. Following this many of the members went for a walk around the village, led by Philip.

It was an interesting and enjoyable day – where will it be held next year?

Barbara Cast

Following a short walk the surprise was in arriving at a largely circular church with a parabolic paraboloid roof structure. The circular structure reminded me of churches I have visited in Scotland which were allegedly built in this way so that there was no hiding-place for the devil, and I was also reminded of the Church of Jeanne d'Arc in Rouen. There are, of course, several round churches of modern build but very few older such churches remain. However, the roof style of St. Peter's is probably unique in modern church building. A secular example is the listed such roof at Markham Moor where the building was originally a filling station and then in 1989 converted to a Little Chef and the last time I passed was not in use.

The original design for the new church was not radical enough for the then Vicar who wanted a much more modern design. After taking our places in the pews we were introduced to the Vicar, Reverend Chris Rattenberry who explained in a pleasing and often witty style the origins of the Anglican Church in Ravenshead and the erection of the present building. The Anglican community first met in a private house and then in the late 1940's an ex-military hut was bought and used before the eventual erection of the present The Vicar used a digital slide show to illustrate his talk and ended with a film of the construction from a small wood of silver birch trees to a religious site.

An entertaining and instructive talk.

Howard Fisher

Following the visit to the church many members went for a walk around part of the village, led by Philip. Buildings seen on the walk included the Grade II East Lodge at the entrance to Newstead Abbey - a Gothic-style stone lodge designed by Charles Alban Buckler and dated 1862; the Hutt pub/restaurant, mainly Victorian in date with 20th

century additions, but originally dating back to at least 1739; Hutt Farm Court, now a block of modern flats created out of the original 19th century farmhouse; and Vernon House, one of a number of houses built by William Dovey in the mid-1930s.

Philip Jones

A Future For Newstead Abbey

by Ceril Little

As you may already be aware, Newstead abbey featured on The World Monuments Fund Britain's Watch List in 2012 due to concerns about its reduced visitor access and deterioration in the fabric of the building. WMF Britain were pleased to note that Nottingham City Council (current owners of the site) had taken steps to address these issues and there was an increase in visitor numbers in 2012.

WMF Britain, committed to helping Newstead to continue addressing the site's needs, arranged a seminar at Newstead on Saturday, 16 March 2013 to discuss the possibility of setting up a *Friends of Newstead* group.

The afternoon of the seminar began with a brief talk by City Councillor Trimble, who is in charge of Leisure, Tourism and Museums. He explained the current financial situation at the City Council. This was followed

by two further talks: first by Elaine Griffiths who headed the very successful restoration project at Gorton Monastery, Manchester which was featured in the TV series *Restoration* a few years ago. The second talk, by Carole Patey, concerned the complete restoration of Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill, Twickenham. Both spoke of the need for local support for such projects: in these cases from very different communities. Gorton is a rundown semi-derelict district of Manchester whilst Twickenham is an affluent outer London suburb. How do you see Newstead's 'community'?

We then broke up into groups for discussion. In the feedback session, a variety of issues were raised such as the value of volunteers in helping maintain historic sites (little understood by the City Council); the role of the Byron Society, both local and international, in

the restoration of Newstead; fund-raising activities such as pop concerts, and the provision of up-to-date camping and caravanning facilities in the surrounding parkland, etc.

A little about the World Monuments fund: it was founded in New York with considerable input from the Paul Mellon Foundation to provide advocacy for historical sites, education about such sites, the training in their management, preservation of the world's cultural legacy, and in the worst instance, disaster recovery, e.g. from floods. Its policy is to promote a culture of care and to involve local communities.

The seminar ended with all present being asked to state how much time they could commit to Newstead in forming a *Friends* group. We need a local person to lead in this. Any ideas?

Stanford House, the Owners

In the evening of Wednesday, 10 April 2013 a group of twenty members assembled at Stanford House, 19 Castle Gate, Nottingham for a tour of the property by very kind permission of the property owner, David Adjose of Exeid Locations. The property has been renovated and converted to very high quality serviced offices. Our guide to the house was Pete Smith and David Adjose accompanied us and offered appropriate comments from time to time.

As an introduction to the tour of the property *ELIZABETH ROBINSON* gave us an insight into the story of the house and its various owners. This was an instructive and interesting talk which is reproduced in amended form with Elizabeth's permission.

The first settlement in Nottingham was centred round St. Mary's church, in what is now the Lace Market.

When the Normans arrived they settled on the sloping ground leading up to the Castle rock. The new settlement had a designated market place situated outside the castle walls. However, three weeks before the Battle of Hastings, Nottingham

soldiers had marched north with King Harold to fight at Stamford Bridge. Instead of marching south with Harold after the battle they returned to Nottingham. Having no fear of the French, then, the people from the early settlement got on well with the French, and before long a joint market place was established in its present position, and the town could become one, although the two areas had separate

administrations until about 1300. The most desirable place for a shop for business was around the Market Place, which meant that streets that were in a wonderful location, such as Castle gate, could become residential, with homes for wealthy inhabitants.

Two separate parishes had been established in the French borough: St. Peter's and St. Nicholas', and 19 Castle Gate is in the parish of St. Nicholas.

Once the Ducal Mansion was built, town houses were built in the 'garden town', and Castle Gate was one of the most fashionable streets. Go out of the front door [of 19 Castle Gate], turn right and the Market Place is nearby for shopping, socialising and business. Turn left, and it is a short walk to St. Nicholas Church. From the back of the house there were wonderful views to the east looking over the garden and paddock, across swathes of crocuses which coloured the meadows in the autumn and spring, to the Trent valley and the hills beyond. I grow the same spring crocus [*Crocus vernus*], and they are a tough little purple crocus, unaffected by the weather or the birds, and it spreads rapidly. Forbes Watson said:

*It may be beautiful in the broad mid-day sunshine, but not with its full beauty. Go into the Nottingham meadows, where the plant grows wild, some warm afternoon in March, when the dreamy sun has just strength to unfold the petals, and look at the broad pale sheets of lilac bloom outspread upon the early grass, whose sweet young green is only just beginning to recover from the winter's frost, the blooms here thin and scattered, hardly to be distinguished from water left by the retiring floods, and here with the dark green flowerless patches of Autumn Crocus [*Colchicum autumnale*]. (Flowers and Gardens notes on plant beauty. by Forbes Watson [brother of Watson Fothergill], John Lane: the Bodley Head, 1901)*

This prime position meant that the occupants of the house were well-to-do, and occasionally very wealthy. A wealthy house owner wants fashionable house, and so the house was rebuilt or remodelled several times over the centuries.

The Eggington Family

The Eggington/Eggington family had owned a property here since 1587, perhaps even before that. In 1643 three members of the Eggington family paid assessments for this property in Castle Gate: 'Mistris Eggington £1.10s., Brownloe Eggington £1 and Robert Eggington £1'.

Robert Eggington, the son and heir of Brownloe, was a Nottingham butcher (University of Nottingham online catalogue: Ja 179.); Brownloe Eggington came from London and was a tailor; Mary Eggington, a widow, was the mother of Robert. From 1626 to 1748 several of the Eggington family were Sheriffs of Nottingham, and there are references to Stephen and John throughout the eighteenth century.

In 1684 Robert and Mary Eggington sold the house to John Dand, Esq. for £110.5s. The 5s went

to Mary. At the time of the sale the house was occupied by Joseph Holden, Gentleman.

In 1696 a brew house, wash house and other buildings were erected here, and this is probably the date that the house was 'new built' as mentioned in 1701, with John Dand actually living here.

