

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 79

Spring 2015



The speakers from the 2014 Luncheon

Top left: Adrian Henstock responding to the toast to the Society

Top right: Penny Messenger proposing the toast to the Society

Left: Professor Charles Watkins delivering his talk on the Old Oaks of Sherwood Forest

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
The County's Principal Historical Society

Visit the Thoroton Society Website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership	£25.00
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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 for details: John Wilson (email: wilsonicus1@gmail.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

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

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* 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.

LECTURES

Lectures, unless stated otherwise in the programme booklet, are held at the Nottingham Mechanics, 3, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with the bookstall open from 2 p.m.

DEADLINES for Newsletter items are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November of each 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, DVD, as an email attachment or sent for scanning. Preferred size 300dpi JPEG. Images will be adjusted to suit the publication.

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Editorial

Readers know that I am not in the habit of writing editorials for the newsletters but I think this is an occasion when one is justified.

This is the last issue of the *Newsletter* that I am editing and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped and supported me since I took on the task with the Winter 2008 issue. Together we have been able to develop the newsletter, introducing some colour and including short articles that have seemed to me to be of interest to members and which would not otherwise have been published. I hope that I have been correct in this assumption.

Over the years Council has fully backed the developments that I have introduced and members' comments have always been good and positive. Where comments and suggestions have been made I have considered them and, where practicable, have incorporated them into the product.

I thank you all, contributors, Council members and general members for your help and encouragement in what has been a most enjoyable and rewarding period for me. I am particularly grateful for all the very kind and considerate comments that have been made to me since my retirement from the role has become known.

I must also acknowledge the help that I have received from the printing firm, Adlards of Ruddington; they have been most helpful in making suggestions and tweaking my files to best suit their printing machines. Contact with them, whether electronically or by personal visit, has always been a pleasure.

I should further like to thank my wife, Jackie, and David Bagley for the proof-reading of each issue and finding my typos and occasional poor grammar. Without their eagle-eyed work the issues would have been much poorer in quality.

I am delighted that John Wilson and his fiancée will be taking on the role as joint editors of the *Newsletter*. I am confident that they will receive the same support and help that I have enjoyed and be able to take the *Newsletter* forward with fresh ideas and developments.

As promised in the Winter issue this one carries photographs from the Joint Day School event at Ravenshead and from the annual luncheon at Edwinstowe.

Howard

Meeting Reports all photographs in this section by David Hoskins

The Nottingham History Lecture, 8 November 2014. Teresa Phipps - Gendered Justice? Women, law and community in fourteenth century Nottingham.

Report by Hannah Nicholson

On the 8th November we welcomed Teresa Phipps from the University of Nottingham.

Teresa's lecture was based upon her recently submitted Ph.D. thesis which used the records from Nottingham's borough courts to explore the legal actions and status of women within the town using those from the courts of Chester and Winchester by way of comparison.

Women were present within all areas of commercial life and appear in the records as both creditors and debtors. Though in the majority of cases, married women appeared in the records alongside their husbands, Teresa argued that this was not so much evidence that their legal identity and responsibilities were subsumed by their husband but rather that they acted together in court matters. Single women were accountable to their debts

within court and were able to act as creditors in their own right recalling any money owing to them.



Many of the cases brought to court by women were involved with the production and sale of food and drink such as the case from 1395 brought

against Richard and Agnes Brass by Isabella Whechnor for the 2s she was owed for ale with other cases highlighting women's involvement within the textile trade. Instances of assault also featured regularly amongst the borough court cases with women being more likely to be presented to court as the perpetrator of violence rather than the victim of it.

Teresa concluded her talk by suggesting that on the whole, the borough courts of Nottingham were not concerned with gender or marital status. Men and women were, on the whole, treated equally in the eyes of the court. Both were held to be accountable to the same standards of behaviour in economic and social life and were equally able to bring cases of misdemeanours against them to the borough court.

The Neville Hoskins Lecture and Newstead Abbey Book Launch, 13 December 2014

Report by Adrian Henstock

This lecture took the rare format of being combined with the launch of the latest *Record Series* publication. This volume is itself also unusual in that it takes the form of a monograph - a whole book devoted to a specific topic - in this case the architectural history of Newstead Abbey over 800 years. The previous precedent for such a publication was a similar study of Nottingham Castle issued in

1989.

The new book gathers together in a single chronological narrative a series of articles on different phases of the Abbey's architectural history published in *Transactions* over a period of 35 years by our former President, Dr. Rosalys Coope.

Before the lecture began copies of the book were formally presented to Rosalys, to her son-in-law, Professor

Robert Lumley, who had originally suggested the volume, and to Pete Smith, who has both contributed to and edited the publication. Rosalys then spoke and explained that some of her early articles had needed revising and extending in the light of new research - particularly an archaeological survey of the building fabric by Colin Brydon and the evidence offered by historical images

of the house recently identified by Pete Smith and other collaborators. These revisions have been incorporated into the new book.

The lecture was then delivered on behalf of both authors by Pete - who is a retired English Heritage buildings surveyor and a member of the Society's Council - illustrated by a selection of the superb drawings, paintings, and engravings of the Abbey since c1700 which he has accumulated. These even include views of c1818 painted on a set of Sevres dinner plates.

He proceeded to demonstrate skillfully how these images had been used by Rosalys and himself to unravel the complex architectural development of the building from its foundation as a priory in c1163. For example Newstead is most unusual amongst Augustinian foundations for have a church without a south aisle, its position being taken up largely by the north cloister walk, but this is ingeniously disguised externally by the symmetrical West Front which

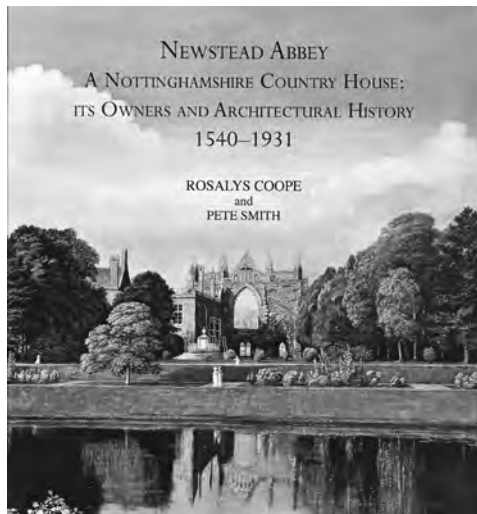
still stands today.

As a result of the Dissolution of the Monasteries the priory was acquired in 1539 by the Byron family who adapted it as a country house and lived in it under the name of Newstead Abbey until 1817 when it was sold by the 6th Lord Byron the poet. Each new generation of the family made their mark on the fabric and layout, and Rosalys and Pete wished to emphasize the major contribution of the 5th Lord Byron in the Georgian period. He lavished so much money on 'Gotheking' the house and the park that he virtually bankrupted the estate by the 1770s, earning himself the perhaps undeserved epithet of the 'Wicked Lord'. His building legacy still survives in the house and particularly in the grounds. Here his passion for re-enacting naval battles by scaled-down sailing ships motivated him to erect mock forts known as the Battery, Kennels Castle, and the (now lost) Folly Castle around the lake.

However Rosalys and Pete were

anxious to remind us that much of the Abbey's fabric which we see today is not due to the Byrons but to the Wildman family between 1817 and 1859 and their successors the Webbs between 1860 and 1925. In particular Colonel Thomas Wildman - who came from a *nouveau riche* family - set about a major programme of what was known to contemporaries as 'early-ing up' the house in neo-medieval style; Rosalys considers that his emphasis on its antiquity was probably to compensate for the absence of an ancient ancestral heritage himself. He rebuilt and extended much of the work of the earlier builders.

The lecture was an excellent introduction to the book which is lavishly illustrated with 112 plates and diagrams, many in full colour, and a worthy tribute to Dr. Rosalys Coope, especially as she undertook to work on the textural revisions at the age of 93.



