

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 85 *Autumn 2016*



The reconstruction of the likeness of His Late Majesty King Richard III at the Richard III Centre in Leicester. A full account of the Society's visit to Leicester is on page 3.

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

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THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The mailing this month includes your booking form for the annual luncheon; this year we take to the river once again on the Princess Endeavour – the date is Saturday 5th November. We thoroughly enjoyed this special way of lunching last time we travelled on the Princess – we are promised a super roast lunch served to us at £21.50 per person.

As our venue is special this year our trip and meal will be accompanied by a commentary on all the sites we will pass as we sail along the Trent.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with other members on 5th November and once again enjoy a special meal together while sailing on the “smug and silver Trent”!

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

SUMMER EXCURSIONS 2016

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, BILBOROUGH AND THE ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE, SOUTHWELL
Thursday 12th May – Leader Alan Langton**

Surprisingly, this excursion only attracted eighteen members and friends: perhaps it did not seem a long enough excursion, or the places visited seemed insufficiently interesting, or it was too close to the Spring Meeting. However, it was the verdict of those who did attend that we enjoyed a most enlightening and interesting day. Saint Martin's church at Bilborough is the ancient parish church of the village, but during the last half century Bilborough has grown into a very large housing estate, many of the old families with church connections have disappeared, and this area of the city became high profile for the growth of crime. The Church building suffered from vandalism and guns were even found buried in the churchyard. In the 1970s an attempt was made to make the church look 'modern' with the building of a new worship space after part of the old north wall had been demolished. How the Diocesan authorities allowed this to happen is beyond belief. In 2010, moves were made to restore as much of the old beauty of the original building as possible, and with the help of thousands of pounds from Heritage funding and other sources as well as money raising in the parish, a resurrection has taken place: a Victorian barrel roof has been uncovered and old murals have been restored; the tower has been stabilised and under-floor heating installed. The stonework has been repaired and

cleaned, and a new chapter in the history of the church has begun. The enthusiasm and excitement of church officials Hilary and Terry explaining all this to us was delightful.

At Southwell we had lunch in the Minster cafe, and were then guided by Corinne around the restoration project of the Archbishop of York's Southwell Palace, and the newly created Education Garden. The original palace construction began about 1360 and stone from the Roman villa on the site was perhaps used. Various monarchs, and especially Cardinal Wolsey stayed at the palace, and again Heritage Lottery funding has been given for the project. We enjoyed seeing the State Chamber, and then being shown some significant features in the Minster itself.

Our last visit was to the church of the Good Shepherd at Woodthorpe, which has only been opened since 1964, and is therefore in marked contrast to the antiquity of Saint Martin's Bilborough. We were told by Monica Purdue that the church received special status for its architecture, which aims to produce an intimacy for a congregation of up to 600 people gathered around the central sanctuary area. The nave consists of two hexagons, each forty feet wide and each covered by an umbrella vault supported on a single column. The windows were designed by Patrick Reyntiens and present images of trees in the Bible (e.g. the Garden of Eden, the Tree of Life, the Cross, and so on).

Alan Langton

LEICESTER AND BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD SITE Thursday 16th June – Leader Alan Langton

A good torrential downpour greeted the start of our visit to Leicester. Fortunately, because the morning session was in the Richard III Visitor Centre, the weather did not bother our forty members. First of all, we were entertained for an hour by Dr. Mathew Morris [right] of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Leicester, who described in graphic detail the exciting discovery of the original resting place of the skeleton of Richard III under the car park, and the subsequent detailed scientific research work done to establish the accuracy of the assumptions about the remains. We then had the opportunity to go round the Visitor Centre and to see the new tomb in the cathedral. After lunch we journeyed to Bosworth – and the sun came out and shone warmly as we toured the site of the battlefield of 1485 and learned about the corrections that have more recently come to light about the precision of the positioning of the various armies on that fateful day. Bill, our tour guide, was excellent and provided us with easily understandable facts about the complexity of the development of the battle. The day ended with tea in the cafe and the opportunity to look round the very informative and well-presented Visitor Centre.



Alan Langton

KIMBOLTON CASTLE AND BUCKDEN TOWERS Thursday 14th July – Leaders Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman

Thursday 14th July turned out to be a beautiful, warm and sunny day. Quite unexpectedly so in a dull and rainy week. We travelled to Kimbolton, via a comfort and coffee stop at Peterborough services, where we were met, after a drive through some very attractive countryside, by Mrs Nora Bolton and her husband who gave us a most interesting tour of the castle. There has been a castle

there since the eleventh century but the present house dates from the late Stuart period (1690-1720) and very little of the mediaeval castle can now be identified. Much of the Tudor and Jacobean manor house survives but is mostly encased in more recent plaster, stone and panelling. The stone exterior, Saloon and South Range were designed by Vanbrugh, whilst the brick Courtyard and the Great Hall are rather earlier and are thought to have been the work of the King's Lynn architect Henry Bell (1647-1711). The lead pipes for rainwater were deemed 'the finest in England' by Nicolaus Pevsner.

The castle's most famous resident was Queen Katherine of Aragon, the first wife of King Henry VIII, who lived there until her death in 1536. The house was later owned by the Dukes of Manchester (the first earl came from Cambridgeshire and wanted 'Godmanchester' as his title. However, King James 1st. did not wish a subject to have 'God' in his name). The fortunes of the family declined and in the 20th century the castle was bought by Kimbolton School.

Amongst the greatest treasures of the Castle are the wonderful murals by Pellegrini (1675-1741) which adorn the Grand Staircase and the Chapel. Although the Castle is now a school, the atmosphere is still that of a great house. The Head's Study and the Senior Common Room are both a delight, as are some of the classrooms.