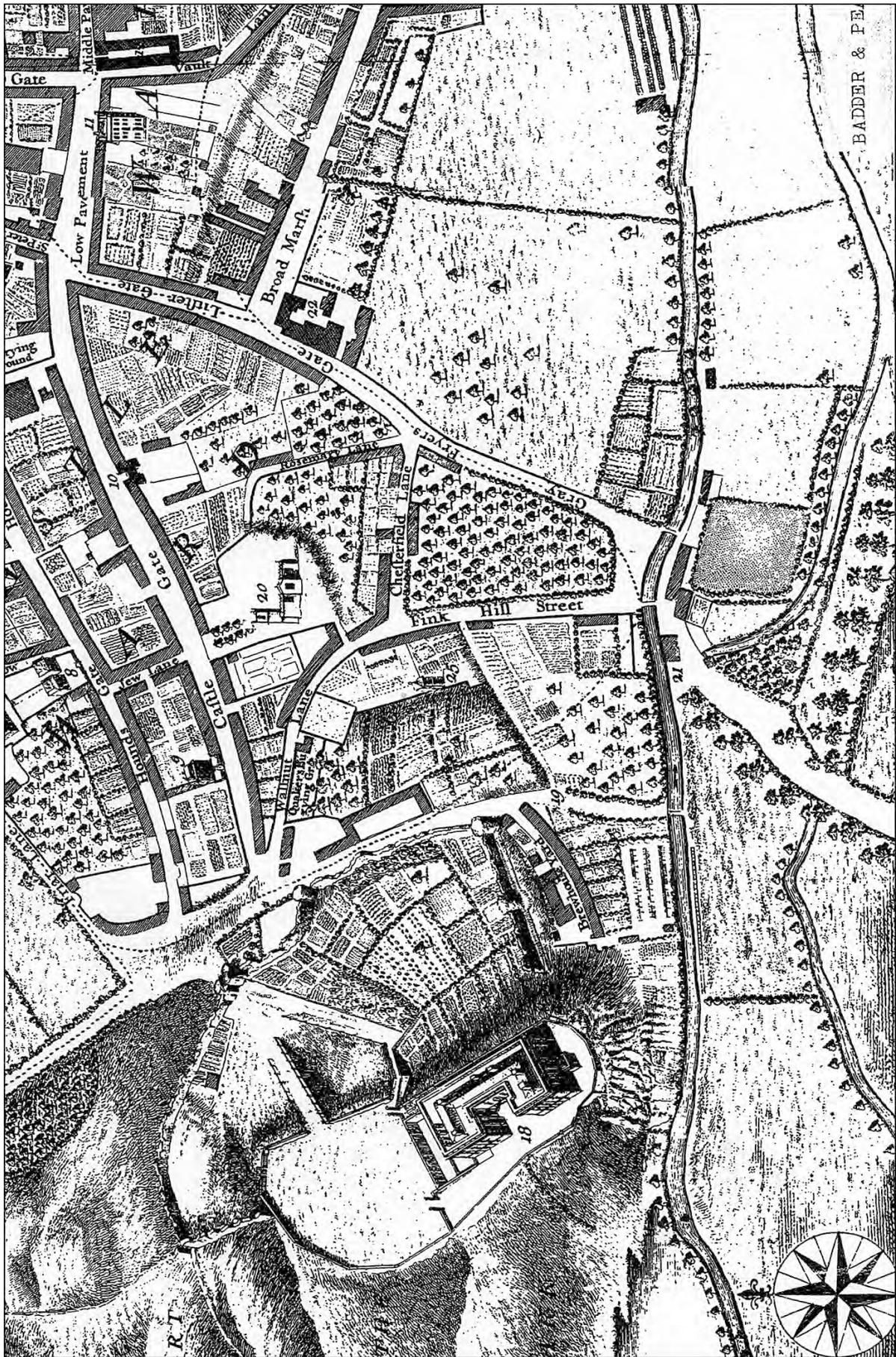
John was the son of Rowland Dand, who had a large house and land at Mansfield Woodhouse (*The antiquities of Nottingham* Throsby). John and his wife, Mary, had three daughters: Margaret, Mary and Elizabeth. On the death of their father in 1701, these three daughters and John's widow, sold the estate at Mansfield Woodhouse to John, Duke of Newcastle, and 19 Castle Gate was sold to Thomas Mansfield of Nottingham for £650.

The Bennetts

Thomas Mansfield sold the property to his son, Thomas Mansfield of West Leake. It was then sold to Thomas Bennett of Welby, Leicestershire, for £550, with Thomas Mansfield paying off £1,000 that was charged on the premises.

The town records show that in 1734 it was ordered that; *Mr. Chadwicke, M. Abson and Mr. Storey have leave to put up Stoops and Rails before their houses in Castle Gate extending out into the street as far as Mr. Bennett's and that Mr. Kirkby have leave to make Pallisades before his house about a foot from the same Ranging even with the corner of the two adjoining houses. Provided each of them pay six pence a year as an acknowledgement.* (Internet: 'Full text of the records of the borough of Nottingham being a series of extracts from the archives of the Corporation of Nottingham Vol. VI: 1702-1760. Published under the authority of the Corporation of Nottingham. Thomas Foreman and Sons. MCMXIV.). The house can be seen on the Badder and Peat map of 1744, marked as Mrs. Bennett's house [No. 10 see below], for Thomas had died by that date. As drawn on the map, the house appears to have an open courtyard.

Mrs. Bennett died in 1751, and it is at this point that my particular interest starts. I am interested in the period between 1751 and 1756 because I think the exterior resembles a house at Barlaston by the architect Sir Robert Taylor. Taylor was the architect of Bromley House, built for Sir George Smith and his wife Mary Howe, and he also worked for Sir George Smith's brother. A letter in the British Library from John Plumtre to the Duke of Newcastle is dated a week before the marriage of Sir George Smith and Mary Howe. (British Library John Plumtre to Newcastle, 12 Aug 1747, Add. 32712, f.372.) It is clear from the letter that the Dowager Countess of Pembroke arranged the marriage in order to obtain the support of the powerful Smith banking family. She managed the political interests of the Howe family until her death in 1749. When Mary Howe became an orphan at the age of ten she was asked to choose her guardian. She chose the Dowager Duchess of Pembroke, who was a relative she knew well, and obviously liked, and who was the aunt of Lord George Augustus and Captain Richard Howe and their siblings.



*Badder and Peat's map of 1744.
Mrs. Bennett's house is shown as 10 Castle Gate. Note the extensive gardens.*

The Langar Connection

The closest relative of Mary Howe was Lord Howe of Langar Hall, and 19 Castle Gate was reputed to have been rebuilt in 1755 by Lord George Augustus Howe. Apparently the people of Nottingham called it *Howe House*, the town house of the Howe family of Langar. In Elaine Harwood's *Pevsner Architectural Guide Nottingham (Pevsner Architectural Guides Nottingham, Elaine Harwood, Yale University Press, 2008)* she says *George Augustus Howe built a 'magnificent mansion' here in 1755* and in reference to the garden front writes: *Pete Smith suggests that this front may have survived from Earl Howe's House.*

In 1755 George Augustus Howe was already fighting in America, he married Mary D'Aubigne in Virginia that year, but there were no children of the marriage. It is interesting that Richard Howe, the 4th Viscount was the second patron of Sir Robert Taylor. However, there is no documentation for Lord Howe building a house here, and it is a chaotic period regards understanding who is actually living in the house.

Chiverton Hartopp

In 1751 the house, and the estate at Welby, was inherited by Major Chiverton Hartopp, the nephew of Mrs. Bennett. Major Chiverton Hartopp was born in 1690 to Thomas Hartopp of Quarndon and Anne Bennett. He married Catherine Mansfield, the daughter of Thomas Mansfield of West Leake, at St. Mary's, Nottingham on 14 February 1762. They had two daughters, Catherine and Mary.

The Corporation of Nottingham gave Chiverton the Freedom of the Town in 1740, because of his eminent service *against the rebels in the northern part of the United Kingdom*. In 1741 the Poll Book describes him as living in Woodhouse in Leicestershire (the village next to Woodhouse Eaves), and he does seem to have properties in both Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. However, between 1747 and 1754 he held the prestigious post of Lieutenant-Governor of the Citadel, the great fortress of Plymouth.

