

# THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society  
*Issue 81* *Autumn 2015*



Kelham Hall



Professor Beckett with Dr Jonathan Foyle



Waiting for the lecture to start



Jonathan Foyle signs copies of his book



Serious attention to the talk



Drinks and nibbles afterwards!

**The 2015 Special Lecture at Kelham Hall**

*The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire*  
*The County's Principal History and Archaeology Society*  
Visit the Thoroton Society website at: [www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk)

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## **EDITORIAL**

Thank you to all those kind people who commented favourably on the first issue since I took on the job of editing your Newsletter. I did expect some criticism but none came!

I have attempted to give you an interesting and varied read, with articles about Society ‘happenings’, such as the Special Lecture and the Excursions, as well as items of general historical and archaeological interest. Articles from Thoroton members would be very welcome. The Newsletter is intended to cater for all interests, so if you have a particular interest, or information that would be of value to other members, please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard.

John Wilson  
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## **LUNCHEON 2015**

The mailing this month includes your booking form for the annual luncheon, to be held this year at Basford Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

At Basford Hall we will have a three course lunch served to us - excellent value at £21 per person.

As has become the custom, we are to invite an interesting speaker as our guest to give a short talk after the lunch. Our recent speakers have proved very stimulating and their talks popular with those attending. Last year it was Professor Charles Watkins from the University of Nottingham who spoke most eloquently and interestingly on the Trees of Sherwood Forest. Previous speakers have included the former Lord Lieutenant, the Regional Director of the National Trust, the recent Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, and the Director of Phillimore's.

Basford Hall was built about 1740: Robert Hall was the first occupant and the Hall family were farmers who lived there until 1840 when the estate was bought by Thomas Webb Edge of Strelley Hall. It was leased out for the next 100 years or so, including to Thomas North, which started the Hall's mining connection.

North was responsible for sinking Cinderhill Pit, later Babbington Colliery. However North's finances failed, even though he was a pioneering and forward thinking coal engineer, greatly revered by his workforce. For a long period the Hall was occupied by a succession of mining managers from the Babbington Coal Company. By 1940 the Hall had been empty for four years and so Mary Edge of Strelley Hall sold it to RB Collieries for use as a miners' welfare which it eventually became after the war. The closure of many mines during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century forced the sale of much of the estate for housing. However Basford Hall has been fully restored and is now an events centre as well as continuing its association with the mining industry.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with other members on 7<sup>th</sup> November and once again enjoy a special meal together.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

### **2015 SPECIAL LECTURE – THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

#### **Dr Jonathan Foyle - 'Lincoln Cathedral: the Biography of a Great Building'**

A crowded room was waiting to welcome Dr Jonathan Foyle as our special lecturer on 9<sup>th</sup> July in the beautiful surroundings of Kelham Hall. Jonathan's lecture was entitled "Lincoln Cathedral: the biography of a great building" and proved to be an exceptionally powerful retelling of the creation of this architectural and spiritual masterpiece.

Jonathan, an architectural historian, broadcaster and expert enthusiast for heritage buildings, impressively illustrated his lecture with many photographs, plans and comparative examples. It was a most enjoyable and illuminating lecture which was very well received by the members present. They also showed their enthusiasm for the talk by the long queue to buy the copies of Jonathan's book on Lincoln Cathedral which he had managed to bring to Newark on the train – he duly signed all the copies and subsequently sent more for those disappointed on the evening. The Lincoln volume is the latest book from Dr Foyle, who has also recently published one on Canterbury Cathedral, with another on Lichfield Cathedral soon to be available.

I was very pleased to be able to meet Jonathan at Newark Station on that evening and, having an hour or so to spare, we took a detour to Southwell and visited the Minster which our visitor admires greatly: he said that "the wonderful late 13<sup>th</sup> century work at Southwell Minster doesn't get any better than this". Maybe a Foyle volume on our Nottinghamshire treasure may appear sometime in the future!

With great generosity Jonathan waived the fee for his lecture and asked that, instead, the Society give an appropriate amount to the Newstead Abbey Restoration Fund – we are pleased to be able to forward £500 to the fund, the proceeds of the evening's lecture.

Thanks go to Jonathan Foyle for his visit to us in Nottinghamshire, also to Jonathan Pass and his staff at Kelham Hall for allowing us the use of an ideal venue and providing us with post-lecture refreshments.

We will soon be planning our next special lecture – proposed for 2017

Barbara Cast

*[We plan to review the book in the next issue – Ed.]*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM ARCHAEOLOGY DAY SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015**

The University Museum hosted the second annual Archaeology Day on a fine, warm Saturday in June. Unfortunately the event had to compete with the University Open Day; however this resulted in visits from not a few families with teenage children who had been to look at the various university departments and then

wandered in to the exhibition area. Some forty local history and archaeology societies took part and had stalls exhibiting their activities. The Thoroton stand was staffed by the 'usual suspects' – John and Janet Wilson, Margaret Trueman and Penny Messenger. Not only did we have a good number of visitors to our stall, but one new member joined on the day and we sold a number of books, raising £29 for the Society's funds. Following a number of talks, there was an opportunity for visitors to handle artefacts ranging from Roman coins to mediaeval pottery. Altogether, a very successful day.

John Wilson

## AN UNLIKELY 'TIME TEAM' PAIR

### Your Editorial Team try their hand at practical archaeology

Blue sky, warm sunshine, a green field rolling downhill towards a stream, a magnificent ancient church in the background; these were the conditions, this the setting for an Archaeology Day held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Southwell organised by Matt Beresford of MBarchaeology. Your Editor and his wife joined the team of mainly local volunteers for this session of electrical resistance and magnetic surveying, to determine whether there were any detectable features below the surface of Harvey's Field which would justify a full scale dig in the near future.