After Kimbolton we travelled a short distance to the village of Buckden. The village originally lay on the Great North Road but is now bypassed by the busy A1. Buckden Tower is also a mediaeval building with additions from Tudor times to the 19th century. It was originally a Bishop's Palace for the Bishops of Lincoln and lay conveniently on the road between London and Lincoln. The great Bishop St. Hugh of Lincoln (bishop from 1186-1200) stayed there on a number of occasions. Many royal visitors came over the years, including Katherine of Aragon who was sent there to live for a few months before being transferred to Kimbolton. Later Henry himself came with Jane Seymour. The 19th century house was bought by Mr James Marshall (of the firm of Marshall and Snelgrove) in 1870.

Other owners followed, but in 1957 the religious connection was restored when the house passed to the Claretian Missionaries. The Claretians were founded in 1849 in Spain by Saint Anthony Mary Claret, who worked tirelessly for the poor in his native Spain. The house is now called the St. Claret centre where we were made most welcome and enjoyed a buffet lunch. We were given a tour of the whole complex of buildings and shown the lovely Tudor knot garden, which on a warm July day was seen at its best. The day ended with free time to enjoy the village and a cup of tea in a local hostelry.

Penny Messenger

AT THIS TIME... 250 years ago

Trying it for size

In July 1766, two men – William Wainer and James Bromage – were convicted of being highwaymen. They robbed a Mr Robert Hall, of Durham, on the Mansfield Road at Redhill. They then made their way towards Coventy, where they held up the Chester coach. They were apprehended at Coventry, brought back to Nottingham and sentenced to be hanged. On the day of their execution, they were taken to St Mary's Church, where they heard the 'Condemned Sermon'. They were then taken to their graves, and 'permitted to lye down in them to see if they fitted'. They then walked to the place of execution, wearing their shrouds¹.

100 years ago

The weather of 1916 was rather odd. There was almost no snow in January, but then very heavy falls of snow over a six-week period in February and March. On 27th March the British Isles were battered by a terrible storm, with heavy snows whipped up into a blizzard on hurricane-force

winds. 15 people were killed across Britain. Heavy snow and bitter cold were also affecting the battlefields in France and Belgium. The summer proved to be relatively dry, with an absolute drought recorded at Hodsock Priory between 22nd July and 12th August. The late autumn and early winter were characterised by fog. (The Battle of Verdun on 24th October was fought in thick fog, which enabled the French army to re-take the fort of Douaumont). On 14th December a 57-year-old woman, Mary Tainton, was knocked down by a tramcar and killed in Greyfriar Gate, Nottingham, in the fog. The wartime lighting restrictions were blamed¹.

The Thoroton Society was not immune to the privations of wartime 1916. The Council 'thought it well to limit the Society's journeys entirely to half-day Excursions'². On Thursday 29th June an Afternoon Excursion was made to the Church of St Leodegarius, Old Basford, where a paper was read by Mr Harry Gill on the history of the river Leen and some of the buildings along its banks, including St Leodegarius. Tea was taken in the Church Room, then some members went on to inspect the Old Grammar School in Bulwell, close to the tram terminus. A further visit was made to Basford and Bulwell in July, where Mr Gill read a further paper, this time about the Mills on the Leen. A further Meeting of the Society was arranged for 4th October at St Mary's Church in Nottingham, where Mr Harry Gill contributed much information on the architecture of the Church.

1 Nottingham Date Book

2 *Transactions* for 1916

John Wilson

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

A LOST MARKET

The Act for a turnpike road from Mansfield to Derby was passed in the year 1763-4¹. The route from Mansfield is across Kirkby Moor, Annesley, Annesley Hall, Underwood, Eastwood, Langley (Mill), where the road crosses the River Erewash and enters Derbyshire. Between Annesley Hall and Underwood the road passes a short lane leading to the site of the Augustinian priory of Felley. On the opposite side of the road to this lane is Shipton Hill and Shipton Hill Farm.

The original meaning of Shipton in these names is significant. An early reference to the name was in the Ministers Accounts at the time of Henry VIII when the spelling was *Chepynghyll*². At the Dissolution of the Monasteries all the lands of Felley Priory were granted to William Bolles, one of the receivers of the Court of Augmentation. These lands included "the tenement and closes at *Chepyn Hille*"³. These two 16th century spellings point to the derivation from Old English **cepyng** "a market". This word appears in the name *Chepynstrete* in some medieval towns and cities to indicate the location of a market. The Old English **cepyng** becomes Chipping in Modern English as in Chipping, Lancashire, (*Chippin* in 1203 and *Chypping* in 1241) and Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (*Chepyngcampedene* in 1287-1446)⁴.

These early spellings imply that Felley Priory had a (prescriptive) market adjacent to the road and that the road itself was mediaeval. Indeed Edward I will have used this road in February 1292-3 when he was travelling from Pleasley to stay at the home of Sir Henry de Grey at Codnor Castle⁵.