LEFT: Rosalys Coope and Pete Smith. (photo: David Hoskins)

RIGHT: *Newstead Abbey: a Nottinghamshire Country House: its Owners and Architectural History 1540-1931.* Thoroton Society Record Series, vol. 48, 214 pp. (2014). ISBN 978-0-902719-26-2

The book is free to Record series subscribers. Otherwise Price £20 (£25 post paid, UK; overseas at cost) or £15 to members of main Society (£20 post paid UK; overseas at cost). For further information contact the Hon. Treasurer John Wilson (wilsonianus1@gmail.com).

The Norah Witham Lecture, 10 January 2015

Gwilym Dodd - Agincourt: England's Hollow Victory

Report by David Crook

2015 is an important year for centenaries, and during it we are to have three lectures based around them. Later there will be papers on the age of the battle of Waterloo and on Magna Carta, but the year began with the January lecture by Dr. Gwilym Dodd of the University of Nottingham, about the battle of Agincourt (now Azincourt), fought on St. Crispin's day (25 October) 1415, which he argued turned out to be only a hollow victory for the English.

In the battle King Henry V defeated a larger French force in a remarkable victory which seemed to sustain his claim to the throne of France, and which was eventually immortalised in one of Shakespeare's most accomplished history plays nearly 200 years later.

Dr. Dodd argued that, although it was indisputedly a great military victory, the battle raised questions about the quality of the king's leadership, and had the effect of enticing him to pursue over-ambitious and ultimately unrealistic political and military goals.

The English force consisted of about 6,000 men, 5,000 of them being archers, while the French probably had about four times that number, including about 10,000 men-at-arms. With such odds the English victory was remarkable, but they were greatly assisted by French mistakes, especially permitting the English to make the best use of the

terrain and allowing themselves to be drawn into battle prematurely, before they were fully ready. It could therefore be argued that the French lost the battle rather than that the English won it.

The English had been in a weak position because of earlier strategic



errors which led the army to a long and circuitous march towards Calais after the campaign began with the debilitating siege of Harfleur; a more sensible option, to sail back to England, was prevented by the king's rashness, resulting from his personal pride and impetuosity.

Nevertheless, the victory cost the French many of their leading men, who were either killed or taken prisoner, giving the victorious English the opportunity to conquer more of the French kingdom. Normandy was taken by 1419, and

in 1420 the treaty of Troyes led to Henry's marriage to the French King's daughter, Katherine, and his acceptance as heir to the French throne. However, and after further relatively unsuccessful campaigning to take the rest of the country from the Dauphin, Henry died a few weeks before his father-in-law in 1422, and never became King of France.

The war for the control over the rest of the kingdom continued for three more decades under his ineffective son, Henry VI, and was eventually lost in 1453.

Ultimately, Agincourt proved to be a hollow victory because it aroused unrealistic English expectations for continued success in the war to claim the French throne for the Plantagenet dynasty.

The positive impact of the lecture was indicated by the number and quality of the questions with which the session ended. They ranged over matters such as the recruitment of archers and their role in battle, the strategic considerations

behind the shape of the campaign, and the controversial question of the relative strengths of the two armies, some other historians having recently argued that the relative superiority of the French over the English has been much exaggerated.

Dr. Dodd's answers to these and other queries elicited a very positive response, and the lecture was much enjoyed by the Society's members who attended. The lecture proved to be an excellent start to what promises to be an exciting programme throughout the year.

*Photographs from the Day School, 'Home Front',
which was reported upon in the
Winter 2014 issue*



The Lowdham Book Shop stand enjoyed a lot of interest with its display of books on the subject of the First World War



Displays on the stage being inspected by attendees



The Thoroton Society stall was manned by Philip Jones



The two Johns - John Beckett and John Parker were responsible for the concept of a joint event between the Thoroton Society and the Nottinghamshire Local History Association

George Green's Theorem

By George Murfet

During the autumn months of 2014, the Lakeside Pavilion exhibited documents recalling the life and times of George Green (1793-1841), the miller and mathematician who lived, if not in total obscurity, certainly without deserved celebrity status. In fact, it seems that without good fortune and the persistence of others, he might not have been recognised in his lifetime as the farsighted mathematician and physicist he was. But Green's Theorem is not the end of matters for there are, although perhaps not for the layman, Green's measure, Green's functions, Green's identities and Green's matrix.

Essentially, young George Green was self-taught and even though his formal education was decidedly limited it must have been overwhelmingly thorough in that it stimulated him at such a receptive, if tender, age. When eight years old, he attended Goodacre's Academy on Upper Parliament Street for only four terms since by then he had learnt all the mathematics it could teach him. Thereafter, it is thought that the headmaster of the Free Grammar School, John Toplis, might well have benefitted this precocious talent by using his own translations of the works of the French mathematician, La Place; the notation not being common in England at that time. Furthermore, the Nottingham Subscription Library, still known as Bromley House and still on Angel Row, also provided assistance with its science literature together with the conversations and interests in such subjects by its members. When in 1828, he published *An Essay on the Applications of Mathematical Analysis to the Theories of Electricity and Magnetism*, 51 of the library's members subscribed for copies, then

priced at seven shillings and sixpence each. It was only in later years that he attended the University of Cambridge.

In 1829, his father, also named George, died leaving his son financially well placed. Young George was then able to lease out the milling business and additionally live upon the rents from land in Sneinton and houses in Nottingham; Sneinton



George Green's graveslab
Photo George Murfet

being a separate village when the mill had been originally bought. George spent the years from 1833 until 1839 at Cambridge and became a fellow of Caius College, thinking of himself as having permanently left the roots of his upbringing. Also left behind were his children and the mother of his children. However, when confronted by failing health, George returned to

Sneinton rightly forecasting that he would die there; he did so, on the 31st May 1841 at 3 Notintine Place. When Clara, George's youngest daughter, finally became heir to her father's considerable fortune it failed to bring lasting happiness, as also was the case for other family members, particularly his youngest son George: there being three generations named George Green.

A hundred years later, in May 1941, the area was bombed and in the years that followed Notintine Place was not a salubrious place to live. Fortunately, the bombing was close to the birthplace of the founder of the Salvation Army and so the whole area saw, in the late 20th century, redevelopment and a purpose-built complex there, dedicated to the memory of General William Booth.

It is accepted, and perhaps only natural, that George Green, the mathematician, would only ever be acknowledged by his peers, even if belatedly and solely by good fortune. What he eventually achieved in classical physics within the nineteenth century, and how it continues to influence other fields of study, owes more to chance, and heresay, than the scientific method.

Within the twentieth century, whilst his windmill fell into decline through the use of steam driven roller mills Green's reputation grew among distinguished mathematicians and physicists and in 1993 tributes were paid to his memory at the University of Nottingham, Green's mill and St. Stephen's Church during the month of July; with a dedication of a plaque

to him at Westminster Abbey on Friday, 16th of July, 1993.

