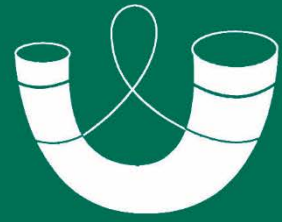
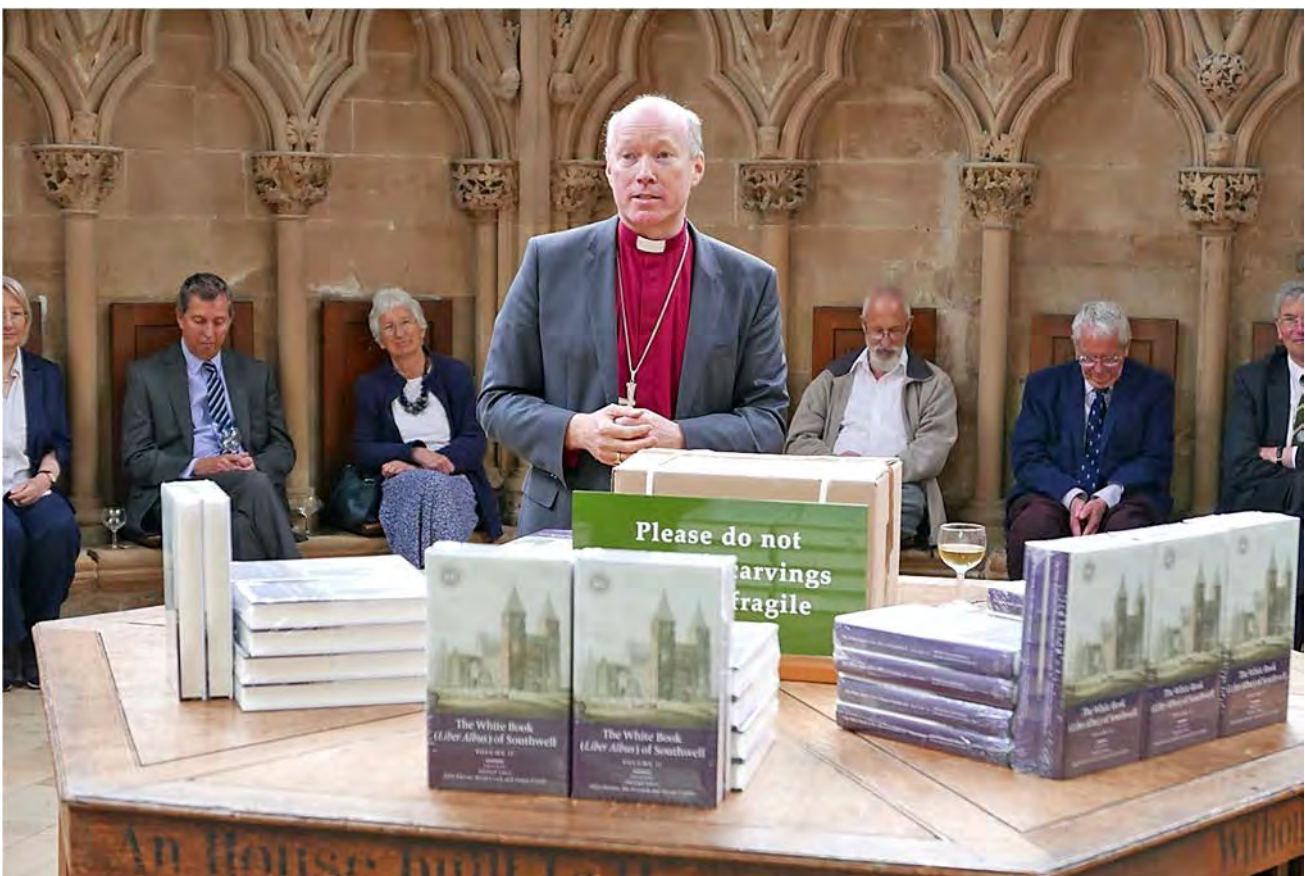


THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 93 *Autumn 2018*



Bishop Paul launches the 'White Book of Southwell' in the Chapter House at Southwell Cathedral in May

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

ANNUAL LUNCHEON 2018

The mailing this month includes your booking form for the annual luncheon. The date for the lunch is Saturday 3rd November. This year we are eating in a very exciting venue, the Council House in the centre of Nottingham! We are grateful to the City Council for giving us permission to hold our lunch in the Council House and this we have chosen to do to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of its architect, Thomas Cecil Howitt, OBE.

