

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



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St Winifred's Church, Kingston on Soar.

See page 2 for the report on the 2017 Spring Meeting and AGM

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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THE SPRING MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Another beautiful, if a little chilly, Spring Meeting in the lovely village of Kingston on Soar! A goodly number were in attendance, having bravely ventured dangerously close to the south of the county! Again this year the former President, and current Vice-President, Rosalys Coope, was not in attendance but sent her greetings to members. However we were pleased to have Vice-President Keith Goodman with us this year.

The President, Adrian Henstock, welcomed members to our 120th AGM held in the neat and attractive Kingston Village Hall. As has become a tradition with Adrian, he then gave a most interesting introduction to our venue, focusing on some of the people who had owned land in the parish – by coincidence the two main landowning families, early arrivals the Babingtons and then in Victorian times the Strutts, both originated in the same Cromford area of Derbyshire. One of the later Strutts had an interesting life – Frederick, was an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist and naturalist and a member of the Thoroton Society, regularly attending its meetings. His main contribution was the gift of his immense collection of books and prints to the newly formed Notts. and Derbys. County Councils, with this gift being the catalyst for the establishment of archives and local studies services in both counties. Without Frederick, Adrian's career may well have taken a different turn! Adrian also told members of a more modern resident: Dethick Manor House in Kingston, which incorporates the original Babington house, became the childhood, and current, home of Simon Groom. The farm, plus his dog Goldie, featured in numerous Blue Peter programmes of which, as many remembered, he was a presenter in the 70s and 80s.

Professor Beckett then presented the annual report and remarked that it showed what a busy Society we were with many activities in which members could be involved. He noted that it would be Ken Brand's last contribution on Nottingham's planning to the annual report as he was stepping down from Council this year. John Wilson, Honorary Treasurer, presented the accounts which were as usual in good order. There had been a number of welcome additions to funds and he was pleased to report that bookstall sales continued to provide income, with thanks due to Philip Jones, Margaret Trueman and Penny Messenger for their management of this. The Newstead Abbey volume edited by Rosalys Coope and Pete was still selling. Thanks were also given to Alan Langton for ensuring the success of excursions with, this year, a small profit being made. Expenditure this year included the purchase of a new microphone system, a grant to the East Midlands History and Heritage publication and a

sum which doubled the Geoffrey Bond Research Award. A new distribution system had been adopted this year which, although the annual costs were not yet clear, was likely to be more expensive than the previous process which was very much master-minded and diligently carried out by David Bagley, who was now stepping down as Circulations Secretary.

The Chair thanked John Wilson for his careful supervision of the Society's finances and also Martin Shaw, the Society's Independent Examiner. In 2018 subscriptions were to be modestly raised across all categories of membership.

Professor Beckett commenced his remarks by paying tribute to a number of members who had died during the past year. These were Stanley Greatorex and Derek Little, whose widows were in attendance, and also Jean Nicholson who had contributed to the Society over many years, notably as Programme Secretary. He expressed the collective thanks to David Bagley, now retiring, who had become a member of Council in 1994 and the next year had taken over as Circulations Secretary – all have been most grateful for his twenty-two years of service. Council was nominating David to be a new Vice-President of the Society. A small gift was presented to David. Professor Beckett informed the meeting that Robin Minnitt, a Vice-President and resident of Yorkshire for many years, had now stepped down.

In commending Transactions, the Chair noted that three of the articles were by non-academic members, and this was a very welcome addition which he hoped others would follow. He thanked the editors, Martyn Bennett and Chris King, for their contribution to producing another excellent edition.

The Welbeck Atlas Record Series volume was now at the printers after a seventeen year marathon preparation. This had been a huge piece of work but Steph Mastoris, at last, could rest on his laurels, being now unable to make any further amendments or additions! Record Series members now look forward to receiving their copies. We are so grateful to the late Eric Coddington for contributing a large sum which went a great way towards paying for its publication.

John Beckett then had a "Lord Kitchener" moment as he entreated members to consider very seriously whether they could offer themselves as the Society's new Treasurer when John Wilson stepped down at the next AGM. If someone to oversee the Society's finances could not be found it would result in professional help being bought in, which would inevitably lead to a further increase in subscriptions. *[So a further plea here from Council – John Wilson has simplified the system so that it is a much easier financial process to manage and is willing to help the new appointee as much as they find necessary – if you or someone you know could help, please let us know.]*

Professor Beckett then continued with a résumé of events to be held in the near future. He then asked Richard Gaunt to inform the AGM of exciting news relating to Nottingham's heritage. The city has been awarded funding by Historic England for the Heart of Nottingham Heritage Action Zone, one of ten awards made, with Nottingham receiving the largest amount. Bromley House Library would be one of the beneficiaries of this endeavour by receiving a repair grant. Heritage at Risk would be central to the project, bringing together the city's conservation areas as a focus. Public consultation, through the Nottingham Heritage Partnership, would be another important element of the process.

John Beckett concluded by thanking the officers for their contributions throughout the year, to Janice Avery for supervising arrangements in Kingston and to Ray State for giving the talk and leading the visit to the church.

Officers of the Society were re-elected, except that our new Vice-President, David Bagley, and Rob James as Distribution and Sales Secretary, were newly elected. Those people retiring from Council, but eligible for re-nomination, were duly re-elected.

After the business had concluded we were pleased to welcome Ray State, historian and author, to talk to us about the history of Kingston on Soar which was most interesting and stimulated a number of questions and comments. Ray had just published an authoritative and comprehensive book entitled "The Alabaster Carvers". *[A review of this book will appear in due course].*

Tea was plentifully provided by Exquisite Cuisine and which members found much to their taste. Thanks to Jonathan and his team.

After tea members had the opportunity to visit the Grade I St Winifred's Church. A modest church to the beholder standing outside but inside, what a magnificent sight! The Babington Chantry is deemed "the most remarkable chantry in the county" and is a riot of carving with a wonderful Last Judgment, angels with shields around the canopy and pillars decorated all around with more than a hundred babes-in-tuns (babies in barrels) a rebus on the name of the dedicatees, Sir Anthony and Katherine Babington who never seem to have been buried there. This monument is a must for everyone to see!

Another interesting and enjoyable spring meeting in a most attractive and welcoming village.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

LECTURE REPORTS

The Annual Archaeology Lecture, 11th February 2017

Vernacular buildings of Southwell, test-pitting and work at Burgage Green

Chris King and Ellis Morgan

Members enjoyed a wide-ranging presentation on Southwell's archaeological and built heritage by Dr Chris King, lecturer in archaeology at the University of Nottingham and archaeology editor of the Society's Transactions, and Dr Ellis Morgan, a member of the Southwell Community Archaeology Group.

