

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 73

AUTUMN 2013



*Lindley's Mill, Sutton-in-Ashfield. (See report on Ashfield visit).
Photo: Howard Fisher*

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

OFFICERS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual ordinary membership	£24.00
Associate member (at the same address)	£6.00
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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).

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY GROUP

A group of researchers working to update the VCH of Nottinghamshire. For information and to join the group contact the coordinator, Philip Riden at philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.

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

It is with sadness that we record the death of Dick Sears whose funeral was held at Woodthorpe St. Marks on 2 July 2013. Our condolences are with his family.

On a much happier note we congratulate Bernard Beilby on celebrating his 90th birthday on 13 July. Bernard joined the Thoroton Society in 1947 and is, therefore one of the longest serving members of the Society if not the longest. We wish Bernard many more happy birthdays!

Judge and Mrs. Heald have recently had to move from their home into a Nursing Home and the Judge has consequently allowed his membership to lapse. We wish them as healthy a life as they can enjoy in their new circumstances.

We welcome the following new members and hope they have a long and enjoyable association with the Society:-

Mrs. Lynne Black	Mrs. Anne Dunne	Mr. Graham and Mrs. Clare Herring
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hilton	Mrs. Joyce Howe	Miss Lynda Mallett
Mr. Stuart Reddish	Mr. Trevor and Mrs. Pauline Swift	

*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.

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Ashfield Heritage Trail – Saturday, 15 June 2013

by John Wilson

Around 38 Thoroton members set off from Nottingham in a splendid and very comfortable Sharpe's coach for the Ashfield area. On the way we stopped to pick up Denis Hill, the Heritage and Development officer for Ashfield District Council who proved to be a most knowledgeable and amusing guide for the day.

We first stopped at Annesley Old Church. Many people must pass along the approach road to junction 27 of the M1 without knowing that they are so near to such a treasure. Annesley Old Church is now a ruin, but is grade 2* listed. Many of the monuments were removed to the Annesley New Church, built in 1874 to serve the mining community. The site of the old church is now a nature reserve. The monuments in the graveyard were recorded in the late 1980s. One of the most interesting is that to George Chaworth-Musters, who travelled to Patagonia and carried out one of the first surveys there. He spent much time with the local people and achieved the nickname of *King of Patagonia*. Annesley Hall, where Lord Byron was a regular visitor, stands next to the church. D. H. Lawrence also had connections with Annesley.

The coach passed through Bagthorpe and Selston but without stopping. Denis described the architecture of St. Helen's church, Selston as we passed. The party then travelled to Jacksdale where coffee was served in the village hall, and where we were able to see the early industrial tramway, built to serve the iron industry. The tramway conveyed coal in horse-drawn wagons from the Portland pits via the Mexborough pits to Jacksdale. There, the coal was loaded onto barges for transport along the Cromford Canal. We inspected the site of the canal basin, now filled-in but still visible and the unusual tramway embankment made of slag-blocks from the iron foundry. At this point the heavens opened, and some very damp Thorotonians returned to the coach!

Our next stop was in Sutton-in-Ashfield, to view one of Sutton's hidden treasures, a windmill, known locally as Lindley's Mill. Now disused, and with no cap, it is hidden down a small road and is so well concealed that it

does not appear on any maps. [*It can be seen on Google maps' satellite page at the end of Prospect Place off High Pavement, Sutton: Ed.*]. The mill was built in 1820 to replace a post mill that had been blown down in a gale in 1818. We then passed Sutton pinfold and travelled through Huthwaite. Denis informed us that a conservation project was planned here.

The highest point in Nottinghamshire was next – Strawberry Bank, at a height of 203m above mean sea level. This is the highest *natural* point in the county, but the nearby Silverhill Mount, made out of mining spoil, is marginally higher and is topped by a memorial to the miners.

Lunch was taken at the Manor Room in Teversal, and was followed by a visit to St. Katherine's church next door. The spelling of the name is not the only unusual feature of this remarkable church. There are 17th century box pews and a very fine Norman arch, with intricate carvings, at the south door. The current owners of Teversal manor opened their magnificent gardens for us to inspect and our thanks are due to them for this.

Our last stop was at Skegby, where we followed the Skegby Heritage Trail. We had an opportunity to view the 17th century Quaker House, once home of Elizabeth Hooton, one of the founders of the Quaker movement in England. The Skegby Manor House, now a ruin, dates from the early 13th century and Crick Cottage, still occupied as a private house, from at least the 16th century. This is the oldest permanently residential cruck-built cottage in Nottinghamshire. The cow-shed and dovecote in the Cruck yard have been converted to cottages. The Skegby Troughs, used to provide drinking water for animals, were also inspected. The troughs are fed from a natural spring and the site has been restored recently by the Skegby Appreciation Society.

Finally, tea and coffee were served at the Badger Box pub on the way back to Nottingham.

Thanks are due to Denis Hill of Ashfield District Council for his excellent running commentary and to Derrick and Ceril Little for organising this excursion.



Lunch at Teversal



Fly-ash blocks at Jacksdale wharf

Archaeology and Landscape in the Trent Valley by Howard Fisher

The fourth Trent Valley GeoArchaeology Conference was held at British Geological Survey, Keyworth on Wednesday 15 May 2013. An excellent venue with all necessary facilities and plenty of room for delegates to enjoy coffee during the breaks and a good buffet lunch.

There had been eleven speakers scheduled but, unfortunately, one was unable to attend.

An audience of about a hundred enjoyed the ten talks which were delivered on the day and there were copies of the new A4 booklet *Aggregates and Archaeology in Nottinghamshire* (reviewed in this issue) available for all delegates.

The speakers all kept to their time slots, controlled by the Chairs of the sessions, essential for the smooth running of the day, which was achieved in full.

THE TRENT-SEVERN CORRIDOR IN THE FINAL MAGDALENIAN – Prof. Paul Pettitt, University of Durham.

In the Late Pleistocene period Britain was still joined to the continent and could be viewed as the westernmost edge of the Great European Plain. The talk examined the hunter-gatherer people who populated Britain and suggested that the great rivers (Trent, Severn, Great Ouse and Thames) facilitated the movement of peoples and animals on a seasonal basis.

Reindeer appeared without any obvious natural predators around 17.2 – 17.8 La cal BP and horses are known from 14800 – 14200 cal BP along with reindeer, red deer, auroch, mammoth, arctic hare and brown bear. The hunter-gatherer peoples followed the animals as they migrated and, of course, they left indications of their occupation in the way of artefacts, indications of tool manufacture and of their art.

The hunting of horse and red deer in winter was possibly aided by the use of dogs. In Spring in the Peak District reindeer would be calving and so easy prey and speculatively horse would be hunted. Summer occupation was shown by two pieces of worked amber (Cresswell and Gough's Cave) and Autumn would see the hunting of arctic hare which would provide for clothing replenishment as well as food.

At Cresswell pilot LA ICP-MS analysis suggests that some lithics derive from the Vale of Pewsey and it can be suggested that there are samples from all the sources of British flints.

There are similarities between British and Continental sites which indicate a similarity of peoples.

Whilst stating that a lot of work remains to be done on this subject, the speaker firmly suggested that rivers, including the Severn and Trent provided the main nodes of seasonal movements during the period.

THE GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF THE A46 PROJECT: INVESTIGATIONS OF THE TRENT VALLEY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES – Neil McNab, URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd. and Dr. Michael J. Grant, Wessex Archaeology and Centre for Earth and Environmental Science Research (CEESR), School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Kingston University.

Archaeological excavations as part of the A46 improvement work from Widmerpool to Newark produced nationally important remains along the route. The speakers concentrated on two sites, Farndon Fields and Margidunum both of which yielded nationally important geoarchaeological datasets.

At Farndon Fields Trent & Peak had done work in the 1990s so the site was known but the opportunity provided by the A46 construction work has greatly advanced knowledge of the site and the excavated open-air Creswellian and Federmesser sites, some found in-situ, can now be placed within a firm chrono-stratigraphical context.

At Margidunum a palaeochannel demonstrated the local development of marsh and woodland vegetation during the Early Mesolithic and fossil remains of the rarely found ostracod *Paracandona euplectella* and the extremely rare mollusc *Cochlicopa nitens* together with other rare mollusc species provided new information on their distribution and date.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE ICE AGE – Daryl Garton.

This talk related to a Community Archaeological project at Farndon Field, Newark which has been running for the past year and will continue into the future. It is an HLF funded project and supported by FARI Archaeology with the purpose of promoting knowledge about and to investigate by way of training sessions the Late Upper Palaeolithic flint scatter on the site between the rivers Trent and Devon

The group has undertaken field-walking and analysis and the finds exhibit varying amounts of damage which suggests that the flint cluster is still being disturbed and spread in a westward migration which needs further investigation.

Links are being sought with the Queens Sconce site and also with the nearby Nature Reserve. Farndon is scheduled for a large housing development and the Project is seeking to liaise with the Developers as work commences.

The importance of potential goodwill by outreach and seeking to engage new retirees was stressed by the speaker.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE TRENT CATCHMENT - Ed Wilson, Senior Archaeologist, The Environment Agency.

The speaker is one of three archaeologists employed by the Environment Agency and gave an interesting insight into the current approach of the EA to the UK Water Framework Directive, under the EU wide directive as well as discussing the recent work on flood protection along the Trent and the impact of this work on archaeology.

DEFRA have required the creation of new habitat which often means the conversion of spoil borrow pits

into wetland pools with an agreed methodology for managing archaeological and financial risks involved.

Under the EU Water Directive the removal of weir barriers to allow fish passage is involving both large and small projects. Weirs can often provide clues to an historic site with associated community added value and also have a contemporary commercial value so, often, fish passes have to be built although, in some cases, whole weirs have been removed.

The speaker urged delegates to consider which weirs in their areas were of historical importance and to engage with EA in this connection.

AGGREGATES AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – David Knight, Trent and Peak.

This conference provided the opportunity for launching the guidance document written by David Knight of Trent and Peak and Ursilla Spence of Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding for the work was provided by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, distributed by English Heritage on behalf of DEFRA.

The document focuses on the assessment, evaluation and mitigation techniques that should be employed during the development of archaeological schemes of treatment in advance of the extraction of aggregates and the research priorities that should inform these.

It is expected that the document will be consulted prior to the development of archaeological schemes of treatment in the aggregate producing areas of the county.