The Citadel had been built by Charles II in order to protect the harbour from foreign invasion. There was no protection at all for the inhabitants of Plymouth who resented the building of the Citadel because they felt they had lost some of their land. The Governor was always a person of high rank, and, except in times of crisis when he assumed the role of Commander-in-Chief, was normally an absentee. From 1751 to 1759 the Governor was General Sir John Ligonier; one of the most experienced and respected soldiers in the country. Measured by the Governor's salary, the Citadel was the principal fortress in the kingdom. (National Archives and book: *Citadel: a History of the Royal Citadel, Plymouth, F.W. Woodward, Devon Books, 1987*)

As Lieutenant-Governor, Chiverton Hartopp would have lived permanently at the Citadel, and was responsible for the day-to-day running of the establishment. In 1750, Hartopp enclosed with

fences the glacis of the Citadel. The glacis was a long gentle slope beyond the ditch which was kept clear of all obstacles; it starts at the crest of the parapet of the covered way, and its foot stretches out into the countryside. Once again the townspeople of Plymouth thought they had lost their land. The town's constables imprisoned the sentry placed at the Citadel by Hartopp, and they petitioned that the Lieutenant-Governor be permanently removed.

In January 1753, General Sir Ligonier put the matter right when he and the Board of Ordnance wrote to the Corporation saying that the fences at the foot of Citadel Hill were to prevent cattle grazing, or too near approach of building, and did not lessen any rights or privileges that the town might subsequently claim. I suspect this hastened Hartopp's return to Nottingham, and by April 1754 he is living in the house at Castle Gate, presumably for the first time. That is when he is recorded in the Poll Book as voting for Lord George Augustus Howe.

Church records show that later that year Chiverton and Catherine's eldest daughter, Catherine, married James Modyford Heywood of Maristowe, Devon. The Nottingham parish register says: *In this volume is recorded a marriage on 21st December 1754, solemnised in the house of Chiverton Hartopp, Esq., by Special License from the Archbishop of Canterbury [Thomas Herring] by Thomas Myddleton, vicar of Melton Mowbray, the vicar was a relation of the Hartopps. This is the only instance of a marriage by Special Licence to be found in the registers of the three ancient parish churches of Nottingham.*

To bring you down to earth again, in 1755 Chiverton Hartopp was fined 6d for *frowing Durt on [the] high ways in Cassel gate.*

On the 16th February 1758 the Hartopp's youngest daughter, Mary, married Captain Richard Howe of Langar Hall (famous for his victory on the Glorious 1st June 1794 when he was Admiral Howe) at Tamerton Foliot which is just north of Plymouth. Captain Howe was involved in various expeditions in the English Channel at this date.

On 6 July 1758 Richard Howe's eldest brother, George Augustus, a Brigadier General in the British Army in America, was killed just before the battle of Ticonderoga. Richard then became the 4th Viscount Howe.

Major Chiverton Hartopp died at the age of sixty-nine on 2 April 1759. (I have not been able to discover the whereabouts of his will). By July 1759 the arrangements for the sale of the house were underway.

Without documentation it is difficult to know exactly what had happened over the last five years. I think that the house was remodelled by Sir Robert Taylor, for Lord George Augustus Howe in 1755, and that the 'durt on the high-ways of Cassel-gate' was loose earth or soil from the building work. I would suggest that Taylor was responsible for the garden façade and the room on the left hand side of the ground floor as you enter. As a good friend of Lord Howe, there may have been an

amicable arrangement for Major Chiverton Hartopp to use the house when Lord Howe was away.

A protégée of the Duke of Newcastle, the Rt. Hon. George Augustus Howe had stood as Member of Parliament for Nottingham in June 1747, when he was actually fighting in Flanders. During the 1754 election Viscount Howe was again one of the candidates. The electorate were lavishly entertained at Langar Hall for three weeks before the election. I would suggest that Taylor created the dining room so that it would be suitable for entertaining the electorate at future elections, and that is why it is on the ground floor. With its appropriate plaster work of grapes and vine leaves it is one of the largest rooms in the house. If eighteen Thoroton Society members can sit comfortably around the tables on computer chairs, it shows that the room could accommodate twice that number at election time. Situated on the ground floor it could be kept quite separate from the family rooms on the piano nobile. With the Smiths supporting the Howe family at election time, it makes sense that Nottingham town will be the centre of electioneering.

The will of George Augustus is short and simple; he leaves all his estate to his brother Richard Howe; there are no details of what this estate consists of. Richard Howe was adored by his family, and I believe generously included his brother-in-law, James Modyford Heywood in the sale of 19 Castle Gate and Welby, knowing the importance of the couple to his wife while he was away at sea. When Sir Robert Taylor built houses in Gradton Street, London, one house was occupied by Richard Howe, another by his mother and his sister Caroline and a third by James and Catherine Modyford Heywood.

William Stanford Elliott

Welby was sold to Peter Godfrey. (*A Topographical History of the County of Leicester*, Rev. John Curtis, W. Hextall, 1831). Sir Robert Taylor had a friend of that name, but I have not been able to establish if it is the same man. The house was sold to Valentine Stead, a merchant of Halifax, Yorkshire, for £2,450. His father was an apothecary in Nottingham, and he had married Ann, daughter of the Hon. Colonel Edward Pole in Nottingham in 1753. Valentine Stead died in 1761, but he stated in his will that his wife was to continue in his house in Castle Gate.

In 1775 Anne Stead sold all her father's properties to William Stanford, a silk merchant of Brewhouse Yard, for £2,650. William was a royalist, and in 1789, when George III recovered from his mental illness and the town was illuminated, *the decoration of Mr. Stanford's house was impressive*. He gave a hogshead of ale to all his neighbours so that they could drink the King's health. (*An Itinerary of Nottingham: Castle Gate and Stanford Street*, John Holland Walker, *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, No. 33, 1929).

William and his brother, Thomas, had been apprenticed to their uncle, William Elliott, who developed a superior method of dyeing and finishing black silk hose. The *Gentleman's*

Magazine of 1792 reported the death of William Elliott:

At Sutton, co. Lincoln, in his 88th year, Mr. Elliott, many years an eminent silk-dyer at Nottingham. When he began his business, he literally dyed his goods in a jug, and at his decease was supposed to have accumulated the sum of £100,000.

William Stanford continued and developed his Uncle Elliott's business, going into partnership with his son-in-law, John Burnside. William Stanford changed his name to Elliott in 1796 in order to comply with his uncle's will. William's two sons also changed their names to Elliott.

William Stanford Elliott remodelled the house about 1775. The two marble fireplaces inset with Blue John stone resemble one at Thurgarton Priory, which was built in 1777. (The first marble chimney piece inset with Blue John stone was at Keddestone Hall in 1760). William probably lived in the house until his death. In 1801 warehouses had been *lately erected* on the site of the stables and outbuildings. John Stanford Elliott died in 1823 and William Stanford Elliott, of Gedling House, in 1843. The house passed to their nephews, the Reverend John Burnside, rector of Plumtree, and William Stanford Burnside.

In 1853 a new street, Stanford Street, had been established immediately to the west of the house.

By 1851 a 43 year-old lace manufacturer, John Morley, had become a tenant of the house, although we do not know how long he was here. The house was unoccupied when the conveyance was drawn up on 29 September 1853, and the Burnsides sold the house to George Rawson, a solicitor, for £3,000.

A School and Commercial Use

Next a widow, Mrs. Treffry, moved her school for young ladies to 19 Castle Gate from Plumtree house. She had three girls of her own as well as twenty boarders aged twelve to seventeen. She stayed at Castle Gate until just after 1871, describing her school as *Boarding and Day School*.