We will be joined for part of the event by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham. Prof John Beckett, our Chair, will talk about Cecil Howitt following our lunch. A very interesting menu has been put together for us by our caterers and it will include a number of options. The lunch, including drinks, will cost just £24.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet with other members on 3rd November and once again enjoy a special meal together in this very special historic and interesting Nottingham building.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

EXCURSIONS

BROUGHTON CASTLE AND EARL'S BARTON CHURCH

THURSDAY 15TH MAY

LEADER : ALAN LANGTON

Some 36 members of the Society departed for Broughton (near Banbury) in beautiful sunshine. Set in the heart of Oxfordshire countryside, staff at Broughton Castle welcomed us with coffee. Although called a castle, it is a misnomer really, apart from its history and castellations. It dates from about 1300, was bought by William of Wykeham in 1377, and has been in the family of the Lords Saye and Sele ever since. Built in delightful honey-coloured stone it began life as a manor house and was transformed by Sir Richard Fiennes in 1554 into a stately Tudor mansion. Over the years, the family has ensured its continuation as their family home by keeping in line with political changes, especially during the Civil War.

We were divided into two groups to tour what is not only a beautiful historical house but also a family home. From the Great Hall with its family portraits and Civil War armour decorating the walls, we moved through a mediaeval groined passage to the dining room, and then on to the chapel and Queen's Bedroom, followed by the King's Chamber and the Great Parlour. Delightful plastered ceilings adorn most of the rooms, with antique furnishings and large windows creating a feeling of magnificence. From the roof we saw the gardens and the estate to perfection in the sunshine.

A long journey to Earl's Barton church was rewarded by the sight of the enormous Saxon tower of All Saints' Church. Inside the church Graham Halsall explained how the building developed over the centuries. The influence in its architecture is very much Roman, with obvious developments in the Early English and Perpendicular styles in the nave and chancel. The 15th century rood screen was handsomely painted in 1935. Norman blind arcades, a triple-lancet east window, a Tudor parish chest, a Saxon west door, and several mass dials on the outside walls can also be seen.

On our homeward journey the driver took us to see the new bridge recently erected over the M1 to create a new bypass for the village of Kegworth.

Alan Langton

BARTON ON HUMBER

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE, 2018

LEADER : ALAN LANGTON

In many respects this was one of the Society's more memorable excursions, but most enjoyable, nevertheless. First we had a severe gale warning from the Met. Office for Thursday morning. We began with a fairly lengthy coach trip to the Humber region, where we had coffee at a public house which had an electrician working in the coffee lounge when we arrived. At the 14th century Thornton Abbey, an off-shoot of Bardney Abbey, the tour was mainly outside in a very strong wind which made it difficult to hear clearly what our guide, Glyn Copac, was saying to us. To get near to the ruins of the abbey church and cloister it was necessary to cross a field with a 'docile' bull (we were assured) in it. The Tudor Gatehouse structure was remarkable both inside and outside, and showed that the prior originally had more responsibility as a landowner (collecting rents and dispensing justice) than performing his religious duties. The coach then took us into Barton on Humber for our buffet lunch at the Old Mill public house.

At Saint Peter's Church we were met by Geoffrey Bryant, a guide with an outstanding knowledge of this beautiful building with Anglo-Saxon origins. Sadly, the church is no longer used for worship, but is under the care of English Heritage. Our tour both inside and outside the building revealed some most fascinating historical and architectural features. Geoffrey's love for Saint Peter's caused us to have only about fifteen minutes at Saint Mary's church (the parish church), parts of which date back to the 12th century. The enlargement and decoration of the building in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries reveal just how large the population of Barton had become, and just how wealthy the trade with the continent through its port had made it. From the church we walked to the Wilderspoon National School Museum, a Grade 2 listed building which opened in 1845, where we enjoyed a cup of tea before leaving for the journey back to Nottingham. Unfortunately, the A1 was exceptionally busy, and we did not reach home until about 7.00 p.m. Altogether, a most unusual excursion for members and - for those concerned about exercise - I am reliably informed that we walked nearly '8000 steps' in the process. So, this excursion provided not only historical interest but also physical well-being!