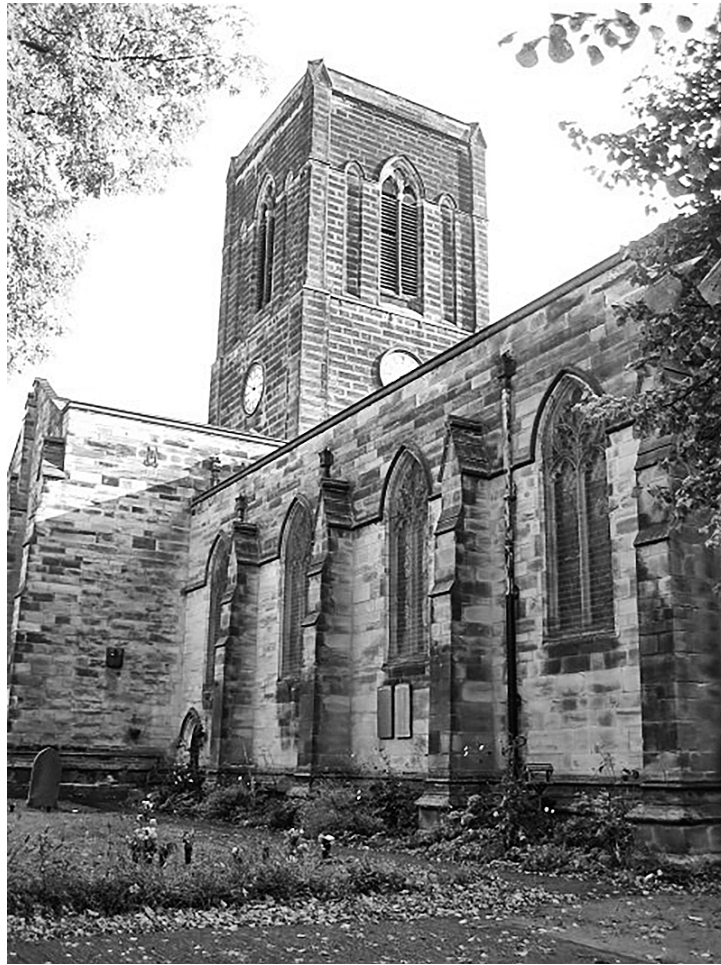
In contrast, the family grave, in the churchyard of St. Stephen's, is most disappointing with a mere slip of paper, pinned to a stave, indicating directions. Horizontal in construction, the grave's extremely large surface area is intended to include the details of other family members to be added when deaths occurred. The surface is still exposed to all weathers, and erosion makes the wording more difficult to read than that on the headstones of other graves, that fortunately have been up-rooted and placed against the extensive church wall. Virtually all the graves originate from the 19th century and the vast majority are vertical with clearly cut wording by the stonemasons. It is a great pity that the Green family grave cannot be highlighted and become a feature of St. Stephen's.

When a child and visiting my grandfather during the war, I was aware of the dilapidated state of Green's Windmill, even before its 1947 destructive fire, since the houses at the top of Roberts Street, off Windmill Lane, each had a long (dig for victory) garden that almost reached the mill; my granddad having one such garden. Those gardens are now part of the grounds belonging to the windmill. There

was always an alternative approach to the windmill via Belvoir Hill and an uncle, when not on overseas RAF wartime duties, would park his

day.

St. Stephen's Church (nowadays, the parish of St. Stephen's with St. Matthias) was attended by



St. Stephern's Church.
(Photo George Murfet)

generations of the Green family and much later by my own paternal forebears but my grandfather was born in the year that the youngest George Green died: there being no overlap and so no contact. The church, Anglo-Catholic in its churchmanship, is austere and imposing, and undoubtedly commands the attention of every passer-by. Situated in the midst of mature trees, the grounds are protected by a high, red-brick wall, on the main side of which runs Sneinton Road, a bus route leading to Colwick Woods. On the opposite side, Newark Street used to run down to the 1874 built, three-sided factory of I & R Morley, the hosiery manufacturers, but alas no longer.

D. M. Cannell's publication *George Green, Mathematician and Physicist, the Background to his Life and Work, 1793-1841* is highly recommended if the literature available

transporter there. During all those years, coupled with the proximity, it is surprising that no mention was ever made of a mill-working mathematician who caught the attention of William Thompson (Lord Kelvin), Julian Schwinger, Freeman Dyson and others up to the present

at Green's Windmill (working and processing flour) is insufficient. For those interested in George's domestic life and the pursuit of the fellowship, and imagining that never having been married, and yet fathering seven children, could be a 'good read', let me not spoil the ending.

Nottinghamshire Pillboxes

An enquiry has been received about military pillboxes in the county together with other military defence sites relating to WW2. If any member has knowledge of the siting of any such structures and/or associated gun emplacements it would be very greatly appreciated if contact with details of location could be made with the Editor of the *Newsletter*, Howard Fisher.

Thank you in anticipation of the help of members in this regard.

Nottinghamshire Surnames

By Clifford Hughes

This is intended to be the first, introductory, article in what I hope (subject to the wishes of the editor) will be a series of articles in this newsletter about Nottinghamshire surnames. The idea is to list surnames which are strongly associated with the county, with some discussion of certain names which appear of particular interest: in this connection I will take the opportunity of writing a few words about those names occurring in my own family tree.

I should add that the series of articles first appeared in the journal of the Notts Family History Society (FHS), and I acknowledge their support during the few years it has taken me to write the series.

I have approached the task alphabetically, and as an illustration of my intentions this article explores surnames beginning with the letter 'a'.

I became interested in the subject because of mine and my brother's work on our family tree, but also because of the number of 'lists' of names included in books I have acquired over the years, as set out below. These suggest that some names historically occurred frequently in the county but less often, or even not at all, elsewhere.

Because of the population movements which have taken place in the last 100 or so years, I have looked at 19th century distributions of surnames. Of the greatest help has been the gbnames website (gbnames.publicprofiler.org), which shows the geographical distribution of most surnames for 1881. Even as late as that date, despite the population movements of the Industrial Revolution, some names are limited to Nottinghamshire alone. I also have information from pre-1881 censuses, and access to some 17th century documents provided in electronic form by the FHS.

The lists of surnames I have used to 'feed into' the National Trust site come from two principal sources. The first is the Hearth Tax returns for the county for 1664 and 1674, which, as I understand it, don't include all households - there was evasion and under-recording, and the 1664 returns do not include Nottingham itself or some other settlements. Nevertheless, one has to work with the best information available. The second source I have used is the regimental histories of the county regiments - Sherwood Foresters, Sherwood Rangers, and South Notts Hussars. Most of these include Rolls of Honour, or occasionally the names of all those who served. I am fortunate in having bought, over many years, almost a complete set of these regimental histories. These sources, with various other odds and ends, provide a wealth of names of people living in the county in the past. It may not be a complete list but for a non-academic study like this it will suffice.

Finally, as part of this introduction, I should define what I mean by a surname strongly associated with Nottinghamshire. There are three categories. The first consists of those names which in 1881 were found only in Nottinghamshire (perhaps with a few strays elsewhere). I must say that I was surprised that there were such names, given the small size of the county, its relative narrow shape (so that nowhere is very far from a neighbouring county), and the population movements which had already taken place by 1881. The second category is those names which, although found in other counties too, have their densest concentration in Nottinghamshire. There are many of these. The third category is those names which have their main stronghold elsewhere in another part of the country, but have a secondary concentration in

Nottinghamshire. Such a secondary concentration suggests the possibility that the name could have arisen in two or more separate localities, one of them Nottinghamshire. To make things simpler, I have not included names which most strongly occur in neighbouring counties such as Derbyshire: in these cases Nottinghamshire is merely on the periphery of what could be termed as 'someone else's concentration'.

So as a taster, here is my list of Nottinghamshire names beginning with the letter 'a': ABDY, ADLINGTON, ADWICK, ALLCOCK, A(L)LWOOD, ALVEY, ANTCLIFF(E), ANTHONY, ARAM, ARME, ASHER, ASHMORE, ASKEW, ASTLING, ATTENBOROUGH, ATTEWELL.

These names immediately illustrate some characteristics of Nottinghamshire surnames. The first point is that none of this group is restricted to the county. Overall, for Notts. at least, there are few of these 'category one' names. There are several names which are most strongly associated with other areas, but which have secondary concentrations in Nottinghamshire - ABDY, ALLCOCK, ANTHONY, ASKEW, ADLINGTON, ASTLING, ATTEWELL. All the other names occur elsewhere, outside the county, but have the densest concentration in Nottinghamshire.

ADLINGTON and ATTENBOROUGH are interesting for their associations with noteworthy living people. Although David Attenborough was born in Leicestershire, the family name was more common in Nottinghamshire in 1881. This surname is unusual for Nottinghamshire in being a local placename which has given rise to a family name which in 1881 was stronger within the county than outside it. Most surnames derived from Nottinghamshire villages are commoner outside the county than

inside it. Perhaps this is the result of the small size and narrow shape of the county. On the other hand, places outside the county have given rise to surnames within it, ADWICK being an example derived no doubt from the settlement of that name near Doncaster.

