

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



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The Neville Hoskins Reading Room at Bromley House Library
– see Lecture Report on page 3

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
The County's Principal History and Archaeology Society
Visit the Thoroton Society website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

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REPORTS ON LECTURES

November 2016 '*Dr Robert Thoroton*' **Adrian Henstock**

This lecture had to be re-scheduled from 2017 to accommodate the original speaker, but it is nevertheless an auspicious point in the Society's history, partly because 2017 marks the 340th anniversary of Dr Thoroton's publication of the '*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*', partly because 2017 is the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the Thoroton Society, and partly because the lecture was given by our President, Adrian Henstock.

Adrian had prepared a very detailed and scholarly paper, outlining the life and times of the seventeenth century when Dr Thoroton lived and worked. It is difficult to know whether during his lifetime Dr Thoroton was better known as the doctor of Car Colston or as an historian. It seems that he was very keen on local history in his younger days, and especially his family history. He was certainly well respected as a doctor and records show that he was called to deal with patients especially from landed families in various villages in Nottinghamshire and even in Leicestershire. It was obviously his interest in the history and especially the churches of these villages that led Dr Thoroton to spend some significant time researching and writing about the places he visited, possibly on his doctor's rounds. Adrian gave us well illustrated and well documented details of Dr Thoroton's family and genealogy as well as his religious and political views. The mid-seventeenth century with the Civil War was certainly a turbulent period of English history, but Thoroton's reputation seems to have nudged him towards caring for the supporters of the Royalist Cause who needed medical attention after battles, especially the sieges of Newark. His religious views also tended to the High Anglican opinion rather than the Puritan. His book on the '*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*' was first published only a year before his death, and so in many ways we are lucky that it was published at all. Adrian's lecture was much appreciated by a good sized audience, and his own historical enthusiasm and meticulous work shone through his presentation.

Alan Langton

**December 2016 – The Neville Hoskins Lecture ‘Nottingham Subscription Library’
Geraldine Gray, Assistant Librarian**

The year 2016 witnessed the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Nottingham’s Bromley House Subscription Library, a cherished and quirky institution that has frequently been described as the city’s ‘best-kept’ secret’ and a ‘time capsule’. In the last month of that year we were treated to a fascinating talk not only on its history but also on its present and future role in the 21st century.

The original speaker was to have been the long-serving Head Librarian Carol Barstow who had taken an especial interest in the history of the library and in local history in general. Unfortunately she took early retirement at short notice due to ill health but her place was expertly filled by Assistant Librarian Geraldine Gray.



It was highly appropriate that this was the Society’s annual Neville Hoskins Lecture, commemorating a much-loved and highly-respected local historian, speaker and tutor who was a prominent figure in both institutions. Indeed, the main reading room in Bromley House is named the Neville Hoskins Room in his honour. We were also reminded of the close ties between both bodies over the years. The Society rented a room there for its own Library and council meetings for some 72 years from 1909 to 1981. The room - now beautifully restored – is still called the Thoroton room.

The library was first established in 1816 on Carlton Street but moved to its present location – a fine Georgian townhouse in Angel Row built in 1752 by a member of the Smith banking family – in 1822. It is unique to Nottinghamshire and indeed is one of only half-dozen or so private subscription libraries in the country.

Geraldine began by outlining significant highs and lows in the library’s history, including the occasion in 1832 when members were reprimanded for ‘the repeated firing of guns and pistols in the garden and billiard room’. More serious was the financial crisis of the 1920s which threatened the library’s very existence. This was only averted by two regrettable steps – many of the rarest books had to be sold and the ground floor converted into lettable shops - both to finance repairs to the fabric.

She went on to describe how the original collections were arranged under the broad subject groupings of Theology, Philosophy, History, Literature, Fine Arts and Economics. Within this idiosyncratic classification the books were – and still are - divided into three shelf sizes and then arranged in the chronological order they have been obtained over the two centuries. A modern computerised classification system has now been developed – but the original card indexes are still preserved.

Geraldine then spoke about the range of activities staged during the bi-centenary year - an enormously ambitious programme of lectures, exhibitions and other events – many open to the

general public. It is evident that she and the small band of talented part-timers who run the library are passionate about it and go the extra mile to ensure its smooth running.

The present century poses considerable challenges in maintaining the Georgian structure – especially when subject to the constrictions of a Grade 2* Listed Building. There is an urgent need to replace the leaking roof and to provide a lift to link all four floors, but so far the Heritage Lottery Fund has been unsympathetic.

It has also been necessary over the past ten years for the library to re-invent itself with innovative outreach programmes. It has been very successful in attracting media publicity and new members and is positioning itself in the heart of Nottingham's cultural life; it now provides the administrative base for the recent award of UNESCO City of Literature status - one of only nine cities throughout the world - including Barcelona and Baghdad - with this title.

We all wish it well for the next 200 years !

Adrian Henstock

January 2017 – the Nottinghamshire History lecture 2016

'Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Churches in World War One'. Rev Dr Stuart Bell

This year's Nottinghamshire History Lecture was given by Rev Dr Stuart Bell, who has recently completed a Ph.D at the University of Birmingham, and is also a local Methodist minister. His theme was the role of the Church of England, and some Methodist chapels, in the East Midlands in relation to the fighting of the First World War. He emphasised three key points. The first was the way in which the war was depicted in church and chapel as a Holy War, in other words not just a conflict between two states but between good and evil. The second was the emphasis on sacrifice, notably the ideology of sacrifice with its overtones of Christ as the sacrificial lamb. Third was the moral authority conveyed by the emphasis on martyrdom as the state of the young men who died in the conflict.

Using newspaper and parish magazine material Dr Bell demonstrated how these themes were developed. In particular he emphasised the importance of religious practice, notably in the singing of appropriate hymns. These were often written in a quite different context, but were pressed into wartime service because of their militaristic language, and because congregations at home and men at the front knew them off by heart from their school days. In many ways this was a sombre lecture, given the subject matter, but the audience showed a lively interest in the subject with numerous questions and points of interest being raised at the end.

