

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 96 *Summer 2019*



Dr George Oakley Aldrich of Cockglode, Edwinstowe
– see the article by our President on page 6
Picture courtesy of the Bodleian Library, Oxford

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

SPRING MEETING AND AGM 2019

A spring day in Caunton with blossom blowing from the trees – what a lovely setting for this year's Spring Meeting and AGM.

We met in the school, a somewhat unusual venue for us, but it is also the village's community venue. Called the Caunton Dean Hole School, it was an appropriate place to hold our meeting as we had specially chosen Caunton to celebrate the bi-centenary of Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole's birth. Those of you who were present would have heard, during the afternoon's activities, how he spent much of his life serving St Andrew's, was then made the Bishop of Rochester and, always, worked as an expert on roses with many of his creations named after him.

The President, Adrian Henstock, welcomed members to our 122nd AGM and, as has become a tradition with Adrian, he then gave an interesting introduction to Caunton and the Hole family. Of special interest, he told us of a register of residents compiled by Revd Hole when he was the incumbent which focused on their religious observance, noting who was affiliated to the Wesleyan, Primitive or Ranting congregations - Revd Hole introduced bell-ringing in an effort to move the Ranters away from meeting near the church. He specially noted the blacksmith – an atheist! – and also a murder which had taken place as the result of a mistaken medicine – all life was there!

Professor Beckett then presented the annual report and again noted how it illustrated the wide range of events, activities and work in which the Society was engaged. Several of those attending stated their admiration for the excellent booklet which contained not only the very full annual report but also details of the day's business. In the Honorary Treasurer's absence, the Chair also presented the accounts, acknowledging the care which John Wilson took in supervising the Society's finances.

Professor Beckett commenced his remarks by offering condolences to the families of members who had died during the past year. He particularly spoke of the very recent death of Pauline Miller who, with her husband Brian, had been a faithful member for many years: they were both to be seen at most local history events. He noted that Pauline was, for several years, a member of the Society's Council. He also spoke of Rosalys Coope who had died on 26th December at the age of 97. Many members of Council, together with other Thorotonians, had attended her funeral at Epperstone. Rosalys had served the Society as a member of Council, as Chair of Council (1984-92) and, most recently (2006-14), as President. Her research on the history of Newstead Abbey will long be consulted by historians and architectural historians alike: it had led to the very successful book she and Pete Smith wrote for the Record Series. (During the tea break Steph Mastoris played a tape of an interview he had recorded with Rosalys in 1990)

This year we are losing Philip Jones from Council after twenty years' service: we thank him and hope he will continue to run the bookstall with Penny and Margaret. Judith Mills had stepped down from the role of Membership Secretary but was to remain on Council. There will be a number of officer changes with John Wilson taking on Membership Secretary as well as his role as Hon Treasurer. It is hoped that Paul Baker, whom Council nominated as a new member of Council, will take on the role of Newsletter Editor; John was pleased to welcome Paul to his first AGM.

John congratulated the Transactions Editors in their absence for the 2018 volume and thanked Rob James for his able managing of the distribution. He noted that there was an article by Professor Stanley Chapman in this edition, his first contribution being in 1962! It was hoped that a further volume in the Record Series would be published later this year – Sir Stephen Glynne's Church Notes – he said of Caunton "a good village church in excellent condition". It still is.

John then reminded members of the many areas the Society was active in – the Geoffrey Bond Research Awards, the Research Group, the Response Group (for making representations on planning and other heritage concerns) the range of information on the website and various events that the Society would be represented at.

Finally, he gave his own personal thanks to the Society's officers who have and continue to make sure that the Society operates efficiently and effectively, noting specially the Hon. Sec. without whom, he said, the Society would not be anything like as well run. He also said that on 1st June this year the Society would be 122 – and still in good health.