As Nottingham became overcrowded and polluted, the beautiful town house became a place of business. In 1872 the house was sold to Joseph Spendlove, a Derbyshire man living in Sherwood, described as a manufacturer of muslin embroidery. He did not live in the house but used it as a warehouse, possibly also a workshop. He employed twenty men and forty women. His home was at 1, Clinton House, Standard Hill, but by 1901 he had moved to Lenton Fields, perhaps for fresher air. 19 Castle Gate was still his place of business in 1915.

From 1916 to 1925, and perhaps later, the house was owned by the lace manufacturers, L. E. & M. F. Ratcliff.

In 1928 it was bought by Robert Barber & Sons, solicitors, and it is at this stage that it was converted to offices. Robert Barber's home was Sherwood Rise, and his father and son, both also named Robert, were solicitors. Robert died at the age of 77 in 1956, but the firm continued as Robert Barber & Sons until 2008.

Stanford House became a grade II* listed building on 11 August 1952 (English Heritage Listed Building. 1 August 1952. English Heritage Building ID 454903) and is now owned by David Adjose of Exeid Locations and used as high class serviced offices after the building was restored which can now be appreciated once again.

[The framework for this article was put together by Sue Kay, who was given a copy of the details of owners of the house in 1985 when she had cause to use the services of Robert Barber & Sons. This is mainly taken from deeds preserved at Stanford House and abstracts made by Miss Walker, Archivist to Central Public Library, Sherwood Street in 1862. I have added to this account.]

The Howe Family

Stanford House was connected for some years to the Howe family. The following is a description of this family taken from 'Men of Nottingham and Notts' by Robert Mellors written in 1925.

In Langar Church a very questionable use is made of the transepts which are fully occupied with great tomb monuments, so that living people are entirely shut out, but however disposed we may be to complain, we stand in silent reverence before the tombs of the Howe family, resting in the South aisle.

THOMAS, LORD SCROOPE of Bolton, K.G., (d. 1609), and Lady Philadelphia, his wife, have a very stately tomb of black and white marble with their effigies, over which is a canopy resting on black marble pillars. He was "Lord warden of the West Marches, Steward of Richmond and Richmondsh[ire], and Bow Bearer to all his Ma'ties Parkes and forests and Chases".

SCROOPE, LORD HOWE, (d. 1712), was M.P. for Nottingham, and the inscription on a well executed bust portrait tells of how he remarkably distinguished himself in the preservation of the religion and liberties of his country when popery and arbitrary power threatened the subversion of both.

SCROOPE, LORD HOWE, (d. 1734), was Governor of Barbados. He is said to have "gained the respect and esteem that was justly due to a generous, wise, impartial, and distinguished Governor".

GEORGE AUGUSTUS, VISCOUNT HOWE, (d. 1758), was the elder brother of the Admiral, and inherited the Langar estate, but dying first, the Admiral succeeded to the estate. He was M.P. for Nottingham. Under the North-west tower of Westminster Abbey is a monument, the inscription on which tells its own tale:-

"The province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, by an order of the great and general court, bearing date Feby. 1st, 1759, caused this monument to be erected to the memory of George Augustus Lord Viscount Howe, brigadier-general of His Majesty's Forces in America, who was slain July 6th 1758, on the march to Ticonderoga, in the 34th year of his age; in testimony of the sense they had of his services and military virtues, and of the affection their officers and soldiers bore to his command.

He lived respected and beloved the publick regretted his loss; to his family it was irreparable".

All the foregoing are eclipsed by the deeds, if not by the tomb, of the Admiral of the Fleet, Richard, Earl and Viscount Howe, K.G.

RICHARD, ADMIRAL EARL HOWE, (1725-1799) Langar. King George II said to him, "Your life, my lord, has been one continued series of services to your country", and King George III gave to him on board his ship a sword and medal of honour. Both Houses of Parliament gave their thanks to him; the City of London have its freedom, and the nation its homage. He was made a captain at twenty, and took an active part in the Seven Years War. He was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty in 1763, and two years later was promoted to the important office of treasurer of the Navy. He was sent to defend the American coast, and later to relieve Gibraltar: became First Lord of the Admiralty in 1783, and received an English earldom in 1788. When war broke out with France in 1793 he had command of the Channel fleet, and on June 1st, 1794, he gained a great victory. He was given the Order of the Garter, received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and had other honours bestowed upon him. He was cautious, thorough, brave and considerate of his men, whom he made very efficient. In the family vault in the transept of Langar Church his remains were interred, and there was great sorrow at his decease, and a notable funeral. There is a monument to him in St. Paul's Cathedral by Flaxman.

Sir James/Jacob Cats

By John Wilson

Recently the Society received a query from Professor Johan Koppenol, Professor of Older Dutch Literature at the VU University, Amsterdam. Professor Koppenol is researching the life of Jacob Cats (1577-1660), who is well known in the Netherlands as a writer and poet, and in England was known as Sir James Cats, the Dutch statesman.

Cats came to England in the 1620s and was involved, as an investor, in the Hatfield Chase drainage project. This massive project was undertaken by Sir Cornelius Vermuyden and covered an area of north Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire.

Professor Koppenol is of the opinion that Cats at one time purchased the Manor of Finningley (now in South Yorkshire but prior to 1974 in Nottinghamshire).

This is also stated in Bramley (*Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, J. Bramley, Transactions of the Thoroton Society, 35 (1931), 109-116*) who considers that in 1628, Vermuyden purchased from King Charles I 2,600 acres of land in Misson and Finningley. Running short of funds, Vermuyden sold half his land to Cats, who acquired the Manor of Finningley. However, a history of Finningley (www.finningley.org/detail_history.htm, 15 April 2013) indicates that Finningley Grange was granted to Sir Martin Frobisher in 1576. The Frobishers held the property until the late 17th century when the Harvey family of Ickwell, Bedfordshire, took over.

So, we have a difference of opinion. Professor Koppenol would be interested in learning if any member of the Society has any knowledge of Sir James Cats' time in England which we could pass on to him.

The Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway

www.nottsheritagegateway.org.uk

The Nottinghamshire Heritage gateway is designed to provide a guide to the heritage resources of the county, and a history of Nottinghamshire featuring the latest research. Produced by the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, the website's main aims are to assist researchers at all levels by indicating the range of resources available for the study of different aspects of Nottinghamshire's history, culture and heritage and to provide easy access to the relevant websites and other resources of the County's heritage organisations and other organisations holding relevant material. It is to

provide an introduction to the primary and secondary resources (documentary, artefactual and topographical) for the history of Nottinghamshire and to provide a history of the County written by experts in the field. The website organises all the materials through research pathways which are arranged thematically with various subheadings which contain a wealth of information including helpful suggestions for where to start and how to start research in the field with some reference sources.

D. H. Lawrence and Women

A recent article noted on the BBC local web site throws new light on Lawrence's attitude to women. This information has arisen following the discovery of an unpublished article by Lawrence by Dr. Andrew Harrison of the University of Nottingham, who had been asked to study a collection of papers acquired by a library in New Zealand.

Dr. Harrison is quoted as saying: *A new find like this is pretty rare. It reveals Lawrence's enlightened attitude to gender issues, and his acuteness in detecting and exposing sexist attitudes.* The article was responding to an article in *The Adelphi* monthly journal edited by John Middleton Murray, the husband of New Zealand author Katherine Mansfield. The article by a man identified only as JHR was entitled *The Ugliness of Women* in which the author writes about the horrified reaction he felt towards beautiful women. He wrote: *In every woman born there is a seed of terrible, unmentionable evil: evil such as man – a simple creature for all his passions and*

lusts – could never dream of in the most horrible of nightmares, could never conceive in imagination.

In his article Lawrence said: *The hideousness he [JHR] sees is the reflection of himself, and of the automatic meat-lust with which he approaches another individual ... Even the most 'beautiful' woman is still a human creature. If he approached her as such, as a being instead of as a piece of lurid meat, he would have no horrors afterwards.*

Dr. Harrison is reported as thinking that the item was written during Lawrence's return to Europe from Mexico between 12 December 1923 and 5 March 1924 and that Murray may not have published it because it was thought to be libelous or

too outspoken – attitudes which, of course, are not

held today.