Notes

1 Cossons, Arthur (1934) *The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire*.

2 Gover, J. E. B., Mawer, A and Stenton, F. M (1940) *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*.

3 My thanks to Clive Leivers for providing me with this invaluable reference.

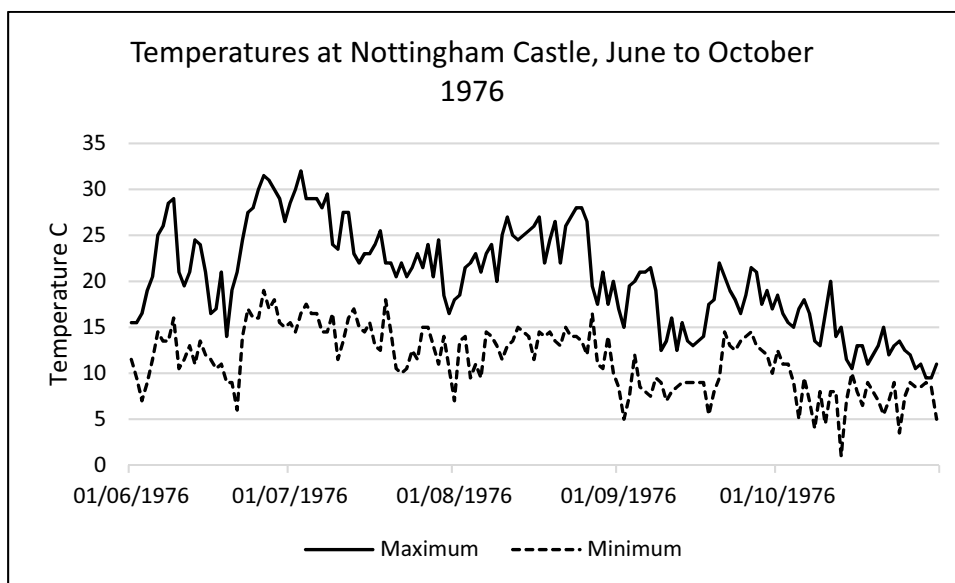
4 Watts, Victor (2004) *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*.

5 Itinerary of King Edward the First throughout his reign. Internet Archive Book.

Brian Rich

1976 – THE YEAR WITH TOO MUCH SUMMER

Further to my paper in the Summer Newsletter about 1816, when there was no summer worth speaking of, many members will remember 1976, where it could be argued that we had too much summer! This was the year of the Great Drought. The year had started with a fairly dry winter, and came on the heels of relatively low rainfall in 1975, so that reservoirs were already low at the start of 1976. Rainfall remained low throughout the spring of 1976, and then in June the temperatures began to rise. The Met Office reported that at Heathrow there were sixteen consecutive days (23 June to 8 July) with a maximum over 30°C. Over the same period, temperatures reached 32.2°C (90F) or more somewhere in England. On 28 June the temperature at Southampton reached 35.6°C. This is the highest June temperature ever recorded in the UK. The hottest day of all was 3 July, with the temperature at Cheltenham reaching 35.9°C, one of the hottest July days on record in the UK. At the recording station at Nottingham Castle, there were 74 days with temperature of 21°C or more, 36 days with 25°C or more, and six days when the maximum temperature exceeded 30°C.



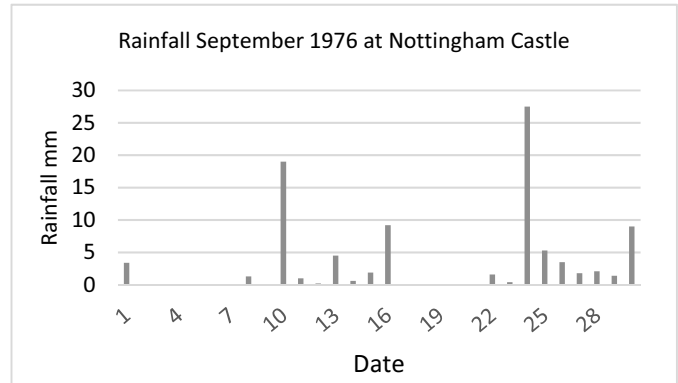
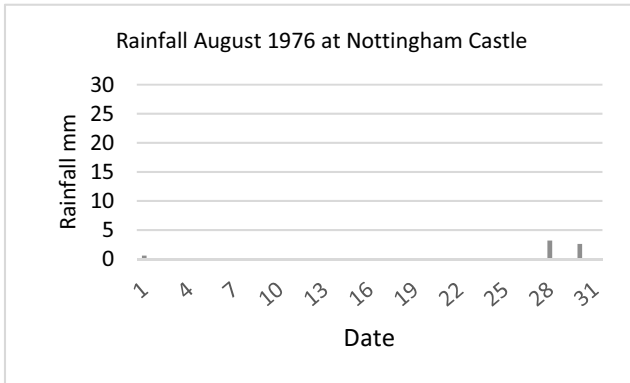
One big problem was the drought. The summer and autumn of 1975 were very dry, and the winter of 1975–76 was exceptionally dry, as was the spring of 1976; indeed, in some parts of the country there were some months in this period where no rain fell at all. Hence, water stocks in the nation's reservoirs were already low before the summer of 1976

began. Nottingham was slightly more fortunate than many areas, in that no month in the period had no rain at all, although some (April 1975, 9.7mm and August 1976, 6.4mm) came close. However, Nottingham's water supply does not come from near the Castle! So we experienced the drought as did most other parts of the country. The south-west and southern England were particularly badly hit by the drought, with devastating fires on heath, grassland and forested areas. To add to the problems, there were huge swarms of ladybirds, whose normal food supply (aphids) had dried up, literally. The population of ladybirds had increased suddenly because of the warm spring weather which had allowed an explosion in the aphid population. When the grass and other plants dried up, the aphids died and so the ladybirds swarmed to find alternative food sources. By April 1976, the soils in East Anglia had become so parched that serious soil erosion occurred as the strong easterly winds blew away the topsoil from many fields.

The high temperatures in the summer of 1976 had a serious impact on the health of the population. There were many cases of heat stroke and it was estimated that there was an increase in deaths of some 20% above the normal death rate for the period.

The Government of James Callaghan passed an emergency Drought Act on 6th August 1976. Emergency rules banning the washing of cars and the watering of gardens with hosepipes were introduced. In many areas, water pressure was so low that emergency standpipes were introduced, so that householders had to queue up with cans to collect their water. Unofficial advice was to 'Save

water: bath with a friend'. Many ideas as to how to increase water supplies were suggested, included the importing of tankers of water from Norway and 'cloud seeding'. The latter would involve releasing small crystals of various chemicals, one of which was sodium iodide, into clouds to persuade drops of water to form. Few of the ideas were really practical. Eventually, on 24th August, the Government appointed Denis Howells as 'Minister for Drought', with the intention that he should co-ordinate efforts to relieve the situation. A few days later, on Bank Holiday Monday (30th August) the drought was relieved in spectacular fashion with thunderstorms in many parts of the country. At Nottingham Castle on that day, however, there was just 2.6mm. The rains began in earnest in September and continued throughout October, with Nottingham Castle having its heaviest rainfall (27.5mm) on 24th September.