Alan Langton

MARSTON HALL, BRANT BROUGHTON CHURCH, QUAKER MEETING HOUSE AND STRAGGLETHORPE

THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2018 LEADERS : PENNY MESSENGER AND MARGARET TRUEMAN

This was a most interesting and well-organised excursion, with plenty of time for relaxed consideration of what we were seeing. Our first destination was the Grade II listed Marston Hall where we were greeted by the owners, Mr and Mrs John Thorold, whose family connection with the building goes back several centuries. After coffee and delicious biscuits we were divided into two groups, one to tour the house and the other to tour the garden and church. John and his wife have only recently come to live in the house and they are currently making a thorough restoration of the structure, some of which suffered at the hands of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. It was interesting to see their work so far, and to hear John's enthusiastic hopes for the future. Even as it is, the house gives the feeling of a comfortable family home. The old church of Saint Mary within the site reveals how over the years the Thorold family have provided the Church of England with a number of clergymen, some of whom were raised to bishoprics or deaneries.

A most enjoyable and relaxed lunch was partaken at the Red Lion at Caythorpe before we journeyed to Saint Helen's church at Brant Broughton, where we were warmly welcomed by one of the churchwardens. The interior of the building was beautifully restored by G.F.Bodley in the

nineteenth century, in accordance with the need for 'worship in the beauty of holiness' at the time of the Oxford movement. After a short walk we visited the Quaker Meeting House and had another warm welcome with light refreshments. Wendy gave us a talk about the history of the Quaker movement and the establishment of this particular building in the village of Brant Broughton, together with an explanation of the pattern of worship there today. On our return journey we called at the tiny church of Saint Michael's at Stragglethorpe, which has Saxon and Norman origins, and still has box pews and a two-decker pulpit. Altogether, a delightful day, complete with warm sunny weather.

Alan Langton

A NEW SUNDIAL



On the Society's visit to the Friends' Meeting House at Brant Broughton (see excursion report above) I was surprised and delighted to find a sundial which is unknown to the British Sundial Society. The dial is on a wall at the garden end of the Friends' Meeting House, below the gable. It was installed in 1780, along with a mounting-block for horse riders and several internal improvements to the building, paid for from a legacy.



Although it was a sunny afternoon at the time of our visit, there were too many trees to the south for the gnomon to cast a shadow. Presumably they had not been there when the dial was installed.

The dial is not visible from the road and it is necessary to enter the garden at the rear of the Meeting House to see it. There is no maker's name or initials on the dial, and the maker of the sundial is not known. The next job is to ascertain the name of the sundial maker, if possible.

John Wilson

NEWS

WHITE BOOK OF SOUTHWELL LAUNCHED AT SOUTHWELL MINSTER



L to R: Professor Michael Jones; Teresa Webber; Jean Cameron; Trevor Foulds; Julia Barrow; David Crook; Bishop Paul Williams; Paul Cavill; Rev Canon Nigel Coates

The Chapter House of Southwell Minster was a fitting location for the official launch, on Wednesday 16th May 2018, of The White Book of Southwell; the first complete edition of an invaluable and extensive collection of medieval documents compiled between c.1350 and 1460.

The White Book derives its name from the white vellum cover. Its 500 pages record some 620 individual documents, ranging from papal bulls and royal charters, *quo warranto* inquiries and privileges granted to the Chapter at Southwell, individual canons (or prebendaries) and the parishes where the Minster held lands or

controlled livings.

The book was first brought to general attention by Dr Robert Thoroton, the author of the first History of Nottinghamshire (from whom the clergy at Southwell had great difficulty in getting the book back!). The book consists of the original Latin and Norman-French text in which the documents were written and a summary of each document in English with extensive commentaries.

The editors Michael Jones, Julia Barrow, David Crook & Trevor Foulds attended the launch, where Bishop Paul Williams spoke of the importance of the book and the Revd Canon Nigel Coates was presented with a copy for Southwell Minster by Michael Jones. Thanks to their great variety, the documents are important not simply for ecclesiastical history but for broader social and economic trends in mediaeval Nottinghamshire either side of the Black Death.



The 'White Book of Southwell' on display at the Chapter House

TUDOR ESTATES OF THE LEAKE FAMILY.

The Derbyshire Record Society - the sister organization to the Thoroton Society's Record Section - has just produced its 43rd publication in its hardback series. This volume will be of interest to Thoroton members in that it is an edition of the 'cartulary' (register of property deeds) of the Leake family of Sutton (Scarsdale) Hall near Chesterfield, the family which also owned the Friary and other property in Newark.