The kit ready for use

The remains of a Roman villa underneath Southwell Minster, the old school and beyond have been known about for a long time but opportunities for further investigation have been seriously limited by the site being overlaid by later buildings. There is apparently a monumental wall under the spoil heap on the site of the old school but little has been discovered about it. It seems to pre-date the villa and could possibly have been associated with a military building or a temple. Pottery fragments from before the time of the villa have also been found in the area of Farthingate and a few tesserae have been unearthed in the games field. Harvey's Field is less disturbed than the games field and obviously a more accessible site than the town itself, and thus has been chosen as the focus for an in-depth investigation.

The bank at the top of the field may possibly be a man-made feature which marks the edge of a flood plain alongside the Potwell Dyke and the start of a habitable area; the porous sedimentary rock, tufa, which is formed when calcium-rich water flows over organic material and the latter calcifies over centuries as the water evaporates, has been found in the field and suggests that in the past it was flooded periodically.

The survey was carried out over an area marked by tapes that measured 70m from the bank to near the edge of the dyke and divided into 10m squares; it was surprisingly difficult to ensure that all the tape markers were straight and properly aligned! Eventually we were ready to start the resistance survey under the expert guidance of Alan Morris, using a resistance meter which has two probes on a frame that is moved steadily over



Laying out the 10 metre squares with tape

small, set distances until each 10m square has been covered. A small electrical current is injected into the



Taking measurements with the resistivity meter

ground through one probe while the other measures the voltage drop, the resistance is calculated (using Ohms Law), the results are collected in a data logger and comparisons are made with the readings from a pair of remote probes some distance away. The information gathered should indicate the presence of ditches and pits, where moisture in the fill gives a low resistance reading, and of hard structures which register high resistance. The team members took it in turns to manoeuvre the device up and down the squares until the whole area had been monitored – and by then we were ready for lunch.

After the lunch break, we relaid the tape markers for the magnetometry and set to work with Alan's fluxgate gradiometer which

can measure very slight variations in the local magnetic field, making sure that we were not wearing or carrying anything metallic which could distort the results. The device we used has two vertically mounted fluxgates in a hollow plastic tube which can detect and measure variations in the magnetic field caused by buried materials, and carries a data logger that takes four readings each metre as the carrier moves forward at a walking pace of 1m per second; this timing sometimes proved problematic and more than one attempt had to be made. Your Editor even managed to set off with the machine the wrong way round.... Buried ditches and pits may yield tiny increases in the magnetic signature due to the residue of organic or burnt matter they may contain, while thermo-remnant magnetism can produce more dramatic readings and indicate the presence of features such as hearths or kilns which have been heated to high temperatures.

The scanning came to an end with preliminary indications that there might be some anomaly across the middle of the site we covered, perhaps a long ditch, and a conviction that some test pits should be dug to follow up this preliminary investigation. We await the results of our survey and any future dig with great interest. A Finds Analysis session is scheduled by the Roman Southwell Community Project for September, so perhaps that is when we shall be able to find out whether the geophysical survey really did come up with anything significant. In any event our 'Time Team' experience was enjoyable and informative, enabling us to have a taste of two of the scientific procedures that contemporary archaeology now relies upon.



Using the fluxgate gradiometer

Janet Wilson

## **EXCURSIONS 2015**

### **SAINT MARY'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH, WARWICK, AND BADDESLEY CLINTON**

**19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

**LEADER: ALAN LANGTON**

Members on the coach approaching Warwick saw the imposing tower of Saint Mary's Church long before we arrived in the town. The present church building is not ancient, although the crypt contains the massive pillars of the original 12<sup>th</sup> century building of Roger Newburgh, Earl of Warwick. At this time it was a non-monastic



Members listening to the guide in St Mary's Church, Warwick

collegiate church, with a dean and seven canons. When the earldom passed to the Beauchamp family, the church building was erected by 1394, complete with the famous Beauchamp chapel (currently being restored), and the amazing flying ribs of the chancel roof. A massive fire destroyed much of Warwick town centre in 1694, and only the chancel of the church was saved. Queen Anne contributed a fifth of the cost of rebuilding the church. The architectural style of the west end of the church was thus changed, and the huge tower was added. We had four very pleasant and helpful guides who took us round the church, the chapels, the crypt, the chancel with its gilded effigy of Richard Beauchamp, and the tomb of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. It was good to be able to see inside a building which is such a striking vision from the road systems around Warwick.

After free time for lunch we travelled the short distance to Baddesley Clinton, originally a moated medieval hall turned into a fine Tudor residence. The home of the Ferrers family for twelve generations, it was used as a secret Roman Catholic centre, complete with priests' hiding holes after the Reformation. It was taken over by the National Trust in 1980, but still retains rooms and relics of mystery and imagination. Members were able to wander freely in the house and the garden, with knowledgeable guides placed in most areas to answer questions. We completed our tour with tea in the restaurant. The day was enjoyable, and we managed to avoid the occasional downpours with precision timing of being inside when heavy showers struck.

Alan Langton

## LOUTH AND HECKINGTON

18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015

LEADER: ALAN LANGTON



Examining the mediaeval font in St James' Church, Louth

This was one of the better supported excursions that we have had for some time; perhaps it was the journey into Lincolnshire that was the attraction. Our first stop was the old market town of Louth, where we were greeted with coffee and delicious home-made cake by the ladies of Saint James' church which dates from around 1200 A.D. The 295 foot high spire is a most impressive landmark which can be seen from miles around. Our tour of the church was led by Mr Stuart Sizer. We were over-awed by the beauty of the Georgian roof with its angels and bosses, and Stuart pointed out the sunburst emblem of Edward IV on the inside ceiling of the tower, 86 feet above the floor. The church boasts some fine old chests, the oldest complete with multiple locks. The chests, or 'hutches', were used for storing valuables such as vestments and documents. One, the Sudbury Hutch, was presented to the church by Thomas Sudbury in 1503. The doors hold reliefs of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, with a Tudor rose surmounted by a crown between them.