John Beckett

Forthcoming Lecture

Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture – Saturday 11 March 2017

'The Pentrich Rebellion – A Nottingham Affair?' - Richard Gaunt

The Pentrich Rebellion, whose bicentenary falls in June 2017, is traditionally recognised as a 'Derbyshire Rising'. However, the 300 or so men who set out from the villages of Pentrich and South Wingfield in Derbyshire, were heading along a route skirting the Erewash Valley towards Nottingham, under the mistaken belief that they would be met with arms, money, food and

comradeship in their revolutionary cause. This lecture reconsiders the Nottingham-centred nature of the rising, which was led by Jeremiah Brandreth - the 'Nottingham Captain'. Nottingham had a well-established wartime reputation for radicalism and achieved national notoriety through its central place in Luddism. How far should we also think of the Pentrich Rebellion as a 'Nottingham affair?'.

Richard Gaunt is Associate Professor in Modern British History at the University of Nottingham.



Come and visit the Pentrich Revolution with the Thoroton Society on 25th May 2017

He is currently on secondment to Nottingham City Museums and Galleries as their 'Curator of Rebellion', helping in the transformation project at Nottingham Castle. Brandreth and Pentrich are featured in the proposed new Rebellion Gallery, due to open in 2020.

Members are reminded that Richard, along with Roger Tanner, will be leading our Excursion to Pentrich on Thursday 25th May. For those who have not been to a rebellion before, this is your opportunity!

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to inform members of the deaths of three long-standing members of the Society – Stan Greatorex, Jean Nicholson and Derek Little. Our thoughts are with their families.

DEREK LITTLE

Derek Little, who died on the 29th November 2016 aged 81, was well known to many Thoroton members. He and his wife, Ceril, regularly attended lectures and excursions. They led excursions to Ilkeston, Beauvale and Greasley, and in 2015, along with Val Henstock, took one along the Pilgrim Fathers' Trail in north Nottinghamshire.

Derek was born in Nottingham on the 16th March 1935, the first child of Agnes and George Edward Little. Two brothers were born: Richard in 1937 and Malcolm in 1941. In vain their mother hoped for a daughter.

Derek went to Nottingham High School. He was not happy there and always said that being subjected to an English public school education made him a socialist all his life. One good thing came out of Derek's time at the High School. He became life-long friends with Brian, who was eventually able to give him the job he enjoyed most of his several different occupations.

On leaving school aged 17, Derek went to work for the Boots Company, first as a dispenser, then a shop assistant and latterly in the Standards Office at Beeston. National Service intervened in the years 1954-56. Derek was in the Medical Corps, which he always spoke of as a happy time, once basic training was over. Then in 1970 his old school friend Brian was able to offer him a job as a salesman in his family's firm, which was part-owned with another family. A very sociable person, Derek loved visiting his customers for that firm, which sold picture frame mouldings to

art galleries, gift shops, and artists themselves, both amateur and professional. He spent 20 happy years there.

Prior to this, Derek had met and married Ceril in 1967. A daughter, Victoria, known as Vickie, was born in 1980 and they were looking forward to celebrating their Golden Wedding in 2017.

In the 1980s and 1991, Derek suffered several heart attacks, the last one being serious. A heart transplant followed in 1994 at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, which was very successful. For over 20 years Derek enjoyed good general health, despite the occasional ups and downs of a transplant patient's life, but he could no longer play badminton regularly with many members of St Mary's congregation, as he had done before the attacks.

He and Ceril, and in earlier years, Vickie, enjoyed life to the full. Both Derek and Ceril had taken early retirement in 1991 and devoted their time to each other, other family members, their house and garden, St Mary's church and Ilkeston Twin Towns Association (of which Derek was briefly chairman in the late 1980s). Both were members of the Nottingham Civic Society and Derek served regularly in the Society's shop in Nottingham Castle Gate during the 1990s.

Until recently, Derek and Ceril enjoyed holidays in Britain and frequently in France, where they visited old friends of Ceril. Derek also became a member of the Board of Trustees of Erewash Museum, which gave him great pleasure. This full, varied and mostly happy life ended after a year of intermittent illness. His final few weeks were spent in the Royal Derby Hospital, where he was attended with exemplary care.

Keith Goodman

JEAN NICHOLSON

It is with sadness that we report the death of member Jean Nicholson who died on Thursday 29th December. As per her wish, she had a private family burial on Tuesday 17th January.



Jean Pond was born on the 27th March 1931 at Everton, near Retford in north Nottinghamshire. After attending Retford High School, she came to Nottingham in 1949 to work in the Boots antibiotic research department. It was at Boots that she met Joe Nicholson and the two married on the 6th September 1952. A year later they moved to live in Lambley where they stayed for the rest of their married life.

Between 1960 and 1962 Jean retrained as a biology teacher, later teaching at Manvers Pierrepont School. In 1972 Jean joined the Thoroton Society, before being invited to sit on the Council of the Society and later becoming Programme Secretary from 1993 to 2004.

Jean continued to be interested in local history after she retired from teaching in 1986. After completing the Certificate of Local History she gained an MA in Local and Regional History from the University of Nottingham in 1993. Jean wrote a number of articles for

the *Thoroton Transactions* as well as contributing to the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project. In 2010 she published a book on the history of Trinity Hospital, West Retford: *A Godly Inheritance: The History of the Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, West Retford and of the Denman Family*.

Joe died in 2003 whilst Jean continued to remain part of the Thoroton Society as well as giving talks to local history groups around the county. Her last Thoroton meeting was the 2016 AGM.

Hannah Nicholson

CONTRIBUTED PAPER

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME – LAXTON IN PEACE AND WAR (1900-1920)

For their Autumn Excursion in 1902, the members of the Thoroton Society visited the Nottinghamshire Village of Laxton. By then the village was nationally known as the only surviving complete instance of the Common or Open Field system of farming. It was first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1068, when the village was worth six pounds, down from nine in the time of Edward I. At that time, as in large areas of the Midlands, Eastern and Southern England, subsistence farming was based, not on enclosed, individually-worked fields, but on the division of the village land into several, usually three, very large fields, all subdivided into many strips. Tenants inhabiting the nucleated village at the centre of these fields were assigned a number of the strips scattered across them so as to ensure an equitable division of good and bad land. The fields were subject to a strict rotation, one being winter-sown wheat, another spring-sown crops, and the third left fallow. Outside these strips lay meadowland too damp for grain farming, and undeveloped heaths, both held in common for grazing oxen, sheep, and cows. The overall system, the farming year, and especially each tenant's observance of the edges of his strips, were administered by a Manorial Court Leet, empowered to impose fines to punish infractions.