The cartulary was compiled in c. 1574 by Sir Francis Leake and contains abstracts of title deeds of all his estates gathered into a single volume. He made several major purchases of former monastic land in north-east Derbyshire. These included lands which had previously belonged to Welbeck Abbey, and the cartulary contains abstracts of over an hundred deeds from the abbey's archives. Most of these original documents have since disappeared but were recorded in the abbey's own cartulary; this is now in the British Library but remains unpublished.

The new 352-page edition thus contains abstracts of some 750 medieval and later deeds, many relating to Sutton Scarsdale, Duckmanton, North Wingfield, Killamarsh and Dore in north-east Derbyshire; Etwall and Burnaston near Derby; and Crook Hill in the High Peak. Also included is a very full list of gentry and yeoman landowners throughout Derbyshire dating from the mid-16th century, and a rental of the Leake estate in 1574.

A P Munford & A M Hopkinson, eds., *The Leake Cartulary and the Derbyshire Estates of Welbeck Abbey*, 352 pp, hardback, Derbyshire Record Society, vol XLIII, 2018.

Price: Non-members £40 plus postage; Members £25 post-free. Available from Derbyshire Record Society, 9 Owen Falls Avenue, Chesterfield, S41 0FR.

Adrian Henstock

ECCLESIASTICAL ANNIVERSARIES ENDING IN '8'

In 1588, the Archbishop of York, Edmund Sandys, died at Southwell and his tomb can be seen in the Minster.

Dr Robert Thoroton died in 1678 and he is buried in Car Colston where his tomb cover can be seen in the chancel.

The other Nottinghamshire born Archbishop of Canterbury was Thomas Secker who died on 3rd August 1768. He was born at Sibthorpe and became Archbishop in 1758. Less well known and living in less troubled times than his predecessor Thomas Cranmer, but nonetheless reaching the top of his profession!

In 1828 George Ridding was born – he was to become the first Bishop of Southwell.

Constance Penswick Smith, daughter of the Vicar of Coddington, was born in 1878. She was the founder of The Society for the Observance of Mothering Sunday. She died in 1938 and the Lady Chapel in Coddington Church is dedicated to her memory.

One which is not an “8” anniversary but is relevant to this year when we are marking the gaining of the vote by women is Lady Laura Ridding, wife of the Bishop of Southwell, who was an ardent suffragist as well as being a biographer, philanthropist, author and social reformer.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MUSEUM: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE UNEARTHED: FINDS FROM THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME



The national Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological objects found by the public in England and Wales. This year it celebrates its 15th anniversary with more than 13,000 finds from Nottinghamshire recorded on the PAS online database,

including coins, tools, weapons and jewellery. It is an important source of information for researchers and for everyone with an interest in history, archaeology and heritage. This exhibition will highlight some of the finds from the county and examine the important contribution they have made to our wider understanding of Nottinghamshire.

Tuesday 2nd October 2018 to Friday 25th January 2019

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-5pm; Sunday 12noon-4pm; Closed on Mondays

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM – WESTON GALLERY: A SELECTION OF ELECTIONS: VOTES, SUFFRAGE AND REFORM

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the first UK general election in which some women



*The rights of women – or the effects of female enfranchisement, by George Cruikshank, 1853.
Fagan Collection of Political Prints, Pol P 5*

were entitled to vote. We celebrate that fact by looking back at some memorable elections and exploring how electioneering has changed over the years. Before the first Reform Act of 1832, few people could vote, and powerful aristocrats could sway

the results. Papers from the disputed Cumberland election of 1768 reveal stories of coercion, bribery and corruption. Printed ballads and posters give a flavour of the songs and spectacles which attended elections in Nottingham in the early years of the 19th century.

Personalities feature heavily in the exhibition. The 4th Duke of Newcastle is shown opposing the Reform Act, and fiercely criticizing his own son's election campaign in South Nottinghamshire in 1846. Discover the fascinating story of James Morrison, the wealthy MP for Nottingham East lauded as 'the friend of the poor'. And learn about the suffragists and suffragettes who campaigned for equal voting rights in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Using original archives and rare books, this exhibition will illuminate 250 years of political campaigning. The exhibition has been curated by staff from Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham.