The church's treasures include some fine pews (the 'Corporation' pews) carved by craftsman and local borough engineer, Mr T.W. Wallis (1821-1903). The armrests of these pews are decorated with animal

carvings. Mr Wallis also carved the woodwork of the unusual pulpit. He included the eleven disciples, with Judas appearing just as a face looking out of foliage.

The church spire has had a chequered history. Repairs had to be made in 1632 after a great storm which nearly brought it down. The spire was struck by lightning in 1844 and during the repairs the height was increased to 295 feet. Further refurbishments took place, and a complete restoration was made in 1868-9, resulting in the church that we see today.

I feel we agreed with the guide that visitors are drawn to the church by its aura of spirituality and architectural beauty.



Heckington Mill

After lunch we moved to Heckington windmill, the only eight sailed mill in the country, where the agility of members was tested by the need to climb steps and stairs inside the building. The most welcoming and helpful staff here gave detailed explanations of the working of the mill from the arrival of the new grain to the fine flour it produces. Each floor of the mill as we ascended or descended demonstrated the clever process by which the turning of the sails produced such excellent results. *[The flour we bought makes wonderful bread – Ed]*

Several members of the party paid a visit to the micro-brewery situated next door to the windmill, and which sold a range of craft ales and ciders. They returned to the coach carrying heavy bags containing bottles!

We then moved across the town to Saint Andrew's Church. Here we had a scholarly guided tour and presentation by Mr Michael Rose of the history and development of this fine building which possesses outstanding windows, an Easter sepulchre in remarkable condition, and a wealth of carvings. There are also three mass dials, one on a south-facing buttress and two on opposite sides of the porch. Another team of very

competent ladies produced a most enjoyable tea for us. We agreed that the policy at Louth and at Heckington to make the pleasure of visiting these churches more widely known across the country is indeed worth supporting.

Alan Langton

## AUTUMN LECTURES

The first lecture in our Autumn series is the **Archaeology Lecture** on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October:

### **The King's Clipstone Archaeological Research Project**

**James Wright - Senior Archaeologist, Museum of London Archaeology**  
**Andy Gaunt - Director, Mercian Archaeological Services**

Now in its eleventh year, the King's Clipstone Archaeological Research Project has identified the largest royal residence in Mediaeval England. Known as the King's Houses, situated on a low hill in the very heart of

Sherwood Forest, the site contained a sprawling palace with a 1500 acre deer park and a fortified peel (a fortified tower or house). The palace was surrounded by a specially designed and stage-managed romantic landscape.

The palace was developed during the 1170s by Henry II and was visited by all of the Plantagenets until Richard II. Between the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries the King's Houses were host to kings, papal envoys, archbishops and traitors. It acted as a venue for parliament, hunting, protest, jousting, choral concerts and the conception of a prince!



The Archaeology Team at King's Clipstone

Working with a multidisciplinary team involving many community groups, Andy Gaunt of Mercian Archaeological Services and James Wright of Museum of London Archaeology have undertaken extensive investigation of the site. This work includes documentary research, landscape analysis, geophysical and topographic survey, historic building recording and archaeological excavation.

The major focus of the project has been dissemination of the results – there is simply no point in conducting research if word never gets out! There have been a large number of publications in the mainstream media,

popular archaeological press and peer-reviewed journals, alongside numerous appearances on both radio and television and an extensive programme of outreach including guided tours, open days, workshops, field schools, lectures and conference appearances. Social media has publicised the project and much of the literature created is freely accessible as online downloads.

### **Saturday 14 November 2015 – the Nottinghamshire History Lecture:**

#### **Player's and its Products: A Nottingham Company and its Marketing History**

**Daniel O'Neill - University of Nottingham**



Poster for Player's cigarettes

In 1877 John Player bought his first tobacco manufacturing factory, a building in the Broadmarsh area of Nottingham, and began developing a business that would become, by the mid-twentieth century, Britain's leading tobacco and cigarette company.

This lecture is split into two parts. The first half traces the development of John Player & Sons from its inception to the present day, with the recent announcement that Imperial Tobacco will be shutting its Nottingham factory, bringing to a close the long history of Player's presence within the city. The lecture will reflect upon John Player & Son's role as a Nottingham-based employer, local benefactor and as a manufacturer of products which, from the 1950s, were increasingly regarded as dangerous to health.

The second half of the lecture will focus on this controversial aspect to the company's history. Using materials from the John Player Advertising



Archive, held by Brewhouse Yard museum, the lecture will explore how Player's marketed its cigarettes in the post-war period. The link between smoking and diseases such as lung cancer, discovered by epidemiologists in the early 1950s, presented tobacco manufacturers with an unprecedented challenge. In negotiating the changing medical, political and cultural contexts within which its products were situated, Player's adopted alternative marketing strategies. In doing so, the company developed what was the best selling cigarette of its time, Player's No. 6, and was able, for a limited period, to weather the changes in Britain's smoking culture.