Ellis presented the results of a Heritage Lottery-funded project focused upon Burgage Green. He summarised succinctly the documentary, cartographic and photographic evidence that had been collated by team members, and reviewed the results of earthwork, geophysical and lidar surveys, test-pitting and archaeological excavations. Trenching and open-area excavations had revealed a wide variety of artefactual and structural remains. These included medieval and post-medieval pottery; medieval and later cobbled surfaces; a medieval ditch demarcating two of several land plots identified during geophysical survey; pits containing medieval domestic refuse; the fragmentary remains of an iron smelting furnace that is thought to be of medieval date; and a stone-lined well that may also date from the medieval period. Excavations on the main green suggested that its curious sunken form may have been created by digging for clay, and it was suggested that some cobbled surfaces had been laid to facilitate the transport of clay, perhaps to a brickyard that was located on the site of Southwell's former House of Correction.

Chris reported on a recently completed survey of vernacular buildings dating from the medieval period to c.1750 in central Southwell, Westhorpe and Easthorpe. This Historic England-funded project had focused upon Southwell's lower status timber-framed buildings and had included detailed investigations of a wide variety of domestic and other structures. These included an early timber-framed building at Westhorpe, incorporating timbers dated by dendrochronology to 1332-57; a 15th century hall associated with South Muskham Prebend; the timber-framed Saracen's Head inn, with its remarkable Elizabethan wall paintings; and Rampton Prebend, embellished with early 17th century diaper pattern brick work. Particular attention was paid to changes in building raw materials, and the session concluded with a lively discussion of the development of early brick buildings in Southwell and beyond.

David Knight

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

Aspects of the Medieval Road from Nottingham to Blyth and York.

Within the Domesday Book entry for Nottingham is a section relating to what we now know as Trent Bridge. The entry emphasises the importance of the protection of the King's road to York as well as maintaining the passage of ships along the river (1). In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle we are informed that before midsummer in the year 920, shortly after the Danish borough in Nottingham had been taken by Edward the Elder, he ordered a stronghold to be built on the south side of the river and a bridge over the Trent to be built connecting the two strongholds. Before the Trent was bridged at Newark in the mid-1130s the main land route from London to York was via Nottingham.

Before entering the medieval town of Nottingham, the road had to cross the river Leen. The next obstacle to negotiate was a steep climb up the cliff to the higher ground of the medieval town. The road was a hollow way through, by way of a steep rock connected with the town wall. This way was recorded as *Hologate* in 1357 and *the Holoughstone* in 1366. Having entered the medieval town the road to York continued along *Stonistrete* – Stoney Street. The York road exited the town at *le Northbarre*. This gate was at the southern end of what was later called Glasshouse Street (2). The York road passes the site of the gallows at Gallows Hill, continuing along the corridor of the present A 60 and along the Red Hill to a junction of roads. Here the York road followed a northerly route which is now the A 614 with an early road to Mansfield to the west of it. The next location of significance on the York road is the area known as Salterford. Salterford Dam is fed from the upper Doverbeck which, flowing south-east, joins the Trent near Gunthorpe. In many of the perambulations of the Forest of Sherwood the south east part of the Forest was bounded by the Trent from Nottingham as far as the confluence with the Doverbeck.

The Forest boundary then followed the Doverbeck past Salterford Dam, leaving the beck at a point north west of Darcliff Hill (*Dorclyff* on an early 17th century map showing the Forest bounds) and then curved round to join the York road. From here, for several miles, the Forest boundary uses the York road as a defining feature. Indeed the above map writes "*The Street waye from Nottingham to Blythe*" along the line of the boundary (3).

Prior to the mid 17th century the road to Blyth went east of the Rainworth Water (Maun) whereas the modern road (A 614) crosses it twice before reaching Ollerton (4). The early road left the line of the modern road near Lockwell House Farm (Grid Reference 631590) and passed through the park of Rufford Hall and to the east of the earlier Cistercian Abbey of Rufford. Indeed it was due to the fact that the road passed through his park that Sir George Saville, in the mid 17th century, obtained permission to move the Blyth road to the west of his hall to its present line. The boundary of the Forest kept with the old road and it is the various perambulations of the Forest boundary which enabled Maurice Barley to locate the line of the medieval road.

In the Domesday Book Rufford is listed as a manor of Gilbert de Gant. Rufford Abbey was founded by the De Gants circa 1150. Evidence from the abbey cartulary implies that within eight years of its foundation the population of Rufford village were removed and the existing village fabric destroyed. Prior to its destruction it is likely that the Blyth road crossed a stream, now known as Gallow Hole Dyke, at a ford – the rough ford. North of the crossing was the site of the village and it is likely that the Blyth road passed along the main village street. Later the abbey built a farm on the site of the old village known as Roumes Grange (Kennels on 1:10560 OS map). The British Library Map shows *Ruamgraunge* on the Forest boundary.

The old Blyth road is heading towards Wellow. Wellow was not a Domesday manor and the earliest record is in the early 13th century, with the spelling *Welhagh* "spring associated with an enclosure" (5). It was this spring and the medieval road which made the site an attractive place to

settle. The water from the spring is a tributary of the Maun (known here as Whitewater) which is to the west of the old road. To the east of the road are the villages of Boughton and Boughton Brake. After crossing the parish boundary between Boughton and Walesby the road turns north arriving at a place known now as Conjure Alders where the Meden has to be crossed shortly after it had been joined by the Maun. Prior to reaching the river the road passes through a wet area which will have required a built up causeway to negotiate. The crossing of the Meden is today by a bridge which is known now as Conjure Alders Bridge. Greenwood's 1826 Map of the County of Nottingham denotes it as Conworth Alders but by the time of the Tithe Award for Bothamsall of c.1840 and the First Edition 1:63360 OS map, also c.1840, it was denoted as Conjure Alders. Just north of the bridge this map shows an enclosed area with the label Conjure Alders, a wet area very suitable for the growing of alder trees. In the Forest perambulation of 1235 the Meden crossing is written as '*Conyngeswatth*' "king's ford" from the Scandinavian words **conungr** "king's" and **vao-** "ford". (The place-name Rainworth was *Reynwath* in the 13th century combining the Scandinavian **hreinn** "clean" or **rein** "boundary" with **vao** "ford"). All the subsequent Forest perambulations use Conyngeswatth as a defining point on the Forest Boundary, using this spelling though understandably with slight variations. The Forest boundary leaves the Blyth road at the ford. In the Forest proceedings of 1589 it was made clear that the feature was indeed a ford by recording it as *Conyswathe forde* (5). An excavation at the site by Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust in 1996-7 uncovered a cobbled surface at the edge of the River Meden which, without doubt, was part of the structure of the ford (6).

After the river crossing the route of the old road converges towards the A614 and met it about 300m south of the Normanton Inn. The A614 was never improved through a Turnpike Act but later, re-routing of the A1 has created a junction of the A614 and A1 near Apley Head. On the approach to Blyth the A1 follows the corridor of the medieval road but now bypasses Blyth to the east. The York road passes a hill called Blyth Law and it was here that George Neville, Archbishop of York, died on his way to York in 1476. On the southern outskirts of Blyth, Blyth Spital (*hospital de Blida*), recorded first in 1305, was built by the side of the road (7).