The Late Vernon Radcliffe

An obituary for the late Vernon Radcliffe, former Vice-President of the Thoroton Society, appeared in the Autumn 2011 *Newsletter*. JOHN WILSON believes members will be interested in additional information.

Vernon was a member of the Royal Meteorological Society for many years, and a committee member of their History of Meteorology and Oceanography group. His interest in the weather began as a schoolboy in Rotherham. He befriended Mr. Leslie Atkinson, an industrial chemist in the mining industry, who was an amateur weather observer. Vernon took the daily readings at Mr. Atkinson's weather station when the latter was away on holiday. Vernon corresponded with Dr. John Glasspoole, at one time the President of the Royal Meteorological Society and a leading light in the then British Rainfall Association. Dr. Glasspoole encouraged Vernon to visit a number of amateur weather recorders to see their weather stations.

One such that he visited was that at 62, Camden Square in London, which was once the home of Dr. G. J. Symons, the founder of the British Rainfall Organisation. Vernon stated:

Unfortunately I was to give Dr. Glasspoole a poor report on the state of the 5" gauge (the rain gauge) and he transmitted it to Mr. E. L. Hawke, secretary of the Royal Meteorological Society, who was then responsible [for the site] , and he wrote to my Headmaster in no uncertain terms saying that I was meddling in matters which did not concern me! Mr. Field, the Head, did not like it! (Letter from Vernon Radcliffe to Mr. R. W. Ratray of the Meteorological Office 1997).

Industry in the Rotherham area maintained a heavy smoke pall over the city, and this aroused Vernon's interest in air pollution. Vernon contacted Mr. James Law, the Chief Smoke Inspector for Rotherham, who gave Vernon some porcelain cylinders coated with lead peroxide with which to measure air pollution. Vernon also made a particle deposit gauge to examine the dust in the atmosphere of Rotherham.

Vernon reported daily rainfall observations from Rotherham to the British Rainfall Organisation for the period 1939 to 1954, then from Walthamstow Museum from 1956 to 1960. From 1960 to 1965 he worked as an observer at the official weather station at Kew and then moved to Balderton in 1965 from where he continued to report rainfall. In 1988 he was awarded a book by the Meteorological Office for his services as a rainfall observer, and in 1995 he received a crystal bowl in recognition of his 56 years' service as an observer. (Met. Office official station record for the Balderton Rainfall Recording Station.). His M.B.E. followed in 1997.

I am grateful to Mark Beswick of the National Meteorological Library and Archives for the above information.

Can You Help With a Research Project

Dr. Judith Mills seeks help with a new project investigating the use and management of green spaces in Nottingham.

*The project is called *The Social World of Nottingham's Green Spaces* and is led by our Chairman, Professor John Beckett.*

In the last issue of the *Newsletter* I outlined the three community-based research projects that the University of Nottingham's Departments of History and Archaeology are currently working on, all of which involve at least two members of the Thoroton Society.

I am writing now to you to ask for some help with one of these projects in particular, *The Social World of Nottingham's Green Spaces*, which is led by John Beckett. We are investigating how the use and management of the Forest, Arboretum, General and Church Cemeteries and Corporation Oaks has changed since the Enclosure Act of 1845 created these spaces and public walks. There are four broad themes:-

- The natural history of the green spaces (flora, fauna, how these were managed, how they were appreciated, what has changed in the last 160 years)
- The cemeteries (planting, landscaping, management and administration, and social uses)
- Unsuccessful and contested development schemes (e.g. post-war civic improvements, proposed leisure centre, transport schemes)
- Formal and informal use of the green spaces (this is a very broad category)
- Sport (e.g. football, cricket, racing, other sports, use by clubs and schools)

- Concerts, festivals, rallies and other gatherings
- Use by formal and informal groups (e.g. Band of Hope, students, Goths)
- Use of space by specific groups, particularly women and children
- Political and social activities (e.g. the Chartist movement, anti-social or criminal behaviour and how such behaviour has been controlled)
- Use of the Green Spaces during World War 1 and World War II

There are opportunities for members of the Thoroton Society to become involved in this project, in a number of ways:-

1. Do you have any photographs, postcards, programmes, paintings or other documents that we could borrow or scan? They can be from any time period, right up to today.
2. Do you have any family stories about using the green spaces and their facilities that you can share with us, either in writing or as a voice or video recording?
3. Would you be interested in helping one of the project team with their research on a particular project?
4. Would you, or a group that you are involved with, like to develop a research project of your own looking at a particular aspect of how the green spaces have or are currently being used?

If you can help with any of these things, please email Judith Mills or her colleague Jonathan Cope and one of them will contact you in return as soon as they can.

Dr. Judith Mills – judith.mills@nottingham.ac.uk

Dr. Jonathan Coope – jonathan.coope@nottingham.ac.uk

Heritage at Risk

Barbara Cast updates on the situation in Nottinghamshire.

There are currently thirty buildings, fourteen scheduled monuments, nine conservation areas and two registered parks in Nottinghamshire on English Heritage's *heritage at Risk* register.

Eleven of Nottingham's conservation areas are at risk but only one building, the Greek Orthodox (formerly Congregational) church on Derby Road.

Of these in the county there are a number of important buildings including – Hodsock Priory Gatehouse, Shireoaks Hall and associated buildings, Worksop Manor Lodge, Newstead Abbey and its Cannon Fort, Ollerton Hall, the north range of the Saracen's Head at Southwell and the conservatory at Flintham Hall. There are also thirteen churches – a notable one is the Church of the Good Shepherd on Thackerays Lane, Woodthorpe. The scheduled monuments include Margidunum and a Roman fort at Scaftworth, and the parks are at Annesley and Shireoaks Hall.

Many of the buildings on the list are of great interest to our Society, some have been offered grants and some have works scheduled. It would be interesting to hear the latest news on buildings known to Thoroton members and if there are particular concerns which we could bring to the attention of the appropriate authority.

The full list can be seen at www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk

The Research Group

Members may be interested to know what the Research Group does and how its meetings are conducted. It has therefore been decided to publish the notes of the two meetings held each year and, if anyone is interested in joining the group all new members will be welcomed. Just contact John Wilson (contact details inside the front cover) and he will give details of future meetings.

Meeting held in the Boardroom at the Nottingham Mechanics Institute.

PRESENT: John Wilson, John Beckett, Elizabeth Robinson, Howard Fisher, Keith Fisher, Ted White, Judith Mills and Chris Grainger, Sheila Leeds.

APOLOGIES: received from Sue Clayton, Christine Drew, Trevor and Pam Lewis.

John W advised that Christine has had her long awaited operation but has needed to return to hospital for further treatment. The group extended its best wishes to her for a good and speedy recovery.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

Sheila Leeds visited the group to talk about the VCH project in Nottinghamshire.

Sheila advised that the work fell into six sections to encompass a complete story about a particular parish. The VCH project requires adherence to strict guidelines thus producing a standardised entry for every parish.

There are presently seven volunteers working on the project under the guidance of Philip Riden. Philip had written a detailed handbook for the volunteers in which sources to be consulted was listed. The group meets fortnightly in term time at the Nottinghamshire archives. More volunteers would be welcome.

The sub-headings for each listing are: The parish map, geology and geography, population, communications, landscape and settlement, history of the manor, economic history, social aspects, charities, community life, religious history, local government.

Sheila is working on 13 small parishes in Rushcliffe but others are looking at single parishes. Sheila has completed Plumtree and estimates that she will have completed all 13 in between six and twelve months. She finds that local contacts are very valuable. She obviously enjoys the work and is full of enthusiasm for the project.

A discussion ensued during which Chris Grainger offered his help when Sheila looks at Hickling and Ted has a great deal of information about Gedling which he would be happy to share with the project.