So, although the year 1976 saw one of the worst droughts for very many years, the overall rainfall was not too far below average owing to the very wet September and October. Nottingham Castle's rainfall for the year was 472mm, which is 74% of the long term average.

John Wilson

RESEARCH GROUP – REMINDER

The Thoroton research group will meet on Saturday 15th October at 10.30am in the Thoroton Room at Bromley House. All members of the Thoroton Society who are interested in carrying out personal research in local history are invited to attend. If you intend to come to the meeting, please let John Wilson know on 0115 926 6175 or wilsonicus@btinternet.com.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION TO HELP WITH RESEARCH

SHOE & HAND OUTLINES ON LEAD ROOFS

In May of this year the Thoroton Society went on an excursion to St. Martin's Church, Bilborough, Nottingham [See report in this issue – Ed]. Our main interest was in the restored, early post-war murals on the east wall, but there were other displays that also caught the eye. These were the three illuminated cabinets fixed to the wall under the tower, which contained examples of graffiti left in the lead of the tower roof that were removed before the roof was renovated in 2011. We did not have enough time to study them in detail as we had to get to Southwell, but I have since returned to have a better look.

I met again with Hilary Wheat, who is the project manager of the Hidden Treasures project at St Martin's. Hilary gave me access to the displays and even arranged for me to go on to the tower roof, (in the rain, but I can't hold that against her).

The 'graffiti' consist mainly of the outlines of shoes and hands either scratched or dotted [pounced] with a pointed tool. Many also contain initials and dates. The footwear and hand shapes intrigued me so I did a bit of online research. The two largest local collections of these marks found

so far were on the roofs of Bolsover Castle (approx. 180) and St Margaret's Church, Wetton, Staffordshire (approx. 200), both of which were surveyed by Dr Richard Sheppard of Trent & Peak Archaeology in 1998 and 2002 respectively.

The more I look into this the more widespread these 'prints' seem to be. I have already found more than twenty places where these outlines have been recorded, but can find no evidence of a centralized database. With the continued problem of theft, part of the Bilborough lead was stolen after it had been taken off the roof, and the replacement of lead roofs with less attractive (aesthetically, historically and larceny ???) alternatives, it would be a pity not to record these markings before they disappear for ever.

Does Bilborough have the only examples in Nottinghamshire? If any readers know of others or have any insights into this phenomenon could they please either contact the editor or email me directly at keith.g.fisher@virginmedia.com.

Keith Fisher

[See also the article on Mediaeval Graffiti in this issue – Ed.]

MASS DIALS

Mass dials are small 'sundials' found on mediaeval churches, usually near the Priest Door or often on an adjacent buttress. Whenever the Society visits a church, we always look for a mass dial. Some churches have more than one. The British Sundial Society keeps a register of known mass dials, and in Nottinghamshire there are fifty-three churches in the Register. However, many of Nottinghamshire's mediaeval churches are not in the Register. Is this because they have no mass dial, or because they have not been visited and examined? If any members of the Society do visit a mediaeval church, please would they look to see if the church has a mass dial, and let me know the result, whether yes or no. Knowing that a church has no mass dial is important as it saves others a fruitless visit.

John Wilson wilsonicus@btinternet.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Water Porridge Hall'

I picked up the Summer newsletter for The Thoroton Society in Calverton Library and read the piece on Water Porridge Hall with great interest. I have now also seen the piece in the Spring newsletter.

My great uncle lived at Moor Farm. A couple of years ago I told my mother (now 93 years old) that I had found an old map with Moor Farm on but that it was called Water Porridge Hall. She said "That makes sense. When I was young I was always told to be careful because the land was very boggy." Maybe the name was because of the state of the land?

Victoria Powell

NEWS

Medieval Graffiti Survey

Members may recall that in the Winter 2015 (issue no 82) of this Newsletter we reviewed a book by Matthew Champion on mediaeval graffiti in English churches.

There is now a Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Mediaeval Graffiti Survey, which is under the auspices of Matt Beresford of MBarchaeology. The survey is funded partly by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Started in 2015, it is a two-year pilot project which seeks to identify, survey and record examples of mediaeval graffiti in Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire and explore the concept and possible meaning of this through arts and heritage-based workshops. The project brings together specialists in heritage,

archaeology, church buildings, art and community involvement. One aim of the project is to involve local people in the two counties and provide training & support to help them undertake this important survey. Several churches have now been surveyed, including Hawton All Saints, Southwell Minster, Edwinstowe St Mary's, Egmonton Our Lady, and also the Bishop's Palace, Southwell. Some of the graffiti identified may be possible mason's marks, but others consist of a variety of designs which are more elaborate than those usually associated with the stonemasons. At Hawton All Saints, there is an extensive array of mediaeval and post-mediaeval graffiti inscriptions, including a number of compass-drawn circles, animals, apotropaic symbols (including pentangles, burn marks on the tower door, daisy wheels around doors and on pews, double-V 'witch marks'), initials, dates, text, crosses and heraldic crests. Other churches are in process of being examined.

For further information, see www.involveheritage.co.uk/projects/dnmgs/



Graffiti in the church of Hawton All Saints. Clockwise from top left: 'daisy-wheel'; various dates and initials; drawing of a bird within a circle; an heraldic shield.