Friday 7th September – Sunday 2nd December 2018

Open Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm; Saturday & Sunday, 12noon-4pm; Closed on Mondays

THE WELBECK ATLAS AT THE LOWDHAM BOOK FESTIVAL 2018

Many members will be familiar with the now well-established annual Lowdham Book Festival, organised by Jane Streeter of The Bookcase, the independent bookshop in Lowdham, and Ross Bradshaw of Five Leaves Bookshop in Nottingham. The Festival attracts large audiences and many 'big names' from the world of writing. This year, the final day of the Book Festival was held on Saturday 30th June. The Thoroton Society was delighted that Steph Mastoris, editor of the Society's latest publication, the *Welbeck Atlas*, had been invited to speak about the Atlas on the last day of the Festival. Steph spoke to a large audience at the Lowdham Methodist Church, and several copies of the Atlas were sold to members of the public. The Society had a stall at the Book Festival and a number of Thoroton publications were sold.



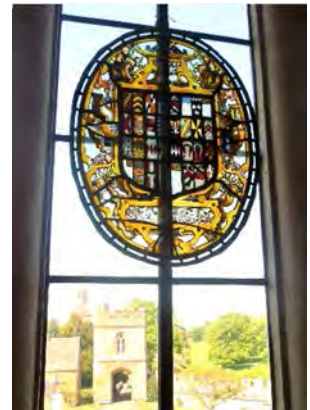
Alan Langton and Ruth Strong enthusiastically promoting the Thoroton Society at the Book Festival

THE CHILWELL EXPLOSION

At 7.10 p.m. on Monday, 1 July 1918, part of the National Shell Filling Factory number 6, at Chilwell, blew up. The official death toll was 134 and the number injured was probably in excess of 250.

The ten days between 20 June and 1 July 2018 saw a series of commemorative events centred on St Mary's Church, Attenborough. They began with a lecture on the explosion which I gave on behalf of the Beeston and District Local History Society, and carried on with other events including a showing of recently re-discovered film footage which has been made available through the Imperial War Museum, and a play 'Swan Canaries', which took place in one of the vast shell stores which has survived since 1918. The commemorative events ended with a service in St Mary's on 1 July. At the service, the preacher was Bishop Paul, the diocesan bishop, and the congregation included the Lord Lieutenant, Sir John Peace, the leader of the county council, the chief executive of Broxtowe Borough

EXCURSION TO BROUGHTON CASTLE AND EARL'S BARTON CHURCH, MAY 2018



Above:

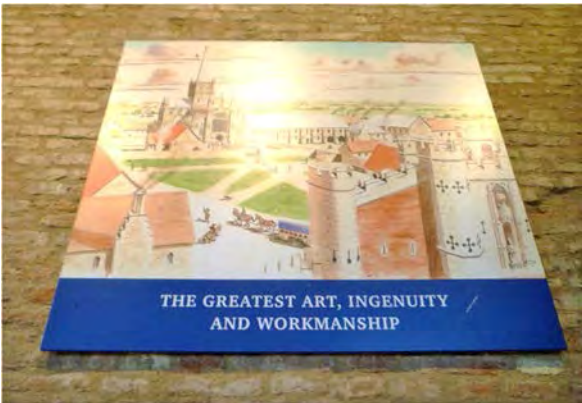
Views of the castle, front and rear, its interior decoration and the gardens.

Alongside:

The Saxon tower of Earl's Barton church, members listening to the guide and the screen adorned with butterflies.



EXCURSION TO THORNTON ABBEY AND BARTON-ON-HUMBER, JUNE 2018



Above and left:

The Tudor gatehouse of the Abbey, sculptured elements and the remains of the monastery in the grounds.

Below and right:

St Peter's church, its font and Green Man.

Below left:

The parish church of St Mary.



Council, and local M.P. Anna Soubry. I was one of those fortunate enough to have a ticket – the first time I have ever had to produce a ticket to get into a church service! The church was packed, as also was the marquee erected for a family day on Saturday 30 June. I was particularly struck by two things: the new memorial, dedicated by the bishop, and the parade of young soldiers from Chetwynd Barracks (the site of the factory which exploded), who could so easily have been marching into battle – it was of course 1 July, the 102nd anniversary of the battle of the Somme.

John Beckett

BLEASBY'S NEW AIRCREW MEMORIAL

For a number of years, planning has been under way to create a memorial to the three aircrews which crashed over Bleasby during the Second World War. Even though deep in the countryside, the villages in this area saw a good deal of wartime action. With so many airfields in this part of Nottinghamshire and in Lincolnshire, the skies were constantly flown over and, consequently and tragically, there were a significant number of crashes in this area.