A copy of the booklet and full project report can be downloaded from the websites of Trent & Peak Archaeology and the Archaeology Data Service. The GIS may be consulted by application to the Notts. Historic Environment Team.

SURVIVING ON SANDS AND GRAVELS: THE EXCAVATIONS AT FERRY LANE FARM AND MONS POOL, BESTHORPE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – Adam Thompson, University of Salford.

Large-scale excavations over several years led by the University of Salford on behalf of Lafarge Tarmac Ltd. have yielded evidence for Romano-British and prehistoric activity on the Trent terraces and floodplain.

Work at the two sites was very different with Ferry Lane being on gravel and Mons Pool on sand, both presenting different problems for those doing the work.

Ferry Lane Farm produced evidence of a series of field systems perhaps indicative of the raising of cattle but no Romano-British or Iron Age living structures were found although there were Bronze Age cremation evidences.

Mons Pool was situated on sand ridges, often truncated by modern ploughing. The site presented problems with wind blown sand and regular flooding. There was a small agricultural building, wells, Roman pottery kilns, three phases of Roman buildings, Roman burials together with some Neolithic and Bronze Age finds.

LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION AND HUMAN ACTIVITY AROUND SHARDLOW QUARRY, DERBYSHIRE – Andy Howard, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, University of Birmingham.

Shardlow Quarry is situated on the lowest terrace of the River Trent which has been one of the major quarries in the Middle Trent Valley which, since the instigation of developer-funded archaeological studies, has been almost continuously monitored under watching-brief conditions with occasional set-piece excavation. This monitoring done largely by Birmingham Archaeology (now no longer operating) has built upon earlier work undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology and the late Dr. Chris Salisbury.

As quarrying is almost completed, work is now underway to collate the entire record for the excavated area.

Earlier finds included a log-boat of 1440-1310 Cal BC, ashpoles and brushwood structure of 1600-830 Cal BC.

The more recent work has found evidence of a Romano-British settlement, a log-boat which was not fully excavated and was replaced, bronzes, Samian ware and three fishweirs. A palaeochannel has been examined.

INFORMING THE STAFFORDSHIRE AGGREGATES RESOURCE ASSESSMENT: FIELD WORK AT WHITEMOOR HAYE QUARRY SINCE 2006 – Robin Jackson, Worcestershire Archaeology.

The Staffordshire Aggregates Resource Assessment is an English Heritage funded project, the first stage of a Minerals Resource Assessment for the county which is the largest producer of land-won sand and gravel in England. The work is being done by Worcestershire County Council's Archive and Archaeology Service in conjunction with Staffordshire CC Historic Environment Team and the Planning, Policy and Development Control Team.

The work will be undertaken in four phases: GIS quantification and assessed basework, HER enhancement research and consultation, resource assessments and dissemination. Phase one is complete.

The work is similar to that reported upon earlier in the day by David Knight. The speaker used the archaeological investigation results from Whitemoor Haye Quarry as a case study to show how large-scale quarry extraction sites have contributed to archaeological understanding in the region. This quarry is close to the National Memorial Arboretum and has been worked since about 1997. Worcestershire Archaeology were on the site in 2007 and 2008 and earlier work reported in two volumes was by Birmingham Archaeology.

Findings have included a Middle Devonian woolley rhino (41-43 cal BP), Iron Age features in a palaeochannel not yet assessed, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary items, Late Bronze Age – Iron Age crematory cemetery and unenclosed roundhouse and landscape boundaries and Romano-British settlement enclosures. It is a classic riverside settlement site.

The work for Staffordshire will match with the work on the East Midlands and, although not numbered, will have similar heading to the work for the West Midlands.

The speaker emphasised that a question-led approach is critical; focus needs to be on visible and readily identifiable items without omitting to note the potential for less visible items.

MODELLING THE SUB-SURFACE LANDSCAPES OF THE TRENT VALLEY – Chris Carey, Chris Carey Consulting.

The aim of this paper was to provide a forum for discussion and evaluation of predictive modelling within the Trent Valley in both wetland (alluvial) and dryland (valley sides) deposits, through comparison of archaeological assessment models against excavated remains.

Two contrasting sites were quoted, Grove Farm, Beeston as a valley floor site and the Clifton tram terminus site as a valley side site.

At the former a gradiometer survey was undertaken to map archaeological remains and to provide definition of the interface between the terrace and lower floodplain. The resulting predictive model provided a stratigraphy for the development area and a secure footing for the design of mitigation strategies.

Clifton saw a gradiometer survey to provide a detailed plan of the sub-surface archaeological remains and surface stripping with excavation allowed comparison with the geophysical data set.

BEYOND RED: MULTISPECTRAL REMOTE SENSING IN RIVER VALLEYS, RETROSPECT AND

PROSPECT – Keith Challis, University of York and York Archaeological Trust.

Keith suggested that multispectral remote sensing offered advantages over conventional aerial imaging for the detection and mapping of geoarchaeological features and particularly the enhanced ability to distinguish slight variations in soil and vegetation properties in the infra-red spectrum. This greatly amplifies the visibility of ephemeral anthropogenic features and evidence for terrace and floodplain architecture in fluvial zones.

Examples from the Trent Valley were shown and discussed in support of the speaker's remarks.

SUMMARY

This was a challenging day for the non-professional in the Archaeological field but was most interesting with a variety of subjects covered by speakers who were fully versed in their subjects. A very wide range of subject matter was covered which ensured the day had something for everyone and, going by comments overheard at the breaks and over lunch, there was much to provoke thought.

The organisation was first class, slick and efficient and the day seemed to pass very quickly which is an excellent indicator of the success of the event.



Lunch at BGS.

If you think you know the person standing in the window you probably do from TV – it is Phil Harding

There was a book stall with special conference offers which proved popular in the break periods



The Poppy-head Carvings at Rotherham Minster

By John Wilson who also provided the photographs.

Many modern churches have carvings, sometimes very elaborate, on the finials of benches, often in choir stalls. These carvings are frequently termed ‘poppy-heads’. One of the most common designs is the fleur-de-lys.

Rotherham minster [*visited recently by Thoroton members – see report elsewhere in this issue, Ed.*] has a most unusual set of poppy-heads, which date from c1480. They represent the story of the birth of Jesus. First we see the Virgin Mary receiving the Archangel Gabriel at the annunciation.



*The Virgin
Mary*



*Archangel
Gabriel*

We then see Mary with Jesus on her knee. Opposite her is a figure which some have regarded as Joseph. An alternative theory is that he is Simeon, at the presentation in the Temple, where he says what we now call the Nunc Dimittis. This gains credence because, although we know from the Bible that Joseph was older than Mary, the figure is that of a very old man, and Mary is displaying Jesus rather than cuddling him.



*Mary with Jesus on
her knee*



Joseph or Simeon

Near to Mary and Joseph/Simeon are three figures representing the Magi bringing their gifts to Jesus. They are arranged so that they appear to be processing around the top of the Chancel.



The last figure in the set is that of a boy or young man. He appears to be carrying a palm branch and is facing west, with his back to the altar. It is thought that he represents the Holy Innocents who were slaughtered on the orders of King Herod. He is facing west to indicate that his young life is near its end. Just over his right shoulder can be seen one of the Magi, turning to the right as if in a procession towards Jesus.

These poppy-heads raise some interesting questions. Firstly, is this set unique or does it occur in other churches? I have not seen anything like it before. Secondly, has anyone made a study of the poppy-head carvings in Nottinghamshire churches? If not, this might make an interesting Thoroton Society research project.



Balloonacy?

by Terry Fry

On 15 October 2012 Felix Baumgartner made the highest balloon jump from 24 miles up above New Mexico. This achievement reminded me that it is exactly 200 years since the first successful flight by a man in a balloon above Nottingham.

The initial success in 1783 of the Montgolfier Brothers, Joseph and Jacques, the French inventors and pioneers of hot air ballooning, excited considerable interest around Europe. For example on 13 July 1785 a Mr. Blanchard ascended with his new balloon and travelled a few miles from Rotterdam. Only a few days before on 4 July a Mr. Cracknell advertised his intention of making the first ascent in Nottingham from the Forest Racecourse. Shops were shut and thousands of spectators crowded round the apparatus, at first waiting patiently. Unfortunately it took far too long to fill the balloon with hydrogen and by 7 p.m. some of the spectators lost patience and cut the cords, releasing the balloon without an occupant. Then they destroyed all the apparatus and made a bonfire of it. The balloon landed near Horncastle and was found by some labourers who cut it up and shared the pieces.

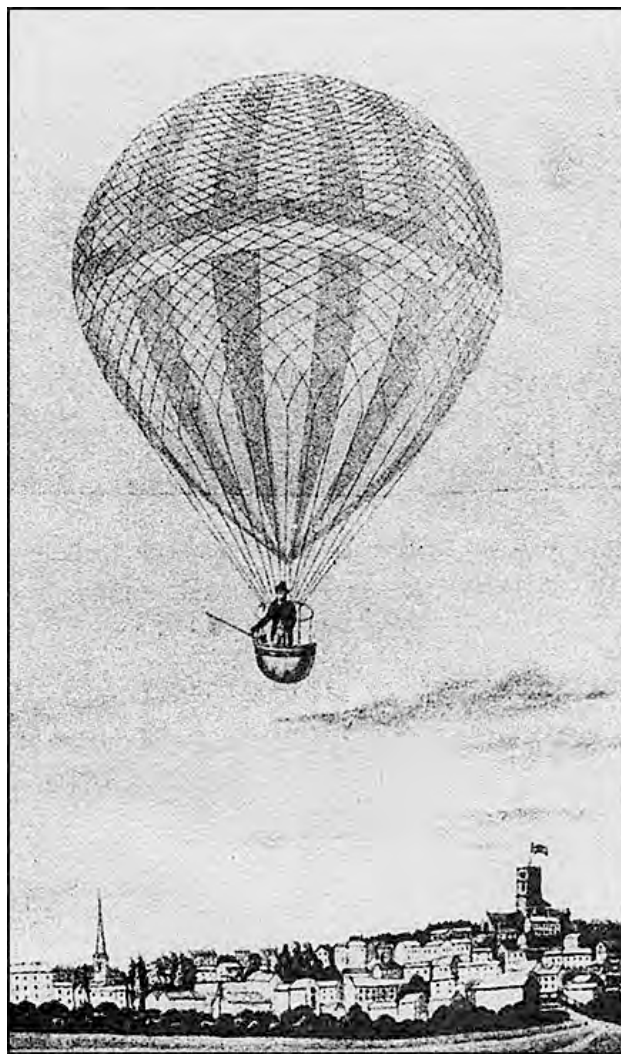
It was another 28 years before England's first successful manned ascent in Nottingham. Then, on Monday 1 November 1813, the experienced balloonist James Sadler went up in his hydrogen balloon from the Canal Company's wharf. The *Nottingham Review* reported that he ascended in a most beautiful and majestic style amidst the cheers and gratulations [sic] of thousands of admiring spectators. The gentle breeze carried the aeronaut across the Trent and the Vale of Belvoir, and he was distinctly seen with the naked eye from St. Mary's tower for 45 minutes. After a pleasant journey lasting 59 minutes and covering 32 miles Sadler came down near Pickworth in Rutland. His descent was very rapid and he fell with the car on one

side of a high hedge and the balloon on the other, although little damage was done to either. The following Sunday collections were made on behalf of Sadler in the public houses of Nottingham.