**Saturday 12 December 2015 – the *Neville Hoskins Lecture*:**

**From Failure to Success - The East Midlands and The Triumph of Magna Carta, 1212-1225**

**David Crook - University of Nottingham**

Magna Carta was in effect a peace treaty forced on King John by his rebel barons at Runnymede in June 1215. The war it briefly prevented was in progress within weeks and led to a French invasion in support of the rebels, which continued after John's death at Newark in October 1216. The war ended in the defeat of the rebels and the French at Lincoln in May 1217, after which a revised version of the Charter was issued by the royalists supporting John's son, King Henry III. A long period of internal tensions followed, which continued until John's Poitevin followers, including the sheriff of Nottingham, Philip Marc, were finally removed from the castles and offices they had held since the war. The definitive reissue of the Charter followed in 1225.

Many of the most important events took place in the East Midlands or involved people from the area, and this illustrated lecture will concentrate on these connections.

David Hoskins



Engraving of the Siege of Lincoln Castle

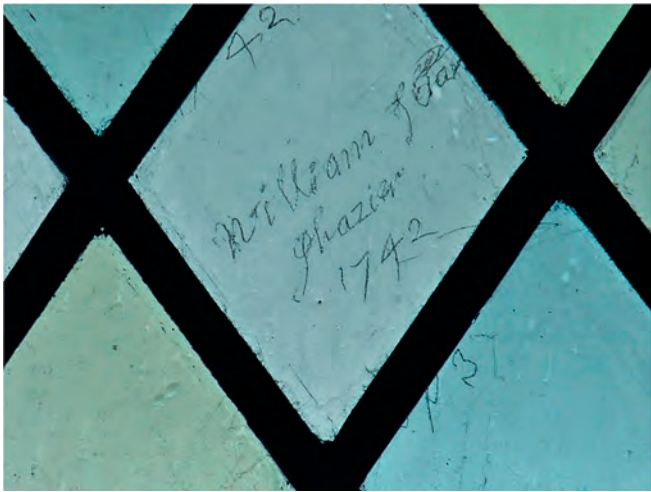
**Excursion to Warwick and Baddesley Clinton**



Saint Mary's Church, Warwick



The clock in St Marys' Church, Warwick, was made between 1694 and 1698



Graffito on a window in St Mary's Warwick, with the glazier's name and date



Possible mason's mark, St Mary's Warwick



Thorotonians (and ducks) prepare to enter the house at Baddesley Clinton (picture on right)



**Excursion to Louth and Heckington**



The High Altar at St James, Louth, showing the Altar table, made in 1613 and the Victorian reredos (1877) with figures in white marble



Graffiti on pillar in St James' Church, Louth



At the windmill in Heckington, with members of the party waiting to go up the mill.



The workings of the mill explained



Outside St Andrew's Church, Heckington



Your Editor, flour in hand, makes his choice at the Heckington micro-brewery

## LIFE AND DEATH IN MEDIAEVAL NOTTINGHAM

Multi-disciplinary research, involving an international team of experts, is being undertaken into a burial ground located in Nottingham city centre, which aims to unlock important information in a project entitled 'Life and Death in Mediaeval Nottingham.'

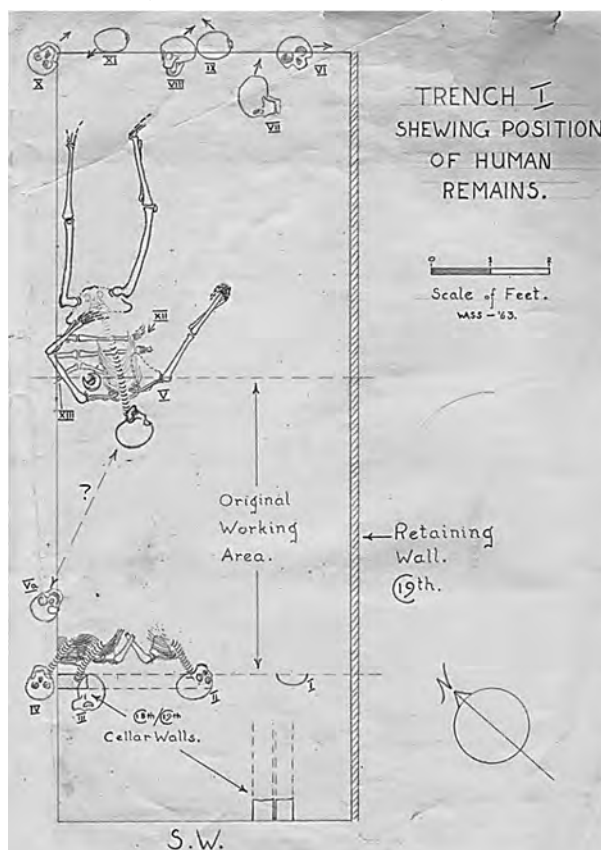
Excavations by amateur archaeologists in 1963 form the basis of the project, which is funded by the Council for British Archaeology (including the East Midlands branch of the CBA) and Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. The project is managed by Nottingham archaeologist Scott Lomax. The excavations, by Tony Wass and members of the Thoroton Society in advance of the construction of Cranbrook House, and a number of preliminary hypotheses explaining the burials, were the focus of a paper in the 2010 Transactions. Since the publication of this paper, much research has been undertaken which has advanced our understanding of the site.

Photographs appearing to show the decayed remains of a coffin, with handle, caused confusion and had led some to conclude the burials were of a post mediaeval date. However, it has now been established that these photographs were taken during the lowering of ground levels at the rear of the Ideal Homes Store, which occurred in the weeks prior to the Cranbrook House excavation. The Ideal Homes Store was located on the site of Hockley Chapel, a Methodist chapel with burial ground. The clearance of burials in the early 1960s also explains why archaeologists from the University of Leicester found only two human skeletons during their excavation of the site in 2004.