My maternal grandfather was Ernest ALLWOOD, from Mansfield. His branch of the ALLWOODs lived in Warsop in the 19th century, and William was noted in the parish register as 'sometime a soldier'. I have found military records of two William Allwoods serving in the Napoleonic wars, born in Lowdham,

Hoveringham, or Gunthorpe, but I have been unable to trace these through censuses and neither is 'my' William. Certainly at present I can take this no further. A later Allwood worked for the 'tunnelling' Duke of Portland as a labourer, and, along with others working on the Welbeck estate, was given a tricycle to get around the estate.

My ALLCOCK ancestors lived in Clipstone in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were the ubiquitous agricultural labourers, but also held about five acres as cottagers, a poor class of landholders who possibly descended from squatters on the

village common lands. Enclosure was reducing the numbers of cottagers in the 18th and 19th centuries, so the survival of cottagers in Clipstone is interesting, and may reflect the poor quality of agricultural land there.

Much more could be written about the names listed above, but space is at a premium. However, anyone interested and with access to a computer could look at the gbnames website. If permitted, I will write next about surnames beginning with the letter 'b'.

2015 Special Lecture

Following the very successful and enjoyable special lecture given in 2013 by Michael Wood we are extremely excited and pleased to welcome JONATHAN FOYLE as our special lecturer in 2015.

The date for this event is 9 July at 7.30 pm and it will be held in the beautiful surroundings of Kelham Hall.

Booking flyers will be sent out shortly for this lecture which will be entitled LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: the BIOGRAPHY OF A GREAT BUILDING.

Jonathan is an architectural historian, a broadcaster and an advocate for heritage buildings and sites. He has fronted or been involved in several television series - you will have seen him on a number of Time Team programmes and also climbing some of our most iconic buildings in the series *Climbing Great Buildings*.

Until recently Jonathan was the Chief Executive of the World Monument Fund and in that capacity met with Newstead Abbey supporters a couple of years ago, giving a most interesting and encouraging talk on that occasion. We very much look forward to welcoming him back to Nottinghamshire.

Barbara Cast

New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to the following who have joined us since the last issue. We hope you have a long and enjoyable membership of the Society.

Keith Coxon
Eileen Small

Professor Margaret Evans
J Robert Smith

Janet Moore
Jean Townsend

David Pickles

Excursions 2015

TUESDAY, 19 May.

WARWICK and BADDESLEY CLINTON

Leader: Alan Langton

The Collegiate Church of Saint Mary in Warwick claims to be one of the largest parish churches in the country. It was a pre-Conquest foundation and developed its present grand structure in the 14th century when the Beauchamp family created the building as a statement of their power in the kingdom.

We have a guided tour booked, when we hope to see the magnificent Beauchamp tombs, bread-shelves for the poor of the town in the south aisle, the Norman crypt, the perpendicular panelled chancel, the Dean's chapel with its fan-vaulting, and the great east window adorned with precious stones set in the glass.

After the tour there will be some free time for members to have some lunch in Warwick. We shall then travel seven miles to Baddesley Clinton which began life as a moated medieval Great Hall house, and then developed into a fine Tudor gentleman's home, and eventually became an impoverished country mansion. It has been the home of the Ferrers family for twelve generations.

After a tour of the house, and the famous priests' holes, we shall have afternoon tea in the Barn Yard restaurant. We would hope to leave for Nottingham about 5.30 pm.

TUESDAY 18 JUNE

LOUTH and HECKINGTON

Leader: Alan Langton

The Church of St. James in the centre of the market town of Louth boasts one of the tallest medieval spires in the country, with a magnificent star-burst tower vault. The nave is dominated by its late Georgian pine roof, with ancient corbel heads. There is also a beautifully decorated sedilia in the south chapel and two medieval angels in the north chapel. The church also has a fine collection of old chests. We have a guided tour booked here.

After time for lunch and a look around Louth, we travel to Heckington, with a tour of the 14th century parish church of Saint Andrew. The corbel heads and the gargoyles appear to have been carved by masons of 'humour, intelligence and artistic licence' (says Simon Jenkins). There is a wealth of carvings inside the building, including 38 statues. The windows of the church are outstanding especially the east window. Another outstanding feature is the fine Easter sepulchre, piscina and sedilia in the chancel.

After a talk about the church we are invited to tea provided by the parishioners.

We would hope to leave Heckington about 5.00 pm.

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS' TRAIL

LEADERS: Valerie Henstock and Derek Little

This promises to be a very busy day, visiting four different sites associated with the Pilgrim Fathers, and ending with a guided tour of Gainsborough Old Hall.

We begin at Babworth, associated with William Bradford, described by Arthur Mee as one of the most remarkable of the Pilgrim Fathers, although he was born and baptised at Austerfield.

The nave and chancel at Babworth church are all one, and the fifteenth century tower and ancient porch are significant.

Scrooby was the home of William Brewster and the meeting place of the original 'Pilgrim Church'. The church is perpendicular with an octagonal steeple, its original font now used in the United Church of Christ in Chicago.

We move on to Austerfield with its splendid Norman tympanum.

There will be free time for lunch in East Retford, before we travel to Gainsborough Old Hall.

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE

LEADER: Alan Langton

Our visit to what has been called 'one of England's finest Georgian country houses' commences on this occasion with lunch at noon before our booked tour of the house at 2.00 pm.

Until recently, the building has been closed to the public for twenty-five years, and has only recently been opened by the Newbold family. They have worked hard to restore the house to its original glory. Originally built by the first Marquis of Rockingham, it has perhaps the longest facade of any country house in England. The West and East Fronts were completed by different architects using two distinctive styles, the East Front presenting stark Palladianism and

the West Front decorated Baroque.

The rooms have beautiful ceilings and roof lights. A significant feature in the Van Dyck room is the chandelier, dating back to 1740. The gardens are also open for our viewing, with their statues and temples, together with beautiful views across the countryside

We would expect to complete our visit by about 5.00pm.

The Thoroton Society Newsletter

With a little space to fill, retiring editor, Howard Fisher, looks at some early issues of the Society's newsletter; much of what follows will be remembered by some of the more long-standing members of the Society but it is hoped that pleasant memories will be raised.

Almost a full run of the *Newsletter* is held at the Department of Manuscripts, King's Meadow Campus, University of Nottingham, in the East Midlands Collection on the open shelves. Issue 2 is missing of the early copies.

The first issue of the *Newsletter* was that of July 1992 consisting of four sides of yellow A4 paper and edited by Neville Hoskins. It contained a report on the 1992 AGM at which Rosalys Coope stood down after nine years as Chairman of Council and John Beckett was elected to the position. Vice-Chairman was Neville Hoskins, the Hon. Secretary was Rev. E.P. Rowley the recently retired vicar of Elkesley. Mrs. Ann Hoskins was Circulation Secretary and Barbara Cast was elected as Minutes Secretary. Penny Messenger was elected to Council. This just illustrates how long some present serving officers have been in post.

There was a brief biography of John Beckett's career and it is stated that '... he hopes ... as chair of Council to make the Society truly a County society, to maintain the scholarly standards of the transactions, to improve communications with the membership - hence this newsletter - and to try and attract some younger members to the Society'. I am sure that we all consider that John can feel all of these objectives have been attained over the years.

The first issue goes on to say that the venue for lectures was being changed from the Cathedral Hall to the YMCA on Shakespeare Street due to alterations being made at the Cathedral Hall. The annual luncheon would be held on 24th October and the invited speaker would be Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes of Winkburn Hall.

It was further stated that when the formation of a county historical society was suggested in January 1887 'those who expressed an interest included four dukes, two earls, one countess, five lords, one bishop, three baronets, two knights bachelor, two kings of arms, twelve landed gentry, twenty-four clergymen and the Mayor, Sheriff and Town Clerk of Nottingham. Of the 81 names, only 22 were ordinary mortals and only two were women -

Mrs. Chaworth-Musters and the Dowager Countess of Carnarvon'.