Beginning in the 13th century and rapidly accelerating in Tudor times, and again during and after the Industrial Revolution, an accompanying Agricultural Revolution saw all other villages enclosed. Between 1770 and 1830, six million acres of common land were divided up among large local landowners. By 1862, according to a report made for the 3rd Earl of Manvers, only Laxton and neighbouring Eakring 'were left subject to rights and usages so ancient and barbarous that their origin is lost in antiquity.'

In the twentieth century, the survival of the Common Field system at Laxton has been of increasing interest to historians¹. Their academic analyses have been supplemented by vernacular accounts of the village and its culture, particularly by the memoirs of long-time residents: Frank Moody's *My Lifetime Memories of Laxton* and Edith Hickson's *Life at Laxton: The Memories of Edith Hickson*. With the formation in 2008 of the Laxton History Group, this popular self-representation became newly sophisticated, and oral histories were compiled with some dozen villagers that preserved recollections of life in Laxton going back before World War II. In January 2014, the Heritage Lottery Fund announced an award of £31,400 to support the Group's research for a project called *A Snapshot in Time- Laxton in Peace and War (1900 - 1920)*.

Present or former inhabitants of the village produced four books: *Living In Laxton* by Cynthia Bartle, *The Village Schoolmaster* by Joan Cottee, *Laxton In Wartime* by Roger Cottee, and *Open Field Farming in Laxton* by Mary Haigh, all published by Nottinghamshire Local History Association. Between 100 and 135 pages long, lavishly illustrated in both black and white and colour with a wealth of recently discovered photographs (digitized by Dik and Joy Allison), the four are informed by academic historiography, by Moody and Hickson's memoirs, by present villagers' own accounts, and especially by the immense amount of work invested in the project by the Group's research at multiple archives, manuscript collections, and contemporary newspapers. Roger Cottee has estimated that over fifty volunteers had spent in excess of 5,500 hours - or 685 working days - on the project.

Mary Haigh's *Open Field Farming in Laxton* opens with the Thoroton Society's visit to the village and an account of the Common Field system prepared for them by Mr. R.W. Wordsworth, then the resident land agent to the Fourth Earl Manvers' Thoresby Estate. Manvers inherited the estate in 1900, and held it until he died in 1926. By 1906 he had bought out all other owners of land in the Open Fields and, with Wordsworth as his architect, he completed a substantial reorganization of them by 1913. Haigh begins with Wordsworth's successful enclosure of the small fourth East Field, after which he turned to South Field, enclosing almost a third of the 398 strips and consolidating the remainder into 78. By 1907 both West and Mill Fields had also been partially enclosed, reducing the open fields' 899 acres divided into 1162 strips to 509 acres comprised of 162 strips, with the mean size of the strips enlarged from three-quarters to three acres. Wordsworth's reorganization had almost halved the open fields' size, but the system itself remained intact. Haigh provides a detailed analysis of its operation over the next decade: the activities of the Manorial Court Leet; the three dozen farms along with a complete record of their tenants; the agricultural year with the various tasks of each month; the livestock; the collapse of the mill that for several centuries had ground the village's corn; and finally the introduction of new oil- and steam-powered machinery that soon after WWII would end the thousand year dependence on oxen and horses.

Haigh's sensitive attention to the details of everyday life is continued in Cynthia Bartle's book. She begins with a tour of the village, noting the details of each farm and the other houses and introducing us to the people who live there. Next to the Little School, is one 'with the crew yard (cattle yard) just a pathway's width from the kitchen door. Imagine the smells from that "muck yard" on a hot summer's day.' Bartle follows her lively inventory with the more formal statistics preserved in the 1901 census that named the twenty-six farmers and the labourers, horsemen, shoemakers, wheelwrights and members of fifty other trades that sustained the community. She describes the women's work in the domestic sphere, the Monday washdays with the wood-fired copper; butter churning and beer making; and the daily resort to the village's water pumps. But not all of life was so arduous. Sundays were pre-occupied with church, and the year was punctuated with other social events: Feast Week, when the special Harvest Festival services were accompanied by dancing at the inn; ploughing matches and maypole dancing; the cricket club and weddings. All these were of course shaped by the village agricultural system, but their human richness was not reducible to it.

Where these two books are synoptic, the other two are more specifically focused. Roger Cottee's investigation of World War I's effect on the village assembles all that can be known of the men from Laxton who fought on the Western Front in France and Flanders, and also as far away as Egypt and Mesopotamia. He begins with the memorial cross in the churchyard commemorating the nine who were killed and the plaque in the church that lists the further twenty-two who served. Since the service records of many of these were destroyed in WWII, Cottee concentrates on providing detailed biographies of a dozen of the soldiers, alternating these with more general topics including "The Home Front" (the sustained production of food); "Employment of Women" (who replaced soldiers in agricultural work); and "Life at the Front" (the horrors of trench warfare, illustrated by accounts in letters published in the *Newark Advertiser*). Cottee discovered quite astonishing accounts of the villagers whom war sent far from the open fields. One of the vicar's sons, Gerard Tunbridge, for example, was killed on the Balkan Front and buried in a military cemetery in Greece. And Charles Whitworth, born in 1901 in what is now Bottom Farm, joined the Sherwood Rangers and was killed at Gallipoli; his death and burial were witnessed by another Laxtoner, Elmer Jack Rose, and described in a note written by his son Reginald, and preserved in a brass case now owned by his son, Stuart.

Joan Cottee devotes her book to a single figure and the institution he managed: Frank Willis, Head Teacher of Laxton Parochial School from 1886 to 1922, who was born in a Hertfordshire labourer's cottage. Cottee reconstructs his ascent of the social ladder to the point where Edith Hickson remembered him as "infinitely the most influential character in the whole village." Starting as a Pupil Teacher in his own local school, he became a Certified Teacher, married another teacher, and found for them both positions at Laxton school, which at the turn of the century had thirty-three junior and twenty infant students. Since the villagers had no high regard for what they called "Eddication" and in any case the youngsters were needed to work on the farms, he struggled with endemic absenteeism, but eventually brought great improvements to the school. Through her account of his personal achievements, Joan Cottee weaves a rich tapestry of both village life in the period and developments in governmental educational innovations. Eventually her account closes in on Roger Cottee's account of the village during WWI, when the students collected eggs for wounded soldiers in France and the girls knitted socks and scarves for them.