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'Past-Fest' at the University of Nottingham

The University's annual Archaeology Day has now morphed into 'Past-Fest', a fairly large-scale celebration of history and archaeology with something for everyone. There was a great deal of hands-on activity, with several volunteers in the University Museum allowing visitors to examine and in some cases handle a wide range of portable antiquities. There was a demonstration of flint-knapping, a Roman doctor explaining his rather gruesome surgical instruments (praise be for modern anaesthetics...) and a local hairdresser was doing ladies' hair in a variety of Roman styles. Children were well catered for with activities. For those of us with a rather more serious interest there was a large number of stalls representing societies from all over the East Midlands. The Thoroton stall was well patronised. We signed up one new member and sold a number of back-copies of *Transactions*

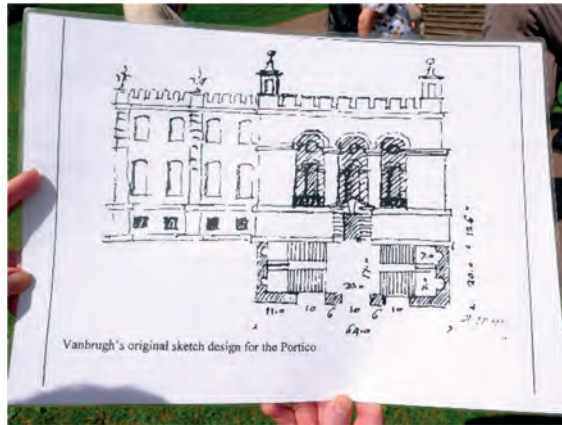
Excursion to St. Martin's Church, Bilborough and Bishop's Manor, Southwell



Clockwise from top left:
Members arriving at St Martin's Church, Bilborough;
The Evelyn Gibbs mural;
The memorial to Sir Edmund Helwys, father of Thomas Helwys;
The Font, thought to be late mediaeval.

Left: members in the Garden at the Bishop's Palace, Southwell

Excursion to Kimbolton Castle and Buckden Towers



Top row: Kimbolton Castle; entrance to the Great Court; ornamental metalwork on the drainpipes;
Middle row: members admire the Pellegrini murals on the Great Staircase; Vanbrugh's original drawings for the portico; St Antony Mary Claret, founder of the Claret Centre at Buckden
Bottom row: Buckden Towers; the Tudor knot garden.

and several books from the Record Series. Many thanks to Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman who helped us on the day. The Past-Fest is now well established as an annual event and is an accompaniment to the very successful and well-attended 'Archaeology Now' lectures at the University. More information on these lectures can be found at www.lakesidearts.org.uk.

John and Janet Wilson

ROBIN HOOD RIFLES – DEVASTATION ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

A hundred years ago the Battle of the Somme started. It was 1st July 1916 and a fine clear day when the Sherwood Foresters' Territorial Battalions took part in the bloody diversionary attack on the German stronghold of Gommecourt at the northernmost point of the battlefield. The 7th Battalion (the Nottingham based *Robin Hood Rifles*) went into action with twenty seven officers and six hundred other ranks and came out with only ninety men. Amongst those who were killed that day was Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence A. Hind MC who was leading his battalion in the attack on Gommecourt – he is commemorated on the Memorial at Thiepval. Many of the men who died that day have no known grave.

The day ended as the bloodiest in the British Army's entire history, with over 57,000 casualties being incurred.

Barbara Cast

YOUR SOCIETY

THE GEOFFREY BOND AWARD

Geoffrey Bond, a life member of the Thoroton Society, has kindly provided funds to underwrite research into the history and archaeology of the county of Nottinghamshire (the remit of the Thoroton Society). In addition to this the Society has increased the award support available by doubling the amount. Thus awards totalling £2000 are now available.

Terms and Conditions

1. Anyone, or any group, currently researching the history or archaeology of Nottinghamshire is invited to apply for financial support from the fund. Applicants, whether individuals or groups, are limited to one award per year but are not prohibited from applying for awards in successive years.
2. What the money can be used for:
 - i. The money can be used to support research into any topic relating to the history or archaeology of the county. This may include the acquisition of research resources, including books and photography/photocopying, and travel expenses. Applications are also welcome from individuals or groups currently working up a project on Nottinghamshire, especially where some financial support will lead to an application to, for example, the Heritage Lottery Fund, research councils (RCUK) or research charities such as the Leverhulme Trust.
 - ii. Awards will not be made towards the payment of fees (as in the form of fees to a university for registering for a doctoral programme, or groups wanting to employ someone, or for subventions towards the cost of publication. [Note that the Nottinghamshire Local History Association has awards for this purpose.]
3. Applications.
 - i. Anyone wishing to apply to the fund for support must do so on or before 1st October 2016. [NB that this date may well change in subsequent years.]
 - ii. The application should take the form of a statement (maximum 2 pages A4) outlining the nature of the research being undertaken, plans for dissemination of the research (including by publication)

and the way in which it is intended to use the award. The total sum applied for should be clearly stated.

- iii. Applicants should include an indicative budget under appropriate headings (i.e. travel, reprographics, readers' fees, subsistence etc).
- iv. Applicants should also include a one-page (A4) curriculum vitae in the case of an individual, statement of purpose in the case of a group.
- v. Applications should be submitted by e-mail to the Honorary Secretary at barbaracast@btinternet.com.

Decisions will be taken by a committee of the Society's Council by 31st October. Any money awarded will normally be paid by BACS transfer or society cheque on the presentation of receipts, although an upfront payment may be made in exceptional circumstances such as, for example, pre-booked travel. The grant recipient will be responsible for guaranteeing the appropriate use of the funds. It is a condition of the award that receipts are kept (for auditing purposes) and that an account of expenditure is returned at the end of the award period.