Issue 2 dated December 1992 reported that the treasurer had resigned and Keith Goodman would handle the finances until the AGM, 1993 - Keith was elected as Treasurer at the following AGM.

The first Maurice Barley lecture would be on 13 March, given by Dr. Peter Addyman and the subject was *Archaeology and the Origins of the English Building Tradition*.

During 1992 excursions had been to Donington-le-Heath Manor House and Staunton Harold Church (lead by Steph Mastoris); Tickhill Castle, Roche Abbey and Conisborough Castle (led by Nancy Mulholland and Margaret Walton); Doncaster Mansion House and Hickleton Church (leader Geoffrey Oldfield); and Rock Cemetery, Catacombe Caves, Nottingham and Tollerton Hall (lead by Chris and Hazel Salisbury).

Issue 3 reported on the 1993 AGM held at Tuxford Memorial Hall. Jean Nicholson became Lecture Secretary, taking over from Dr. Maurice Caplan, and Dr. Carol Allen replaced Hazel Salisbury as joint editor of *Transactions* - the other joint editor was Adrian Henstock.

The luncheon that year would be held in the Great Hall of the Archbishop's Palace, Southwell and would be addressed by Mrs. Victoria Jarvis of Doddington Hall, Lincoln who would talk about the history and character of the house.

There was a tribute to Philip Lyth who stood down from Council at that AGM. Philip had been Principal of Brackenhurst Agricultural College, presented weekly farming programmes on Radio Nottingham and together with Norman Summers and Richard Beaumont had been instrumental in the formation of the Southwell Local History Society.

From 1993 the Nottingham Civic Society would organize the Keith Train Lecture and Thoroton Society would organize the Maurice Barley Lecture.

Yourselves at the Annual Luncheon 2014





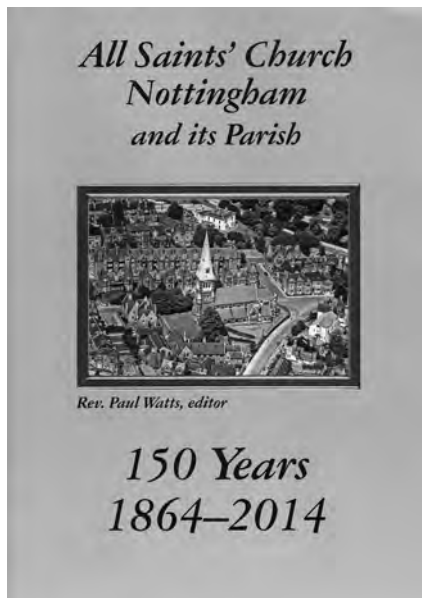


Bookcase

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH NOTTINGHAM and its Parish - 150 Years 1864-2014

Edited by Rev. Paul Watts.

This A4, 20 page booklet is available from St. Peter's Church, Nottingham; the Five Leaves bookshop, Nottingham or by post with enquiries to wattses@yahoo.co.uk.



All Saints' is a city centre parish which borders the General Cemetery, includes the Arboretum and runs along Gregory Boulevard and back up Bentinck Road. Nowadays it is part of a joint City Centre Parish along with two other churches, all three of which appear to be supportive of each other.

The church is not well known, situated in a position which is just outside the city centre in an area of what are now houses converted to shared accommodation and in an area populated by students with Nottingham Trent University on its doorstep. Its spire is, however, prominent within its surroundings and the building itself is well worth a visit.

The area where the church stands was known in the past as the Sandfields. This area was developed following the Parliamentary Acts of the 1840s which opened up the town to development and by 1860 the area had housing and new parishes were being formed to provide for the spiritual needs of this increasing population.

A wealthy silk merchant, William Windley, spent £10,000 in building the church of All Saints'. The church, vicarage, parish rooms and a verger's house were completed in 1864 and the first vicar was Rev. Edwin Gyles, MA.

This booklet states its purpose as *...to record and*

recognise the significance of All Saints' with its parish over the past 150 years and to highlight the chief issues, hopes and fears of the people involved. The booklet achieves this but in a rather sketchy manner in the eyes of this reviewer.

The first section is a part of a document written in 1954 in celebration of the church's 90th birthday (the full text is available on the church's web site and as a separate booklet); the second section was written in 2014 to recognise the 150th anniversary of the church.

There are some very useful maps and diagrams included. A section considers the potential effect that the Nottingham Civic Centre proposals of 1963 would have had on the parish and traces the subsequent history of the area and the changes in status of the population.

Another section covers what is described as a 'brief' history of the church to 1954 and is followed by a section looking at the parish subsequent to 1954.

Brief details are given of the vicars involved and of the Institute which was part of the site. The final section considers the current position of the parish and raises questions about its future.

The back cover has a short resume of the parish in World War One which is contributed by Rachel Farrand and a bibliography and web site address list.

This is a very useful document and deserves a place on the bookshelf of anyone with an interest in Nottingham as well as in the city's church history. The information provides a platform for developing the history into a more detailed research project. Rev. Wells has added to our knowledge of the city and its parishes.

A CITY OF LIGHT

Readers will recall a review of this book by Christopher Richardson in a previous issue.

Christopher has now advised that he has refurbished and improved his website related to the book. There is new information on people and places mentioned in the book and some additional illustrations.

The site also includes excerpts from the book and quotations from reviews.

The site address is: www.acityoflight.wordpress.com

A READING LIST: FIRST WORLD WAR: UK HOME FRONT. from Professor Chris Wrigley.

For recent discussions of aspects of culture see J. Winter in A. Roshwald and R. Stites (eds) *European Culture in the Great War* (1999); Jessica Meyer, *British Popular Culture and the First World War* (2008) and E. Hanna,

The Great War on the Small Screen (2009). Another major aspect, studies of remembrance, see Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*; Adrian Gregory, *The Silence of Memory* (1994) and Mark Connolly, *The Great War, Memory and Ritual* (2002). Much of the culture debate was earlier reignited by Paul Fussell, *The Great War in Modern Memory* (1977). There are good reassessments in Gail Braybon, *Evidence, History and the Great War: Historians and the impact of 1914-1918* (2003).

Much of the social history was a reaction to Arthur Marwick's many works on war and social change, e.g., *The Deluge* (1963): for instance, Bernard Waites, *A Class Society at War*, (1981) and J. Winter, *The Great War and the British People* (1986). Marwick on Drink was partly undermined by statistics in A.R. Prest, *Consumer Expenditure in UK, 1900-14*. Women in war has been massively reassessed, see books by Gail Braybon (1981); Angela Wollacott (1994); Deborah Thom (1998) and Susan Grayzel (2002), among others. On infant mortality, see Deborah Dwork, *War is good for Babies and other Young Children* (1987).

There are large numbers of local studies, old and new, including on Nottingham and its teachers and pupils by David Nunn, *Britannia Calls* (2010).

On the international economic impact see Gerd Hardach, *The First World War* and C. Wrigley (ed),

The First World War and the International Economy (2000). On war economy see, among others, Sidney Pollard, *Development of British Economy 1914-67* (1969), on aspects see Hugh Clegg, *A History of British Trade Unionism since 1889, Volume 2: 1911-1933* (1985); C. Wrigley, *David Lloyd George and British Labour Movement* (1976), Kathleen Burk (ed), *War and the State* (1983), Peter Dewey on manpower, *Historical Journal, 1984*; Barry Supple, *A History of the British Coal Industry, 1913-46* (1987).

Overviews

Trevor Wilson, *The Myriad Faces of War* (1986)

John Bourne, *Britain and the Great War 1914-1918* (1989)

Gerald de Groot, *Blighty: British Society in the Era of the Great War* (1996)

Ian F. Beckett, *The Great War 1914-1918* (2001)

C. Wrigley (ed), *The Blackwell Companion to Early Twentieth Century British History* (2003)

Hew Strachan, *The First World War, Vol. 1* (2003)

G.R. Searle, *A New England? Peace and War 1886-1918* (2004)

Adrian Gregory, *The Last Great War: British Society and the First World War* (2008)

John Horne, *A Companion to the First World War* (2010)

ERRATA

In the second part of Kerry Donlan's article on the Midland Counties railway, the gremlins struck.