The next time the population of the town witnessed a balloon ascent was on 3 November 1823 when the aeronaut was Windham Sadler, the son of James. It was estimated that about 2,000 spectators paid 2 shillings each to see him lift off from the Castle Grounds, and about 6,000 watched from a distance for free. Using coal gas instead of hydrogen, the balloon passed over Nottingham and descended finally at Thorpe-on-the-Hill near Lincoln. In August 1826 Charles Green made his first ascent above Nottingham, leaving via the Market Square. His balloon was also filled with coal gas, and ladies and gentlemen paid half a guinea each to go up in it, then to be pulled back to terra firma by ropes attached to the car. Eventually a Mr. Saywell of Leicester paid 25 guineas, a huge amount, for the privilege of flying with Green as far as Edwalton.

Green returned to Nottingham in August 1847 to perform his 370th ascent, this time from Nottingham Barracks near Derby Road. The balloon, filled with hydrogen, was called *Royal Victoria* and was made of 12,000 yards of silk in alternate stripes of crimson and yellow. Again shops were closed in the town as about 1,500 spectators paid a shilling each to enter the Barrack yard. Two gentlemen accompanied Green on the flight, which eventually ended on the lawn in front of Staunton Harold Hall, where Earl and Countess Ferrers and guests gave them a hearty reception.

We still see balloons over Nottingham from time to time, but nothing can match the excitement of that first ascent on 1 November 1813. Some were seeking the added frisson of a possible fall to earth by this *balloonatic*. Others saw it as bringing Man nearer my God to thee. Yet others viewed it as an invasion of God's space and therefore a sin.



This print, thought to be by Richard Bonington, senior, shows the flight undertaken by Mr. Sadler on 1 November 1813.

The illustration is taken from Ken Brand's book 'Nottingham: an illustrated history.'

side of a high hedge and the balloon on the other, although little damage was done to either. The following Sunday collections were made on behalf of Sadler in the public houses of Nottingham.

Brodsworth Hall and Rotherham Minster

By Alan Langton (who lead the outing)

The pleasant journey up the A1 towards Doncaster allowed members to appreciate the beauty of the rather late Springtime, as we passed through Clumber and the open countryside.

At Brodsworth we enjoyed coffee or tea and home-made biscuits – straight from the oven. We were privileged to have a private guided tour through the ground floor rooms of this extravagant Victorian house built by Charles Sabine Augustus Thelluson. The rooms are laid out more or less as they had been left after the family moved out, and the tour gave us a realistic view of the opulence enjoyed by the family and those who worked for them on the estate.

Our visit coincided with an exhibition of how the house was used during the war by a succession of army units, and so we were told, for example, how the dining room became the officers' mess, and how the local people and the soldiers worked together and used the large house in their duties and during their leisure time.

After our buffet lunch, we had the opportunity to continue touring the house, especially the upstairs rooms, and the grounds on our own. The gardens are magnificent, with splendid displays of Spring flowers, and an intriguing grotto which is being restored by English Heritage.

After a short journey to Rotherham, we were treated to a knowledgeable and moving personal talk by the Verger of Rotherham Minster: his love for the church and its history shone through all he said. The building's origins go back to pre-Norman times and the creation of a fine perpendicular building onto the original structure is clear to see. The Minster is in the centre of the town and well used not just for worship but for other social activities regularly.

Our visit was being followed by a gathering of Yorkshire Bell-ringers for an annual service, and Thoroton members were able to hear the twelve bells being rung and the fine Snetzler organ being played before the service began.



Above: coffee at Brodsworth



Above: Brodsworth gardens

Below: Rotherham Minster

All photos by John Wilson

Below: Brian and Pauline Miller at rest



The Nottingham High School

by George Murfet

This is a slightly amended article to one published in the Keyworth & District Local History Society News Letter for Autumn 2013 and is reproduced by kind permission of the author and KDLHS News Letter editor. Members will recall the talk we enjoyed a few months ago about the history of the school and your editor considered that this article to be an excellent addition to that talk.

Whilst quincenary anniversaries come around five hundred times less frequently than annual ones, when they do they should be noteworthy. The founding of the Nottingham High School is a case in point with its years of 1512-13 having recently been celebrated within Nottinghamshire and, to some degree, wherever its former pupils live, work and retire. So widespread have been those relocations that the school, together with its Old Boys (Old Nottinghamians – ONs), needed to communicate far and wide, with some former pupils even flying in from down-under. With such an influx, and particular events being extremely popular, a degree of capping had to take place – even, but especially, with the Anniversary Ball that took place in May 2013.

The Nottingham High's exhibition *Balls, Boots & Players* at the Lakeside Pavilion contained photographs and a surprise film (edited from 30-40 years of cine-camera recordings by the Reverend 'Charlie' Stephens); as well as documents and admission record-books reaching back to the original Stoney Street school. That school was established *For the education, teaching and instruction of boys in good manners and literature* as is recorded in its foundation charter of 1512. Dame Agnes Mellers, whose name always gets pride of place, donated property, whilst Sir Thomas Lovell (Governor of the Castle and Knight & Treasurer of the King's household), together with 86 other benefactors, sought and gained the permission of King Henry VIII to establish a new *free-school*, that was opened on the 2nd February 1513. By 1550, its location within the borough was in Stoney Street, near St. Mary's church: but ultimately it moved to Arboretum Street in 1867.

There is so much material available on websites (start with Wikipedia), within exhibitions and through to the publications of Dr. Adam Thomas's history of the school and John Rimington's (husband of the more famous Stella, ex-head of MI5) account of the 29 years reign of C.L. Reynolds as headmaster, that I am loathe to contribute anything further of the school's historical progress. I do realise that I was indeed fortunate to study GCE 'O' level History under Dr. Thomas, even if less fortunate to be drilled by John Rimington when in the CCF. The latter episode, and the mention of the

combined cadet force (CCF), causes me to note that there is considerable interest in the Great War and WWII and so it is worth recording that from the High School 1500 Old Boys and Masters took part in the Great War. Captain Albert Ball and the Reverend T. B. Hardy were each awarded the VC, a further 124 were decorated and 29 others were honourably mentioned in despatches; but sadly 198 lost their lives. Of the 570 Old Boys and Masters who took part in WWII, 39 were decorated, 30 others were honourably mentioned in despatches; whereas 80 lost their lives. Here again, I must resist the temptation to tread where others have better trod before, and so change my train of thought.

Each year, in the middle of June, the school celebrates its Founder's day. Two of the most popular traditional events have been the morning service at St. Mary's Church and a cheese 'n' ale ceremony (at the Council House or the school). Often, a tennis match (the School team v an Old boys' team), for which, several times, I was selected, was part of that tradition. This year, there were many additions to the Founder's Day programme of events, making it into a Founder's Day & the Big Reunion weekend (14/15/16 June) – Golf at the Hollinwell Club; 'See the school during a working day; with afternoon tea'; School Captain's Breakfast; Tours around the school; Old Boys' Orchestra/Wind band from scratch; Old Boys' Dinner; Family Fun day; and Toddy's Reprise (Old Boys in song). Beyond the bounds of that weekend, many other activities took place. In fact on Sunday 21 April 2013, an ON Spring Buffet luncheon, limited to 200 guests, was arranged at Carriage Hall, Station Road, Plumtree. For some (me) it clashed with the Nottinghamshire Chess Congress being held at the school. This hiring of the school's premises for community events has been a welcome and pleasing feature in recent years. The Big Reunion list does not include any of the activities that took place elsewhere and so, because of space, is far from complete.

In conclusion, for what proved to be a memorable reunion with fellow former pupils, I thank the School for the opportunity to include the photograph of a setting we all have cause to remember.



As always, a wonderful welcome and a fond farewell.

Coombs' 'Eureka' Aerated Flour Company Ltd - A Nottingham business

By John Wilson

This company was set up by a Mr. W. A. Coombs in 1885 in premises in St. Ann's Well Road and sold flour in convenient paper bags. Business was initially brisk, and in 1890 the company moved to larger premises in Stanford Street. Also in 1890, the company became Coombs' 'Eureka' Aerated Flour Company Ltd., with Mr. Coombs as managing director. Other directors of the company included Mr. Joseph Peck, the Company Chairman, Mr. J. W. Hodges and Mr. D. Y. Lorimer, *all gentlemen of tried commercial ability and possessed of lengthy practical experience in the trade they have so emphatically made their own.*

The business grew to such an extent that in 1895 the firm moved to a purpose-built five-storey factory in Lenton Boulevard (which became Castle Boulevard in about 1906). The factory was *at the foot of the Castle Rock, the canal forming the Southern boundary.* It was a very modern factory, with *every provision for the comfort and convenience of the [largely] female staff, including a comfortable mess room with dressing room and a large room for recreation and instruction. Every floor of the factory has lavatories of the most up-to-date description.* There was *good light, perfect ventilation and scrupulous cleanliness.* Trade was so good that the company also opened a London office and warehouse at 8 and 8a Farringdon Road, with Mr. Lorimer as director of the London operation.