4. What will be expected of the recipient?

- i) All activity associated with the award should be completed within one year (i.e. 31st October 2017), at which point a short report (maximum 2 sides A4) should be submitted, outlining the work undertaken, its outcomes, plans for dissemination (including publication) and an account of expenditure, accompanied by supporting receipts.
 - ii. Award recipients will be expected to write a short article about their research project for an edition of the Society's quarterly newsletter, and will be encouraged to write up some or all of their research for possible inclusion in the Society's annual volume of *Transactions* or its online Heritage Gateway. Receipt of an award does not guarantee publication, which is subject to the usual editorial processes. Recipients may also be invited to contribute to the Society's annual lecture programme.
5. Award recipients should acknowledge their award in any future publications or outputs from the research.
6. In the event of award recipients being unable to undertake the work for which financial support was granted, the award will be withdrawn.

THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Thoroton Society is looking to raise its profile and increase public knowledge of the Society by establishing a number of public relations and publicity roles, or a team of members to share this important area of activity. This is crucial because we need to continue to widen the membership base, attract local historians and archaeologists into active membership and encourage greater member participation in the Society's many activities. At present there is little co-ordination in publicising the Society, its work and its activities to a wider public. We are greatly attached to the Society's name but unfortunately it is not something which is widely recognised by non-members, and many people do not know of Dr Robert Thoroton and his importance to the history of Nottinghamshire. We hope to address these issues by this new area of voluntary activity.

The aim is the establishment of an Honorary PR Secretary who would take an overview of PR and publicity activities but would be supported by a team of other members who could pursue specific areas of the remit. A first task would be to devise a strategy designed to heighten the Thoroton profile using whatever means they feel appropriate and to allocate tasks between members of the team. The remit of team members, depending on numbers, interests and skills, might include the following:-

- Undertaking the publicity of the Society and its activities by whatever means considered appropriate and feasible, including publicising events such as the Special Lecture.
- Engaging with local media (radio stations, Notts TV, county newspapers and magazines), producing press releases and promotional literature as appropriate.
- Organising the creation of displays for events such as the Greater Nottinghamshire History Fair (via display boards, Powerpoint slideshows) and ensuring that there are sufficient members to stand at the Thoroton stall at such events.
- Taking over the production of the e-Bulletin to contain up-to-date news for all our members.
- Liaising with the Publications Committee re book launches and sales outlets.
- Liaising as and when necessary with similar organisations in the county, including local history societies, endeavouring to encourage the compilation of an overall diary of Notts history events.

We look forward to hearing from members interested in helping with this important area of activity for the Society. Please contact Barbara Cast in the first instance – barbaracast@btinternet.com or 01636 830284.

PREVIEWS OF THE AUTUMN LECTURES

Saturday 8th October 2016:

The Archaeology of the Tram

Dr Gareth Davies, Trent & Peak Archaeology

For the last four years, local archaeologists Trent & Peak have been providing services for Vinci Construction UK and Taylor Woodrow-Alstom JV, during the construction of Nottingham's new Tram Network. This project was a rare opportunity to look at two entire transects of a single urban focus, including two of the largest excavations to occur in Nottingham in the last forty years, at Clifton and behind the QMC in Lenton. Re-routing of a cable also allowed TPA to look at the cloister and transept of the priory church which was previously thought to be destroyed.

This talk will also discuss some of the findings made during 'watching briefs' at otherwise underexplored parts of the route, including University Boulevard and within the Historic Core of Beeston. Findings included the discovery of Bronze Age land surfaces at University Boulevard and Victorian houses, burials, and medieval pits around St. John's church in Beeston.

The finds generated by the archaeological work represent a significant archive, now deposited in the Castle Museum. The final publications of these fascinating sites are now freely available on the Archaeology Data Service Website and a synthetic article on findings is forthcoming in the Thoroton journal itself.

Saturday 12th November 2016

Dr Robert Thoroton, Nottinghamshire's first Historian : an Anniversary Tribute

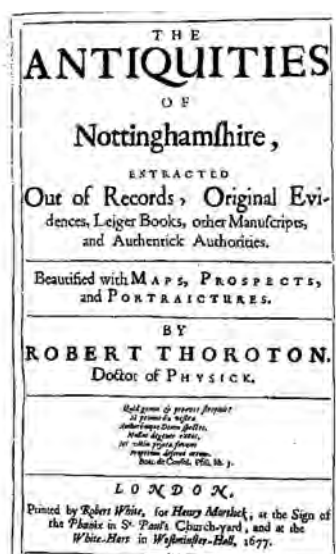
Adrian Henstock, President, Thoroton Society

Dr Thoroton was a physician from Car Colston near Bingham who published the *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* 340 years ago in 1677. This was the first history of the county and one of the first in the country and still forms the basis of many local historical studies to this day. The Thoroton Society

was founded in 1897 and named in his honour. Our President, Adrian Henstock - who co-authored a biographical article on Dr Thoroton for the 300th celebrations in 1977 – will deliver a tribute to the man who is one of the best documented figures of 17th century Nottinghamshire. Thanks to the survival of several of his family papers as well as his revealing asides which are scattered through the *Antiquities*, much is known about his personality and his religious and political views - which were severely tested during the Civil War and Commonwealth. In addition many of his antiquarian jottings were written on the backs of letters from his many patients amongst the local gentry - who obviously appreciated his 'bedside manner'.



Plaque in Car Colston church erected in 1908 on the 230th anniversary of his death



The title page from the *Antiquities*

The story of Dr Thoroton's life sheds considerable light on numerous aspects of Stuart Nottinghamshire which will be illustrated by numerous contemporary archives and engravings.

Saturday 10th December 2016
Nottingham Subscription Library 1816 – 2016
 Carol Barstow, Librarian, Bromley House Library

This talk will look at how the library started and developed in the Regency era, its long years as a membership library in the nineteenth century, the ups and downs of the 20th century and its survival to become a thriving independent library in the 21st century, attracting a wide membership. How has this library survived and flourished when so many similar institutions did not?