Brian Rich

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- 1 Phillimore Edition of the Domesday Book- Nottinghamshire folio 280a.
- 2 Roffe, D. *The Anglo-Saxon Town and the Norman Conquest* in Beckett, J. *A Centenary History of Nottingham* (Chichester 2006).
Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton F.M. *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*. (English Place-Name Society 1979).
- 3 British Library map showing the bounds of the Forest of Sherwood in the early 17th century.
- 4 The following section on roads to the east of Rufford Abbey is dependent on Barley, M.W., *Cistercian Land Clearances in Nottinghamshire: Three Deserted Villages and Their Moated Successor* in *Medieval Studies*, 1. (University of Nottingham).
- 5 *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*.
- 6 Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire vol 102 (1998)- Report of Fieldwork by Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust, 1996-7.
- 7 *The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*.



WHO'S YOUR TRAM?

(Part One)

If you use Nottingham's trams you are no doubt aware that the newer ones now bear the names of many local celebrities, past and present, and of others less well known to the public who have nevertheless made notable contributions to the life of the city. In this article I shall highlight the historical figures under whose names ten of our trams travel daily. Although you may well have knowledge of some, if not all, of the following individuals, I hope that you will find a few points of interest in these biographical sketches.

If you hop on board tram no. 202 you will find it labelled 'D.H. Lawrence' and will perhaps recall trying to find and read a copy of his novel 'Lady Chatterley's Lover', back in your youth.

The controversial author, born in Eastwood in 1885 to a coal-miner and his wife, attended Nottingham High School but showed little promise during his early school days. He later studied for a teacher's certificate while embarking on his writing career and producing, with the encouragement of his friend Jessie Chambers, not only poetry but also short stories and his first novel, 'The White Peacock'. A job in Croydon took him to London where he wrote more and had his work published, but his life was far from settled, as various relationships (including a broken engagement), the death of his mother and serious illness took their toll. After a return to Nottingham his foreign travels began: to Germany and then to Italy with his new German partner, a married lady named Frieda von Richthofen, but they were forced to return to England by the outbreak of war. By then his latest novel 'Sons and Lovers' had been published and favourably received, and he began to move in contemporary artistic circles.

Lawrence's next major work, 'The Rainbow', was met with disapproval and after it was banned he retired to Cornwall, where his health deteriorated but he continued to write. The fact that Frieda, now his wife, was German made him unpopular in Britain and America, he was often ill and serious money worries added to his difficulties. He nevertheless visited Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, producing travel books from his experiences, and then moved further afield to Ceylon and Australia, where 'Kangaroo' was written. 'Women in Love' was launched in 1917 to mixed reviews. He made it to America in 1924, eventually returning to Europe and dying in France from TB six years later, but not before the publication of his final and most notorious book, 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'.

Tram no. 203 will introduce you to a very different individual, notable more for his physical rather than his intellectual prowess. William 'Bendigo' Thompson was a bare-knuckle fighter who was born in Nottingham in 1811, the last of 21 children; his middle name was a corruption of the Old Testament name 'Abednego'. When he was 15 his father died and he was sent to the Nottingham workhouse. He became an oyster-seller and iron turner but by the time he was 21 he was fighting – and winning – until in 1839 he beat James Burke for the all-England championship. His last bout was fought in 1850, after which he became a Methodist evangelist and died, aged 60, in 1880. His name was entered into the Ring Boxing Hall of Fame in 1955 and his trophies together with a portrait were on show at the Forest Tavern on Mansfield Road for several years.

Arguably the most flamboyant of the historical figures featured on our trams is the great Romantic poet Lord Byron, whose name appears on tram no. 205. Born in 1788 to Captain John 'mad Jack' Gordon and his wife Catherine, probably in London, the young George moved with his parents to Aberdeen but saw little of his profligate father who soon left for France and died there after draining his wife's resources to pay off his huge debts. When George was ten, his great uncle Lord Byron died and he inherited both the title and the ancestral home, Newstead Abbey, which was in a poor state of repair. Byron did not take up residence until he was almost 21 and then renovated and lived in only a few of the smaller rooms for about six years before selling the estate in 1817. He did, however, use

some of the larger rooms for pistol shooting, boxing and fencing, and many of his pets (among which were a bear and a wolf) roamed freely around the house.

George was educated first at Aberdeen Grammar School and then at Harrow School (1801-5), where he failed to distinguish himself academically but began to write poetry while becoming known for his volatile temper and numerous liaisons with other boys and young women. His club foot and the inconsistent upbringing he received from his mother combined to make his early life difficult and did not encourage self-control. He did, however, attend Cambridge University, became for a short while interested in politics and published a volume of poems in 1807, which was not well received, before embarking on a European tour (1809-11) and later achieving overnight fame on the publication of the first two cantos of 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' in which he described the travels of a young man and his reflections on his experiences.

In 1815 Lord Byron married Annabella Milbanke who bore him a daughter, Augusta Ada, but the marriage did not survive beyond 1816 as his scandals and debts put it under intolerable pressure. Byron then left England and spent a summer on the shores of Lake Geneva with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, his wife Mary and her step-sister Claire, who bore Byron's child the next year. He then moved on to Italy, where, his affair with the wife of an Italian nobleman did not prevent him from writing a considerable quantity of poetry, including 'Don Juan', and consolidating his literary reputation. But in 1823 he became involved in the war being fought by Greece against the Ottoman Empire and was killed at Missolonghi the following year. Regarded now as a hero by the Greeks, his embalmed body was brought back to England and buried in the church of St Mary Magdalene at Hucknall, alongside many of his family members.

Tram no. 210 celebrates the man who probably made a greater impact on the city of Nottingham than any of the other people featured in this article, and whose legacy continues up to the present day: Sir Jesse Boot. He was born in 1850 to John, an agricultural worker, and Mary Boot, a teacher with a keen interest in herbal medicines that prompted John to open a shop in Goosegate in order to sell these remedies. After the death of his father when Jesse was 10, he assisted his mother in running the shop as well as attending school until he was 13. By the time he was 21 he became a partner in the business and initiated plans to sell patent medicines, despite opposition from professional pharmacists at first, as well as a variety of other products such as toiletries and food items, with the aim of buying stock in bulk and keeping prices as low as possible. He also advertised widely, showed off his wares in large window displays, and installed additional facilities such as toilets.

Jesse took over the whole business when Mary retired in the late 1870s. As the business prospered, he moved the shop to larger premises and before long established other outlets in the city, as well as one in Sheffield in 1884 and many more elsewhere, until by 1914 there were more than 560 Boots shops in the UK. Motivated by concern for his employees and a strong Methodist faith, he improved working conditions, introduced apprenticeships and evening classes and later, organised staff outings and a social club. It is hardly surprising that running a rapidly expanding company like this resulted in overwork and exhaustion; advised by his sister, Jesse took a holiday on Jersey where he met his future wife, Florence Rowe.