Bleasby, being just across the river from RAF Syerston, did not escape these events: two Lancasters and a Wellington came down in our parish, with the loss of the entire crews. On 6th February 1941 a Wellington, R1014, with a crew from 304 Squadron, a newly established Polish squadron, came down shortly after taking off on a training flight from RAF Syerston – it crashed near where the school now stands. All four Polish airmen, Sergeants Cymborski, Jonczyk, Lichota and Tofin, were killed.

The two Lancasters, *JB132* and *R5698*, collided over Bleasby on 1st September 1943: this was recorded in the school logbook. They were flying at night with only navigation lights, one undertaking a night cross-country training exercise from its base at RAF Wigsley and the other just returning from active service in Germany and heading back to Syerston. The wreckage was scattered over 40 acres of the hillside fields between Rudsey Farm and Brickyard Farm: all fifteen aircrew died.

The crews consisted of men from all parts of the United Kingdom and also from Eire, Australia and Canada and the average age was 25, the oldest being 38 and the youngest just 19.

It was the commemoration of the start of the Great War held in Bleasby in 2014 that sparked a desire to erect a memorial to all these airmen who had died in Bleasby in WWII. A small group consisting of Bleasby residents was brought together by Ken Ogilvie, a local man who spearheaded and drove the project. The design was created with the help of a local architect and it was decided

that it should take the form of a Lancaster's propeller and tailfins and that it would be carved in granite by the stonemason, Michael Wright. Fundraising commenced and local people were very generous in contributing and, with a substantial grant from the County Council and the encouragement and support of the Parish Council, the joint project of



Bleasby Local History Society, St Mary's Church and Bleasby Parish Council was well under way.

The memorial is now complete: around the propeller it records the names of all the crewmen of the two Lancasters and the Wellington: on the tailfins there are inscribed names of other airmen who died in aircraft accidents near to the parish.

Ken Ogilvie, with heroic determination, has tracked down relatives of those killed, many of the families having had no idea where their loved ones died, and a number of them, along with representatives of the Polish, Canadian and Australian Air forces, as well as the RAF, are to attend the service of thanksgiving and dedication of this new memorial, now installed in the Glebe Field next to St Mary's Church. This dedication is to be held on 1st September 2018, exactly 75 years to the day since the Lancasters crashed over High Cross fields.

Barbara Cast

YOUR SOCIETY

Obituary - Claire Wells

We were very sad to hear of the death in May of one of our long-standing and loyal members, Claire Wells. Claire was a regular attender at lectures, the annual lunch and on excursions. Her niece Jacqui has given us some details of Claire's life for which we are very grateful.



Jeanne Claire Elizabeth Wells was born in London on 7th July 1929, ten minutes before her twin Shirley. She disliked the name Jeanne and was therefore always known as Claire. For the first ten years of her life she lived in Fulham and Parsons Green, enjoying a happy childhood with Shirley and her older sister Gwynneth. All that changed when the war broke out. Claire and Shirley, aged ten, were evacuated and for the next six years hardly saw their parents. They were moved from family to family within the Baptist church fraternity, sometimes staying only a few months, sometimes a couple of years. Claire remembered it as a difficult time, having to work hard at weekends in the church, cleaning being the main duty. When war ended in May 1945 they were desperate to get back home but found it difficult to adjust having left home children and

returning as young adults.

Claire began work at the age of 16 in the Probate Department of Farrer & Co in Lincoln's Inn Fields. In 1948 Farrers were appointed solicitors to the Olympics and received complementary tickets - Claire was lucky enough to get one for the Opening Ceremony. After about 5 years Claire obtained a grant to study speech therapy and, once qualified, she followed a successful career in this field for many years. She also taught drama including to inmates of Wormwood Scrubs Prison!

Claire was a great traveller, including visits to China and Russia – she even lived in Canada for a while, working as a speech therapist. She moved to Nottingham when she retired in 1989 to be closer to her older sister Gwynneth and her family. Once here she joined the Bromley House Library, the WEA, the Thoroton Society, the Lenton History Society and Nottingham Civic Society. She was always very appreciative of the company of like-minded people. Later on she developed a great interest in trees – of all sorts, shapes and sizes. She studied them in great depth and carried out research at the University of Nottingham, recording facts and statistics for many years.