The talk will focus mainly on the library itself rather than the elegant building in which the library is housed, except where this impacts on the running of the institution. It will give a picture of what library life would have been like for the early members, the books they were reading and how they would have accessed them, as well as something on the characters involved with the Library throughout its history. Find out why the Librarian has a truncheon, what the members were getting up to in the Billiard Room, the mystery of the abandoned baby and some of the misdemeanours of both staff and members.

BOOKSHELF

MARY WARD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KEYWORTH

By Howard Fisher

Keyworth and District Local History Society 2016 £7.00 ISBN 978-0-9524602-5-1
 (Copies obtainable from the Library, Church Drive, Keyworth, NG12 5FF)

One of the issues highlighted by the 1944 Education Act was how to attract and adequately train a whole new generation of teachers. The way this was resolved was for students who saw themselves going into secondary teaching, particularly into grammar schools, to study for a first

degree in an academic subject and then undertake a one year PGCE. For students intending to teach at junior level would-be teachers were steered in the direction of teacher training colleges, which would be overseen by universities. Howard Fisher has written a fine history of the short lived Mary Ward College of Education, a Roman Catholic establishment set up as one of seven teacher training colleges adjudicated by the University of Nottingham.

Mary Ward College was founded and operated by the Loreto Sisters, on a site on Nicker Hill, Keyworth. Building work began in 1968, and the new college was opened by the young Princess Anne in June 1970. It was destined for a short life: in 1975 it was announced that the college would close, and this happened in 1977 when the last students completed their course.

Howard's book is based on various documentary sources he has carefully unearthed, and on interviews with many people connected to the college, including past students and staff. He begins the book with a brief essay on the Roman Catholic background to the college, and in particular to Mary Ward. Subsequently the book is a detailed assessment of the building of the college, the staff, the students – it was interesting to find that rules were still being enforced on the eviction of males from the rooms of females in the mid-1970s long after the University of Nottingham had abandoned such sex policing – the curriculum and other matters.

Following the closure of the college, the buildings were acquired by the British Geological Survey. Mary Ward had been operational as a teacher training institution only from 1968 until its final students passed out in 1977.

The book is excellently illustrated with many items from the Keyworth Local History Society's own archives. My only gripe is that Howard refers several times to the Beckett School in West Bridgford, which should of course be the Becket School. But then again I shall probably be the only reader to notice this minor error!

The Mary Ward College did not last very long. Thinking changed, and all the teacher training colleges were closed, some becoming universities (Bishop Grosseteste, Lincoln; Clifton Hall, part of Nottingham Trent University), or being reused, as in the case of Mary Ward, which became the Institute of Geological Sciences, now the British Geological Survey. A short but interesting story, and one which will, I suspect, appeal particularly to past staff and students.

John Beckett

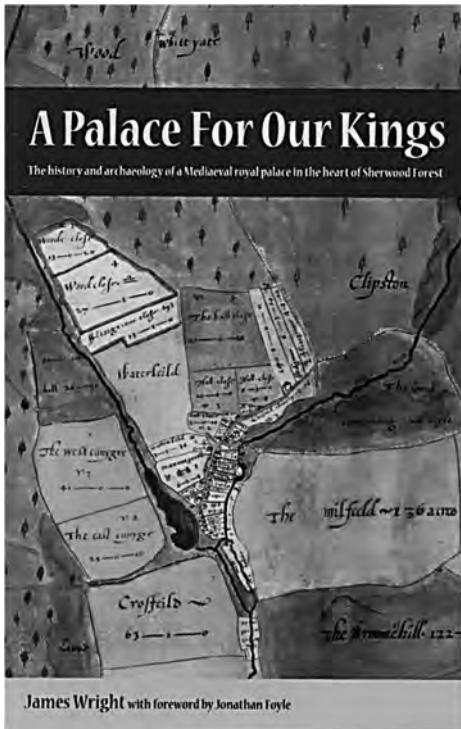
A PALACE FOR OUR KINGS

The history and archaeology of a Mediaeval royal palace in the heart of Sherwood Forest

By James Wright, with foreword by Jonathan Foyle
Triskele Publishing 2016 ISBN 978-0-9954715-0-4
£20. EBook £6.96.

James Wright's newly published *A Palace for our Kings* marks the culmination of over a decade of research conducted by Wright and others on King John's Palace, a palatial mediaeval hunting lodge at Clipstone in Sherwood Forest. Wright weaves together documentary evidence, landscape analysis, and the results of various archaeological excavations to present a chronological narrative of the palace's development from the twelfth century to the present. The book is Wright's second major publication after 2008's *Castles of Nottinghamshire*.

Wright explores how King John's Palace was part of a very select group of medieval hunting palaces set within royal forests, which also included the palaces of Clarendon and Woodstock. These were clear precursors to the Tudor hunting palaces, like Nonsuch, Oatlands and Woking. The book demonstrates how the palace remained in use as an important royal centre over a long duration, from its construction in the twelfth century through to the late fifteenth century.



Wright gives this underappreciated site the attention it deserves and his strong enthusiasm is evident in the book. Despite the nature of the documentary sources being from a royal perspective, there is a sense that what motivates Wright is not just the story of the monarch's relationship with the palace, but the story of the "ordinary" mediaeval community of Clipstone, exploring its development and reaction to the palace and royal power. He dedicates the book to Robert de Clipstone, who in 1328 led a challenge against royal plans to extend the palace's enclosures and to establish the peel at the cost of the community's common rights, with de Clipstone presenting his case to Edward III personally so well that he was later named the keeper of the manor.

Wright is to be congratulated for synthesising such a large body of evidence so well, and there can be no doubt that this book is the most important published text to date on King John's Palace. It is a must-read for anyone interested in Sherwood Forest or Clipstone and its surrounding area; or more generally, royal hunting and the infrastructure underlying Forest Law.