Following Professor Beckett's address His Honour John Machin spoke of Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole, Vicar of Caunton 1850-87, and subsequently Dean of Rochester, and well known as a rose grower and judge, founder of the National Rose Show (1858) and author of *A Book of Roses* (1869)

After an excellent tea, members had the opportunity to visit the Grade I listed St Andrew's Church – a lovely church in a lovely setting and greatly cared for by Dean Hole. We were ably informed of the church's architectural features and history by Brian Robins, a long-time resident of Caunton.

Another interesting and enjoyable Spring Meeting and an informative AGM.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

LECTURE REPORTS

The Norah Witham Lecture, 12th January 2019

The Newly-built Personality of Ralph, Lord Cromwell By James Wright, University of Nottingham

James Wright delivered an interesting and engaging lecture on one of the most important figures in mid-fifteenth century England, Ralph Lord Cromwell. James is currently undertaking for his PhD at the University of Nottingham a full-scale study of Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire, one of Cromwell's most impressive achievements, but the lecture also emphasised Cromwell's Nottinghamshire connections and wide-ranging activities across the Midlands.

Ralph Cromwell was born, around the year 1393, into a Midlands family that was primarily based at their manor house at Lambley in Nottinghamshire. The family received a boost in their social position in the third quarter of the fourteenth century through marriage with the Bernacks of Lincolnshire. This eventually brought the earlier thirteenth-century castle at Tattershall into their ownership. Cromwell's uncle used his influence at court to place the young Ralph into the household of Thomas, duke of Clarence. This began a meteoric political rise due, in large part, to Ralph's service in the French campaigns of Henry V and the diplomatic negotiations leading to the Treaty of Troyes in 1420. In 1422, as a royal councillor, he became one of the men tasked with ruling the kingdoms of England and France during the minority of the nine-month-old Henry VI. Cromwell eventually reached his political apex in 1433 when he was appointed Lord Treasurer of England, a position that he held for 11 years – significantly longer than any other Lancastrian treasurer.

It was at this point that Cromwell began construction work at Tattershall Castle, and around 5 years later, at South Wingfield in Derbyshire. Tattershall was lavishly rebuilt in the newly fashionable material of brick, with stone saved for windows, doors and other details. Focused on the massive six-storey great tower which dominates the surrounding landscape for miles around, Tattershall provided a magnificent aristocratic residence which projected the enormous power and influence possessed by Cromwell. The tower form was an ancient building tradition that symbolised lordship and can be



Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire

traced back to eleventh century England and Normandy, but which experienced a revival in fourteenth and fifteenth century continental and English castles. Other features such as the prominent machicolations show Cromwell's appreciation of the most up-to-date military technology available, although they were ineffective and only meant for show.

James showed how decorative features of the castle make further statements about Cromwell's power and identity. The exterior of the great tower is decorated with religious symbols and heraldry picked out in diaper brick patterns. Inside, the principal chambers are adorned with some of the finest carved stone fireplaces surviving from medieval England, which are lavishly decorated with heraldic symbols demonstrating his connections to high-status aristocratic connections, and also have the repeated motifs of the Treasurer's

purse coupled with his personal motto: '*Nay je droit*' (Have I Not Right?).

James suggested that ultimately, in his lavish building schemes we can see a tension in Cromwell's character. He was incredibly rich and powerful, but one who had only recently acquired this status though his own abilities and service in the royal court. He felt the need to press his claims to aristocratic status and was a fierce defender of his rights; in doing so he exposes the fragility of power in the cut-throat world of fifteenth century England, as Cromwell ultimately lost favour as the country descended into political factionalism and the outbreak of dynastic civil war.

Chris King

The Maurice Barley Lecture, 9th February 2019

Distinctiveness and Assimilation: re-discovering Viking-Age Stone Sculpture in the East Midlands

By Paul Everson and David Stocker

Society members enjoyed a wide-ranging presentation by Paul Everson, Honorary Lecturer at Keele University, on the subject of Viking-Age stone sculpture in Nottinghamshire and the wider East Midlands. The lecture was prepared jointly with David Stocker, Honorary Visiting Professor at Leeds University. David was also in attendance and contributed with others to the lively closing discussion. Pre-Conquest sculptured stone had been a favourite subject of Maurice Barley, and this provided therefore a particularly appropriate topic for this year's commemorative lecture.