Please note the following corrections and additions:-

Pages 5 and 6

'If in 1939' should read 1839

The State collecting coal mine death statistics should be 1852 not 1952

The nine founding members of the Railway Clearing House includes the three companies amalgamating to form the Midland Railway in 1844, namely the Birmingham and Derby Junction, Midland Counties and North Midland.

The Birmingham and Derby Junction should be added to the amalgamation group.

Articles Noted

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN - VOLUME 44, NUMBER 4 - OCTOBER 2014

A Lost Elysium? The motor car and England in the inter-war years.	John Minnis	p 266
Black Isle school logbooks (1875-1919): a statistical approach.	Graham M Clarke	p 277
'A Banbury Story': cohabiting and marriage among the Victorian poor in 'notorious Neithrop'.	Rebecca Probert	p 290
Was lunacy and idiocy a rural or an urban condition? A comparison of two county asylum services 1845-1900	Frank Hughes	p 301
The Liverpool Women's war service Bureau and its work 1914-1918	Josette Reeves	p 312
ODNB's tenth anniversary: local history research in a national resource	Mark Curthoys	p 325
Reflections on a co-production project: the social world of Nottingham's Green Spaces project	Jonathan Coope and Judith Mills	p 335

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A centenarian	Alan Crosby	p 4
London in the First World War	Jerry White	p 5
First World War Engagement Centres	John Beckett	p 7
Find that medieval word	Margaret O'Sullivan	p 8
Recovering lost medieval Yorkshire	David Crouch	p 9
TLH medieval and early modern essay prize 2014	Alan Crosby	p 12
The hidden heritage on Isaac's Tea Trail in the North Pennines	Roger Morris	p 13
Pete McNiven 1944 - 2014		p 15
"My cravings of hunger were more than I could possibly have imagined ..."	Natalie Whistance	p 16
A guide to bad chairmanship	Phoebe Merrick	p 18
Stamford Boys 1911 - the first research project of the newly formed Stamford & District Local History Society	Sue Lee and Jean Orpin	p 19

Bestwood Lodge and the family of the 10th Duke of St. Albans (1864-1943)

Appeal for information

I am writing a book about the family of William Beauclerk, 10th Duke of St. Albans (1840-1898), in part to explore why it fell apart so dramatically after his early death. I am particularly interested in the fate of his three sons, who grew up during the heyday of Bestwood Lodge in the 1870s and 1880s: Charles, 11th Duke of St. Albans (1870-1934); Osborne, 12th Duke (1874-1964); and Lord William Beauclerk (1883-1954). The 10th Duke had eight children in all, three by his first marriage and five by his second. Tragically, both the 11th Duke (known as 'Burford') and Lord William Beauclerk (known as 'Huddy') were committed to asylums for the best part of their lives: the former was at Ticehurst House in Sussex from 1898 to 1934, whilst the latter was an inmate of the Priory, Roehampton for over half a century, dying there on Xmas Day, 1954. Of the three sons only Osborne married, none had children.

While the 11th Duke lived, Bestwood was managed by a combination of his Committees of the Estate (the equivalent of receivers) and the trustees of the 10th Duke's will. It was leased out first to the lace manufacturer Sir Thomas Isaac Birkin and then from 1915 to 1940 to the Bowden family, owners of the Raleigh cycle company. Parts of the Bestwood estate were already being sold off to the Nottingham Corporation in the 1920s (some by compulsory purchase) and this continued throughout the 1930s until the entire estate was put on the market in June 1940. It was not until 1943, however, that the house itself and the heart of the estate finally left the Beauclerk family. The house and grounds were requisitioned for the war effort in 1940 and remained in the hands of the army until 1979, when the property was acquired by Gedling Borough Council.

If anyone has any information on

the history of the estate, please do get in touch with me. Much about Bestwood is still shrouded in mystery and recovery of the full story could provide precious insights for the future. It would also be wonderful to hear from people who worked on the Bestwood estate or whose families did, as valuable memories can be handed down by word of mouth. And if anyone has any cuttings or photographs that relate to the family of the 10th Duke or the Bestwood estate, particularly from 1864 to 1943, and would be willing to share them, that would be hugely appreciated.

Any information or suggestions for further research - however trivial seeming - will be most gratefully received.

Please contact Charles Beauclerk at: c.beauclerk446@btinternet.com or 020-3759-8434.

Wartime Bestwood

Compiled by Paul Norton of Nottinghamshire County Council

The importance of Bestwood's coal industry made it a target for Zeppelin airship bombing raids during the World War One conflict of 1914-18.

After the 11th Duke of St. Albans died in 1934, his son Osborne de Vere inherited the Lodge and park. This inheritance brought with it crippling death duties and he decided to sell the estate in 1939. But nationally, larger issues were appearing that

would affect some of that plan.

On September 3rd 1939 war was declared on Germany, and Bestwood like many large estates, was quickly taken over for military use by the War office. Bestwood Lodge became *Army Headquarters of the Northern Command* and areas of the park were turned into a military campsite and base.

In June 1940, the remaining unsold

lots of the estate were put up for sale by Public Auction at the Black Boy Hotel, Nottingham. The 1940 sale catalogue describes the Bestwood Lodge in all its grand splendour right down to its 19 bedrooms and 60 acre grounds, and that the surrounding estate was 3,485 acres and included 15 farms for sale as separate lots.

The sale of the Lodge was affected for a time by its military use, but

Nottingham Corporation bought most of the farm lots on the southern side of the park in order to build housing. Arnold's Urban Council bought land on the south east side, also for housing.

Besides the Bestwood auction, June 1940, also saw trainloads of exhausted soldiers arrive at the nearby small station of Daybrook. Road transport brought them into camps at Bestwood where they received badly needed rest and recuperation. Part of the ground floor of the Lodge was turned into a hospital to treat any casualties.

The soldiers were from the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who had been shipped out to France to help stop the German advance across Europe. Weeks later they were surrounded by the German army, and being evacuated from the French port of Dunkirk and nearby beaches and coastal areas, in an amazing rescue.

Between 27th May and 4th June, over 800 naval ships and privately owned boats of all sizes sailed across the English Channel to bring the soldiers back. It was called *Operation Dynamo*, and around 338,226 British and Allied soldiers were saved from imminent capture.

A lesser known, and further extension of this rescue, was *Operation Cycle*, which took place between 10th to the 13th June. This saw the rescue of a further 11,059 British and Allied soldiers from the French port of Le Havre.

The soldiers at Bestwood were eventually re-equipped and sent back to their various units.

Throughout 1939 to 1945 infantry and anti-tank training regularly took place at Bestwood. This training involved not only regular army units, but also those of the newly formed Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) who soon became known as the Home Guard (HG) - later more affectionately known as 'Dad's Army'.

A variety of army vehicles were used onsite including lorries, petrol tankers and Bren gun carriers. These 6 man vehicles were often seen tearing up and down through parts

of the park. Underground petrol tanks were built around the Lodge to supply the army units with fuel. The fuel lines were set into brick tunnels and led away towards the Lodge stables.

A nearby soldiers' bathhouse was also built. It was used on a 24 hour basis. Water pipes were lead to standpipes in the tented camp areas, and concrete plinths built for large wooden army huts, used for soldiers' accommodation during training exercises.

Barbed wire was laid, surrounding the key training areas. These included two rifle ranges, a grenade throwing area, and a battlefield defensive practice area which contained a complete layout of trenches and sandbagged defence works.

Sentry posts were placed at these key areas around the park, and access was strictly controlled. If you did not have the correct pass, paperwork or permission, you didn't get in. Air raid shelters were built, including one near a sentry post on Warren Hill. It is thought an anti-aircraft site, either a searchlight or gun, was placed in the hills to the east of Alexandra Lodge.