Many other topics could have been covered in similar volumes: the church and developments in religion; the village animals, domestic and wild; the public houses; and, of course, the Court Leet itself. Where that last institution has for more than a millennium marked the village's utopian self-governance, *A Snapshot in Time* instances a similarly utopian undertaking in the area of self-representation. With copies given free to every household, Laxton has at last achieved its own historiography: of the villagers, by the villagers, and for the villagers - along with the many others who will find the project revelatory.

See especially C.S. and C.S. Orwin, *The Open Fields*, Third Edition with Preface by Joan Thirsk (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1967); and J.V. Beckett, *A History of Laxton: England's Last Open-Field Village* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989).

**David E. James, Professor
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MEMBERS' RESEARCH

DR JOHN STORER, 1747-1837

John Storer MD FRS became the first President of Bromley House Subscription Library from 1816 to 1819. He was one of Nottingham's most successful physicians and a prominent figure in developing the town's medical facilities. But he was also interested in raising the cultural profile of the population and was involved with a 'Book Society' which met at the White Lion on Long Row from the late 18th century. The first meeting of subscribers to Bromley House Library was held at Thurland Hall, Dr Storer's home, on 2nd April 1816, at which they decided he was the ideal man to be their President. (He also presided over an Auxiliary of the Bible Society for many years.)

He was born on 21st July 1747 at the Manse, Fossoway, Kinross, the only son of the incumbent, the Rev. John Storer. At 13 he went to grammar school in Stirling, followed by Glasgow University to study Divinity. He changed course, however, and was awarded a degree in Medicine. He then joined the Army Medical Service and went to Holland as a surgeon, probably for the newly-formed Black Watch Regiment fighting in the War of Spanish Succession. In October 1777, William of Orange conferred on him the Freedom of the Cities of Holland for saving life. On his return in 1777 he resided briefly at Grantham, shortly after his first marriage to Mary Douglas, the daughter of James Douglas of Carlisle. They moved to Nottingham in May 1781, just a few months after the foundation stone of the General Hospital had been laid, on 12th February. Later that year, the Governors appointed him and two others as the hospital's physicians. Dr Storer played a prominent part in developing the hospital and was appointed Consulting Physician Extraordinary for life in 1802 when he retired from his post there. He lived and practised in Thurland Hall. He saw far too many patients with smallpox and was naturally very interested in Edward Jenner's discovery of vaccination, which was first used in Nottingham in 1800 by John Attenburrow, surgeon to the General Hospital for 61 years. The service was offered freely but struggled to keep going, so in 1805 the Nottingham Vaccine Institution was set up by Dr Storer and Dr Charles Pennington, to be funded by public subscription so that anyone could be treated. It was, however, constantly difficult to raise funds and the Institution had to close in 1813. Unfortunately, it had had to compete for subscriptions with the General Hospital and the General Lunatic Asylum, both actively promoted by Dr Storer.

Dr Storer had long been interested in the welfare of the mentally ill. When the General Hospital was opened, he wanted to include lunatics as patients but the Governors refused his request. The climate of opinion began to change when George III's 'madness' became such a prominent talking point, leading to suggestions about the formation of public as well as private asylums. Dr Storer wrote to Dr Alexander Hunter of York Asylum in 1803 regarding his plans for an asylum for twenty inmates in Nottingham, but no further progress was made until the passing of the County Asylum Act in 1808. This allowed an asylum to be set up in each county, financed by a county rate, which Dr Storer advocated in an address he gave at County hall in October 1809. He also suggested that ministers should preach sermons inviting contributions to this charity. Largely thanks to him and the Rev. J.T. Becher, the General Lunatic Asylum at Sneinton was the first County Asylum to be opened in England, on 12th February 1812. Dr Storer served as a

visiting physician and committee member for many years. In the 4th Annual Report of the Asylum in 1814 it was recorded that 'Your able Physician has been eminently successful'.

He remained very active in the intellectual, social and political life of the town, continuing to live and practise at Thurland Hall until moving in 1828 to Lenton Firs. There he retired from all professional engagements except such as he could perform in his library. His wife Mary had died in July 1803 but he was married again in November 1803 to Lois Turner, the daughter of the Rev. Hammond Turner, rector and lord of the manor of Hawksworth. They led a quiet life, notably interrupted on one notorious occasion during the Reform riots in Nottingham. After setting fire to Nottingham Castle on 11th October 1811, the rioters moved to Beeston, calling on Dr Storer at Lenton Pines where 'after an acrimonious exchange they stole his carrots'.

Dr Storer died at home on 17th September 1837, aged 90, his second wife Lois having died the previous year. In the Nottingham Review of 22nd September, readers were informed 'that the remains of this venerable and respected man will be met at the top of Derby Road, at about half past nine in the morning of Monday next, by a retinue of those of our townsmen who wish to mark their strong sense of the benevolence and talent of the deceased. The procession will pass through the town to the London Road on its way to Hawksworth, the place of sepulture'. He was buried in the chancel of St Mary and All Saints church and a monumental brass in his memory set in the floor. A wooden plaque erected in 1837, now above the north door, declares 'This church was enlarged and beautified at the sole expense of Dr Storer'. It was the last generous act of this 'man of unsullied character, of genuine humility', who was much respected and much loved. His name was commemorated in Storer Street, off Carlton Road (now gone) and by the John Storer Clinic at the Queen's Medical Centre. A fine portrait of him by Thomas Barber hung on the staircase of Bromley House for many years but, sadly, it is believed to have been stolen. Surely he deserves a plaque of some kind somewhere in Nottingham?

Terry Fry

WOLLATON HISTORICAL and CONSERVATION SOCIETY Wollaton Cottages Survey

A considerable amount of research has been undertaken into the Willoughby/ Middleton Family and their home at Wollaton Hall, but almost no research has been undertaken into their tenants, how they lived, worked and died. This project, into the domestic vernacular architecture of the cottages in which they lived, is aimed to correct, in some small way, that imbalance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOLLATON: The Willoughby /Middleton family owned all but one acre, of Wollaton Parish for over 600 years. Not only did they own the land, but they also owned every cottage so controlling the lives of every one of their tenants. Then, in 1924, as a result of death duties they decided to sell the Hall and Park to the City Council and the following year to sell the remainder of the Estate by public auction. The Sales Catalogue (below) lists every cottage, so giving us a unique insight into the size and condition of each.