In 2013 samples from the two surviving individuals from the Cranbrook House site were radiocarbon dated. The first sample from individual SKV dated (with 95.4% probability) to between 1454 and 1633 calAD. There was a slightly higher likelihood (50.6% probability) that it dated to between 1454 and 1526 calAD than 1556 to 1633 calAD (44.8% probability). The second sample from individual SKVa gave a date (with 95.4% probability) of between 1415 and 1450 calAD. The dates suggested the possibility that the individuals were buried at two different points in time rather than in one mass burial, as was originally believed, but that the burial ground was certainly in use during the early to mid-15<sup>th</sup> century and possibly beyond that time. Documentary evidence strongly suggests the burial ground had ceased to be used by the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was quickly forgotten about.

The dead at Cranbrook Street were buried at varying alignments, contrary to Christian custom, with at least one individual buried at a right angle to a skeleton immediately beneath. It appeared they had been carelessly buried, as if in haste. The project now aims to understand the circumstances necessitating burials outside the mediaeval town at a time when five burial grounds were in use within the mediaeval town: burial grounds at the churches of St Mary, St Peter and St Nicholas, and the Carmelite and Franciscan friaries. The burial ground at St John's Hospital, located north of the town, had, according to historic documentation, ceased to be used by the time of the Cranbrook Street burials.

One hypothesis, supported to a certain extent by documentary research, is that the dead were victims of an epidemic, or a series of epidemics, during a period of urban decline which saw abandonment of the area east of St Mary's Church following the Black Death of 1349, dereliction of property by 1374, increased poverty by



The original drawing by Tony Wass showing the positions of the two skeletons.  
© Nottingham Museums and Galleries

1409 and led to Nottingham being described as an 'impoverished town' by 1433/1434. The earliest burial records for Nottingham date to 1563. However, documentary research undertaken during this project, using methods never previously applied to studies of Nottingham's past, has suggested the likelihood that Nottingham, and other parts of the county, were visited by some form of epidemic in 1409/10, 1435-1437, 1442, 1445, 1451/52 and 1461/62. Possible epidemics occurred occasionally for the remainder of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and into the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1518 Henry VIII was advised not to visit Nottingham because there was 'some death' in the town. A paper is being prepared detailing these findings.



The skull of individual SKVa  
© Scott Lomax

An osteoarchaeological examination has identified interesting characteristics of the remains, providing clues relating to the occupation and lifestyle of the two individuals. A facial reconstruction has been produced, to bring people face to face with a man living in Nottingham approximately 600 years ago.

Stable isotope analysis has revealed information about the place of birth of one of the individuals, and information regarding the diet of the second individual. Ongoing research, to be completed by the summer of 2015, includes ancient DNA analysis to test for up to 3000 bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens and further documentary research is planned. A team of international experts from Nottinghamshire, Canada and the USA are involved in the scientific analysis. For further information about the project please visit [www.medievalnottingham.sclomax.co.uk](http://www.medievalnottingham.sclomax.co.uk)

Scott Lomax

### RUFFORD ABBEY: AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH

As my recent article<sup>1</sup> was going to press I came across an old photograph of Rufford Abbey in the Nottinghamshire Archives whilst looking for early photographs of Newstead Abbey. Tucked away at the back of an album entitled 'MANSFIELD 1900' I found this photograph of Rufford Abbey from the north-east, which I had never seen before. It shows the house before the new grand staircase was added to the east front and the bay window was added to the north front. This new staircase, housed in a projecting gabled wing at the centre of the east front, and the first-floor bay window on the north front, have always been referred to as having been added as part of Anthony Salvin's alterations to the house carried out between 1837 and 1841. This would have meant that the photograph was taken before Salvin began his alterations in 1837, and this would have meant that I had discovered one of the very earliest photographs ever taken! I immediately and excitedly consulted Ian Leith at the National Monuments Record in Swindon who assured me that this photograph could not possibly date from this early and he suggested that it dated from the 1870s at the earliest and that these additions must have been made after this date.

Eventually having re-examined the various documents which relate to the history of Rufford, I discovered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Savile's article *Rufford Abbey*, published in *The Pall Mall Magazine* in 1898, the following solution to my problem:-

'The grand staircase, of carved oak, was designed and built by the late Lord Savile, H. M. Ambassador at Rome; the fine bay window, which forms the first floor landing, being the only addition to the outside of the house since the alterations made by Lord Halifax.'



The late Lord Savile referred to must be John Savile, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Savile (1818-1896) the diplomat and amateur artist, who inherited Rufford Abbey in 1887 and died in 1896. So we now know that this grand new stair and the bay on the north front were not part of Salvin's work, instead they were constructed sometime between 1887 and 1896. This means that the photograph which began this enquiry does, as Ian Leith suggested, date from the 1870s or 1880s.

So this picture is not the early photographic image I first imagined, but it is nonetheless an extremely important image for the history of Rufford Abbey. As a consequence of this discovery I have written a third article for the English Heritage Historical Review entitled *Rufford Abbey; A Victorian and Edwardian Country House* which discusses this and other new evidence concerning the architectural development of Rufford Abbey.

Pete Smith     [pete21smith@gmx.com](mailto:pete21smith@gmx.com)

1. Smith P (2013) *Rufford Abbey and Ollerton Hall, Nottinghamshire: Alternative Interpretations* English Heritage Historical Review 8(1) 18-35

### **FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAM MUSEUMS**

The Friends of Nottingham Museums was established in 1977, with the objective of providing support to Nottingham City Council's museums and galleries. They raise funds to enable the purchase of new items for the collections, assist in volunteer projects, work at events and lead tours.