Florence helped Jesse widen the range of products sold in his shops by including items like books, fancy goods, pictures and picture frames. The business flourished, the family moved to The Park – there were now three children – and by 1892 a factory was opened on Island Street. Jesse, now very wealthy, provided large sums for a variety of projects which included improvements at the City Hospital, the donation of land for playing fields and a war memorial by the River Trent, alms houses for war veterans, and the provision of the Highfields estate for the University of Nottingham. Knighted in 1909, he was made Lord Trent in 1928 but died in Jersey in 1931.

Tram no. 211 transports us into the mists of legend as it bears the name of Robin Hood, the sharp-shooting hero and lover of Maid Marian brought to life in many books and films and represented

as an archer in the robust statue that stands at the foot of Nottingham Castle. Very little is really known of the man who came to be regarded as a wronged nobleman and supporter of King Richard I who was forced to flee from the vicious, vindictive Sherriff of Nottingham into Sherwood Forest, where he sheltered with a band of fellow outlaws, launching attacks on rich travellers (especially tax collectors) and redistributing the proceeds among the poor and oppressed. Robin features briefly in several 14-15th century songs and ballads but (if he existed) may have lived much earlier, according to fleeting references in historical sources, in the 12th century. Not only is his identity obscure but also his place of origin, as he is associated with several parts of Yorkshire as well as Nottinghamshire.

A curiously elusive figure, and one therefore capable of being remodelled in literature and on screen to suit the tastes of succeeding generations, was Robin. One theory has it that a certain Robert of Wetherby or Robert Hod who was pursued, caught and executed for robbery with violence by Eustace of Lowdham, the Sherriff of Yorkshire (and later of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) known for his devotion to justice rather than ruthlessness. It seems not unlikely that this story spread along the Great North Road, becoming transformed in the constant retelling into the tales we now know, with the roles of villain and popular hero reversed. Whatever the truth, Robin Hood is embedded in our city's culture and the legend of his life and exploits will continue to be a source of fascination.

A very different sort of hero gives his name to tram no. 212: General William Booth, founder of the Volunteer (later Salvation) Army which he launched to help those stricken with poverty and unemployment. He was born in Sneinton in 1829 to a family of limited means and at the age of 13 started work as an apprentice to a pawnbroker in a very poor area of Nottingham. He also began to attend Broad Street Methodist Chapel, experiencing a life-changing conversion in 1844 and two years later preaching on the streets of the city. After leaving his job, however, he was out of work for a while and then moved to London in 1849, where he met his future wife Catherine at a chapel in Clapham and became an evangelist. He married Catherine in 1855; they moved north for a short while, then returned to London and William resumed preaching in the open air, this time in Whitechapel with a tent as his base. His enterprise became known as the Christian Mission by 1878 and developed into the Salvation Army, with William himself assuming the title of 'General' and publicising his aim to 'save souls', although the methods of the organisation gave rise to some opposition.

After Catherine's death in 1890, General Booth pressed on with his ground-breaking work among the poor, formulating ideas on hostels, employment centres and agricultural education, amongst other projects, and undertaking widespread journeys in the UK – usually by car, the most modern form of transport - and as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and the Holy Land. His eldest son Bramwell took on the administration of the Army but three of his children left the organisation, no doubt to William's great sorrow, and another perished in a train crash.

His strong personality and tireless work earned him many honours, including the freedom of the cities of London and Nottingham. But following a visit to Norway in 1912, William later fell ill and died. The new General of the Salvation Army, his son Bramwell, conducted the funeral service and his passing was marked by a huge procession through the streets of London accompanied by the music of many bands. By the time he died, his Army had nearly 16,000 members in 58 countries.

Part Two of this article will appear in the next newsletter and feature Mary Potter, George Green, Ada Lovelace and George Africanus.

Janet Wilson

The career of a remarkable nurse - Mary Ann Winfield Bannister

Mary Ann Winfield Bannister, second daughter of Samuel Winfield and Harriet Bannister, was born on 16th April 1879. Throughout her nursing career she was known as Marian and her birth year was given as 1880.

Marian was educated at High Pavement School. At 21, she was managing one of her father's grocery shops on Colwick Street, Nottingham, assisted by her brother Samuel and sister Annie. By this time (1891), Samuel, her father, owned grocery shops on Glasshouse Street, Carlton Road, Sneinton Road and Lincoln Street, Basford. He had moved to a shop on Beeston High Road, the address (108/110) which Marian gave as home throughout her nursing career. Marian's mother was managing this shop whilst her father was working for Thomas Humber, designing bicycle wheels with ball bearings. Her father was also leader of Beeston Urban District Council in 1908 and 1911.

In 1906 Marian's elder sister Hannah died and shortly afterwards, her brother Samuel Winfield junior, came of age. Either of these events could have influenced Marian's decision to train as a nurse in 1907.

Marian trained at Sheffield Royal Hospital from 1907-1910. She nursed at The Lawns Lunatic Asylum, Lincoln, from February 1910 to March 1912. At the end of March, she took five months out to complete midwifery training in Hastings where she gained her Central Midwives' Board Certificate. Marian's next job was at The Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool for a year until September 1913. From there she went to Hull Royal Infirmary, where she worked until December 1914.

Marian joined the Queen Alexander's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and, equipped with a railway warrant and a cheque for twenty-four pounds, fifteen shillings, she journeyed to Boulogne en route to Number 5 General Hospital, Rouen. Marian's report described a good surgical nurse who did sister's duties for six months before being transferred. As a sister, she would have earned between £50 and £65 per annum plus accommodation and allowances. She was also a particularly good administrator, perhaps because of having managed a grocery shop?

Marian's service record shows her working at five different casualty clearing stations, where sometimes her stay was only for a few days. Number 10 General Hospital and 7, 11 and 41 Stationary Hospitals are also listed. Two stays at the Nurses Hostel in Abbeville are also recorded. Marian was mentioned in Sir John French's despatches in 1915 and she was awarded the Royal Red Cross 2nd class (a new medal) in the 1917 New Year's Honours List. Marian was invited to Buckingham Palace by telegram in March 1917 to receive her medal and she also met Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House.

As Sister in Charge of 7 Casualty Clearing Station, Marian merited one of her five entries in Dame Maud McCarthy's War Diaries. "Went to 7 CCS – saw the OC and the Sister i/c, Miss Bannister, who has absolutely transformed the unit, making it seem more like a General Hospital. Everything is in perfect order, the floors polished, the annexes clean, the orderlies working hard..."

Marian became Assistant Matron in 1917 at 41 Stationary Hospital and she was awarded the Royal Red Cross 1st class in the 1918 Honours List. She was made Acting Matron of Abancourt Stationary Hospital in February 1918. That summer Marian had a few days' leave to nurse her mother, who died of pneumonia on 5th August. She was back on duty in France on 11th August 1918. After demobilisation, Marian arrived back in Folkestone on 29th November 1919, recommended to The Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square in what is now Soho. She was matron there until 1922.

Marian had withdrawn the application she made to remain with QAIMNS reserve in 1919 but she did become a permanent reservist in June 1921. From then she had to report to QAIMNS annually so her employment is recorded.