In addition, before the Middleton family finally left Wollaton they also gave the University, their important archive of Estate Papers. These have provided us with a unique source of information. So, for example, a list in 1637 shows that there were then 63 households in Wollaton, but by 1787 the number had grown to over 100 and had only increased slightly by 1911, when there



were then 112 households. Those included five larger houses and eight semi-detached dwellings for senior mining staff, on what is now Bridge Road. However all the remaining villagers lived in cottages which are shown on the 1863 Survey Map of Wollaton (left).

The sale of the Estate in 1925 meant the end of a way of life that had not much altered since the Norman Conquest in 1066. Now, as the City expanded westwards, open fields were covered with new housing and a number of the

old cottages were demolished. Development continued after the War and is still continuing today, so nothing now remains of the open countryside of the 1920s.

We knew that a number of cottages remained near the Village Square, fortunately saved from developers in the 1960s, but we did not realise how many more had survived, hidden within, or behind, the subsequent housing development.



THE SURVEY BEGINS: So in 2013 the Society decided that we should try and discover more about our cottages, when they were built and whether they contained any interesting historic features. At the same time we are also, using the censuses,



trying to discover who lived in each cottage, what work they

did, how many children they had and how they managed to live in such cramped accommodation. As a result, we wrote to cottage holders and asked if we could look inside their homes to see if we could discover any hidden secrets behind their closed doors. To date we have looked inside seventeen of the 40 or so cottages that survive: the results have been quite amazing.

In two of the cottages, all built apparently in brick, we discovered stone walls, either in the interior or exterior. It appears that these cottages may date to the period of the surviving "Stone Cottage" which our research shows was The Chantry built by Sir Richard Willoughby in the 1460s.

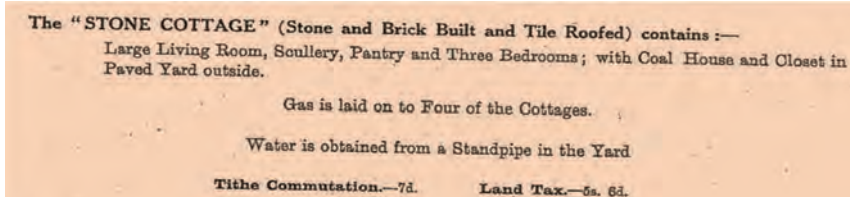


In our limited investigation so far, we have also discovered that many cottages have substantial exposed timbers, we have found some roof rafters that have obviously been reused, many doors are made of three panels with original hinges and door fittings, fire surrounds, some early windows and cellars all with similar thralls. An external

examination also suggests that the cottages were not all built at the same time. Some are faced in brick, others are rendered, some may have originally have had different uses, such as a barn. The photographs show some of the exciting discoveries to date.

OUR EXPERT: If so much is revealed by such a cursory glance by amateurs, what might be discovered by professionals? So we have now sought professional

help from **Matthew Hurford of Trent and Peak Archaeology**, who will train up our volunteers to act as a support team. Matt has undertaken a similar project, funded by the Heritage Lottery, at Norwell, near Southwell (TTS 2010 Vol.114) and one funded by English Heritage in Southwell itself. Both projects were volunteer-led with training provided by Matt in identifying vernacular houses of historic interest for further analysis, including dendrochronology and detailed recording. He is an expert in dendrochronology with his work regularly appearing in the Tree-ring Dates List of the journal *Vernacular Architecture*.



The "STONE COTTAGE" (Stone and Brick Built and Tile Roofed) contains :—
Large Living Room, Scullery, Pantry and Three Bedrooms; with Coal House and Closet in Paved Yard outside.
Gas is laid on to Four of the Cottages.
Water is obtained from a Standpipe in the Yard
Tithe Commutation.—7d. Land Tax.—5s. 6d.



THE AIM OF THE PROJECT: We would like to visit the cottages in Wollaton that we have not yet examined, to see what, if anything, survives of their historic past. We would also like to revisit cottages we have previously visited, so that we can draw plans of these and also to allow Matt to consider if dendrochronology would assist in helping us to discover when they were built. Matt will then organise an expert to do the actual tests, which will not damage the timbers!

In due course we may be able to say which cottages were in existence in 1637 or 1787 and who might have lived in them. It will provide us with a real social history of the "real" people of Wollaton.

**For further information please contact: Andrew Hamilton
Chairman WHaCS**

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This project is supported by **The Thoroton Society** and **Nottingham Civic Society**. This article gives an update on progress since the report in our Winter 2015 issue. In 2016 the Project was awarded £500 from the Geoffrey Bond Research Award – *Editor*

WISETON HALL: A PROTESTANT MARTYR, AND A RHODE ISLAND ARCHITECT.

Recent investigations into the origins of Wiseton Hall uncovered some interesting connections. The village of Wiseton is part of Clayworth Parish, north of Retford. Clayworth was the subject of the famous Rector's Book – a detailed account of village life kept by the Reverend William Sampson 1676-1701, often quoted in academic studies of rural life at that time. This account contains the earliest specific mentions of a Wiseton Hall although it was no doubt somewhat older. This was an early predecessor of the current Hall (built 1960s), of which no trace now remains. Later 19th century summary histories claimed that this Hall was owned at one point by

the Nelthorpes of Scawby Hall (in Lincolnshire, south-east of Scunthorpe) although the link was not clear – this became a focus of enquiry.

The exact connection was determined after interrogating the will of Susanna Wawen, heiress of Wiseton Hall in 1671, that of her father-in-law, James Nelthorpe, MP for Beverley in the 1640s, an 1829 history of Beverley, published Nelthorpe pedigrees (with some errors), and a history of Brigg Grammar School – these primary sources revealed the links between various relatives and locations. The Rector's Book contributed additional evidence of dates of changes of land ownership – in summary, around the end of the 17th century Wiseton Hall was owned by a relation of the Wawen family (the Lords of the Manor of Clayworth), and then for a time (~25 yrs) the Nelthorpe family (by marriage), before being sold to the Acklom family from Bawtry.

The new information that came to light in this investigation is that Susanna's husband, Richard Nelthorpe, son of James, was the lawyer who was declared a traitor in August 1685 by James II and then executed (by being hung, drawn and quartered) in front of Gray's Inn, London, in October 1685. There are many published accounts of the events of the previous two years that brought him to that point, and his final letters to his family were published in *The Western Martyrology*, J Tutchin, 1873. It has been said in some accounts that he chose to die rather than deprive his children of their inheritance by making a bribe of £10,000. William III reversed his attainder in 1689 and confiscated lands at Wiseton were returned to Susanna. It is probable that Richard never lived at Wiseton Hall, the childhood home of his wife, as his father owned property in Yorkshire (Seacroft Hall, near Leeds), although their eldest son James, may have resided there for a few years before he sold it.