The Friends are a group of like-minded people with a pride in Nottingham and its heritage. With the desire to promote the importance of the city's museums, they devote time and effort to the continued development of these historic sites.

The benefits of being a Friend include:

- Free admission to all museums (special events may incur a charge)
- Invitations to all Private Views and Exhibitions
- Copies of the Nottingham City Council 'What's On' guide
- Copies of the 'Friends' quarterly newsletters
- Guided and illustrated talks with Museum and Galleries staff
- 10% discount off all purchases made in museum shops over the value of £5
- Involvement in museums events
- A varied programme of lectures, illustrated talks and visits to galleries and historic places

Lectures are held on Saturdays in Studio 1 at Nottingham Castle, 2pm prompt. The programme until February 2016 is:

- 19 September     Museums and Galleries talk (members only)
- 17 October         Edward Carver, a Victorian hatter and furrier - Peter Hammond

- 14 November Notable men and women with Nottinghamshire connections - Barbara Bradley  
12 December Christmas Crackers - Janette Merilion  
16 January Development of Newark Civil War Centre and Newark Museum - Kevin Winter  
10 February AGM followed by a talk from a member of the City Museums' staff.

Non-members are welcome to attend any meeting (except 19 September which is members only) at a charge of £2 (normal entry to The Castle applies).

Further information from Janet Lievesley 0115 922 1734.

## OBITUARY

### **Christopher Francis Kendal Granger 1935-2015.**



It is with much sadness that we report the death of Christopher Granger. A long-standing member of the Society, Chris was very much a Nottinghamshire man, with close connections to several well-known Nottinghamshire families. On his father's side, he was a great-grandson of Sir John Turney, leather manufacturer and Lord Mayor of Nottingham, and a great nephew of Professor Frank Granger of Nottingham University. On his mother's side, he was descended from Richard Warwick, founder of the Warwick and Richardsons Brewery in Newark, and related to the Huskinsons of Langar Hall.

After National Service in the Royal Artillery, Chris joined the family firm of accountants. But shortly after qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1961, he had the catastrophic misfortune of an accident in the Noel Street Baths, which left him with a severe spinal cord injury. Only the excellent care he received from Stoke Mandeville Hospital saved his life. It was here that he met his future wife Eileen, whom he married in 1964. Her skill and constant care kept him astonishingly fit both physically and emotionally through the years that followed. The

arrival of the two children added an extra and hugely happy dimension to their lives, in turn much increased by the arrival of four grandchildren.

Not entirely happy with his job in the national firm of accountants which had taken over the family partnership, Chris boldly set up on his own accountancy practice, and made a considerable success of this.

He also served on the Board of the family firm of lace makers, Nottingham's last independent lace manufacturers.

This did not prevent him from pursuing an amazingly wide range of spare-time interests both historical and other. He and Eileen were often to be seen in Nottingham's "theatreland", attending plays, concerts and opera. And these were complemented by visits to London and elsewhere. Indeed, determined not to be constrained by Chris's condition, they frequently holidayed abroad. Nor was gardening out of the question. Chris's great love and knowledge of plants led them to create a garden with an extraordinarily wide range of species.

He had long had a substantial collection of coins. To this over time he added one of seventeenth century tokens, and became perhaps the foremost expert on the tokens of the East Midlands. He explored his family's history in numerous lines, one of which went back to John Robinson of Pilgrim Father fame. He also found

time to research and write up the history of Hickling Church, being on the final stages of this at the time of his death.

Chris's quiet and gentle manner was unchanged by his accident. A man of great intelligence, he held strong views but did not shout about them or force them on others. A life-long Liberal, he castigated the Conservative treatment of the disabled. In a marvellous example of his determination not to be dominated by his condition, he threw a party to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his accident and the start of his life in a wheelchair. That he survived 53 years after his accident is extraordinary and a tribute to the wonderful care and love he received from his nearest and dearest and the exceptional physique and determination of the man himself. He is sorely missed.

John Hamilton

## **JOSIE BOOTH**

We have been informed of the death of Josie Booth, a member of the Thoroton society for many years. A full obituary will appear in the Winter issue of the newsletter.

*[I understand that Josie was the Society's Librarian in the days when the Society rented what is now the Thoroton Room at Bromley House. Can this be confirmed? – Ed.]*

## **BOOKSHELF**

### **WHO DIPS IN THE TIN? THE BUTTY SYSTEM IN THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COALFIELD**

**Barry Johnson**

**Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Labour History Society Occasional Pamphlet 2, 2015, pp.28.**

**ISSN 2083-6550. £2.50 Available from Five Leaves Bookshop, Nottingham**

Barry Johnson, who was born in Hucknall and worked in his later years in Chesterfield, is well steeped in the social and economic history of coal mining. He has written a well-researched re-assessment of the butty system in Nottinghamshire. Butties were sub-contractors who received payment for the job, hiring others and paying them part of the fee for the job. Johnson draws on mining and union records, local and Labour movement newspapers, oral history as well as secondary sources, including the work of Alan Griffin. After surveying butty systems in other industries, Johnson examines in detail the Nottinghamshire experience from the end of the First World War to the General Strike. He shows the diminution of the system during the 1919-20 economic upturn, when labour was strong in the labour market, and the system's return after the bitter 1921 coal dispute. As the author notes, an overfull labour market was necessary for butty systems to work. He agrees with Sidney and Beatrice Webb's observation of the butty system that it was 'a fraudulent attempt to achieve piece work exertion while paying only time wages'. Barry Johnson provides a fresh and detailed examination of the butty system and his pamphlet constitutes a valuable addition to Nottinghamshire's coal mining history.