From 1922 to 1932 Marian was Matron of Highbury Hospital, Birmingham, for the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers. State registration of nurses began in 1922 and Marian's name is on the first register. In 1925, she accompanied a trip to the British Empire Exhibition where the wounded were transported around the pavilions in electric Railodok cars. In 1927 she met the king on his guided tour of Highbury Hospital.

A short period of unemployment followed this, but since Marian had inherited £5000 from her father's estate in 1931, she was not in financial difficulty.



Her next job was Matron of the Nottinghamshire Convalescent Home, Seely House, at Seathorne, Skegness. This was the men's home; the women's home was Carey House. A contingent from Highbury Hospital visited her at Seathorne. She became involved in the local community and opened the Christmas Fair at St Mary's, Winthorpe in 1936. The local newspaper report shows her sense of humour.

In 1938 Marian moved to be Matron of the Home and Colonial Nurses' Co-operative in Hanover Square, London. She was concerned whether this counted as suitable service to remain with the QAIMNS reserve, but it did. Marian was there when World War 2 began. She was despatched to Number 6 Casualty Clearing Station at Catterick on 15th September 1939.

By now Marian was 60 and had reached the age limit for the QAIMNS reserve. Since her nursing record had 1880 as her birth year, they did not dismiss her until the summer of 1940. Marian did not want to give

up and, after communication with Dame Katherine Jones, she was appointed Matron of Alton Emergency Hospital in Hampshire.

Marian remained on the State Register of Nurses until 1946. She died in The Hollies Nursing Home on Sherwood Rise, Nottingham, on 9th October 1970.

Jill Oakland

A View of Newstead Abbey from Norton Conyers

As is always the case, something new is discovered just after your book has gone to press, and this is certainly true in this case. Only days after the publication of *Newstead Abbey A Country House: Its Owners and Architectural History 1540-1931*, Haidee Jackson, the curator, contacted us to say that a previously unknown painting had been brought to her attention.

This large oil painting, the property of Sir James and Lady Halina Graham of Norton Conyers in Yorkshire, is a view of the Abbey from across the Upper Lake. It is not in good condition, in fact, it is in desperate need of cleaning and professional restoration. The picture is not of the highest artistic quality and the composition is somewhat stagey. It appears to be by either a provincial journeyman

THOROTON AGM AT KINGSTON ON SOAR, 30TH APRIL 2017



Photos from left to right:

The local countryside; village sign; the village hall.

Lunch for the committee; handing out 'Transactions'; the hall filling up.

The officials convene; the speaker Ray State; the Chairman with improvised gavel.

St Winifred above the church entrance; the traditional tea.

INSIDE ST WINIFRED'S CHURCH



(Photos by Janet Wilson)

Photos from left to right:

The nave; the Babington Monument; the Babington coat of arms on a panel under the arch.

The Monument; members visiting the church; panel depicting the Last Judgment.

Ray State speaking about the church's history; the alabaster reredos; a carved band showing 'babies in tuns', visual code for 'Babington'.

Detail of the carved work on the Monument, still with traces of colour; the alabaster font.

artist or an amateur. The most likely candidate would appear be the Reverend Richard Byron, a younger brother of the 5th Lord Byron, whose view of the East Front painted in 1758 and presented by him to his nephew, the Earl of Carlisle at Castle Howard, now hangs in the West Gallery at Newstead (purchased in 1998 from a private collection in Yorkshire). This large canvas may therefore have been painted, possibly from memory, by Richard Byron who had known Newstead in his youth but spent most of his adult life in County Durham and in Yorkshire. This would help to explain some of the obvious inaccuracies in the buildings portrayed. For example, the west front of the Abbey itself is shown with four tall bay windows whereas we know from many other visual sources that the house had only three tall bay windows before 1818. The picture appears to show an external staircase leading from one of these bay windows, something not shown in any of the contemporary views of the west front. The picture also shows Kennels Castle which was probably built around 1760 indicating that this painting was painted soon after this date. It has a very fine contemporary frame.

As with all the known images of Newstead Abbey this picture adds significantly to our knowledge of the history of the Abbey and particularly its surrounding landscape. This oil painting appears at first sight to be yet another view of the west front of Newstead Abbey seen from across the Upper Lake. In fact, this painting is taken from much further back (west) than most other views and includes a detailed representation, in the foreground, of the two arched gateways which led to the open ground in front of Folly Castle. These two gateways are shown in some detail in this painting. Their distinctly red colour suggests that they were built of brick (a rarity at Newstead). They may have had Gothic style decoration like that found on Folly Castle itself, though the present condition of the picture means that these details cannot be distinguished at present. Restoration and cleaning of this painting would allow us to see these gateways in far more detail. Between these gateways is a low battlemented wall with cannons on red-painted gun carriages pointing out across the lake. Whether this gun emplacement ever existed is open to question. There is no other evidence for its existence. A drawing by S H Grimm which shows the gateways is too distant to be able to make out the gun emplacement. The artist may have conflated the Battery – which still exists at the water's edge – into this new position in order to emphasise the foreground where a lady and gentleman promenade. The couple's costume confirms a mid-18th century date for the picture. The gentleman – in what might be termed naval attire – appears to be looking across the picture with either a telescope raised to his eye or a horn raised to his lips! Perhaps they are the 5th Lord and his wife, Elizabeth, and perhaps he is watching or signalling to the ships on the lake. The prominence given to the cannon and the ships on the lake suggests that the subject of this picture may be linked to the *naumachia* or mock sea battles which the 5th Lord, a former naval officer, is known to have staged here at Newstead. Such nautical pastimes were indulged by a number of English aristocrats in the 18th century (see Coope & Smith, 78).

This fascinating and problematic painting needs expert cleaning and restoration. This process may well reveal many answers to some of the questions raised about Newstead Abbey in this paper. It will, we are sure, transform this picture back to the significant image which it once was. At present this picture is on loan to Newstead Abbey and it is hoped that it will be acquired for the Nottingham Castle Museum's Collection. [See back page for illustrations]

Dr Rosalys Coope & Pete Smith

John Hallam - "A poor mean Country Joyner" of Nottinghamshire.

This phrase was used by Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace, to describe John Hallam (c1681/2-1729) of Mansfield Woodhouse in his letter of 1725. Vanbrugh knew Hallam in a professional capacity as their civil service roles for the Office of (Royal) Works overlapped –

Vanbrugh was Comptroller (1702-1726) and Surveyor of Gardens & Waters (1715-1726) while Hallam was Secretary to the Board of the Office of Works and Clerk of Works for Whitehall, Westminster & St James's Palace (1719-1726), a joint post. Hallam was appointed to these roles by Sir Thomas Hewett, of Shireoaks Hall (near Worksop), after he had been appointed as Surveyor-General of the Office of Works in 1719; this was the top post on the Board, and coveted by Vanbrugh. I encountered John Hallam, with his Nottinghamshire connections, during my current research project about Shireoaks Hall and Sir Thomas Hewett, and have been able to augment what is known about him from documents held at Nottinghamshire Archives.