The lecture focused upon the results of work conducted by Paul and David in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire for the British Academy's *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture of England* (<http://www.ascorpus.ac.uk>) with consideration where relevant of work elsewhere in the East Midlands. Paul outlined the chronological framework for the Viking era in the region, from the ninth to the eleventh centuries, and described the systematic searches for carved and decorated stonework that have accompanied work on the Corpus. This has involved close scrutiny of the wall fabrics, lintels, door thresholds, quoins and window shelves of every church and known former church and of the areas around these buildings. In Nottinghamshire, Paul and David have added just under 150 items to the Corpus, many representing first-time discoveries, while in Lincolnshire the Corpus has been enhanced by the identification of nearly 400 items of worked stone.

Paul discussed some of the key discoveries of worked stone from the East Midlands that on typological grounds may be attributed to the Anglo-Scandinavian tradition, including decorated cross fragments, grave-covers and grave-markers, reconstructions of the monuments represented, and the implications of this research for study of the contemporary society and economy. Particular attention was drawn to exceptional collections of stonework in a number of urban churches, such as St Mark's in Lincoln, that could signify thriving merchant communities, the evidence for the location of quarry sites that may be deduced from studies of the geological sources of stone artefacts, the identification of trading networks from analyses of the spatial distribution of regionally distinctive products (such as the Fenland grave-covers that were distributed throughout eastern England in the eleventh century) and the potential of the information provided by carved figures and imagery for enhancing our understanding of Anglo-Scandinavian society, its ideologies and beliefs. **David Knight**

The Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture, 9th March 2019

Codnor Castle and the Greys of Codnor By Maureen Taylor (M.A.), independent lecturer

Codnor Castle was probably begun by Robert De Codnor for William Peveril, possibly an illegitimate son of William the Conqueror who was given extensive lands in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

During the late 12th century we first hear of Henry Grey, serving King Richard I (The Lionheart). From that date until 1496, some 300 years, the De Greys held Codnor until the death of the last Grey and all served the kings of England. One was presumably at Agincourt, witness the noble, gold coin of that date found in the moat during the "Time Team" dig.

Some 200 years earlier the Archbishop of York, Walter De Grey, was present as Magna Carta received the royal seal.

Henry De Grey served King Edward I in the Scottish wars. In 1293 Edward I visited Codnor. Henry also served King Edward II and King Edward III in Scotland and John De Grey served his king in Flanders and at Crecy.

Richard De Grey with 222 men from Codnor went to Agincourt with Henry V. The last Henry De Grey died in 1496 leaving no heir. In his will he left most of his estate to his aunt Elizabeth who was married to Sir John Zouch, but King Henry VII claimed the castle and lands for his son the future Henry VIII. Sir John Zouch managed to buy back the estate. Its extensive parkland was rich in coal and ironstone.

In 1539 the young Bess of Hardwick came to Codnor to further her education under the care of Lady Zouch, who had been in the household of Anne Boleyn and had to testify at the trial of the latter.

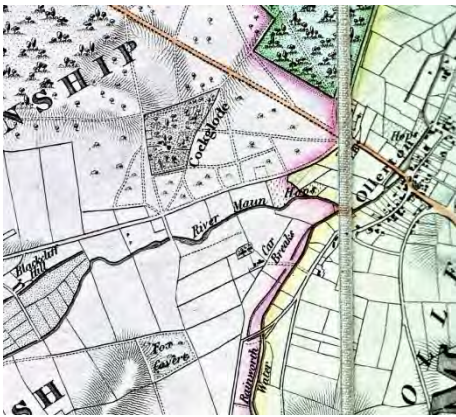
The Zouch family extended, beautified and modernised the castle and its estates. They also began mining coal and ironstone. Later members of the Zouch family in the early 17th century began to dismantle the castle, selling off quantities of its stone. They became bankrupt, sold the castle and estates and moved to Virginia. Later owners in the late 17th century and 18th century were principally interested in mining the coal and iron on the estate. By the early 19th century the estate was leased and ultimately sold to the Butterley Company, in whose possession it remained until sold to the National Coal Board after the Second World War.