Chris Wrigley – University of Nottingham

### **VOICES FROM A TRUNK: THE LOST LIVES OF THE QUAKER EDDISONS 1805-1867**

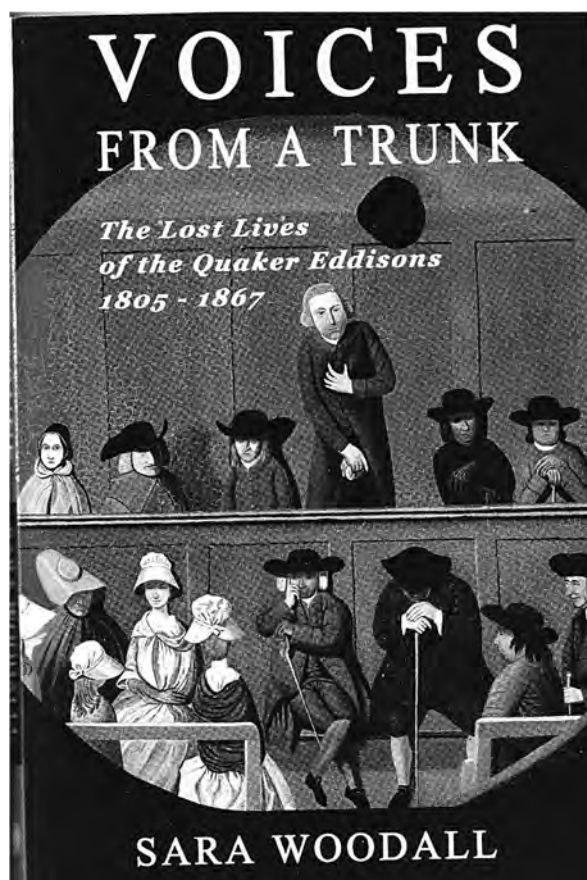
**Sara Woodall**

**Blackthorn Press 2014 ISBN 9781906259426. £24.95**

In 2002 the house in Bedale, North Yorkshire, where Sara's maternal grandparents had lived, was put up for sale and Sara was allowed to rummage through its contents to see what she could find. She was in luck. There in the chaos of her hoarding grandparents' attic was a black trunk. "It held ... papers untouched for



200 years.... which would transport me into a Georgian world... worn leather folders, rolls tied up with faded pink ribbons, meticulous farm accounts, poems, a wine-stained ship's journal dated 1830, old Quaker marriage documents, a 1767 Gretna Green marriage certificate, frail genealogical lists, maps of Leeds, letters, wills and a stud list of 76 horses." A veritable family historian's dream!



On top of them all was a sixteen page document entitled *Memorandum of the pain in my Side*. This, it transpired, was written by her great great grandfather, Edwin Eddison, and it is his life that much of this book recounts. The memorandum analyses in detail the possible causes, probably a fall on his side when playing football, its frequency of recurrence and the various cures, recommended by different physicians. On one occasion, after a fourteen mile walk on which he was almost sick with pain, he boarded the coach from Leeds, where he was at school, to Doncaster. 45 miles and two days journey by stagecoach and thence by gig, meant a bumpy ride home to Gateford. Once home, twelve leeches were applied followed by another twelve two days later, then seventeen and then another nineteen.

The Eddisons were Quakers from the start of the movement in the seventeenth century. The family had established itself in Gateford around 1720, having been in the cloth business in Leeds. At Gateford, as well as continuing in business, they were successful and innovative farmers, attracting the attention of Arthur Young. Edwin was one of the eight children of John Eddison, 1756-1812, and Ann Booth. She came from Annesley Woodhouse.

John died while his children were still young (he had married late), leaving Ann to bring up her large family on her own.

Wisely she involved her husband's brother, Benjamin, an able farmer, and her bachelor brother, who made a lot of money from the hosiery warehouse which he established in Nottingham. Happily there was enough money for the children to be well educated and they made the most of it. Edwin himself became a partner in a leading firm of Leeds attorneys. His standing with that firm led to him being appointed Town Clerk of Leeds where he was in charge of extravagant celebrations when Queen Victoria visited.

His brother, Booth Eddison, was a highly respected surgeon. He became President of the British Medical Association; and one of his grand-daughters married Sir Harold Bowden, son of the founder of Raleigh Cycles. His portrait, showing him in modest but fashionable clothes, contrasts with the old fashioned garb of the Quakers in the Meeting House on the front cover. Even having one's portrait painted was "unQuakerish" and evidence of why the Eddisons were, if not "wet", at least "damp" Quakers, in Sir Walter Scot's description.

The possible connection with the inventor Thomas Alva Eddison is also explored, and even if the number of genes shared with a fourth cousin once removed is certainly limited, one has to admit there is a surprising likeness between Sara's grandfather and Thomas. In view of this, it is appropriate that the book ends with a "Doomed Trip to America" followed by Edwin's agonising death at home. In addition to the most useful family trees provided, the book is excellently illustrated with many family portraits and photographs, as well as pictures of their homes, of documents both hand-written and printed, contemporary cartoons and even the black trunk itself complete with black cat. These add a great deal of interest and value to the book; it would be ungenerous to wonder why three reproductions of Shireoaks Hall are needed and what a picture of Beau Brummel among several other celebrities is doing in a book on Quakers.

There is a useful index as well as a considerable bibliography, testimony to Ms Woodall's wide reading for the book, which has enabled her to include much fascinating background which greatly enlivens the book. This allows the author to range widely on many topics: the birth of the railways, a great Quaker bank crash, Luddite riots, and the astonishing "cures" of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century doctors.

The book also includes the history of underwear, which is where Beau Brummel comes in. Another titbit is the story of W.H.Auden's "marriage", which would have delighted today's tabloids – Auden's father was a friend of Sara's grandfather.