SIR JAMES CATS aka JACOB CATS

John W explained that contact has been made by Professor Johan Koppenol of the VU University at Amsterdam who is researching a Dutchman, Jacob Cats who is well-known in Netherlands as a 17th century poet, who was known as Sir James Cats, the Dutch diplomat, in England. He was an investor in the company of Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, the Dutch engineer, who drained the Hatfield Chase area. Cats lived in England, near Finningley, and at one time apparently bought the manor of Finningley. There are no details of the English phase of Cats' life in Dutch archives, hence the query to Thoroton.

John B said that there was a lot of information in the Hatfield Chase archive at the Manuscript department of the University of Nottingham.

MONUMENT

Keith Fisher showed pictures of monument in store at Nottingham Castle. He is trying to identify the person and to establish where the monument was originally placed. It is perhaps Huntingdon Plumtree, a physician and atheist, and might have originally been in St. Mary's church.

Elizabeth wondered if it might be Daniel from The Park caves.

THOMAS HAWKESLEY

Chris told the group that he is investigating the family of Thomas Hawkesley and intends to write the story which is very interesting.

MARY WARD

Howard is working on the history of Mary Ward College, Keyworth.

He has spent a day in the archives at Bar Convent, York and has a lot of information about Mary Ward herself. However, the branch of the Loreto nuns which established the college is the IBVM whereas Bar Convent is the Society of Jesus branch. The archives of the IBVM are at Llandudno but are presently closed due the death in 2012 of the archivist and access will only be allowed when a replacement archivist has been appointed.

GROUP INTENTIONS

John W said that the idea of forming the group was the possibility of a group project.

John B suggested that it could act as a reference group for the VCH project which was agreed.

2014

Elizabeth asked about the plans for the WW1 events of 2014.

John B explained that Thoroton and the NLHA were holding a joint day event on 25 October 2014 at Ravenshead. There would be an introductory talk followed by shorter talks from other speakers and it would be looking at the effect the war had on the Home Front.

NEXT MEETING

28 September 2013, 10.30 to 12.30 in the Board room at The Mechanics.

The Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online Project

by Andy Nicholson

The first comprehensive bibliography of Nottinghamshire history was compiled by Michael Brook and published by the Thoroton Society in 2002. Brook's bibliography is a major achievement and includes 8707 items relating to "books (and discrete portions of books), pamphlets, periodical articles, and academic theses at doctoral and master's levels" published before 1998. A PDF version of the publication can be downloaded from the Thoroton Society website: it can be searched at very basic level but cannot be updated.

In December 2011 the Thoroton Society and Nottingham University's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections embarked on a project to update Brook's bibliography and make it available

on the Internet. An online database has been developed and the whole of Brook's bibliography has been converted and uploaded to the database. A further 2,300 bibliographical records, covering 1997 to the present, have also been added. The project has also widened the scope of the original bibliography to include a wide range of 'grey literature' (material that has not been formally published) and, wherever possible, provide a link to online versions of publications.

It is hoped that the online bibliography will become a significant aid to anyone researching Nottinghamshire history and will be officially launched later this year.

Apology and Please Note

In the Spring issue of the *Newsletter* the time of commencement for the Special Lecture to be given by Michael Wood at Newark Town Hall on 18 July 2013 was shown as 17.30.

This time is incorrect, a stray '1' had been added. The correct time of commencement is 7.30 pm (19.30).

Special Lecture – Michael Wood Laxton & Kibworth: a Story of England

Tickets for the talk by broadcaster and historian Michael Wood on Thursday, 18 July 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Newark Town Hall are selling fast. If anyone without a ticket wishes to attend please contact David Hoskins (dhoskins@talktalk.net or 0115-925-8012) without delay.

Full details and a booking form have been circulated to all members but these things do sometimes become misplaced!

Michael Wood is probably the best known documentary film maker working today, at least if we exclude David Attenborough! Michael was born in Manchester in 1948, and attended Manchester Grammar School, and Oriel College, Oxford, where he trained as a medieval historian. Between 1973 and 1979 he worked as a journalist for ITV and the BBC, and then made documentary films for the BBC and Central television. 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 and has filmed on many occasions at Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

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. Like many of Michael's other documentaries, it was accompanied by a book *The Story of England* (2010) which is an excellent read for any local historian. In 2012, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations he produced the eight-part *Great British Story* shown on BBC television between May and August.

The Thoroton Society are offering this opportunity to hear Michael speak about Kibworth and Laxton in the historic surroundings of Newark Town hall. The evening will include a glass of wine and light refreshments after the presentation, along with the chance to meet friends in a relaxed atmosphere. COST is £12.00 per person including the refreshments.

Anniversaries

by Ken Brand

It is annoying missing anniversaries, particularly if it is a 150th anniversary. On the 11th November 1862 the Nottingham Architectural Society was instituted. The Society's first president 1862-63 was Henry Moses Wood, architect and a former Borough Surveyor and Engineer. His Vice-President and successor was Thomas Chambers Hine who held the post for ten years, 1863-73.

There were 22 founder members, 21 paying a subscription of a guinea that gave an initial income of £22-1-0d. These members included the older architects who created the appearance of mid and late Victorian Nottingham. Besides Wood and Hine, the cast list includes Bakewell, Booker (x3), Clarke, Evans, Gilbert, Frederick Jackson (secretary), Jalland (treasurer), Sutton, Tarbotton and Walker. In

time younger, more familiar architects joined the Society.

Their first outing took place in August 1863, 17 members travelled first class to Lichfield, paying 6/9d each return for the journey. The treasurer's account notes 'To paid vergers at Cathedral 10 shillings.'

The Nottingham Architectural Society remained independent until March 1913 when it amalgamated with the Derby Society, instituted 13th March 1908.

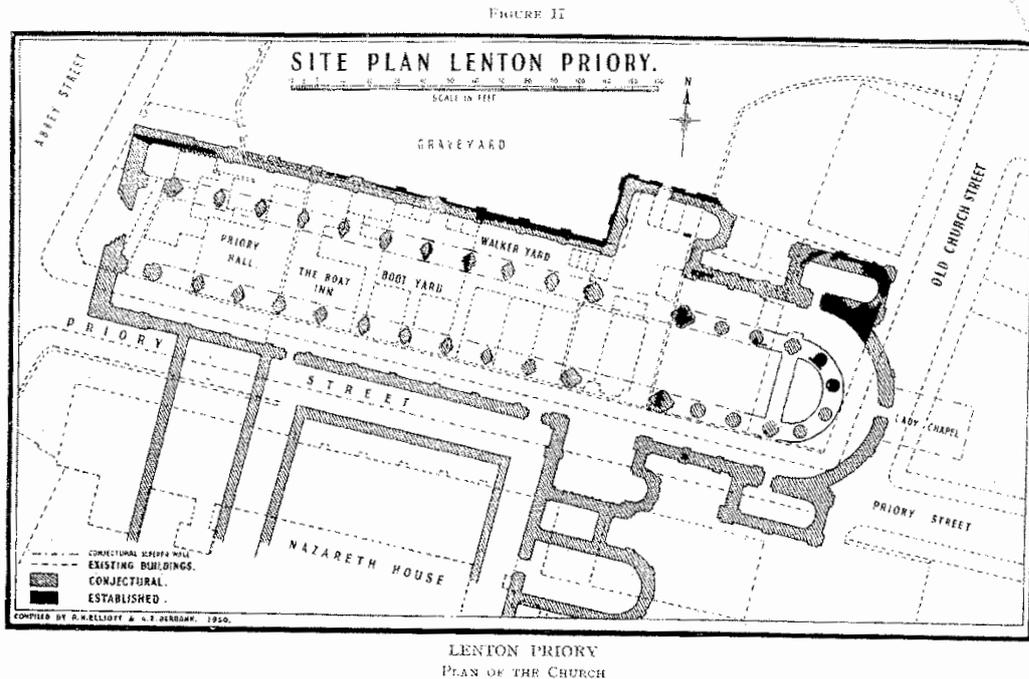
T. C. Hine was born on 31st May 1813, thus the bicentenary of his birth is occurs this year. The Nottingham Civic Society has commissioned a memorial stone to celebrate this occasion.