Our speaker ended her talk by describing how the castle might well have looked in the medieval period and then described local reports of sightings of ghosts. **Ceril Little**

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

An Artistic Mystery: Why was a Portrait of a Nottinghamshire Physician painted by an Italian Grand Master?

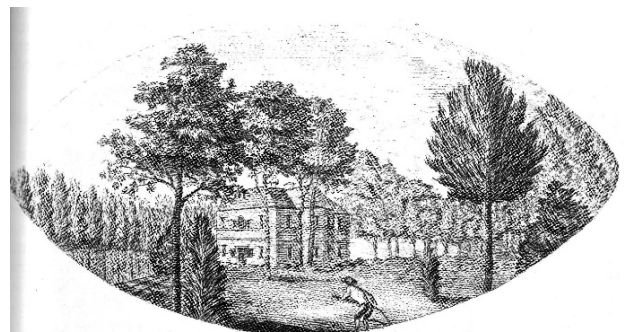
The Society recently received an enquiry from Mr Dana Josephson, a retired portrait conservator at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, for biographical information about a Georgian physician George Oakley Aldrich (died 1797) who lived for many years in Nottinghamshire. The Bodleian holds his 'handsome and expressive' portrait which has recently been attributed on stylistic grounds to the Italian artist Pompeo Batoni (1708-1767), who painted portraits of the emperors of Austria and other nobility. This raises the question - how and why did such a major Italian artist come to paint a Nottinghamshire physician?



Location of the former Cockglode House

It is not known for certain how George Aldrich came to be connected with Nottinghamshire. Aldrich's father Thomas was linked to St Andrew's, Holborn. George went up to Merton College, Oxford, whence he became B.A., M.A., and M.D. He married first in 1753 Anne Bland in Chertsey, Surrey and subsequently in 1783 Sibylla Benson, one of five daughters of the Rev. Thomas Benson, rector of Bilsthorpe (d. 1810), who was some 42 years his junior. We have been able to find several passing references to him in the diary of William Gould, estate agent to the Dukes of Portland of Welbeck Abbey (published in the Thoroton Record Series, vol 44, 2006). These show that in the 1780s he lived at the now demolished Cockglode House near Edwinstowe as a tenant of the Dukes under a lease of 1777, having previously lived in Mansfield Woodhouse in 1770. He was one of a group of medical and other gentlemen who helped raise subscriptions across Nottinghamshire for the benefit of the Nottingham General Infirmary in 1787. He was also a commissioner of the Worksop-Newark turnpike road in 1788. There are also two letters from him to the Duke in the Portland archives deposited at the University of Nottingham's Dept of Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Aldrich's will has been located. It is very long and indicates considerable wealth. He left bequests to several women, in one case explaining why he is leaving less to his wife's brother than to her sisters! It goes to great lengths to ensure Sunday services at a local church that had largely gone without any. He also endowed three professorships (lectureships or readerships) at Oxford, in chemistry, anatomy, and medicine.



Cockglode House, engraving from J. Throsby's *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*, 1790.

Aldrich's executors were John Gally of Langold and Samuel Smith of Nottingham. The former must be a member of the Gally Knight family of Warsop and district and the latter one of the famous Nottingham banking family who founded Smith's Bank in the Poultry. Another legatee was his goddaughter, Mary Bernardiston Neale, the daughter of the late Rev. John Neale, rector of Tollerton. He is obviously a member of the Pendock-Barry-Neale family, squires of Tollerton (they kept changing their surname!). There are references in Abigail Gawthern's *Diary* to the Rev Pendock Neale in the 1790s.