Claire lived an interesting and full life; indeed it was a life well lived. She will be much missed.

Barbara Cast

GEOFFREY BOND RESEARCH AWARD 2018

Can we remind researchers that up to £2000 is available for people undertaking research into Nottinghamshire history? This is thanks to Geoffrey Bond's generous grant of £1000 together with another £1000 from Thoroton funds. Applications are invited from individuals or societies which will need to be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Thoroton Society by 1st September 2018 at barbaracast@btinternet.com. Details of the terms and conditions are available on the Thoroton website at www.thorotonsociety.org.uk or contact Barbara Cast as above.

In 2017 awards were made to Southwell Community Archaeology Group for its community archaeology project to research, compare and document the wall-paintings in the Saracen's Head, Southwell, and also to Bassetlaw Christian Heritage for its project to identify, research and document information on the unique part the Bassetlaw area played in Christian history and which is held in document form in archives and churches, and also orally.

It is hoped that more individuals and groups will apply for this useful financial support for their research in 2018 and we would urge all researchers to consider whether they could be helped in their endeavours by a grant.

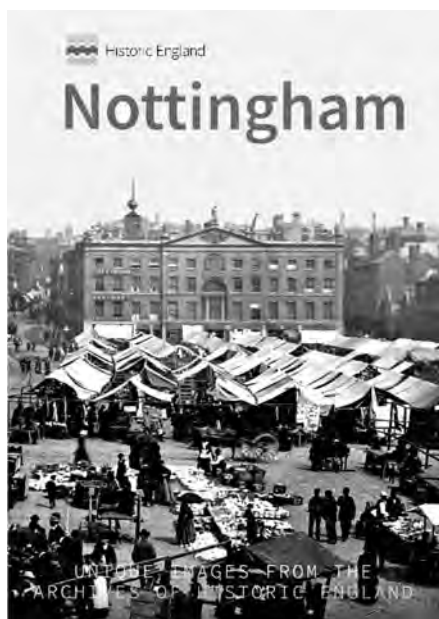
Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary, Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

BOOKSHELF

Historic England: Nottingham. Unique Images from the Archives of Historic England

**Ian D. Rotherham and Christine Handley with contributions
by Historic England**

**Amberley Publishing 2018 PB £14.99 ISBN 978-1-4456-7544-
2**



Historic England: Nottingham shows the city as it once was, from its streets, squares and alleyways to its churches, theatres and famous sporting venues. This illustrated history provides a nostalgic look at Nottingham's past and highlights the special character of some of its most important historic sites. The book consists of over 150 colour and black and white photographs, with substantial notes to each. The photographs are taken from the unique Historic England Archive, the nation's record of 12 million photographs, drawings and publications, ranging from the 1850s and the earliest days of photography up to the present day. A useful reminder of what, in many cases, we have lost.

Norwell and the Great War – ISSN 2040-2406

This is another volume in the excellent series of Norwell Heritage Booklets compiled by the Norwell Parish Heritage Group. The series editor is Michael Jones who is well-known to the Society, having most recently lectured on the White Book of Southwell.

This volume starts with the period before the war and then gives as full an account as possible of the enlistment, war experiences and, where available, photos of the fifty five men from Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse who served in the forces. It then considers the effect of the war on the parish and how life continued while so many men were absent. However, it was noted that rural life in some ways was protected from the worst deprivations of the war – some men stayed to tend the farms due to the necessity of food production; others were employed in munitions factories – and those left behind managed to hold village events such as the Norwell Flower Show in 2015. There were also fund-raising events such as concerts which must have raised spirits.

We read of the efforts to increase the food available by growing vegetables and keeping pigs. The children in the school were taught vegetable growing and helped in gathering blackberries for jam-making which was mainly destined for the troops. Life was hard for some residents and local charities were invaluable in providing some assistance.

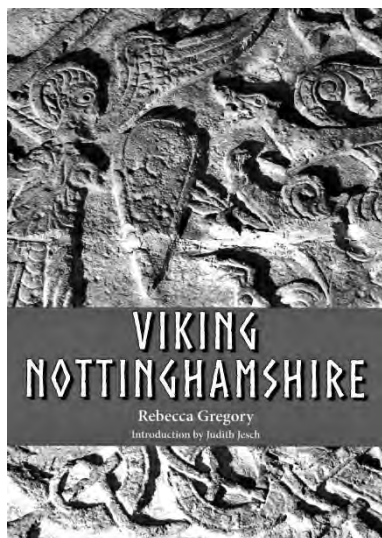
After the war normal life was slow to return and for many it was never the same again. Many of those serving had to wait a long time before they returned home and the book includes many poignant messages from soldiers longing to be back with their families. This is a splendid snapshot of one of our county's villages dealing with the privations and sorrows of war whilst still carrying on with as normal a life as possible.