Lenton Priory Update

by Gareth Davies (Trent & Peak Archaeology - TPA)

Lenton Priory, founded 1106-7, and abandoned by the monks in 1538, was one of the greatest monastic houses in England. The priory was

founded in 1106 or 1107 by the Cluniac order, and became one of the wealthiest houses of an order noted for the size and magnificence of its churches.



Proposed plan of the Priory Conventual Church from Elliot and Berbank 1952

Today, the Chapel of St Anthony and a small portion of a column from the main priory Church is at the junction of Priory Street and Old Church Street are the only standing building elements. Despite small excavations in the earlier Twentieth century and interest from the Lenton Historical Society, the site – a Scheduled Monument of undoubted national importance - is a very underplayed heritage asset with no interpretation or

presentation of the site on the ground resulting in a lack of even local awareness of the site.

However, in 2012-2013 major excavations in advance of Nottingham's new tram link have revealed a huge amount of new information about Lenton Priory and its grounds. So, although the precise location of many of the buildings at Lenton Priory remains unknown, a number of structures, particularly those to the north of the cloister, are

now known to survive as significant buried remains. The results of the recent work are now summarised:

Recent results

TPA have had the opportunity to look at Lenton Priory itself as an electricity cable was realigned. In Old Church St we identified walls relating to the eastern end of the main conventual church. Work extending into Priory St, which broadly follows the

alignment of the Lenton Priory Church, recovered the entire south wall of the northern cloister range (including architectural details and entrance ways) and the total width of the South transept was also identified. These astounding results will eventually allow much of the ground plan of Lenton Priory to be reconstructed with confidence for the first time. Further trenches in old Church St. also recovered small amounts of human remains representing medieval burials.



Cable Trench (1m wide) Looking west along the e-w aligned south wall of the northern cloister range, entrance way in mid ground.

West of Abbey Street, excavations within the projected Outer Precinct of the Priory have recovered part of a medieval market within the outer precinct of the Priory. A number of finds including pottery, animal bones and both English and French coins and tokens have started shed important light on the workings of this important Church administered trading site.

The latest features on this site comprise Fourteenth to Sixteenth century rubbish pits, a stone built cess pit and possible timber framed stalls. Prior to this activity, Fourteenth and Thirteenth century ditches following the line of Abbey Street have been identified. There are also tenement-type plot boundaries and post-built stall structures. A number of coins dating to the reign of Edward III suggest a particular flourish of economic activity at this time.

Lenton Priory is a much underplayed heritage asset of national significance and, especially given the new discoveries, any opportunity for its promotion, exploration and presentation should be explored. To this end, Trent & Peak Archaeology are exploring the possibility, in conjunction with the

However, perhaps most interestingly, the earliest activity on site is represented by a very large ditch sequence - perhaps a defended routeway - that does not follow the line of Abbey Street. The pottery from these ditches suggests, at latest, an infilling date in the mid Twelfth century. On present evidence it seems that these features belong to the very earliest phases of activity associated with the Cluniac priory which was initially built in 1106-7. Important finds from these ditches include fragments of medieval leather shoes. If these ditches were actually dug as early as the Eleventh century, then they could relate to an important but previously unknown Anglo-Saxon site. At the time of Domesday Book (1086), Lenton is recorded as 'waste' but was land previously owned by the King; might Lenton have been the site of a previously unknown Late Anglo-Saxon royal manor? City Council and the Lenton Historical Society, of undertaking a geophysical survey in the remaining green areas around the priory complex to coincide with the Festival of British Archaeology this summer.



The profile through the large Eleventh to Twelfth century ditch sequence with the Fourteenth to Sixteenth century stone-built cess pit in the foreground. Looking north

Snippets

POSSIBLE COACH TRIPS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW

Two or three groups in the Nottingham area are being sounded out about the possibility of renewing coach trips to TNA. At the moment this is just a fact-finding query about numbers of people interested. No definite plans have been made and who would organize the trips is not settled. Anyone who would be interested in taking part, or has any constructive ideas about the trips should contact Ann Garfield at anngarfield2@btinternet.com.

LAMPOROT LECTURE AND STUDY DAYS (at Lampport Hall, Northamptonshire)

The eight annual Lampport Lecture is to be given by the eminent garden historian, Professor Timothy Mowl, Emeritus Professor University of Bristol. The subject is *From Cartography to Land Art: the Garden Historian as Polymath*.

Monday 20 May at 10.00. Tickets £10.00.

The Tenth series of study days which are run in conjunction with the University of Leicester:-

Tuesday 11 June: Dr. Phillip Lindley – *Ducal Monuments and Formal Gardens*

Friday 19 July: Mr. Lars Tharp – *The Stillness of a Chinese Jar: Values and the Desire for China*.

Tuesday 10 September: Dr. Meredith McNeill Hale – *Van Dyck*.

Cost for all is £40 including refreshments. More information on the events pages at www.lamporthall.co.uk.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES EVENTS

Wednesday Workshops: 19 June – *Records of Royalty*

17 July – *Apprenticeship*

21 August – *Hospital and Asylum Records*

All commence at 14.30 and last for an hour. The cost is £4.00 and booking is essential.

Archive Skills Workshops: 30 July, 10.30 – *Reading Parish Registers (English)*

6 August, 10.30 – *Reading Parish Registers (Latin)*

13 August, 10.30 – *Interpreting Dates*

27 September, 14.30 – *Maps and Plans*

Workshops last 1½ hours and cost £4.00 with booking essential. That of 27 September will be at West Bridgford Library and is free. Tickets available at the library from 26 August.

Summer Talks: 9 July, 18.30 – *Local, National & International – RAF Ancestral Research*
Talk by Howard Heeley of the Newark Air Museum.

Free but booking is essential.

Ask An Archivist: Free surgeries to talk to an archivist to talk about your local and family history. No booking is required.

13 June, 14.00-16.00 Keyworth Library
11 July, 14.00-16.00 Eastwood Library
12 August, 14.30-16.30 Radcliffe-on-Trent Library
6 September, 10.00-12.00 Ollerton Library

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S PEOPLE – ANCESTRAL STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Free admission. 13.00-14.00 at the Weston Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park, Nottingham.
Book via the Box Office 0115-846-7777

26 June and 9 July – *Students, Sinners and Surveys* This talk is at the Performing Arts Studio, Lakeside Arts Centre.

3 July – *Weaving My Family Tapestry*

7 August – *Unlocking the Parish Chest: Parish Records and Family History*

14 August – *Kinship and Connectedness: the Social and Personal Impact of Genealogy.*

LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2013

Saturday 8 June, 10.30-16.30 at Charity Centre, 24 Stevenson Way, London, NW1 2DP (almost next to Euston station).

British Association for Local History:

10.30 Registration and coffee
10.00 Dr. Jonathan Mackman, university of York – *England's immigrants 1330 -1550*
12.30 BALH AGM
13.00 Lunch (packed lunch is included in the ticket price)
14.15 Presentation of BALH Local History Awards for 2013

Followed by the Annual Lecture :Malcolm Chase, Professor of Social History, Leeds University – *The 'local state' in Regency Britain.*

Tickets £25 for members of BALH and £35 for non-members from BALH, 7 St. Mark's Road, Salisbury, SP1 3AY.

NOTTINGHAM'S FOREST RECREATION GROUND

In July 2012 it was announced that £5m would be spent on renovations to the Forest Recreation Ground. recent work has been undertaken to the entrances with cobbles and iron railings restored. The pavilion and toilets and improvements to the sports pitches are due to completed by April 2014.