Another interesting connection with Wiseton Hall occurred in the 18th century, uncovered this time from American secondary sources. The Ackloms (Acklam), Richard and his son Jonathan, owned the Hall at this time, being responsible for various phases of building and rebuilding. Jonathan was involved also in the enclosure of Wiseton (1763) and soon after that built seven farmhouses to a new model on his farms surrounding the village. His cousin, Eleanor, married Joseph Harrington, of a Yorkshire Quaker family, in 1746. He and his brother Peter had occasionally visited (a newly built?) Wiseton Hall when young; in 1739 they emigrated to Rhode Island although they returned to England at times later on. They held various official posts in the US and Peter also became a "mail-order architect" as well as a country gentleman, using agricultural methods which were new to the US. Apparently, he created designs for public buildings for free, if requested. A recent publication produced from years of research: *The Buildings of Peter Harrison: Cataloguing the work of the first global architect 1716-1775*, John Fitzhugh Millar, 2014 (historichitecture.guru), claims over 400 buildings are attributable to Peter Harrison, in England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, US, Caribbean, India, and elsewhere. Peter died in the US, Joseph spent his last 11 years back at Wiseton Hall, dying in 1787.

This connection opens up other lines of enquiry that are not easily answered – for example, how influential were Wiseton Hall (c1719) and the Ackloms on Peter Harrison's architectural beginnings? Did he, or possibly Joseph, in turn, influence the style of (re)building of Wiseton Hall in 1771 (architect unknown)? Did the agricultural methods practised by Peter Harrison on Rhode Island in the 1750s influence those adopted by J. Acklom on the Wiseton Estate in the 1760s?

The revelations of this investigation have proven to me again how much there is to be uncovered through detailed focus on the historic buildings of Nottinghamshire.

Megan Doole

NEWS

LOCAL BUILDINGS CELEBRATED

Four exceptional building projects were celebrated on Friday 25th November in an Award Ceremony in the Minster Centre, Southwell, after the launch of an illustrated presentation on the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust now available to organisations seeking a speaker.

The much-coveted Harry Johnson Restoration Award certificates were presented by Cllr Maureen Stockwood, Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, to Laura Wardell and Andrew Hill, owners of the winner, Turncroft Farm, Edingley. A Commended Restoration Award won by The HopBarn, Southwell, was presented to owners Mary and Stuart Poole.

Certificates in the New Build category were presented to Keith Barton, representing the winner, Wrights Place Development, Keyworth, and to designer Martin Hubbard for the commended buildings, the Babworth Trust Almshouses, Upton, built by Tom Brogan.

The Awards, for the best restoration and the best new building in an historic Nottinghamshire setting, are sponsored jointly by the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England in recognition of the part played by the late Harry Johnson in his work for both organisations. From his architect's practice at Wadworth Hall, Harry advised both Charities on conservation matters and on his death in 1988 the two organisations decided to create an Award in his name which would continue his passion for "vernacular buildings" and the preservation of traditional building methods. The integration of new buildings into existing settlements was important to him and his ideals have encouraged the expansion of the Awards to include isolated buildings in rural settings.

Turncroft Farm, empty and deteriorating for 15 years, was rescued from dereliction by Laura Wardell and Andrew Hill. Newark Architect Bernard Martin advised and, with building work by Chris Healy, also of Newark, the new owners have converted and added to the buildings to create the home of their dreams.

The HopBarn, Southwell, a redundant farm equipment store, is now a music and creative performance centre run by its owners, Mary and Stuart Poole, who acknowledge the importance to the project of the support and expertise of their neighbour, Colin Jewitt. The increasingly popular annual Southwell Music Festival is held every summer in its stunning interior.

Awards in the New Build category require entries to acknowledge and complement the existing vernacular architecture. In taking an informed stand against inappropriate use of a derelict site in Keyworth, the volunteer Keyworth Conservation Area Advisory Group have been hugely

influential in the creation of Wrights Place - a modest development of homes for local people built by William Davis Homes with the help of architects, Stephen George and Partners.

The new semi-detached bungalows for elderly individuals and couples with parish connections were entered by Upton Parish Council. Built by the Babthorpe Trust, and adding to two existing such buildings elsewhere in Upton, these bungalows received a Commendation in this category. Three future dwellings are planned on this site. The careful choice of traditional forms and materials, by designer Martin Hubbard Associates Ltd and builder Tom Brogan, using brick, natural slate, timber bays and porches, provides an attractive setting for residents.

Below: Cllr Maureen Stockwood presents certificates to the Award winners

(from left) to Mr Andrew Hill, Turncroft Farm; to Mr and Mrs Stuart Poole, the HopBarn, Southwell; to Keith Barton, Keyworth Conservation area Advisory Group; to Mr Martin Hubbard, Babthorpe Trust.



NEWARK AIR MUSEUM EVENTS IN 2017

Newark Air Museum, a registered charity, is based at the former Winthorpe Airfield, just outside Newark. Post code NG24 2NY for satnav users. The museum trustees have advertised the following events for 2017 and Thoroton members are invited to visit.

4 March, 2017 – Indoor Aeroboot / Aerojumble Table Top Sale

48 sellers' tables all hosted inside Display Hangar 2 amongst the aircraft at the museum site in eastern Nottinghamshire. {Special discount admission rates apply, open to everyone to attend.}

20 & 21 May, 2017 – Hastings & Shackleton 40th Anniversary Weekend

Two-day event to commemorate 40 years since these iconic aircraft arrived at the museum; this will also involve the Lincolnshire's Lancaster Association. {Normal admission rates apply}

17 & 18 June, 2017 – Cockpit-Fest & Aeroboot

This annual gathering provides the perfect opportunity for the public to view a diverse range of visiting aircraft cockpits {Normal admission rates apply}

12 & 13 August, 2017 – 1940s Weekend

A follow-up event from the successful 2015 Victory Days weekend, with an American focus to reflect their operations from RAF Balderton. Normal admission rates apply.