The company's main product, their 'Eureka' Aerated Pastry Flour, was manufactured to a very high standard. The flour was *mixed at least 120 times before packing* in order to *aerate* it. However, a *secret ingredient* was also added during the mixing process (possibly baking powder). The purpose of the mixing and the *secret ingredient* was to produce very light pastry, which would not give indigestion to those eating it. There were numerous testimonies to the quality of the flour, including one from the Borough Analyst for Nottingham, Edgar B. Truman, Esq. M.D., who declared that *I have made an analysis of Coombs' Aerated Flour, and find it consists of the best wheat flour, with a perfectly innocuous substance added for the purpose of making the Pastry light and digestible. It contains no alum or other adulteration.*

A testimonial from Mr. J. Sharcy, Purveyor to HRH the Prince of Wales, in 1886 states *I have given the Aerated Flour a thorough trial in both cakes and pastry. I consider it perfectly wholesome and it makes the pastry short and the cakes light, and very agreeable to the taste.*

Coombs branched out into other products, including custard powder, *a rich high-class dainty; Blanc mange in various flavours;* Egg powder, *a substitute for eggs and*

Lady Cake Flour. The company also acquired the selling rights to Farrar's *Isobel* Pastry Roller (one was sold recently on eBay for £90).

Coombs were awarded numerous medals at exhibitions, including a gold medal at a Cookery Exhibition at the Imperial Institute in London in 1896, and a Gold at the Brussels International Exhibition of 1897.

But – all was not well. A notice in the London Gazette of 14 December 1909 stated *Notice is hereby given ... that the capital of the company be reduced from £25,000 to £11,666.13s.4d.* It is possible that the company never recovered financially from the cost of building their Lenton Boulevard factory.

Finally, in 1913, the London Gazette of 15 August announced *in the matter of the Companies (Consolidation) Act 1908 and of COOMBS' 'EUREKA' AERATED FLOUR COMPANY Limited (in voluntary liquidation) Notice is hereby given that a general Meeting of the above named company will be held at 2, St. Peter's Church Walk, Nottingham on Wednesday the 17th day of September 1913 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of having the liquidator's accounts, showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of, laid before such meeting, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator, and also of determining, by Extraordinary Resolution, the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof, shall be disposed of.*

Dated this 6th day of August 1913.
Arthur J. Chamberlain, liquidator.

It appears, from the Wright's Directory of 1914, that the premises were sold or let to the Aerated Flour and Specialities Company. An advertisement in the *Nottingham Evening Post* on 2 April 1914 offered free flour. *Look out for the coupon entitling to two 3p bags of flour for the price of one.* An early example of BOGOF?

By 1915, the premises were occupied by the Forget-Me-Not Flour Company, manufacturers of self-raising flour and by 1920, John Franks and Co. Ltd., Wholesale grocers, occupied the site. The factory is no longer standing.

Sources:
Nottingham and Notts Illustrated
Wright's Directories of Nottingham (various)
London Gazette (accessed by internet)
Also consulted: www.nottshistory.org.uk



Above: From Nottingham and Notts Illustrated.

Below: The factory site in April 2013. Photo by Paul Malon.



Institute for Medieval Research at 25

by Howard Fisher

On Friday, 21 June 2013 the Institute of Medieval Research at the University of Nottingham held an event to celebrate its 25 years existence. The event was open to members of the public in addition to University staff and students and there was a very varied and interesting programme for the celebration with a choice of programme for attendees to follow.

Our day started at the University of Nottingham Museum at the Lakeside Arts Centre where the Museum Keeper, Clare Pickersgill, gave an enthusiastic and interesting introductory talk about the museum and its collections. Time was then available for an examination of the exhibits and Clare also conducted handling sessions for anyone who was interested.

This was followed by a guided walk to the Centre for Advanced Studies at Highfield House where the remainder of the day's events were staged. En route we stopped at the site of the medieval village of Keighton where a short explanation was provided by our guide. Highfield House proved to be an interesting building, the best feature of which, for me, was the open-air central courtyard surrounded by a cloister style covered walkway although the atrium is also a very pleasant space.

Between 1.30 and 2.30 there was a choice of sessions where short presentations were made by the Institute staff and Research students. Jackie and I chose the session where the presentations were *How to Make a Manuscript; Food for the Soul: The Social Dynamics of Fishing in Anglo-Saxon England, AD400-1100; Green Memory: Dark Age Plants and their Histories* and *Body and Soul in Medieval Thought*. The alternative session was *Verbal and Visual: Ekphrasis in Middle English*

Poetry; The Battle of Maldon: A Battle of Wits; Germania Remembered – Commemorating and Inventing a Germanic Past and *The Power of Paralysis: Attitudes Towards the Sick and Disabled in Anglo-Saxon England*.

There followed a break where tea and coffee were served together with delicious cup cakes during which Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre of the School of English talked about his recently completed Wollaton Antiphonal project which was supported by explanatory panel displays.

Thereafter we returned to the lecture rooms where our choice was *Gavin Douglas and the Final Frontier of the Medieval; The Livery Collar: politics and Identity in Late Medieval England* and *The Local Medieval: Wollaton and Hardwick*. The alternative would have been *Viking Poetry on Love and War; Social Transformations at the Fjord-edge Settlement at Stavnsager, East Jutland, AD400-1100* and *Material Culture and Old Norse Sagas*.

There was then a performance in the atrium of fifteenth and sixteenth century music by the group *Galliarda*. Several exhibitions had been staged by students which were very interesting to view and discuss with the students present.

A wine and nibbles reception took place at 5.00 p.m. and this was followed by a very well received presentation by Drs. Richard Buckley and Jo Appelby of Leicester University Archaeology about the discovery of the remains of Richard III in Leicester.

Several Thoroton members were present as well as other members of the Local History community at what was certainly a very well arranged and most interesting event to celebrate this anniversary of the Institute for Medieval Research.

The Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair

The Society was represented at this event held on Sunday, 19 May 2013 in Mansfield library. We had a stand and displayed our two new banners together with a revolving PowerPoint presentation about the Society. The event was well supported by Local History societies from the county and other relevant organisations and it attracted a lot of public interest.

Our stand was manned by a rota of members and we were able to discuss the Society with several people who took away our leaflets to, hopefully, become members. As part of our publicity drive we gave away back-issue copies of the Newsletter and we made several sales of books. The main purpose was to spread the word about the Thoroton Society

(indeed we were able to enlighten at least one person who did not know who or what we were and who took away one of our publicity leaflets).

The event organisers were pleased with the number of stands and the public attendance and it is understood that there may well be repeats of the event in the future at other venues. Certainly those of us from Thoroton who manned the stand felt it was a worthwhile event to support by which to gain publicity in our ongoing drive to attract more members to Thoroton and to make the Society even better known to a wider audience. The only drawback for us was that we had been told we would have a good even light-coloured wall on

which to project our PowerPoint but, when we arrived, the wall behind our allocated table had a textured finish which greatly degraded the quality of

our images, something we must seek to avoid for future events.



*The Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair, Mansfield library.
Photos: Howard Fisher*



Transport and Trade on the Trent 1850 – 1970

A meeting report by John Wilson.

This new project is the result of a significant award to the University of Nottingham from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The grant is part of the AHRC's *Connected Communities* programme, and will run for one year. The University is working in collaboration with local history societies, waterways heritage groups and individuals to produce a comprehensive survey of the Trent since the mid-nineteenth century, which will be published as a book in due course.

A day-school was held on Saturday 18 May 2013 at the Newark Academy to launch the project and to enable interested individuals and groups to find out more about it. The day, which attracted some eighty participants, was chaired by Dr. Richard Gaunt.

Philip Riden introduced the project which will look at the management of the Trent and associated waterways including canals, the organisation of the various carrying trades on the river, and life on board boats and in the riverside communities. The impact of the rise of the railways from the mid-Victorian era and that of road

Professor Stanley Chapman described many sources of information which could be accessed as part of the project.

Richard Allsop and Michael Edwards described the *New Dawn* project which is creating a full-sized replica of a Chesterfield canal boat, called the *Dawn Rose*. Work started in 2010, the boat is 75% complete and will hopefully be launched at the end of 2013 or in the early months of 2014. The boat is being built using traditional techniques.

David Lowe of the Commercial Boat Operators' Association spoke on the state of the river transport industry today, of which he has a considerable knowledge.

David Seymour talked about the riverside community at West Stockwith.

Finally, Les Reid of the *Friends of the Newark Heritage Barge* described the restoration of the *Leicester Trader* river barge which is now a floating museum and heritage archive. More information can be found at



transport will also be examined. Philip pointed out that very little has been written about the impact on water traffic of the increase in road transport after 1918. He described the many sources of information available for research into the recent history of the Trent. Much of the material is widely dispersed; many records are in the National Archives at Kew, and a research assistant has been appointed to carry out studies at Kew and elsewhere on behalf of the project. There is a significant Waterways Archive at Ellesmere Port, in addition to material in our own Nottinghamshire Archives and the University of Nottingham's Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections. Other important material may be in other collections and one aspect of the project is to identify all such sources.

Wendy Freer then gave an illustrated talk, in turn amusing and poignant, about the life of families who lived on the various kinds of boats plying their trade on the river and canals.

www.newarkheritagebarge.com.

Amongst the groups represented at the conference, and having stalls with books and other items for sale, were the Railway and Canal Historical Society; the Beeston Canalside Heritage Centre; the Friends of Newark Heritage Barge; the Chesterfield Canal Trust; the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology; the Isle of Axholme Family History Society; the Derbyshire Record Society and the Commercial Boat Operators' Association.

If any member of the Thoroton Society has a particular interest in or knowledge of the history of the River Trent and would like to be involved in the project, please contact Philip Riden at the Department of History, University of Nottingham; email philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.

The loan of photographs or artefacts relevant to river and canal transport would be much appreciated.

Reviews

JOHN BLEY OF EAST LEAKE & LONDON 1674-1731 DISTILLER AND BENEFACTOR.

Keith Hodgkinson, Rachel Flynn and Ian Flynn; East Leake and District Historical Society, 2012. ISBN 978 0 9531710 3 3

If you have ever wondered about the origins of the very clearly dated building on Main Street in East Leake as you head towards Loughborough on the No 1 bus, then this is the book for you. The house was built by the London distiller John Bley with money made from his London business and with the possible help of Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny. As to the dates, 1715 and 1728, well the answer is still elusive for whilst 1715 marks the building of the house the latter date remains a mystery.