A 4 inch anti-aircraft gun stood on a reinforced banking in Goosedale, with two nearby metal Nissan huts for the gunners and the munition areas where the shells were stored. This gun would also have helped defend Hucknall airfield from enemy air raids.

From 1940 onwards vast areas of Sherwood Forest were used as areas for Ammunition Sub Depots (ASDs). Specially laid roads, loading platforms and narrow gauge railways were built under cover of the forested areas to improve the movement of the very large quantities of ammunition involved. For example, even by 1949, the Birklands area of Sherwood, near Edwinstowe, still contained 100,000 tons of munitions stored there.

In Bestwood itself, the village hall was used as temporary accommodation for people whose

homes had been destroyed, until they could be re-housed. This was during times when German bombers were regularly attacking the large industrial towns of Nottingham, Sheffield and Birmingham. During the Nottingham Blitz of 8-9 May 1941, Bestwood miners going on night shift could see the sky turn bright red with the glow of burning buildings only a few miles away.

During the early months of 1944, Bestwood like all other military camps saw a gradual but very large build-up of men, machines and supplies. Late May, early June saw Bestwood Park virtually empty overnight, as fleets of lorries, and trains carried the whole camps south. They became part of 'D-Day' on June 6th, the start of the Allied invasion of Europe, which saw a massive seaborne invasion onto the beaches of Normandy in Northern France.

Bestwood Lodge stayed under military ownership after the end of the war in 1945. It became *East Midlands District Army Headquarters*. New houses were built nearby for more permanent accommodation for officers and men. The yearly Open Day and associated sporting events that the army organised on the nearby fields became a major attraction in the area.

During the 1950s and 60s, the 49th Infantry Brigade (The Polar Bears) had their headquarters at the Lodge.

The army finally left Bestwood Park in March 1973. In 1973 the Lodge, its gardens and some nearby parkland was handed over to Gedling Borough Council, although the Regimental pay office of the Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) based in Bestwood Lodge didn't leave until 1977.

Many residential houses to the south of Bestwood Lodge are former army houses. The former soldiers' canteen or NAAFI became a childrens' day nursery. The Lodge would remain empty and neglected for some years until being converted into a comfortable and modern hotel in the 1980s.

Snippets

RECORD SALE PRICE

In issue 77 - Autumn 2014 we printed an article about Brough Superior motorcycles in which model SS100 was mentioned.

In November 2014 a 1929 Brough Superior 986cc, SS100 Alpine Grand Sports model was sold at auction for £315,000. This is the record price for any motor cycle sale and beat the 2012 record of £291,200 paid for a Brough Superior SS80.

HUCKNALL AIRFIELD

Hucknall airfield will permanently close on 1 March 2015.

The airfield opened in 1916 as No. 12 (Training) Group, 27th Wing with No. 15 Training Depot of the RFC using Curtiss Jenny JN-4 aircraft.

In February 1918 No. 128 (Gold Coast) Squadron arrived using the DH9 aircraft. They were followed on 1 March 1918 by 130 Squadron also using the DH9 and on 18 March 1918 by 205 Squadron with DH4 and DH9s. These squadrons were absorbed into the RAF when it was formed on 1 April 1918.

On 18 August 1918 23rd Aero Squadron (Repair) USAAF arrived at Hucknall, but in 1919 the airfield was closed and sold to a local farmer, George Elkington.

When the Nottingham Aero Club was formed in 1926 it used part of the airfield but had to leave when the site was bought by the Air Ministry in 1927 and opened in 1928 as RAF Hucknall. During the 1930s an annual Empire Air Day of displays by the resident squadrons was held.

In December 1934 Rolls-Royce moved its testing establishment to Hucknall from Tollerton (*see KDLHS's publication on the History of Tollerton Airfield*), and operated there until 2007, although latterly only ground testing was undertaken after the RR flight testing moved to Filton, Bristol. Notable tests at Hucknall were on Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine in 1942 and the subsequent generations of R-R jet engines both military and civilian. In July 1953 VTOL tests were undertaken on what became colloquially known as the 'Flying Bedstead'. During the war R-R repaired and modified Hurricane fighter aircraft at Hucknall.

Returning to the RAF, in January 1941 No. 1 Flying Training School arrived at Hucknall using Tiger Moth, Fairey Battle and Airspeed Oxford aircraft; this school moved to RAF Newton in July 1941 as No. 16 Secondary Flying Training School. It was replaced at Hucknall on 16 July 1941 by 25 Elementary Flying Training School using Tiger Moths.

In May 1946 504 Squadron arrived with DH Mosquito NF30 night-fighters and it was re-equipped with Spitfire F22 day fighters in May 1948. This squadron re-located to RAF Wymeswold in March 1950.

In 1946 the Nottingham University Air Squadron used Hucknall flying Tiger Moths but it moved to Newton during 1947.

The Merlin Flying Club (R-R employees) has used the airfield since 1971 and up to the final closure operates the site as a weekend flying venue. The Club celebrates its time at Hucknall during February 1915 with free landings and on the last weekend is holding an event with a final firework display and hopes that guest pilots will attend.

Outline planning consent has been given to the site for housing although some of the airfield buildings are listed and there have been ideas to use the site as a museum on the lines of Duxford and Old Warden.

RESPONSE

Leslie Cram writes: Page 7 of the Winter 2014 Newsletter, on the passenger services at a reduced rate imposed by the Government upon the early railway companies, made clear to me what was referred to in the Mikado's song:-

'The idiot who, in railway carriages,
Scribbles on window panes.
We only suffer
To ride on a buffer
In Parliamentary trains'.

WW1 CHRISTMAS TRUCE - Football Match

On 26 December 2014 a Blessing service, conducted by Father Michael O'Donoghue was held in the Sconce and Devon Park, Newark for a very unusual plaque.

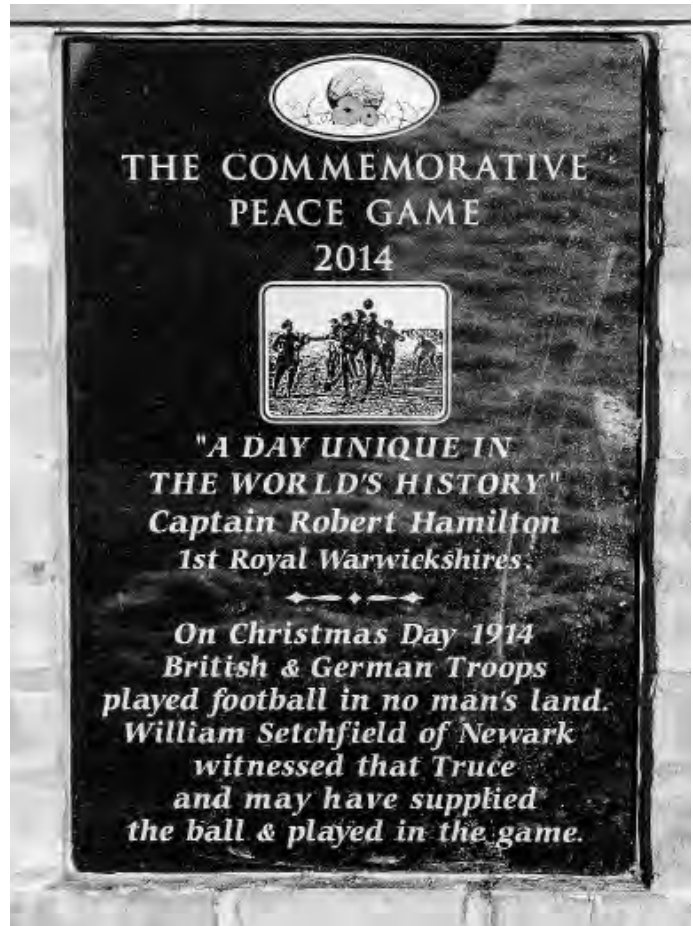
The plaque commemorates Private William Setchfield whose hometown was Newark where his father and brother worked as shoemakers but also repaired leather footballs. Pte. Setchfield was sent a football as a Christmas present in 1914 whilst he was fighting with the Royal Worcestershire Regiment opposed to the German 134 Saxon Regiment.