The first record of Hallam's trade as a 'joyner' was made on his marriage, age 26, to Isabell Rughills/Ruggels at Worksop Priory on 28 January 1707/8. He was noted then as being from Heath, Derbyshire, near Hardwick Hall; his father, also John, lived there in 1729 although there is no evidence of Hallam's birth there. John Hallam Sr may be the J Hallam recorded as a joiner working at Chatsworth in 1691, although Hallam was a fairly common name in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire area. One older relative (Thomas Bettison) was a joiner at Nottingham and Ollerton, however, the head of a related family, Thomas Hallam of Chadson (Chaddesden), near Derby, was a bodice maker, possibly previously from West Bridgford.

It is not known when the couple established themselves in Mansfield Woodhouse, however, it was possibly from that location that Hallam met Sir Thomas Hewett, when Hewett lived at Kings Clipstone for a year or two about 1709. Then, Hewett had permission from the Duke of Newcastle to alter the house he had taken a lease on, and may have used a local joiner to do so. Hallam was later (1719) described as Hewett's acquaintance.

This association led to the previously mentioned posts in London which gave Hallam an income of £190 per annum at the age of 37. This was a very good salary for a joiner, although Vanbrugh later alleged that Hewett kept most of it for himself. The minutes of the Board meetings show that Hallam was involved in surveying and estimating repairs and minor new works, for example, making an estimate for a new library at St James's Palace (1721).

In his 1725 letter Vanbrugh also related that Hallam's wife was running an alehouse in Nottinghamshire with an additional vague allusion to Hallam's "Notorious crimes" - what these were has not come to light as yet. The exact location in Mansfield Woodhouse of the alehouse is unknown, but the rooms of the building are known – a private parlour with closet, the main 'house' room, kitchen, pantry, passage, brew-house with cellar, two (bed) chambers on the first floor, and a garret with accommodation for one servant, as well as storage for malt.

After Sir Thomas Hewett died in April 1726, Hallam was soon dismissed from his posts. In October 1726 he was still owed money by the executor of Hewett's will, although it is not clear what this was for. A few instances show that his enhanced skills were utilised in the local area – in 1728 he designed the "Bath Summer-house" at Rufford Abbey for Sir George Savile, later converted to an Orangery, and restored about 20 years ago (Listed Grade II*). Documents relating to this building, including Hallam's architectural plans and letters, are also held at Nottinghamshire Archives, and were summarised by Alice Dugdale in an article published in the *Georgian Group Journal*, 1997. During this project he was also paid for advice "about altering the house" at Renishaw Hall, Derbyshire, in June 1729.

Unfortunately, he died of unknown causes during the construction of the summer-house in August 1729, age 47. His last known letter was dated 14th July, his will was written on 17th July, then he was buried on 15th August back at Heath, where his father lived, at the Old Church which is now ruins. His death inventory reveals his architect and joinery trades: there was a drawing table in the parlour closet, lumber stored in 5 rooms, and a dozen made-up sashes (windows) in the garret. The goods listed had a value of £154, and included a clock, a bird cage, books, and 46 pictures, all indicators of comfortable living. He was also able to leave his wife, Isabell, substantial property as the

couple appear to have left no children. Four new brick houses in Knightsbridge and Mayfair, three houses in Rotherham, and two houses with land in Mansfield Woodhouse were itemised. Another bequest was a gold mourning ring worth one guinea to the mason Robert Birch (-1750) of Mansfield, hired to work with him on the summer-house (March 1729) at Rufford Abbey.

His wife Isabell died 12 years later and left her property and possessions, which included the lease of a colliery at "Inkersal & Stavely", to her niece and three nephews (from a Worksop family called Sugar), one a carpenter and one a joiner. Perhaps their choice of trade was influenced by her late husband.

There are still outstanding questions – did John Hallam ever undertake building work at Shireoaks Hall, or at any other estates or smaller houses in Nottinghamshire and surrounding area? Perhaps others have come across him in their research – I would be interested to know.

Megan Doole

YOUR SOCIETY

THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP

A meeting of the Thoroton Research Group was held on Saturday 1st April 2017 at the Nottingham Mechanics, with twelve members present. Five reports on current and ongoing projects were given by members.

A sundial at Hodsock Priory, by John Wilson

John described his study of the sundial at Hodsock Priory. This had been brought to Hodsock in 1986 from St Anne's Manor, Sutton Bonington. The dial had probably been made by Joseph Thomas Wilson of Stamford. John described the various connections to the sundial. Unfortunately, it is not orientated correctly so will not show accurate time.

Mary Ann Winfield Bannister (1897-1970) a nurse from Beeston, by Jill Oakland

Miss Bannister was born in Beeston, and Jill had come across her when researching various aspects of the history of Beeston. Miss Bannister held a number of nursing positions and served as a nurse in France from 1914 to the end of the Great War. She then moved to various other posts, and was awarded a decoration for her services to Nursing.

Nottinghamshire Gardens, by Megan Doole

Megan described the East Midlands Gardens Trust Recording Project, with which she is involved. The Project covers Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. The object of the project is to record all historic gardens in the East Midlands. Megan then presented a study of the park and gardens at Shireoaks Hall, near Worksop, the home of the Hewett family from 1546 to 1811.

Was Francis, Viscount Lovel, buried at Gedling Church? by Ted White

Following defeat at the Battle of Stoke Field, Viscount Lovel disappeared. There have been numerous accounts of his fate by different authorities. The most plausible is that he reached Gedling, possibly severely wounded, and died there. There is an alabaster tomb in the church, the carvings on which are now almost illegible. There is possible evidence of vandalism to the shield on the tomb (by a Tudor sympathiser or agent?). A recent project has used specialist lighting techniques in an attempt to render the carvings more legible and thus to settle whether this is actually Lovel's tomb.

Salterford in Nottinghamshire by Brian Rich

Brian started with reference to Salterford near Ravenshead. This refers to the movement of salt, an important mediaeval commodity. Salt for local monastic communities may have come from either Worcestershire or Cheshire, or alternatively from salt production in Lincolnshire around the Wash. Brian circulated a number of maps which showed the routes of various mediaeval roads, and described the most likely route for the salt to have taken.

The main objective of the Research Group is to encourage Thoroton members to undertake research and then publish the results. Hopefully some or all of the talks given at the Research Group will result in short papers in future issues of the Newsletter.

The next meeting of the Research Group is scheduled for Saturday 30th September 2017, 10.30am in the Boardroom at the Nottingham Mechanics.

SITUATION VACANT

After some twelve years in the post, I am hoping to retire as the Society's Treasurer this year. This will allow me to concentrate on other things, such as developing the Newsletter and leading the Research Group. There are certainly advantages to being Treasurer, such as getting to know most of the membership and being closely involved in the management of the Society. A full job description will be available and I would be happy to induct a new treasurer into the work. If you are interested in the post of Treasurer, please get in contact with me – by telephone 0115 926 6175 or by email at wilsonicus@btinternet.com

John Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

50 YEARS AGO

The Nottingham Victoria Station, which had been designed by the architect Albert Edward Lambert, closed on 4th July 1967. It had been opened on 24th May 1900.