John Bley was born in East Leake in 1675, the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Wight who steadfastly refused to name the father, but as she was part of one of the village's elite families she was never forced to render the father's name to the churchwardens. Suspicion has fallen ever since on William Bleay (or Bley) the young curate in the village who moved shortly afterwards to Worcestershire with several references but not a word from his own rector. Probably accommodated in the home of her married sister Mary Hopkins, Elizabeth ensured that John received an education: he and his cousin went to the private school in Hoton. The 15-year old John Bley was then apprenticed to a distiller in London, perhaps using the extensive Wight family contacts in the city. Seven years later he was a distiller himself, freeman of the City of London and

member of the Worshipful Company of Distillers. By 1703 he had a shop on Thames Street, where he lived for twenty years. John Bley continued to maintain the connection with East Leake and made friends with Sir Thomas Parkyns as well as ensuring the well-being of his mother who remained unmarried for the whole of her life. Bley not only built the house on Main Street, he ensured that a school was started up in the village just after his house was completed.

This book skilfully places John Bley into the two contexts of rural Nottinghamshire and metropolitan London and demonstrates that it was possible with the right combination of circumstances for an illegitimate child to become a successful businessman and friend to titled gentry. Social position and money play an

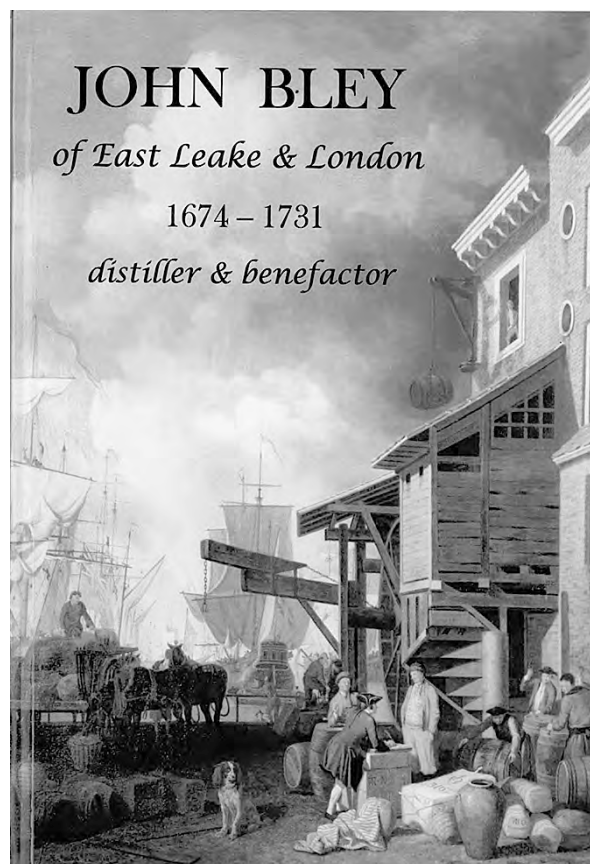
important part of this for Elizabeth Wight was part of the broad village elite and could be accommodated by her sister who continued the family's claim to be part of the yeomanry strata through her marriage to a yeoman. Furthermore, family connections in London had ensured John a foothold from which to make start there.

Interestingly John too played the social status card for when he claimed, when being apprenticed, that he was the son of William Bley, clerk (cleric) at that point thus ensuring himself a suitable good background. His

association with Parkyns was a combination of money- John had possibly acted as an agent for Sir Thomas – during financial difficulties and outward social deference for Sir Thomas was an important figure in Nottinghamshire governance; but despite this Bley had to make a success of his business and this required skill and knowledge. The book demonstrates clearly how Bley developed his business in London through dint of talent and hard work and how that enabled him to, in turn, develop his home village. All this building and educational concern was despite his clear intention to reside in London until later in his life.

This book is more than a biography of a remarkable man, it is an excellent introduction to the social and political worlds of London, especially in relation to the gin and broader drinks trade in the capital and

the three authors have successfully combined local and regional history with the history of a significant part of London life. There is significant genealogical work in the book too in order to show how the Wight and Bley families worked together and continued to coalesce as Bley's own career developed. This is a book with manifold uses. It is excellent contextualised local history, demonstrating how city and county were not completely separate worlds, moreover it is a great biography of a significant local man and it is a fascinating insight into the cultural and material worlds of the seventeenth and eighteenth century merchant.



Professor Martyn Bennett, Trent University

AGGREGATES AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

David Knight and Ursilla Spence; York Archaeological Trust, 2013; ISBN 978-1 874454 63 2

This is an A4 booklet of 54 pages produced with a gloss cover and high quality paper inside pages with good colour illustrations, maps and diagrams, which was launched at BGS, Keyworth on 15 May at the fourth GeoArchaeology Conference.

The research for the book was done between 2009 and 2012 with funding from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. The full report can be downloaded from the websites of the Nottinghamshire County Council (www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/history/archaeology), Trent & Peak Archaeology (www.tparchaeology.co.uk/notts-aggregates-resource-assessment) and the Archaeology Data Service (<http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1018086>).

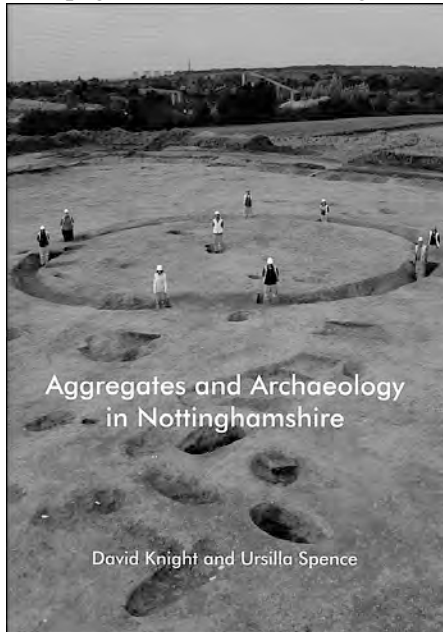
There is a GIS (Geographical Information System) which may be consulted through the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Team.

The project covered forms part of a package of Aggregates Resource Assessments which provide a resource for assessing the archaeological potential of the aggregates-producing areas of England. Similar assessments have already been completed for Derbyshire and the Peak District, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and others are currently in production for Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

The authors have liaised with colleagues working in neighbouring areas of the Midlands to achieve compatible products and so have used the landform element methodology pioneered in the Till-Tweed catchment and extended in the Derbyshire and Peak District work.

The book outlines the national framework before moving to the Nottinghamshire context in several areas and then considers in detail the historical periods in the county from the Palaeolithic to the Post-Medieval and Modern. The final sections deal with Landforms and Archaeology, looking at assessment, evaluation and mitigation strategies together with an Archaeological Research agenda and strategy compilation.

This is a very high quality and meticulously prepared volume which will be of tremendous help when aggregate extractions are proposed and especially when linked with the related reports from other aggregate and mineral producing areas of England. It is well-written, easy to read and follow and recommended to anyone interested in the archaeology of the county or the aggregate extraction industry.

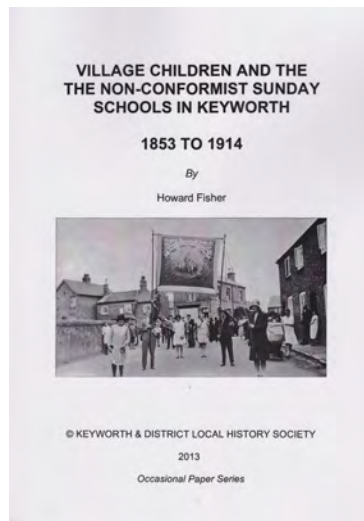


VILLAGE CHILDREN AND THE NON-CONFORMIST SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN KEYWORTH 1853 TO 1914

Howard Fisher; Keyworth & District Local History Society, 2013. £4.00

This 75 page booklet is the latest in the Occasional Paper series published by Keyworth & District Local History Society. It is A5 format and contains several illustrations, tables and charts in telling the story of how the children of this rural village received rudimentary education in the three 'Rs' through the Primitive Methodist and Congregational Sunday Schools of the village.

The booklet also looks at the way the children had to work from quite early ages and the occupations they followed in what was an open village where the main trades were centred



around agriculture and the framework industry of knitting and shoe making.

The way the Sunday Schools raised funds, mainly through annual anniversary events, is explained and the associated expenditures – for example for Easter events around 4 stones of plum cake, three stones of bread, seven pounds of butter, ten pounds of sugar and one pound each of green tea, black tea and coffee were purchased!

Attendances are shown to have been very regular and it is concluded that most village children during the period studied would attend one or other of

the two village Sunday Schools – there is no record of such a School at the Anglican Church.

The booklet is perfect bound and printed on high quality paper and well worth the cost to anyone interested in the subject or who might be contemplating a similar study in another village. The more these small scale studies are undertaken they help to build a larger picture of the influence that Sunday Schools had on the education of

children whose parents could not afford to pay for education (the vast majority) within our county. Such publications are within the scope of many of our local history societies and the publications of the Keyworth Society and others such as that at Norwell are adding to understanding of village life of past times.

This booklet will be available from the Thoroton book stall at future lectures.

New Record Series Book Launch

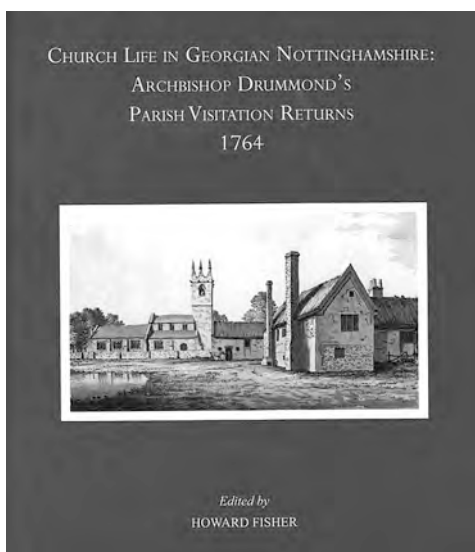
Church Life in Georgian Nottinghamshire: Archbishop Drummond's Parish Visitation Returns, 1764.

The latest in the Society's Record Series books was launched on 23 May 2013 when several members, family and friends gathered in the Great Hall at Southwell to witness the launch of the book by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Right Reverend Paul Butler who had generously allowed time to attend the event.