Craig Dicken

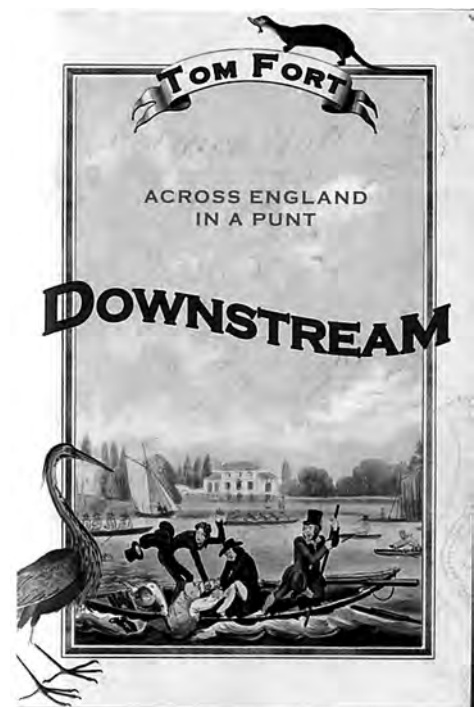
DOWNSTREAM – ACROSS ENGLAND IN A PUNT

By Tom Fort

Arrow Books 2009 PB ISBN 978-0-09950-5662

Although this is not a newly published book (I bought my copy in the OXFAM bookshop in Welwyn Garden City) I felt that it would appeal to Thorotonians because of the many references to Nottinghamshire and its history. The book is probably still in print, but there is a copy in Bromley House Library and probably in the various public libraries.

Tom Fort is a writer and journalist who has published several somewhat quirky books, including 'Under the Weather' – a rather wry look at our national obsession and 'The A303: Highway to the Sun'. In 'Downstream' he follows the course of the river Trent from its source on Biddulph Moor in Staffordshire to its meeting with the Humber. The actual 'source' is somewhat disputed as several trickles of water across the moorland bogs could be the 'real' one, but no matter. The river eventually becomes a real flow, capable of supporting a 15ft plywood punt, which Tom used to convey himself and his modest camping kit down the river. On the way he describes the history of the places through which the Trent passes. The stretch through Nottinghamshire is probably the most interesting, with our own Dr Robert Thoroton receiving an honourable mention, along with the Nottingham poet Henry Kirke White. The Bromley Arms at Fiskerton is mentioned, but not the Bromley House Library. The burning of Nottingham Castle in 1831, and the role of Newstead Abbey and the



Byron family in Nottinghamshire's history, are extensively covered, along with the involvement of Newark in the Civil War. Eventually, around Gainsborough, the river becomes too dangerous for such a fragile craft as a punt, and Tom then makes use of various other forms of transport in order to reach, and see, the confluence of the Trent and the Humber.

Although this is by no means the only book written which describes a journey along the Trent from source to outflow, the interest in this book is the author's erudition and love of literature. The pages are sprinkled with quotations from poets and other writers. All in all, a delightful read, and fully justifying the £2.50 that the book cost me!

John Wilson

PUBLISHED ARTICLES NOTED

The Local Historian April 2015, volume 46 no 2

Using population figures to tell a wider story: the population of Ashwell (Hertfordshire) over time
- David Short

An early nineteenth-century women's friendly Society in Yorkshire – Mavis Curtis

John Leming and the High Court of Chivalry: urban ideas of social exclusivity in early Stuart Colchester

- Stewart Beale

'Dukesfield Documents'; a new North East history online research archive – Greg Finch

Professor David Hay; an appreciation – John Beckett

Opinion: editors and reviewers – Michael A. Faraday

Review article: From the heartland: letters, memoirs and local histories of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945

- Sally Sokoloff

Review article: books on aspects of church history – various authors

Review editor's round-up 2016 – Sarah Rose

The Local Historian July 2015, volume 46 no 3

The Conscientious Objectors of Northampton during the First World War – John Bucknell

The records of Equity Courts: an under-used source for local history – Susan T. Moore

Local political history; a suitable case for treatment? – Roger Ottewill

Education in an eighteenth-century Northamptonshire village: The Rockingham Schools register 164-1773 – Ann Redshaw

The production of charcoal in South-East Hertfordshire 1550-1850 – Peter Austin

Scrapping at Carlisle: the battle for Christ Church 1895-1929 – Jane Platt

Local History News Spring 2016 no 119

No ghosts at Fotheringay – Alan Crosby

Belgian refugees in World War 1: local archives and histories – Rebecca Gill

Promoting local history to a wider audience – Paul Carter

Unrolling the past: how the VCH helped unlock a hidden gem – James Hodsdon

Living memory – Samantha Daynes

Local History News Summer 2016 no 120

'Beyond the Trenches': teaching the First World War at secondary school – Helen Snelson

Early railways in England: request for information – David Gwym

Homes under the hammer; the archives of Drivers Jonas at London Metropolitan Archives – Richard Wiltshire

Post-war planning: a medieval historian's perspective – Alan Chapman

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £25.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £15.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £35.00

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: wilsonianus@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.

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

THE THOROTON SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 237755.

The Newsletter is printed by **Adlard Print**,
The Old School House, The Green, Ruddington,
Nottinghamshire NG11 6HH
www.adlardprint.com tel 0115 921 4863

Excursion to the Richard III Centre, Leicester and Bosworth Battlefield



Top row: statue of Richard III outside the Centre; the grave under the car park, showing how the skeleton was found; mediaeval tiles adjacent to the grave.

Middle row: His Majesty's tomb in Leicester Cathedral; members walking through Ambion Wood, where some of the fiercest fighting took place; the spring where the King is reputed to have drunk before the battle.

Bottom row: members enjoying tea; replica of King Richard's boar symbol found on the battlefield.