100 YEARS AGO

Captain Albert Ball VC, DSO and two Bars, MC was killed in action on 7th May 1917 over Douai, France. He was leading a flight of aircraft from no 56 Squadron, and had a score of 44 German aircraft destroyed.

The Thoroton Society, because of wartime restrictions, dispensed with their usual full-day excursion. A proposed visit to Linby and Papplewick was abandoned owing to the impossibility of making the necessary arrangements, and the Council decided not to organise any other excursions that year. It was hoped that excursions would be reintroduced in the following year if circumstances permitted. At the end of 1917, there were 271 subscribing members, three honorary and three associate members. The annual subscription was 12/6d (62 1/2p). His Grace the Duke of Portland KG, GCVO was President.

120 YEARS AGO

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire was formed on 1st June 1897, at a meeting in the Grand Jury Room of the Shire Hall. The Chair was taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, His Grace the Duke of St Albans, with some 50 people present. The annual subscription was fixed at half a guinea (10/6d, or 52 1/2p).

GEOFFREY BOND RESEARCH AWARD

Geoffrey Bond, a long-standing member of the Thoroton Society, is generously providing funds to support research into the history and archaeology of the County of Nottinghamshire (the remit of the Thoroton Society). Last year Council decided that the amount available should be doubled through the Society's own funds, to make a total of £2000 available.

In 2016 we again received some excellent submissions and it was decided that two of them should share the £2000 available, one receiving £500 towards the training of volunteers and the undertaking of a reconnaissance survey of cottages in Wollaton. The other was a community archaeology project focused on Southwell which was awarded the sum of £1500 towards professional training and practical support for volunteers and students. We look forward to reading more of their work in the Newsletter in due course, and then fuller accounts hopefully in future editions of the Transactions.

The terms and conditions of the award are set out below and can also be found on the Society's website – the closing date for submissions is 1st September 2017.

Barbara Cast, Hon Secretary

Geoffrey Bond Research Awards

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 Mr Bond's generous grant, the Society has increased the amount available by doubling the fund. Thus an award totalling £2000 is now available this year, to be awarded to one successful applicant or shared between a number of applicants, at the discretion of the selection committee.

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 can the money be used for?
 - a. 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, photography and 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.
 - b. 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 to support publication.]

3. Applications.
 - a. Anyone wishing to apply to the fund for support must do so on or before 1st September 2017.
 - b. The application should take the form of a statement (maximum 2 pages of 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.
 - c. Applicants should include an indicative budget under appropriate headings (i.e. travel, reprographics, readers' fees, subsistence etc).
 - d. Applicants should also include a one-page (A4) curriculum vitae in the case of an individual, or a statement of purpose in the case of a group.
 - e. Applications should be submitted by e-mail to the Honorary Secretary at barbaracast@btinternet.com.
 - f. Decisions will be taken by a selection committee of the Society's Council by 30th September 2017. 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?
 - a. All activity associated with the award should be completed within one year (i.e. 30th September 2018), 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Award recipients should acknowledge their award in any future publications or outputs from the research.
5. In the event of award recipients being unable to undertake the work for which financial support was granted, the award will be withdrawn.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NOTTINGHAM (JANUARY TO APRIL 2017)

At the time of writing, less than four months into the year, 2017 is proving to be an exceptional year for archaeology in the city. Already ten sites have been archaeologically investigated in the city centre, Lenton, Clifton, St Ann's and Radford. Further, major, excavations are expected within the city centre over the coming months.

In recent years limited archaeological work has taken place, with the exception of works for the NET2 tram and some exploratory works at Nottingham Castle, and so it is pleasing to see some exciting projects once again taking place. Importantly several of the sites have provided significant information which is helping shape our knowledge of the development of parts of the city.

The fieldwork has been undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology, University of Leicester Archaeological Services, Network Archaeology and Pre-Construct Geophysics.

Details of fieldwork with positive results (where archaeological remains have been encountered) will be provided in the annual round-up of the next volume of the Transactions. In the meantime the following is a short summary of the projects.

At Lenton two sites have encountered remains believed to be associated with Lenton Priory and provide some evidence of what happened at the Priory site following the Dissolution in 1538. An evaluation excavation on the site of the former Red Cross building has offered the opportunity to investigate what was happening immediately outside the Priory precinct during the medieval period.

A small excavation in Clifton, close to St Mary's Church, hoped to find evidence of medieval settlement but disappointingly no remains of archaeological interest were encountered. Nearby a geophysical survey found evidence of possible ditches and could contribute to our increasing knowledge of settlement in this part of the city. It is hoped some excavation of the site will take place.



Excavating one of the mediaeval ditches at the Lower parliament site – *photo courtesy of Scott Lomax*

Watching briefs of small works at Holy Trinity Church, Lenton, a small residential development in Radford, and other small-scale groundworks in the city have had disappointing results.

However, in the city centre excavations have been much more exciting.

At Nottingham Castle, the Outer Bailey Gatehouse Bridge was investigated with two small trenches and a test pit excavated to gain a better understanding of the full width and the construction of the bridge. The excavation

revealed, beneath modern surfaces, a number of services including a brick drain of probable early 19th century date. Importantly, at a depth of approximately 1m, the northern wall of the bridge has been found, having been covered for more than two centuries. We know from documentary sources that part of the bridge originally consisted of a timber drawbridge, which was rebuilt in 1575. During the late 17th century the bridge was again rebuilt, at the time of the construction of the Ducal Palace, and the excavation has revealed evidence of this rebuild. The excavation has revealed a late medieval window jamb, which probably originated from the demolished castle, forms part of the construction of the bridge.

An evaluation excavation at Cliff Road found well-preserved organic remains and evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval tanning. Structural remains were also encountered.

The greatest discoveries of this year, and indeed arguably of the past decade, have taken place at a site on Lower Parliament Street. Ditches and pits of probable 14th-15th century date have been found on land which once belonged to St John's Hospital, immediately north of the medieval town defences.

The features were filled with large quantities of medieval pottery and tile and there is some evidence that pottery and tile manufacturing took place within close proximity of the site. An oven or kiln and a possible hearth date to the late medieval period. The site is significant in revealing important information about what was happening immediately outside the medieval defences up to 700 years ago.

Also at the Lower Parliament Street site a storage cave, believed to be of medieval date, was found to contain a deep well which again had a large quantity of pottery within it. A second cave was created between 1831 and 1841 to act as a cellar for the Woodlark beer house. At some stage the Woodlark's cellar knocked through into the earlier cave. The Woodlark cellar fell out of use in February 1906 and was bricked up soon after, leaving beer barrels and a container filled with ale, untouched until the archaeologists excavated the site. *[see illustrations on back page]*

Caves continue to be discovered in the city, with 44 caves having been added to the Nottingham City Historic Environment Record since 1st July 2016.