14 October, 2017 – Indoor Aeroboot / Aerojumble aviation & avionic sale

48 sellers' tables all hosted inside Display Hangar 2 amongst the aircraft at the museum site in eastern Nottinghamshire. {Special discount admission rates apply, open to everyone to attend.}

Website www.newarkairmuseum.org

'WEATHER EXTREMES' EXHIBITION AT THE WESTON GALLERY, NOTTINGHAM
LAKESIDE ARTS

The current exhibition at the Weston Gallery highlights some of the extreme weather events which the people of Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties have experienced over the past 400 years.

Archives and rare books held by Manuscripts and Special Collections at The University of Nottingham reveal stories of freezing temperatures, floods, droughts, hurricane force winds, heatwaves and strange atmospheric happenings. As well as causing destruction and disruption of daily life, extremes of temperature could encourage people to go out and have fun. Diaries, photographs and documents recall skating on the frozen River Trent, swimming in rivers, and bathing at the well-remembered Highfields Lido.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the local heroes who dedicated themselves to keeping detailed records of the weather and whose observations contributed to the development of the science of meteorology. A weather notebook kept by Edward Joseph Lowe at Highfield House (now part of the Nottingham University Park campus) in the 1860s has been borrowed from the National Meteorological Office Library and Archive. Other exhibits relate to Arnold Tinn, contributor to the *Nottingham Evening Post* weather column, and to the staff of the Department of Geography who maintained a weather station on the University campus until 1981. Many of the printed works in the exhibition are from the collection of Edward Mellish of Hodssock Priory, who became President of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1909-10.

Visitors are invited to share their own weather memories. What extremes of weather do you recall? How do you remember weather events? Are these memories linked to key places or life events?

The exhibition has been jointly curated by Professor Georgina Endfield and Dr Lucy Veale from the School of Geography, and Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham. It has been produced as part of a broader research project looking at the history of extreme weather events in the UK, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Two events relating to the exhibition are scheduled to take place in March. Both are free, but places are limited so please book in advance with the Box Office on 0115 846 7777 or online.

'From Sorcery to Super Computers: The Story of Weather as Told Through a Selection of Treasures from The National Meteorological Archive'

Tuesday 07 March 1pm-2pm

Djanogly Theatre

The National Meteorological Archive holds materials ranging from a 12th century illuminated manuscript of a work by the patron saint of Natural Sciences to the tender for the first Met Office Super Computer. Using a selection of unique treasures from the archive, this talk by Catherine Ross aims to present a brief overview of developments in meteorology from the work of the Aristotle to the dawn of the computing age.

'The Storm Officer: Wild Stories and Songs of Extreme Weather', written by Matt Black
Friday 17 March 1.30pm-2.45pm
Djanogly Theatre

Inspired by the extreme weather database (TEMPEST), The Storm Officer is a rich journey, and an entertainment, which weaves together story, songs, strange characters, a thousand years of extreme weather and real experiences from the Cumbrian floods of December 2015.

More information:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/exhibitions/weatherextremesexhibition.aspx>

FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAM MUSEUMS

The 'Friends' was established in 1977, and is now celebrating its fortieth year, to provide support to the City Council's museums and galleries in raising funds to help purchase new items for the collections, assist in volunteer projects and work at events.

There is a regular programme of talks, visits to galleries and historic sites and all members receive a quarterly newsletter.

Our programme from March 2017 is as follows. Until July lectures are held in Studio 1 at Nottingham Castle, 2 pm prompt.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 18 March | Evelyn Gibbs & St. Martin's Church, Bilborough - Hilary Wheat |
| 22 April | No Surrender! Women's Suffrage in Nottinghamshire - Rowena Edlin-White |
| 13 May | Half day outing to Eyam Museum & Eyam Hall - Derbyshire |
| 20 May | Samuel Bourne, Nottingham Photographer and Artist - Geoff Blackwell |
| 17 June | Recent Excavations at Nottingham Castle - Trent & Peak Archaeology |
| 15 July | Day outing to Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire |
| 22 July | George Africanus - Suella Postles |

No meeting in August

NOTE From September, meetings will be held at the Malt Cross, St. James Street, Nottingham

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 23 September | Isaac Newton, Part 2 - Alan Lievesley |
| 21 October | Bendigo - Bendigo Memorial Fund |
| 18 November | Pub Signs - Tina Lee |
| 16 December | History of the Christmas Card - Steph Mastoris |

2018

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| 20 January | Octavia Hill - Claire Lyons |
|------------|-----------------------------|

17 February Annual General Meeting (members only)

Non-members are welcome at meetings on payment of an additional charge of £2 (normal entry charge to The Castle applies) and also on our outings

For further information tel. 0115 9221734

For membership enquiries tel. 0115 9283688

WILLIAM BOOTH BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM
Nottingham's hidden gem welcomes you!

Did you know that the birthplace of the founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth, is right here in Nottingham and that it is open to the public? The William Booth Birthplace Museum is one of Nottingham's hidden gems and offers visitors an interesting combination of historic house and museum. Step back in time and see William's birth house much as it would have appeared



in the late 1820s, when the Booth family lived in the house and Booth's father, Samuel, made a living as a property speculator. Visit the Grade II listed Georgian house and independent museum and learn about William's early life in Nottingham and the influences that would shape him to become Nottingham's most famous preacher and social welfare reformer. Discover the local lad who would go on to affect millions of people - and change lives - through his work founding an organisation currently active in 128 countries.

The William Booth Birthplace Museum is open by appointment, generally Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-4pm (and at other times for special events). The museum also welcomes groups and group bookings can sometimes include refreshments and a stop at the church where William was christened and attended Sunday school – St Stephen's Church, Sneinton. Please telephone or email the Museum Curator for more information and for appointments. Free entry; donations kindly welcomed.

The William Booth Birthplace Museum

14 Notintone Place, Sneinton, Nottingham, NG2 4QG

Telephone: 0115 979 3464

Email: wbbm@salvationarmy.org.uk

On-street parking nearby (restrictions may apply). Bus route 43 stops outside the museum on Sneinton Road (Windmill Lane stop).

Julie Obermeyer
Museum Officer and Curator

YOUR SOCIETY

Thoroton Members' Use of the Collections at The University of Nottingham

One of the benefits of being a member of the Thoroton Society is that it brings with it access to the East Midlands Collection, held by Manuscripts and Special Collections, University of Nottingham King's Meadow Campus. This article is a reminder and update on Thoroton Society members' privileges relating to these Collections.