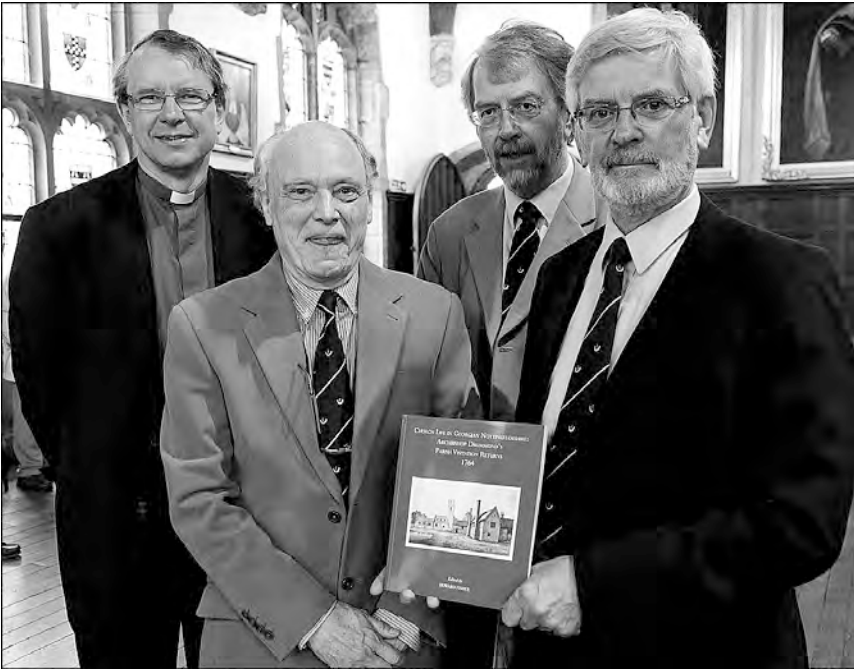
Professor John Beckett made the introductory remarks, followed by the Bishop and the editor, Howard Fisher, gave an outline of the book contents and uses and thanked the several people who had given invaluable assistance and support during the project to produce the book, not least the series General Editor, Adrian Henstock, who was most

supportive during the research process and who gave freely of his time and suggestions in the final draft process and also the production period.

Members of the Record Section have received copies of the book but other members and the general public can purchase a copy from the Society.



John Beckett presents the Bishop with a copy of the book



From back left: Bishop Paul, John Beckett, Adrian Henstock (Record Series General Editor) and Howard Fisher (Editor of the book)



Members listening to the speeches at the launch.

All photos by John Wilson

Autumn Programme

Saturday 12 October 2013 *Archaeology Lecture: The Nottingham Caves Project*
David Strange-Walker; Project Manager, Trent & Peak Archaeology

The Nottingham Caves Survey is a two-year project funded by English Heritage, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, Nottingham City Council and the British Geological Survey, and carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology (now part of the York Archaeological Trust). The project builds on the work of the BGS Register of Caves (1989), which identified and mapped the locations of over 450 caves, and the work of individuals such as Dr Tony Waltham and organisations such as the Nottingham Historical and Archaeological Society, who have worked tirelessly to excavate and record the city's caves. The goals of the current project are to investigate, record, archive, visualise and promote the caves. As well as



text- based descriptions and condition reports, caves are surveyed with a 3D laser scanner and digitally photographed. The resulting coloured 'point cloud' models can be cut and sliced to produce traditional plans and sections, but much more interesting are creation of flythrough and flyround videos.

David is TPA's archaeomatician, with a particular interest in high-definition survey, laser scanning, and HDR photography. David has worked for TPA since the mid-1990s, with interruptions for higher degrees at the University of Nottingham in archaeological science and experimental archaeology, and occasional jobs in sunnier climes.

(Text courtesy of York Archaeological Trust)

Saturday 9 November 2013 *Nottinghamshire History Lecture: The Ties That Bind: The emotional landscape of Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny*
Lizbeth Powell; Nottingham Trent University

The history of the Nottinghamshire village of Bunny is dominated by the Parkyns family and particularly so by the second baronet; Sir Thomas Parkyns. His contribution to the welfare of the residents of Bunny is fulsomely outlined in the commemorative inscriptions above the school house and alms-houses. Inside the parish church, among the many memorials to members of the Parkyns family over two centuries, it is the memorial to Sir Thomas that draws the eye and captures the interest. Here, in his self-penned epitaph, he chose to be remembered as an educated man, an owner of extensive property in the locality. He was also a man who observed the responsibilities of his position within the county fully and showed concern for the health and welfare of his neighbours.



A superficial reading of his life and activities might suggest that he fully conformed to the literary stereotype of a genial country squire, a staple of Restoration comedy. But, besides the formal, social role that he fulfilled, Thomas Parkyns was also a son, husband, parent, grandparent, uncle and friend and it is these intimate relationships that are the focus of enquiry here. Taking the lead from a developing historiographical approach that uses emotional responses as its analytical theme, this paper will exploit a range of public and private source material to

explore the nature and extent of these relationships with a view to exposing the nature and intensity of the emotional connections forged and nurtured throughout the lifetime of this local worthy.

**Saturday 14 December 2013 Neville Hoskins Lecture:
Emma & Edward: The Wilmots and their World
Dr Richard Gaunt Nottingham University**

Long-standing Thoroton members will recall the deep interest shown by their former President, Neville Hoskins, in a portfolio of early-Victorian pen and ink drawings of Nottinghamshire scenes and places, which was brought to his attention by Rosalys Coope in the mid-1990s. After much patient detective work, Neville not only successfully identified many of the more obscure locations featured in the drawings but established the artist as Emma Wilmot, wife of the Duke of Newcastle's agent at Worksop. A second book of Emma's drawings was subsequently discovered at Bassetlaw Museum.

Richard Gaunt has now selected and organised the best of Emma's work in a new publication by Nottinghamshire County Council. Building on Neville's initial findings, Richard has gone on to establish much more than was previously known about the life and times of the artist and, in particular, her husband, tracing their lives across three counties (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Cheshire) and revealing interesting connections with the 'well-to-do' of Victorian society. The results of this research, brought together in Richard's book, will form the basis of this year's Neville Hoskins lecture.



Emma and Edward

Luncheon 2013

The mailing this month includes your booking form for the annual luncheon, to be held this year at Kelham Hall. This prestigious and historic venue is to provide us with a three course lunch for the excellent price of £23 per person.

This year we are marking the centenary of the death of William Phillimore Watts Phillimore, editor and publisher, promoting founder of the Thoroton Society, its Honorary Secretary and later Vice-President, by having as our guests Noel Osborne, Chairman of Phillimore Book Publishing, and his wife Sarah.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with old friends and new on 2nd November and enjoy a special meal together.

Barbara Cast, Hon Sec

Gunthorpe Bridge

Readers will recall issue 68 (Summer 2012) had a painting of Gunthorpe in 1755 on the front cover. As a follow on from that Cam Pearson of Gunthorpe has sent your Editor information about the building of the present Gunthorpe Bridge which was provided to Gunthorpe Parish Council by Mrs. Patricia Smith of Welton, Lincoln whose grandfather, David Purdie, was connected to the firm of Purdie, Lumsden & Co. Ltd. of Newcastle-upon-Tyne who constructed the bridge. The information comes from a book, Works of Civil Engineering Construction published by Albion Publishing Co. Ltd., London on behalf of Purdie, Lumsden & Co. Ltd.

The following are extracts taken from the book.

Built by the Notts County Highways and Bridges Committee, this bridge opens up a new through trunk road in the Midlands and allows through traffic passing north and south to avoid such towns as Loughborough, Nottingham and Mansfield. It crosses the River Trent at Gunthorpe about eight miles from Nottingham, and replaces an old iron toll bridge which was capable of carrying traffic only up to three tons in weight.

New approach roads approximately one-and-three-quarter miles in length are included in the scheme, and these form a bye-pass carrying the main road clear of the villages of Gunthorpe and East Bridgford.

The new bridge is at right angles to the river and consists of three arch spans and two small flood openings, one at either end.

The centre arch has a span of 125 feet, with a rise of 13 feet 6 inches, and is comprised of four arch ribs of rectangular section, the two outer ribs being 2 feet 2 inches wide, and the two inner being 4 feet 6 inches wide, all ribs being 4 feet deep at the springing, diminishing to 3 feet 3 inches at the crown. The two side arches are of similar construction and have a clear span each of 101 feet 6 inches with a rise of 12 feet 6 inches. The flood openings each have a span of 11 feet.

The longitudinal main beams are supported by columns from the main ribs, and these beams in turn carry the secondary beams and decking.

The foundations are of mass concrete and rest on the Keuper Marl about 12 feet 6 inches below the normal summer level of the river.

The abutments have a base area of 63 feet by 33 feet, and are carried up vertical to ground level above which they are divided by the flood openings which are incorporated into them.

The piers have a base area of 89 feet by 28 feet, and are stepped in as they rise until at the level of the ribs they are 42 feet by 8 feet, whence they are carried up vertically to the decking level.

The width of the bridge is 40 feet between parapets having a 24 feet roadway and two 8 feet pavements.

Expansion joints 1 inch wide are provided at each end of every span and these were filled in with bitumastic.

The design of the bridge gives a very pleasing effect, the piers being provided with cut-waters which owing to their shape were difficult to mould in timber, and plaster casts were used for this purpose. The piers and abutments are set forward in front of the face of the arches and are panelled and provided with shields on which the Nottinghamshire Coat of Arms is portrayed. A heavy cornice is provided throughout, and at the piers and abutments this is broken up with dentils.

On the outer faces the spaces between the columns are filled in solid with 5 inch panels giving a more solid appearance.

The parapet is of precast concrete, this having been made and supplied by the Trent Concrete Ltd. of Colwick, and blends well with the rest of the structure.

The steel bars for the reinforcement were supplied by the United Strip and Bar Mills Ltd. of Sheffield, and are placed for the main ribs which were each reinforced by twenty 1¼ inch diameter bars at the crown.

The whole of the aggregate was Trent gravel which was dredged and delivered alongside. The aggregate for the reinforced concrete work, which was ¾ inch to ¼ inch, being all crushed from stones over 1½ inch diameter, the washed Trent sand being supplied by Trent Concrete Ltd.

The cement used was "Caesar" brand, supplied by The Contract and Works Supply Co. of Kirton Lindsey, Lincs., and periodical tests of concrete which were taken direct from the mixer were made with very excellent results.

The steel piling for the dams was the 15 inch by 5 inch universal joist section, and was supplied by the British Steel Piling Co. Ltd

The bridge was opened on November 17th, 1927 by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, when our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. Purdie, and also one of our Directors, Mr. Nixon, were presented to His Royal Highness.

The work throughout was designed and supervised by Mr. J. C. Haller, M.Inst.C.E., the County Surveyor to the Nottingham [sic] County Council.

Ed:

There has been a crossing at Gunthorpe since the Danes established a ferry crossing here. This ferry was mentioned in the Domesday book.