Scott Lomax (Acting City Archaeologist)

BOOKCASE

MIRIAM'S FARM: the story of Haggs Farm, D.H.Lawrence and the Chambers family

Edited by Clive Leivers

Haggs Farm Preservation Society £8.50 + £1.30 P&P

Available from Brian Rich 11 Adams Grove, Leek ST13 8NX brianrich457@btinternet.com

D.H.Lawrence found his 'first incentive to write' in Haggs Farm, the people who lived there and the surrounding countryside. The farm, the landscape and the Chambers family inspired his first novel *The White Peacock* and provided the models for Miriam's farm and family in *Sons and Lovers*. Between 1901 and 1908 Lawrence visited the farm so regularly that he almost became one of the family, and in later years still referred to the area as 'the country of my heart'. This collection of essays explores that relationship, relate the history of the farm and its tenants, and deal with other aspects of the life of the Chambers family, in particular that of Jessie, 'D.H.Lawrence's Princess'. The book is in memory of Professor Jonathan David Chambers (1898-1970) who was born at Hagg's farm and

was mainly responsible for securing its listed building status, and who knew Lawrence very well. The book describes the various families, in addition to the Chambers, who were tenants of the farm and of course there is much about Lawrence himself.

This book is an interesting read and throws much new light on a major influence on the work of D.H.Lawrence. My only criticism is that the contents list on page 7 had the page numbers of the chapters written in by hand. Hopefully the copy I received for review was a pre-publication copy and I assume that the contents list is now printed correctly.

A HISTORY OF KIRKBY WOODHOUSE

Kirkby and District Archaeological Group

£3.50 plus £1.30 P&P, available from the Group via trevorandpam@gmail.com

This booklet is a re-printing with enhancements of a booklet produced in the 1950s by Mr Johnson, the then head teacher of Kirby Woodhouse School. The history begins with the Domesday Book entry for 'Chirchebi' and is gradually brought up to the 20th century. There was believed to have been an old chapel or monastery near to the Chapel Banks, and a ploughman in the early years of the 20th century had dug up a large ashlar (a square hewn stone) which appeared to have come from the Old Chapel. In the 19th century many of the inhabitants had been involved in framework knitting. Even into the 20th century, gleaning in the fields was common after the harvest.

The booklet describes the various church denominations, and in particular the rectors of the Old Church, one of whom rode a 'grey nag' with a red cape across his shoulders. An interesting read!

John Wilson

PUBLISHED ARTICLES NOTED

The Local Historian 2017 volume 47 number 2 – April 2017

The Local Historian's Progress – David Dymond

'Incontinent of her body': women, society and morality in Tudor Southampton – Cheryl Butler

'Dancing and drinking were the order of the day': the hiring fairs of Chester-Nantwich and Whitchurch in the late-nineteenth century – Stephen Counce

Civil defence activities during the first World war; a case-study of Hinckley, Leicestershire – John Martin and Robert King

Fact and fallacies: a reappraisal of the early years of the Cheltenham waters – James Hodsdon

Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire (1766): a review essay – Heather Falvey

A review of three record society volumes – Kate Tiller

Review article: publications on the history of churches and monasteries – Michael Haslam

Three books about schools and education history – Tim Lomas

Local History News no 123 Spring 2017

Transport and Logistics in the First World War – Chris Phillips

VCH online – Angus Winchester

Historical Pageants: a new database for local historians – Ellie Read

Town maps for local historians – Caroline Barron

Early fire insurance online: a country-wide resource – Isobel Watson

National Library of Scotland – a mapping resource – Roger Chapman

The Islands of Kent part 2 – Paul A Carter

THE THOROTON SOCIETY REGISTERED CHARITY No. 237755

OFFICERS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £25.00

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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

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

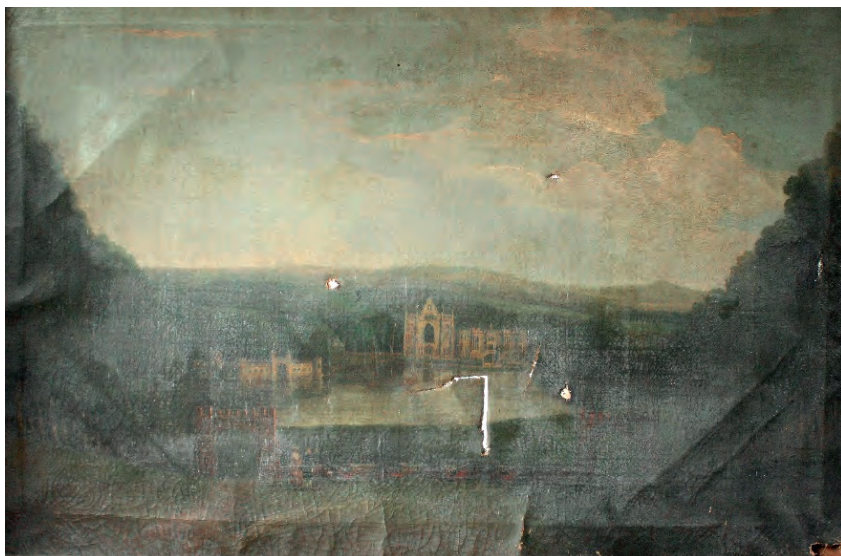
Items can be handwritten or typed in Word format, either suffix .doc or .docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are all most welcome to illustrate an item. Images can be submitted on CD, DVD, as an email attachment or sent for scanning. Preferred size 300dpi JPEG. Images will be adjusted to suit the publication.

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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.

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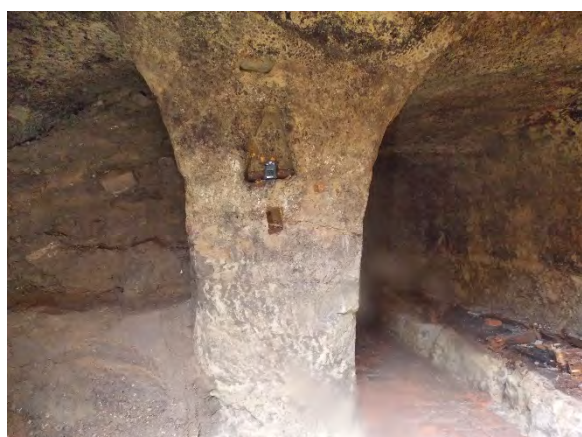
Robert Byron (attributed)

View of Newstead Abbey from across the Upper Lake, c, 1760.

(Sir James and Lady Graham)

Robert Byron (attributed)
Detail of the one of the brick gateways and two foreground figures, possibly the 5th Lord Byron and his wife, viewing the boats on the Upper Lake.
(Sir James and Lady Graham)

See article by Rosalys Coope and Pete Smith on page 14



Left: Mediaeval cave, Lower Parliament Street. Right: Woodlark cave with *in situ* beer containers.
Photos courtesy of Scott Lomax. See article by Scott Lomax on page 20