Manuscripts and Special Collections are based at King's Meadow Campus. All members of the public are welcome to use the Collection's resources, including the open-access East Midlands Collection in the Reading Room; however, Thoroton Society members are also entitled to *borrow* books from this collection (but not periodicals). Additionally, they will be issued with a library card that will give them access to the other University Libraries, for reference purposes only.

To take advantage of these benefits, Members should visit the Reading Room at King's Meadow with proof of Thoroton Society membership, e.g. the programme card. They will be registered as an external borrower and be issued with a library card which will be valid for one year. The card will operate the security gate system in the Hallward Library and be proof of identity in the other libraries, should staff ask to see it.

Enquiries about the facilities and collections should be referred to 0115 951 4565 or mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk .

Directions to King's Meadow.

King's Meadow is on Lenton Lane, just off the A52 on the site of the old Granada Studios. If you use satnav to find your way, please use **NG7 2NR** NOT the postal address.

There is a Pay and Display visitor car park, which costs £7 for a full day; £5 for up to four hours; £3 for up to 2 hours. Stays of 30 minutes or less are free.

There are Nottingham Tram stops at Gregory Street and NG2 Business Park, which are both about a 10 minute walk from the Campus.

Full details of how to get to King's Meadow Campus are available on the University's website <http://live-uon.cloud.contensis.com/about/visitorinformation/mapsanddirections/kingsmeadowcampus.aspx>.

The Thoroton Special Lecture

This issue of the Newsletter includes an invitation to attend the 2017 Thoroton Special Lecture, which will be held on Thursday 22nd June, 7.30pm in the State Chamber, Southwell. The speaker is Professor Carezza Lewis, broadcaster and archaeologist, who will be talking about 'Disaster recovery: archaeological evidence for the impact of the Black Death in England'.

Tickets are restricted to 110 and we may not exceed this number in the State Chamber. Tickets will be on a first-come-first-served basis. We expect this event to be popular, so please order your tickets early. There will be a drinks-and-nibbles reception after the talk.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Ken and Vivian Sansom - Nottinghamshire

Richard Gan - Lincolnshire

Paul Baker - Nottingham

We hope they will enjoy their membership.

BOOKSHELF

‘Bridging the Gap’ - a compilation by Richard Mills

This very short book, compiled by Richard Mills, one-time councillor on Gunthorpe Parish Council, relates the history of the main crossing of the river Trent at Gunthorpe. The publication is meant to honour the ninetieth anniversary of the opening of Gunthorpe Bridge in 1927 by Edward, then the Prince of Wales.

Richard was very much involved in the celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary thirty years ago, and has had access to a selection of documents showing plans, specifications and details associated with the building of the structure. He has also included some photographs and other illustrations relevant to the actual construction of the project and the various historical occasions from the time before there was any bridge at all up to the present day.

The strategic importance of this crossing of the river since at least Roman times up to the way in which this crossing now serves as part of the major road network from the north to the A46 road cannot be over-emphasised. Over the years the crossing of the river has gone through various phases as a ferry and as a toll-road before the present bridge was built. Richard has created an interesting factual record of this piece of Nottinghamshire’s history, which will be of interest to more people than just the residents of Lowdham and Gunthorpe.

Copies are obtainable directly from Richard Mills (richard.mills4@btinternet.com) or from The Bookcase, Lowdham (£3).

Alan Langton

Publications Noted

The Local Historian January 2017 Volume 47 no 1

Colliery Healthcare in the nineteenth-century North Durham coalfield – Marian Morrison

‘The richest crop that it can grow’; building estate development in nineteenth-century Battersea - Keith Bailey

The decline of the hand-made nailing community in Womborne 1841-1901 – David Thomas Taylor

‘A Great Fight in the Church at Thaxted, 1647’: social and religious tensions in the wake of the First Civil War – Richard Till

Church and Town: the ministry of John Gott as vicar of Leeds 1873-1886 – Roy Yates

Publications on local aspects of the First and Second World Wars: a review article.

Editor's sackcloth and ashes department

The two portraits in the article on John Theodore Heins (pages 12 and 13, Winter Newsletter) were reproduced by courtesy of JJ Heath-Caldwell. This was not acknowledged in the article.

The website <http://www.jjhc.info/heinsjohntheodore1756.htm> did not appear as clear in print as one might have wished. After www the jjhc can be read as iihc which of course will not give access to the website.

John Wilson

Writing for the Newsletter

Readers are invited to contribute articles on anything they think would interest other readers. Articles can be in any (legible) format but the editor prefers WORD documents. If you use WORD, please do not embed photographs into the document as they are all but impossible to manipulate and often do not reproduce well. Photographs should be emailed as separate files. Captions for pictures should be provided in a WORD file.

Please send your contributions to wilsonicus@btinternet.com.

John Wilson

Books and journals for sale

One of our members, Neil Cunnington, has a number of Thoroton publications for sale:

Visitation of Nottinghamshire 1662-64

Holles Letters Vol. 2 and 3.

Rufford Charters Volume 3 and 4.

The Gedling Town Book 1665-1714

Centenary Index to Transactions Record Series and Excavations section 1897-1997

Nottinghamshire Bibliography 1998

Commemoration of First 100 years

Notts Miners Industrial Union (Spencer Union)

Sherwood Forest Maps 1609

Diary of William Gould

Diary of Abigail Gawthorn

Diaries of Gertrude Saville

Accounts of Constables of Upton

Archbishop Drummond's Visitation

Transactions Vols 25-27 (1921-23); vol 30 (1926); vols 37-42 (1934-38); 50-117 (1950-2014)

Any member interested - please contact Neil at neil039@btinternet.com with offers.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS

Chairman: Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA

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Treasurer: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH email: wilsonicus@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Judith Mills BAHons MA PhD email: membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk

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: 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.

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

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.

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An Historical Miscellany



The Garden at Bromley House



Aircraft cockpits available for visitors to climb into at Newark Air Museum



Vintage Shackleton and Hastings aircraft on display at Newark Air Museum



Indoor 'Aeroboot' sale of aviation memorabilia at Newark Air Museum



Sundial on St Katherine's Church, Teversal



Mass dial and Romanesque carving at St Swithin's Church, Kirklington

Picture of Bromley House Garden courtesy of Geraldine Gray; Newark Air Museum pictures © Newark Air Museum and reproduced with permission; sundial and mass dial pictures by Trevor Lewis.