Barbara Cast

Viking Nottinghamshire

By Rebecca Gregory

Five Leaves Publishing 2017 PB £8.99 ISBN 978-1-910170-47-2



This is the first book dedicated solely to Viking Nottinghamshire, an era with apparently little material evidence of their presence in the county. And yet, how significant Nottinghamshire was in this period, being one of the Five Boroughs of the Danelaw, and how clear a picture many of our place-names give us of their ubiquity. This book by Rebecca Gregory, an affiliate of the University of Nottingham and English Place-Name Society researcher, draws together in a very useful slim book the latest research and findings, filling the gap in information about what is often regarded as an entirely disruptive age. "Viking Nottinghamshire" takes us to the county as it was during the Viking Age and through the various periods of Scandinavian settlement. The author uses a variety of historical evidence, which includes documents, place-names, artefacts and sculpture, to demonstrate the impact and contribution Scandinavian settlers made to the character and history of Nottinghamshire. The book is balanced

in its focus, concentrating on what was brought to the county in terms of culture and language, and how the peoples integrated. Invasion and atrocities there may have been, but here we have a well-rounded picture of the contribution made by those who came in ships but who settled and were assimilated but still left a strong mark on our county.

Barbara Cast

Beekeeping in Victorian Nottinghamshire

by **Stuart Ching**

Northern Bee Books, Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6JS

ISBN 978-1-912271-23-8

Price £18

This book covers the craft of bee-keeping from 1837-1901 and reports the activities of beekeepers in both the county and nationally. There is a reference to the Thoroton Society as part of beekeeping history, in that Rev AJL Dobbin was a member of the Committee of the Nottinghamshire bee Keepers' Association. Rev. Dobbin was the first Chairman of the Thoroton Society.

A follow-up book - Beekeeping between Two Queens 1901-1952 - is almost ready for publication and should come out later this year.

Current Published Papers

The Local Historian 2018 vol 48 no 1

Local societies on the move in the middle ages: migration and social mobility in England 1100-1500 - Christopher Dyer

Parish bede rolls during the English Reformation - Elizabeth Norton

Witchcraft and evidence in a Somerset parish in the seventeenth century - Andrew Pickering

The bewitching of Emma Smith - Ian Beckwith

Evacuation to Northallerton in 1939-40: a community divided? - Harry Fairburn

Review article: books on the local history of drink, drinking and public houses - Paul Jennings

The Local Historian 2018 vol 48 no 2

Hiding in documents: the lives of women in a patriarchal society – sixteenth century Southampton - Cheryl Butler

The Tramper's Tale: poverty, vagrancy and witness – Peter Leese

Industrial finance from the working classes in later nineteenth-century Lancashire – Peter W. Hampson

Occupational and social mobility during industrialisation: the experience of a Black Country parish in the nineteenth century – David Thomas Taylor

Trippers discouraged: New Filey, the building of a select resort, 1800-1900 – George Sheeran

Opinion: a local historian's progress – down the ascending staircase? – A.D. Harvey

Review article: six books about churches and chapels, their builders and their congregations – Michael Haslam

And finally...



WHEN DID THE PRESIDENT VISIT SOUTHWELL?

Regular visitors to Southwell Cathedral may be aware of this fine sculpture of someone we all know (and either love or hate, depending on our politics). Other visitors might like to look for the Donald Sculpture. It is at the right of the entrance to the Choir, rather low down, on the Screen. I wonder who bashed him on the nose, though...

John Wilson

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

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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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EXCURSION TO MARSTON HALL, BRANT BROUGHTON CHURCH, THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE AND STRAGGLETHORPE CHURCH, JULY 2018.



Above, left and right:
Marston Hall, front and rear, the church in the grounds and an ancestor of the Hall's owner.
Below:
Brant Broughton church, its splendid painted vaulting and ceiling, the font – and its temporary organist.
Bottom, left and centre:
Tea at the Friends' Meeting House and Stragglethorpe church.