To replace the ferry, The Gunthorpe Bridge Co. raised £7,500 in £10 shares, laid the foundation stone in 1873 and completed the largely iron structure in 1875. In 1925 the toll to cross was 1/- for cars, 2/6 for lorries and 6d for a horse and cart. The County Council bought the old bridge from the Gunthorpe Bridge Company and demolished it although remains can still be seen on both sides of the river and the toll-house is now a restaurant.



Above: The old iron bridge abutment on the north bank of the river with the toll house (now a restaurant) seen from the river bank.

Below: The old iron bridge abutment on the south bank of the river. Accessed from a lay-by on the road to East Bridgford.

Photos: Howard Fisher



The Special Event, Newark Town Hall, 'Laxton & Kibworth: a Story of England' by Michael Wood

Hannah Nicholson reports on the very well attended evening at Newark on 18 July 2013

On the evening of the 18th July, Thoroton members along with those from the Laxton History Group gathered in the ballroom of Newark Town Hall to hear historian and broadcaster Michael Wood talk on the subject of Kibworth, Leicestershire and Laxton, Nottinghamshire. This was a particularly significant event for the Laxton History Group as it coincided with their 50th meeting. To date, Michael has made over 100 television documentaries on a variety of subjects including Alexander the Great, the Trojan War and more recently Domesday as well as Shakespeare. The Story of England, was broadcast by the BBC in 2010 and was filmed largely in Kibworth but the open fields of Laxton were also featured.

Kibworth may not at first seem the obvious place in which to set the story of England but thanks to the influence of Merton College, Oxford, the landowner of the village for much of its history, the manorial records of the parish are incredibly well preserved. Given that these documents are largely complete, Michael showed how Kibworth was the ideal location in which to film the history of England and the story of its people. Whilst Kibworth is blessed with an almost complete set of court rolls, Laxton, as many will know, is the last surviving example of an open field system still operating in England. A clip from Michael's documentary featured Laxton and provided an insight into the Court Leet along with the management and running of the field system. The filming of *The Story of England* was not Michael's first visit to Laxton and his link with the village dates back to the 1980s. In recognition of this longstanding association with the village, Michael was



promoted to the position of 'Stakeholder'. He was presented with its sign of office- a mini stake made from one which had once marked the boundary of Mill Field, Laxton.

In his lecture, Michael explained how he aimed to tell the whole story of England from the Roman period to the twentieth century by looking at one place through the eyes of its people rather than those of the ruling elite. By involving current residents of Kibworth, some of whom could trace their families back within the village to the Norman Conquest, Michael highlighted the importance of local history in informing us about the wider history of England and its people. Largely through archaeological excavations, *The Story of England* uncovered the village's history which in turn was the history of us all.

Partly as a result of *The Story of England*, many more villages and communities have developed an interest in local history and community archaeology renewing interest and discussion to the field. In many cases these small scale projects at a local level have been aided by the financial support of the Heritage Lottery Fund whereby some villages have been able to produce books and pamphlets regarding subjects of local interest. To see Michael's work at both Laxton and Kibworth in helping this resurgence of interest in local history is very encouraging and should be applauded.

Thanks go to the Society for organising the event along with the refreshments following Michael's lecture. Thanks also must be paid to David Hoskins for handling the technology and PowerPoint during the lecture.

Those interested in the evening's lecture and wishing to know more about Kibworth should be encouraged to buy Michael's book entitled *The Story of England*

(2010) ISBN: 0670919047. RRP £9.99.



Michael Wood at the lectern with David Hoskins operating the technology.



Part of the audience in the Ballroom at Newark Town Hall for the lecture

(Photos. by Howard Fisher)

Welbeck Abbey State Rooms Visit

Apologies to those members who asked to go on the tours of the Welbeck Abbey State Rooms on 10th September and have been disappointed. There is still a waiting list of about twelve members for any late cancellations for this year. However, I am going to try and book another opportunity sometime in 2014 if possible.

More details about this later if we are able to book again. In the meantime I am keeping the disappointed ones for this year on file.

Alan Langton

Bromley House Catalogue Goes Online

A new catalogue to the book collections of Bromley House Library, the private subscription library in Angel Row, Nottingham, is now available online. Thanks to a substantial Heritage Lottery Fund grant supplemented by other contributions all 40,000 books (c. 200 of them pre-1801) have now been re-catalogued over a two year period, enabling book searches to be undertaken from home computers. A notable feature of the project was that the work was undertaken by a handful of part-time professional cataloguers directing a large team of specially trained volunteers.

The catalogue - named 'Bromcat' - can be accessed via the Bromley House website at www.bromleyhouse.org. It was officially launched by local philanthropists Sir Harry and Lady Carol Djanogly at a reception on 20th June. The Library's holdings include substantial Local History collections relating to Nottinghamshire, including rare volumes such as first editions of Dr Thoroton's *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* of 1677 and a copy of John Blackner's *History of Nottingham* of 1815 with additional illustrations. The Library's own holdings are supplemented by two individual collections accumulated by former members – the Nottingham antiquarian James Ward, who gave his books in 1914, and book collector Michael Dobbin, a former Hon. Secretary of the Thoroton Society, whose collection was deposited on loan in 1999.

Bromley House Library was founded in 1816 and moved into its present home – a former Georgian town house built in c 1752 by the prominent Nottingham banking family of Smith – in 1822. The superb historic interior and large garden forms a delightful 'time-capsule' and quiet retreat in the heart of the city.

The new catalogue is one of a series of initiatives leading up to the Library's Bi-Centenary in 2016. Others include taking back most of the neglected Garden Wing into library use, and this is currently undergoing conversion.

For many years the Thoroton Society maintained its own library and committee room in Bromley House. This now serves as a meeting and lecture room but is still called 'The Thoroton Room'. Society members are very welcome to join the Library. The current subscription stands at £80 per year, which includes all members of a family at the same address as well as one's 'servants' !

Adrian Henstock

Thoroton Book Stocks

For some years, stocks of the Society's publications, including back numbers of *Transactions* and the publications in the Records Series, have been held by the Nottinghamshire Archives. Readers of the Society's website are directed to the Archives if they wish to purchase a volume. This has proved a very successful method of retailing our publications to the general public. Most of the Thoroton stocks are currently held at a warehouse on the Glaisdale industrial estate which is used by the Nottinghamshire County Council. For various reasons, the warehouse is now overfull and we need to remove our book stocks. The reserve stock will in future be held in the loft at the Nottingham Mechanics along with our Book Stall stock. As a result, we will be offering more books for sale on the Bookstall in future. Some books will be offered at reduced prices in order to clear those lines which are not selling. The Nottinghamshire Archives will maintain a small stock for sale to users of the Archives and for internet sales, as in the past.

Thoroton Research Group

The Thoroton Research Group was set up a few years ago to enable members who are actively carrying out historical and archaeological research to meet together and share ideas.

The next meeting of the Group will be held on Saturday 28th September in the Boardroom of the Nottingham Mechanics, starting at 10.30 am. The Boardroom is on the first floor but there is good lift access. New members would be very welcome.

If any member of the Group, or someone who wishes to join, has a research topic that they wish to discuss, please contact John Wilson (0115 926 6175, or e-mail wilsonicus@btinternet.com).

Thoroton Saturday Lectures

Please note that as from the January 2014 meeting, lectures at the New Mechanics Institute in Nottingham will start at 2.30 p.m., 15 minutes earlier than in the past.

This is to allow more leeway at the end of meetings before the group which follows us into the meeting room needs to enter to set-up the room for their activity.

Nottinghamshire Archive User Group

The User Group was founded in 1994, and offers support for the staff of Nottinghamshire Archives as well as acting as a conduit for discussion about policy and as a pressure group in relation to the county council.

The Group is chaired by Professor John Beckett, and includes Archive Office staff, representatives of different organisations (including the Thoroton Society), and elected 'users'. Unfortunately the Group is struggling to elect users! It currently has two of its elected positions vacant.

These are both good and bad times for the Archive Office. They are good because work will begin in the autumn on a £2.5m extension project, which will see an improved search room for readers, and sufficient new storage space for the next twenty years. Times are bad, or at least not so good, because digitisation is changing the Archive world. Fewer readers come through the doors. Source materials which were once available only in the archives are often now online. The User Group regularly discusses the implication of these changes for the delivery of the service.

So there are challenges to be faced, and for that reason the User Group really would like to recruit new members. If you feel you can make a contribution in this area, and can attend two meetings a year (on a Tuesday afternoon at 4.30) please get in touch with Mark Dorrington at Nottinghamshire Archives: Mark.Dorrington@nottscc.gov.uk, or John.Beckett@nottingham.ac.uk

First World War Commemorations

The commemorations of the First World War begin in 2014, and already a great number of organisations have announced their plans. The major offering in Nottinghamshire is a programme called 'Trent to Trenches', and you can find out more about this at <http://www.eastmidlandsrfa.co.uk/news/rfca/2012/february/trent-trenches-nottinghamshire-great-war>. The main contact is Faith.Blakemore@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

The Thoroton Society will be joining with Nottinghamshire Local History Association to run a one-day school at Ravenshead Village Hall on Saturday 25 October 2014.

The day will begin with an overview lecture by Professor Chris Wrigley of the University of Nottingham. After that we are inviting contributors to offer 20 minute (maximum!) papers on their WW1 research. The aim of the conference is to examine different aspects of the Home Front through World War I across Nottinghamshire.

If you, or a group you belong to, would like to contribute, please email John.Beckett@nottingham.ac.uk with your proposal. It is hoped that some (or even all) of the papers delivered on the day will be written up and published in our Transactions.

Meantime, members are asked to keep 25 October 2014 free and to support this joint initiative.

Letter from a Member – Victor Okrafo-Smart

I have just returned from an historic, emotional visit to Nigeria from where my ancestor was kidnapped, taken as a slave in 1814. Fortunately, he was rescued by the British following the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1807.

He was resettled in Freetown, Sierra Leone in July 1814. He was able to tell his children about his family history, his ethnic origin & that he was a Prince from a Royal Household. He told them various aspects of his life & the village he came from. Most importantly, he wanted his story to be passed down the generations. I was told about the story in 1982 on holiday visit to Sierra Leone from where I originated. Hearing that my ancestor's son & grandchildren were Missionaries in 1850s & 1860s, prompted me to do further research, resulting in me writing & publishing my book *OKRAFO. Over a Century in the lives of a Liberated African Family 1816-1930*. (ISBN: 978-0-9554724-0-4).