Francis Towndrow has researched the famous Christmas football game played in No Mans' Land and has had access to soldiers' letters and diaries.

It is suggested that William Setchfield's football was the one used in the game between the Worcesters and the Saxons. Certainly William wrote home recording the fraternisation and Kurt Zehmisch of the Saxons recorded that the English soldiers had a football and that a game took place between the two forces.

Setchfield was recorded as a deserter but this is thought likely to have been a punishment for being involved in the game. He survived the war and received the 1914 Star. He married but no record of his death has apparently been found although he was alive in 1946 when he is recorded as sending a wreath to his brother's funeral.

The plaque was donated by stonemason Roger Brown and the project is the final part of a project by Newark Town Football Club for which an HLC grant was received.



Left: Father Michael O'Donoghue blessing the memorial.

Right: The Memorial

(Photos: Ralph Bennett, ARPS of Newark . Originals in colour)

WILLS DATABASE

A new database service opened at the end of December 2014 allowing a search to be made for any will made from 1858. 41 million wills are involved.

The service is accessed through Gov.uk/Find a Will and a name and year of death is required.

Once the appropriate record has been selected a copy of the will should take no longer than 10 days to be received but there is a fee of £10 per will to be paid.

However, this new service should prove very helpful to Family Historians as well as Local Historians researching a particular family or name.

MAGNA CARTA

The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta is in 2015.

The British Library, London, has a 6-month exhibition *Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy* starting on 13 March.

Lincoln has one of the two original documents and from 1 April the newly refurbished Castle (£22 million) has a new vault to contain Magna Carta.

Part of the refurbishment is to open the walls in their full length which will allow visitors to walk all round the walls with the associated views over the city and towards the cathedral.

The cost of a visit is to be £12 which includes the Magna Carta exhibit, the wall walk, prison and inner bailey of the castle.

FRIENDS OF BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK

The Winding Engine tours and Community cafe continue to be open on Saturdays through the Winter period. There is a programme of events through Winter which can be accessed via the web site, some will have passed by the time this newsletter reaches members but others might be of interest:

7 March - Dynamo Mini-Miners 10am to 1 pm. For children.

Ladies Hedge-Laying on 1st and 8th March from 10 am to 3 pm. Free but pre-booking is essential.

Sunday 29 March noon to 4 pm. Mines Rescue and Mansfield Fire Museum are at the Park from noon to 4 pm with mines rescue equipment and vintage fire engines.

For booking and more information contact Adele Williams at 0115-976-2422 or email adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk
The main web site is at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryside/bestwood/](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryside/countryside/bestwood/)

2ND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

This event, which follows the format of the first such day held in 2014, will take place on 21 June 2015 at the University of Nottingham Museum, Lakeside.

NEW COINS WITH A HISTORICAL MOTIF

The Royal Mint has announced the introduction of new coins during 2015.

The new £2 coin will mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the new 50p coin will reflect the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

There will also be a special £2 coin to reflect the role of the Royal Navy in World War One as part of the Royal Mint's 5 year programme of commemorating the war.

The coins will also feature a new portrait of the queen which will be the fifth to have been used during her reign.

HIGHFIELDS PARK

In January 2015 it was announced that Highfields Park is to be restored after the confirmation of £4.5m of funding, including lottery money being granted.

The park was opened in 1923 but buildings have fallen into disrepair and the lake has silted up. The park has 121 acres and dates to when Sir Jesse Boot bought the site to house the university although the park area remained in the control of the City Council and was never part of the University estate.

Work will involve a new paddling pool, reducing vegetation, landscaping and building a new mini-golf course.

HLF will contribute £3.2m and the remainder coming from the City Council, park trust and local organisations.

The work is due for completion by the end of summer 2016.

ARCHAEOLOGY NOW

A series of free talks and handling sessions that focus on current archaeological work.

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

The talks are based at the University of Nottingham Museum, at Lakeside. 1 pm in the Djanogly Theatre and places should be pre-booked at the Box Office on 0115-846-7777.

15 April - Recent Finds of Late Medieval Amulets and Reliquaries through the Treasure Act.

Jane Robinson is Keeper of Art and Design at the National Museum of Scotland. The talk will share a number of recent finds with the audience and reflect on their significance.

13 May - Segelocum: Grains of History

Lorraine Horsley and Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologists, Nottinghamshire County Council.

The talk will present the results of previous excavations from the site of Segelocum which is often overlooked in studies of the small towns of Roman Britain. Segelocum was possibly the most important Roman town in Nottinghamshire. Situated at the junction of the road from Lincoln to Doncaster and the River Trent, all that is now left is the hamlet of Littleborough to mark its location.

Following this talk there will be the opportunity to see some of the material from Segelocum in the University Museum, courtesy of Sam Glasswell, Curator of Bassetlaw Museum.

ANCIENT CRAFT

28 February - ROMAN POTTERY MAKING - 11.15 am to 1.15 pm for adults 16+ and 2 to 3.30 pm children 7-15 years.

In the Angear Visitor Centre. Limited to 15 people per class.

Cost: Adults £15/£10. Children £4.

28 March - FLINT KNAPPING - Karl Lee from Primitive Technology UK shows how to make your own flint tool.

The Rehearsal Hall. Limited to 15 per class.

11am to 2 pm (adults 16+) and 2-4 pm (Families with children 10+)

Prices as above.

7 March - EARLY ANGLO-SAXONS - DYING TO MEET YOU.

Limited to 20 people per session. Free and for all ages.

12.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 3.30 pm

Sam Glasswell and the re-enactment group A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY will recreate burial practices and explore what these can tell us about the costume, religion, technology and society of the early Anglo-Saxons

13 June - RE-CREATING ANCIENT SPARTA IN COMICS

Kieron Gillen and Professor Stephen Hodkinson (Department of Classics, Nottingham University) will discuss their collaboration in order to create a dramatic story that exposes the soft underbelly of the once-mighty Spartans and provides the long-neglected helots with a myth of their own.

12.30 to 1.30 pm in the Art Centre lecture Theatre. Free but, like all these events, booking is essential.

NOTE: There are scenes of graphic violence and so parental guidance advised at 12+.

Followed by a Workshop: MAKE YOUR OWN HISTORICAL COMICS: STORIES ABOUT THE SPARTANS

2.15 to 4.14 pm Learning Studio.

Limited to 20 people 11+. Booking essential

Adults £8. Children under 16 and concessions £4.

Kieron Gillen and poetry-comics creator Chrissy Williams, assisted by historian Stephen Hodkinson, will introduce some stories and help you re-tell them yourself in comic-strip format. No experience of drawing skills is necessary: stick-figures and collage of existing images will be among the techniques covered.

BEHIND THE SCENES MUSEUM TOURS - ANGLO-SAXON COLLECTIONS

18 April 11.30am to 1pm and 2 to 3.30 pm.

5 May, 1.30 to 3 pm.

Cost: £2 per person. Under 16 free. Limited to 8 per session. Meet in the Museum.

HELP THE MUSEUM CURATE ITS COINS

16 May and 13 June. 11 am to 3 pm

Age 14 +. Limited to 8 per session.

Cost: £2 per session. Under 16 free. Meet in the Museum.

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY - THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE TRAM

25 July.

Free drop-in event.

11 am to 4 pm. The Museum and Angear Visitor Centre

The construction of the two new tram lines has created the opportunity for some of the largest archaeological interventions in Nottingham for years including the Bronze Age site at Clifton and the medieval priory at Lenton. Find out about the work undertaken by Trent and Peak Archaeology including the opportunity to handle finds. Craft activities including medieval tile making and Bronze Age coil pot making with the Nottinghamshire County Council Community Archaeologists.



Pauline Marple's display of her recent book on which her talk at the Ravenshead event was based



The dining room at the Forest Hotel during the Society's annual luncheon 2014