TRENT TO THE TRENCHES

From August to November 2014 there will be a Nottinghamshire Great War Centenary Exhibition in Nottingham Castle. The exhibition is intended to cover all aspects of the part played in the Great War by the men, women, institutions, industrial enterprises and regiments of Nottinghamshire. It will cover the whole first floor of the castle and amongst other things will include:

- a 'Great War Experience' for school parties;
- a Great War Family History service supported by databases, images and mapping;
- artefacts, photographs and documents loaned by local people;
- artefacts and artwork with a local significance borrowed from national and regional museums;
- daily walking tours of Great War related sites in the city of Nottingham;
- periodic minibus tours of Great War related sites around Nottinghamshire.

A hard working and dedicated team of volunteers is working hard on developing this project.

THOROTON SOCIETY EMAIL CIRCULATION

The first emailed message from the Society to the membership has now been sent. If you signed-up to receive information by email, and have not received this message, please let our Membership Secretary, Judith Mills, know at membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

Future emails will be sent from membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk so please ensure this is added to your safe-senders' list.

SCROOBY EVENT

On 25 May 2013 the well-known Pilgrim History author, Sue Allan, will be revealing her latest work on Scrooby Manor with a display in Scrooby Village Hall and a free admission talk in Scrooby Church. The afternoon will also see other events including the beating of the bounds and the installation of the new Lord of the Manor of Scrooby. Sue will also be launching her new book on the history of Scrooby Manor in the company of a visiting group of American Mayflower descendants.

Further information from info@mayflowermaid.com.

COLWICK CHEESE – DO YOU REMEMBER IT AND DID YOU LIKE IT?

Colwick cheese went out of production in 1993 but recently food historian Matthew O'Callaghan has rediscovered the process and is reintroducing it in conjunction with Eastwell Dairy Farm in Leicestershire. The Dairy has adapted the recipe to suit modern production methods and Health & Safety regulations. Using Red Poll cattle milk the cheese has a longer shelf-life than previously which is a benefit since it was partly the short shelf life which saw the demise of the cheese.

It is hoped to achieve protection for the cheese under European Law so that it can only be made locally as with Stilton cheese and Melton Mowbray pies.

It is said that interest has been received from several food retailers and at least one celebrity chef.

The cheese was officially launched on 4 May at the third annual Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The NLHA had to cancel its Spring Day School event due to the adverse weather conditions.

The Association now extends an invitation to a free presentation which will incorporate the Annual General Meeting. The event takes place on Saturday, 8 June from 14.00 to 17.30 at Ravenshead Village Hall.

The speaker will be Sarah Seaton who will talk about *The Common Lodging Houses of Narrowmarsh*.

The Association would appreciate intending attendees to contact David Anderson at treasurer@nlha.org.uk although attendance without booking is acceptable.

The cancelled Spring Day School has been re-scheduled for October 2013 and details of date and times will be published later although the theme is taken on from the cancelled event and is *Stories of Ordinary Folk*.

The NLHA Newsletter is available by request from chairman@nlha.org.uk and it is not necessary to be a member of the Association to receive it.

NOTTINGHAM MEDIEVAL @ 25: A PUBLIC EVENT CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL RESEARCH - University of Nottingham, 21st June 2013, 12pm-7.30pm

A warm invitation is extended for members of the public to join staff and students of the University of Nottingham in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Institute for Medieval Research. On the 21st June 2013 we will be holding a public event showcasing the diverse and innovative research conducted by IMR members, both staff and students, and would be very pleased to have you with us to help mark the occasion.

Starting at 12pm, there will be poster presentations, book displays, an archaeological exhibition, and presentations by staff and postgraduate students about their current research. There will also be a drinks reception with performances of medieval music and drama, and at 6pm we are very pleased to have Dr Richard Buckley from the University of Leicester discussing the spectacular discovery of the remains of Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England.

There is no charge for attending this event, but we do need to know numbers for catering purposes. Therefore, if you would like join us please register online at: nott.ac.uk/imr25

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you are able to attend what promises to be an inspiring day celebrating the research of all things medieval.

NEWARK MARKETPLACE INVESTIGATION

Work has begun to find out whether tunnels exist underneath a Nottinghamshire marketplace.

Ground-penetrating radar is being used on Newark marketplace to see what lies beneath the town centre.

Ian Harrison, a business manager at Newark and Sherwood District Council, said people had come forward with

stories about the rumoured tunnels and an investigation was needed.

If tunnels are found, it is hoped they will become a tourist attraction.

"There appear to be too many viable first and second-hand accounts from solid citizens for there not to be something in this," said Mr Harrison.

"We now know that ammunitions were stored underneath the marketplace in World War II and we have even had an account of a resident seeing a cavalier walk through the wood panelling in his lounge."

The radar generates computer images of what lies underground

Newark and Sherwood District Council is funding the initial two-month study, which will cost between £2,000 and £3,000.

Trent & Peak, an archaeological charity which mapped Nottingham's caves, has agreed to do the work.

If the first investigation is successful, the council will approach the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to continue the work.

The investigation was prompted by a planning application from Newark Town Council to erect temporary posts for Christmas lights in the marketplace.

"We need to use ground-penetrating radar to identify any voids that may exist before the installation of the post sleeves," said Mr Harrison.

The district council, which owns the square, widened its feasibility study of the application into an investigation of the rumoured tunnels.

JACKSDALE & WESTWOOD AREA CULTURE AND HERITAGE (JACH)

Thursday 30 May 2013 at Jacksdale Welfare Oaks Suite, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free buffet lunch. Photoshop CS2 training course for beginners. No cost but limited places. More details from cazmart99@madasafish.com.

Friday 31 May 2013 at Jacksdale Welfare Oaks Suite, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. History of Fashion from 1900 to 2014. Limited places and more details as above.

Saturday 1 June 2013 at Codnor, Derbyshire. What might be Codnor's first ever 'heritage Day'. Displays by Codnor info; Codnor Castle Trust, Jacksdale Heritage (JACH – winners ADC Community Group 2012); Golden Valley; Heanor History Group, Waingroves wood, Friends of Cromford Canal, Portland Path Project Winners (ADC Community Group 2013); Terry Tomlinson's Photos and John Hales' screen show of Codnor pictures from the past.

Free admission. Refreshments on sale. Also a book launch of a 66 page A4 full colour *Monument to an Ironmaster* by Stuart Saint (£5.95) about the Codnor Park Jessop Monument and the launch of *Down in Dingshire* the Reverend W. Littlewoods's memoirs of a black country village, Ironville in the 1870s (64 pages, full colour £5.95). More details at www.jacksdale.org.uk/news/codnor-heritage-day-book-launch-june-1st.html.

Other events will include St, Mary's Church, Westwood, fete, JACH talks by Granville's Cycle Museum and by Martin Cockayne about the Portland Basin in Jacksdale and the tramway that served it. Details at www.jacksdale.org.uk/whats-on.

T. C. HINE MEMORIAL

Nottingham Civic Society announce the unveiling of a memorial stone to commemorate the bi-centenary of the birth of Thomas Chambers Hine.

T.C. Hine was born on 31 May 1813. In his later years he was fondly referred to as *The father of the Midland Architects*. He died on 6 February 1899 and is buried in the Rock Cemetery on Mansfield Road/Forest Road East. As his grave is marked only by a plain, modest wrought-iron cross, Civic Society Board members felt that such an eminent Victorian, who certainly left his mark on Nottingham, should have a more fitting memorial.

The unveiling of the tablet by the Lord Mayor will take place at 11.30 a.m. on 31 May 2013 at the Rock Cemetery.

(From the Nottingham Civic Society Newsletter 151 – April 2013)



Geoffrey Oldfield and Ken Brand enjoying a chat at the AGM

Inside St. Peter's Parish Church, Ravenshead on Spring event day.

Above and left photos; Howard Fisher



Stanford House visit. Above and below, members listening to explanations whilst (right) Pete Smith points out features in the building.

(photos: Elwood Photography; www.elwoodphotography.co.uk)