It may be said that *Voices from a Trunk* belongs to the Margaret Forster School of family history: the story of discovering the family's history being almost as important as the history itself. Many will find this makes the book more readable, and only perhaps crabby historians could object! But it also means the text jumps around chronologically rather than being a continuous narrative; and it does so somewhat more than might seem necessary, even though continuity is of course difficult to achieve in a family history with its multitude of lines and lives.

But Ms Woodall does allow the participants to speak with their own voices, quoting widely from Edwin's letters home from school, for example. And this story of a prosperous and successful family contains much to inform and entertain those interested in the history of the people of Nottinghamshire.

Christopher Granger and John Hamilton

*Note: Christopher had begun this review but had been unable to finish it before his recent sad demise. He was particularly interested to do the review, as his family was descended from that of Edwin's mother, the Booths, as the reference to James Granger in the text confirms.*

## **NEWARK IN THE GREAT WAR**

**Trevor Frecknall**

**Pen and Sword Military - ISBN 9781783831678 - £14.99**

A title in Pen and Sword's *Your Towns and Cities in the Great War* series, this is an excellent and all-embracing account of Newark and the experience of its people in the Great War. The book is written by former journalist Trevor Frecknall who has conducted thorough research to uncover many personal stories. It gives an astonishingly broad account of how the war affected the town, and of the families who waved off their sons and husbands with hope and pride, at least five hundred of whom never returned.

We have here first-hand accounts of the Newark soldiers' experiences and of the reactions of the families' to loss. From the first pages you are taken in by the accounts young soldiers sent home to their families, of the terrible shelling, of the destruction of Belgian villages, the homeless people, the atrocities committed by German troops. "I saw the Germans shoot women and children in Mons because they would not walk down the street in front of them as a shield," wrote John W. Gibson.

There are stories of escapes against all odds, such as Sergeant Herbert Stephenson who "had bullets fly through his cap, tunic sleeve and saddle during service in Egypt", fought against Bulgars and Turks and never got a scratch.

The last pages of the book are devoted to listing all those who didn't come back; year by year losses, with ranks and regiments and where in Newark they had lived.

There is far too much superb information and too many poignant stories to give more than a flavour of the book in this review – it is definitely a book for anyone who is interested in the Great War, Newark or just humanity in general.

Highly recommended.

Barbara Cast

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*From David Buttery, author, Waterloo Battlefield Guide*

Thank you very much for the review of my *Waterloo Battlefield Guide* [in the Summer issue – Ed]. I value every review I receive very highly as they are enormously important, not only for marketing purposes but to let me know what readers think of my work. As we'd hoped, the *Waterloo Battlefield Guide* did very well due

to the bicentenary and my publisher has almost sold out of the first edition. Indeed, a second edition, followed by a revised edition, are being planned.

I acted as a Tour Guide during the bicentenary week and conducted an 8 day coach tour with 35 guests (British, American, Canadian and Australian) around the 1815 battlefields for the Cultural Experience tour company. It was an incredible event with our company alone running 16 coach tours with 35 guests on each. The two re-enactments sold out with 60,000 tickets sold at each and up to a million people visited Waterloo itself that week, including British and Belgian royalty. My talks at 40 different stands in addition to voiceovers on the coach went down well and I'm hoping I can get more work of this kind, particularly as the pay is reasonable and I get to work with people with whom I have much in common.

Due to the new underground Battlefield Centre and the restoration work carried out on Hougoumont, a revised edition of my *Waterloo Battlefield Guide* is a great idea but those are the only major changes which I will need to incorporate. I must, however, go through it carefully and delete or alter some small things. For example, several buildings have been demolished in the Lion Village, some hotels have been re-named and one movement has been relocated. However, these should be easily addressed.

David Buttery

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christian Mission**

In July 1865 the East London Christian Mission came into being, founded by a former Methodist Minister called William Booth and Catherine, his wife. His name still resonates, especially in his birth city of Nottingham and the district of Sneinton. This year the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary has been marked and celebrated by the Salvation Army, the organisation which the Christian Mission became and which is still a force for good, often working amongst those least able to help themselves. Long may it continue.

Barbara Cast

### **PUBLISHED ARTICLES NOTED**

#### **Local History News number 115 Spring 2015**

Disappearing Landscapes - Alan Crosby  
Children and the First World War – Rosie Kennedy  
Volunteers: the new stakeholders – Richard Hoyle  
Discovering Jersey – Bronwyn Matthews  
Legacies of British slave ownership – Keith McClelland

#### **The Local Historian April 2015 vl 45 no 2**

Zen and the Art of Local History – Alan Crosby  
Ideal and reality: the principles of the garden city movement and the first council houses in Worcestershire – Janet Dunleavy  
The history and heritage of Lincoln's council estates: local history and 'critical' public history in practice – Andrew J.H. Jackson  
Housing the middle classes in late Victorian and Edwardian Surbiton – Christopher French  
Fervent rejoicing and muted protest: London at the time of King George V's Silver Jubilee – Neil Robson

### **COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:**

Mediaeval graffiti  
Excursion reports

## YOUR SOCIETY

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Institutional Ordinary membership £25.00  
Institutional Record Section £20.00 (non-UK £24)

### RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact for details: John Wilson email: [wilsonicus@btinternet.com](mailto: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

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](mailto: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. They are also 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, John Wilson, 38 Stuart Close, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8AE  
email [wilsonicus@btinternet.com](mailto:wilsonicus@btinternet.com)

Items can be handwritten or typed in Word format, either suffix .doc or .docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are all most welcome to illustrate an item. Images can be submitted on CD, 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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