As a result of the book on sale on the internet, I was contacted by an academic in Nigeria who gave me a link, as a result of which I was able to trace the village my ancestor was taken from. To my amazement I found out that he was a Prince from the Royal Household of Emeto in UMUOZU, in IMO State. My visit was a remarkable experience. The traditional ruler is a descendant of my ancestor's brother!! My ancestor called OKOROAFOR had four brothers. I met the descendants of three of his brothers!

Due to their tradition, because my ancestor has Royal Heritage, I was inaugurated as Prince NWA AFOR, son of the ancient Kingdom of ISU.

I am aware that my story is totally irrelevant to my membership of The Thoroton Society. The truth is that I am so excited about my story, that I thought you might be interested to read about this. My apologies for taking up your valuable time.

Ed: This is such a heart warming story that it just has to be shared with our Society members.

I have sought to make the Newsletter inclusive to the stories of members – our Transactions and Record series volumes are the academic side of the Thoroton Society whilst the Newsletter is intended to be more relaxed and to include news, not only of county activities, but of our members.

I was, therefore, delighted to be passed this letter which was addressed to Judith, our Membership Secretary, and to be able to include it in this issue.

Thank you Victor, for sharing it with us.

Snippets

Civil War Tour - Saturday 14 September 10am

Find out about Newark's Civil War history and the impact it had on our community during a walkabout tour of the town. Starting from the Old Magnus Buildings, Appletongate, next to the Palace Theatre, we will visit sites including the Parish church, Castle and the Governor's House. The tour lasts approximately one hour.

Any donations received will go towards the development of the Old Magnus Buildings soon to be our new museum and National Civil War Centre. Booking essential please call 01636 655730 or email museums@nsdc.info

Absolute Beginners Family History Course – Wednesdays 18 and 25 September and 2 October at Nottingham Central Library.

Booking is essential and enquiries from 0115-915-2873 or email local_studies.library@nottinghamcity.gov.uk The cost is £25 and the courses run from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Talk: Wartime Nottinghamshire – Thursday 19 September 2013, Floor 1 Nottingham Central Library. 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Cost £2.00 and booking is essential through Local Studies as above.

Howard Heeley gives an overview of who came to Nottinghamshire during World War Two.

Library Quest: Visual Bygones – Tuesday 8 October; 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Nottingham Central Library Local Studies Department. Free but call 0115-915-2825 or visit the help desk on the ground floor of the library. This is a screening of some films held in Local Studies and use the library's photographic collection to illuminate your family history.

Library Talk: Canary Girls of Chilwell – Saturday 12 October 2-3 p.m. Nottingham Central Library Floor 1 but booking is essential.

Maureen Rushton will be talking about the history of Number 6 shell filling factory at Chilwell during World War One.

Library Quest: Visual Bygones – Tuesday 19 November 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Nottingham Central Library. Free, booking as above.

See the range of newspapers available at the library for current information and family history research, looking at print, microfilm and online versions of newspaper.

Latin in Medieval Britain: sources, language, and lexicography - Oxford, 12-14 December 2013

2013 is the centenary of the proposal for a new dictionary of Medieval Latin that led to the start of many dictionary projects across Europe. It also sees the completion of the final fascicule of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources. To mark these events, the DMLBS will be holding a conference in Oxford from 12th to 14th December. The conference will provide a forum for the consideration of British Medieval Latin in its historical, intellectual and linguistic context, examining the diversity of medieval sources and genres, and relevant issues in lexicography and linguistics. Our distinguished list of speakers includes Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute), Mary Garrison (York), Andy Orchard (Toronto), and Richard Sharpe (Oxford), as well as the longest-serving editor of the DMLBS, David Howlett. To book, and for more information, please visit www.dmlbs.ox.ac.uk/conference-2013. The DMLBS gratefully acknowledges the support of the John Fell OUP Research Fund for this event. A limited number of places with the conference fee waived are available for graduate students and other early career researchers: please see the website for details of eligibility and how to apply.

Nottinghamshire Archives Events

Wednesday Workshops at Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham. Cost £4.00 per place. Booking essential.

16 October 2013: 2.30 p.m. Poor Law Records

20 November 2013: 2.30 p.m. Cemetery records

Introducing Archives. Free other than Retford event where a charge of £1.00 is made for refreshments.

10 October 2013; 3.00 p.m. Introduction to Family History. Worksop Library. 01909 535353

6 November 2013; 7.00 p.m. Introduction to House History. Retford Library. 01777 708724

15 January 2014; 3.00 p.m. Introduction to Archives. Mansfield Library. 01623 651337

10 February 2014; 3.00 p.m. Introduction to Archives. Southwell Library. 01636 812148

6 March 2014; 2.30 p.m. Introduction to Archives. Arnold Library. 0115 920 2247

Details, contact the individual library.

Lunchtime Talks at Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham. Cost £4.00 per place. Booking essential.

18 October 2013; 1.00 p.m. Nottingham's Green Spaces. The Green Spaces Team, Department of History University of Nottingham

1 November 2013; 1.00 p.m. Emma Wilmot's Sketchbooks; A Historical Detective Story Dr. Richard Gaunt

15 November 2013: 1.00 p.m. The River Leen: Past and Present Chris Matthews, author *River Green Gateway*

29 November 2013: 1.00 p.m. Changing Landscapes of Nottingham Chris Weir

Ask an Archivist; Library Surgeries. Obtain advice on your local and family history research.

Thursday 24 October 2013; 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. Carlton Library. 0115 987 0276

Thursday 14 November; 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Ravenshead library. 01623 794634

Monday 9 December 2013; 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. Bircotes library. 01302 742384

Monday 20 January 2014; 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Balderton Library. 01636 703930

Thursday 20 February 2014; 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Stapleford Library. 0115 939 9178

Wednesday 12 March 2014; 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. East Leake Library. 01509 852349

Further information from the libraries or Nottinghamshire Archives

Christmas 2013: Death at the Archives.

Stories of murder, skulduggery and dastardly deeds from letters and diaries held at Nottinghamshire Archives.

Friday, 13 December 2013 at 2.30 p.m. at Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham.

Cost £4.00. Booking essential.

Field Names

Rebecca Gregory, a student with the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham is currently undertaking a PhD on the field-names of Nottinghamshire. The section she is currently working on includes the parishes of Rolleston, Fiskerton cum Morton, Southwell, Halloughton, Upton, Bleasby, Thurgarton, Hoveringham, Gonalston, Epperstone, Oxton, Edingley, Halam, Kirklington and Farnsfield. She has been able to

collect an enormous amount of information on field-names prior to 1900 from various written documents, but she would ideally like to be able to collect some information on naming in the 20th and 21st centuries. In order to do this, she would wish to speak to farmers or other residents of these parishes who would be willing to talk to her about the names by which they know fields, streams, woodland or other features.

She has contacted the Society in the hope that some of our members might be able to help with this project. Subsequently she would be very happy to share any of her research with the Society, hoping to illuminate some of the lesser-covered aspects of Nottinghamshire's history. Her project will also involve the digital mapping of names and data to produce field and distribution-maps with exact geo-referencing, and she intends to make this information available for future research.

If you are able to help Rebecca please contact her on 01664 822208 or by email at aexrkg@nottingham.ac.uk .

Bernard Bielby

As mentioned in the Members News section at the front of this issue, Bernard joined the Society in 1947. Is he therefore the longest person with continuous membership or does anyone know of a current member who joined before Bernard? Please let the editor know if there is any such member.

Saturday Seminar Programme

The very popular Saturday Seminar series starts its next programme of talks on Saturday 12 October 2013 with a talk by Dr. Richard Jones of the University of Leicester.

The talks are held at the Department of History, Lenton Lodge, University of Nottingham with good local transport connections and free car parking in the immediate vicinity of the venue.

The starting time is 10 a.m. and there are hot drinks available before the time of commencement at 50p per cup and the cost of the talk is £5.00 which includes drinks and biscuits at a half-way break.

Other dates are 9 November 2013 when the talk will be given by the Green Spaces Team led by Professors John Beckett and Paul Elliott about their Connected Communities Project involving Nottingham's post-enclosure green spaces, and 14 December when Dr. David Marcombe will be welcomed to give a lecture.

The seminars are very popular indeed and frequently attract audiences of upwards of 50 to 60 people, several of whom go on to enjoy a Thoroton lecture in the afternoons because the Seminar series always takes place on the morning of Thoroton lecture Saturdays.

Transaction Back Issues

The supply of back issues of *Transactions* which are available at very small cost from the Society's book stall at lectures has recently been added to by the donation of a large number by long-standing member Judge Heald. Sadly the Judge and his wife have recently had to move into a nursing home and have given his library of *Transactions* to the Society in the hope that they will be of use to other members.

We thank Judge and Mrs. Heald for their generosity.

Nottingham City Council Library and Information Services.

3 September	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Angel Row Forum for anyone with an active interest in local history
6 September	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Library Tours. Find out all you need to know about the library.
10 September	10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	Basford Library Talk by the Woodland Trust
	10.30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	St Anne's Valley Library Talk subject TBC
11 September	6 to 7.30 p.m.	Angel Row Talk; Liberation – A Journey Through Women's History
12 September	2.30 p.m.	Heritage Open Day tour of the Central Library
13 September	10.30 a.m.	Heritage Open Day tour of the Central Library
18, 25 September and 2 October		Absolute Beginners Family History course at Central Library
18 September	2 to 4 p.m.	Central Library – Writing Memory led by Roberta Dewa
19 September	2. to 3.30 p.m.	Central Library – Talk on Wartime Nottinghamshire by Howard Heeley
19 September	10 to 11 a.m.	Sherwood Library – Talk Nottinghamshire Witches by Christine Davies
23 and 30 September	2 to 3 p.m.	Bakersfield Library – Discover Your Local History, Carlton Road and Hill
26 September	2 to 3 p.m.	Central Library – Talk a History of Photography by Sue Clayton
29 September	2.30 to 5.30 p.m.	Meadows Library – Mushaira National Poetry Day

Details of these and other events during October and November are available from local and Central Libraries.



Above: Jacksdale basin sculpture



Top right: Teversal Manor from the garden.

Centre: Skegby Manor

Below: Cruick Cottage, Skegby

Below right: Thoroton members at Old Annesley Church with the memorial to George Chaworth-Musters on the left.



Photos: Howard Fisher