The portrait was donated to the Bodleian in 1837 by a Miss Benson of East Retford, a sister of his second wife who died in 1802, but by which one of the unmarried sisters - Frances, Anne, Laetitia or Mary – is not known. Her offer of the portrait was made through a letter written on her behalf by a friend, Ms/Mr W. Allison. There are also outstanding questions concerning the burial-places of Aldrich and Sibylla. There are records that he was buried at Ollerton and she at Kirton – why apart? – but the husband of the current priest-in-charge at Ollerton (for St Giles, St Matthew, and St Albinus) has been unable to locate a memorial or grave for Aldrich.

To return to the original question, Aldrich is documented as being in Rome in 1750 on the Grand Tour along with the Rev. John Neale, although not in the company of the second Duke of Portland. This coincides with the early part of Batoni's career and success with painting English visitors on the Grand Tour.

Another possibility is that Aldrich was employed as a personal physician to William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland (1738–1809) and accompanied him on the Grand Tour of Europe; he is known to have visited Poland, Germany, and Italy between December 1757 and October 1761. However, neither option explains why Batoni should have painted a mere physician.

If any Society member has further information on Aldrich, his family or other contacts please let me know so that I can pass it on to Mr Josephson.

The portrait, which is reproduced on the front cover, can be seen on the ArtUK website (<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/george-oakley-aldrich-17221797-228779>). Later this year there will be a programme about it in the BBC 4 series *Britain's Lost Masterpieces*.

Adrian Henstock

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

Fifty years of professional archaeology in Nottingham

The year 2019 marks 50 years since Nottingham City Council first employed a professional archaeologist. Back in 1969, when Charles SB Young became Field Archaeologist working within the museum service, the City Council began to undertake a number of 'rescue excavations' in the city centre, as well as monitoring ground works, in order to record evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation in advance of major redevelopment schemes.

It was in April 1969 that Professor Maurice Barley of the University of Nottingham recommended the city should employ a professional archaeologist. Barley recognised that major redevelopment works offered a unique opportunity for excavation and that through professional methods a detailed study of the evidence would reveal evidence of the character and chronology of settlement within the city's historic core.

The development of the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre in particular demonstrated the need for a major programme of professional archaeological excavation. It was known, from study of the Anglo Saxon Chronicle and Assar's *The Life of Alfred* that the great army of Danes had wintered in Nottingham in 868, with their camp having had defensive features of some form (variously described as 'works' and a 'wall'). According to the Chronicle, Nottingham was held by the Danes between 877 and 918, with Nottingham forming one of the Five Boroughs of the Danelaw before being recaptured in 918. In that year, the Chronicle informs us, upon recapturing Nottingham Edward ordered the defences be strengthened.

Antiquarian observations, notably by Deering, who observed a 'Saxon' ditch being found during construction work on Drury Hill in the 1740s and Dobson who observed a ditch during the construction

of a warehouse on Warser Gate in 1890, enabled the course of the ditch to be postulated. Further research by James Shipman by 1899 led to a projection of the full course of the ditch, around that part of the city we know as the Lace Market. A study of the topography and the distinctive street pattern of the Lace Market (or St Mary's Hill as it was then known) was undertaken by WH Stevenson and published in Volume 16 of the Transactions. Stevenson hypothesised that streets such as Weekday Cross, Fletcher Gate, Warser Gate and Woolpack Lane followed the edge of the ditch, acting as intramural roads.

Excavations and observations by the Peverel Archaeological Group in the 1950s and early 1960s tested the earlier hypotheses, with partial, and occasional complete, sections of the ditch being encountered on a number of sites around the perimeter of the Lace Market. This formed the basis of a paper by RH Wildgoose in Volume 65 of the Transactions.

On the basis of knowledge acquired by 1969, the likelihood that the ditch would extend into the footprint of the new shopping centre was recognised, and it was realised that other significant remains of early medieval and later occupation could be found. The City Council, therefore, decided to establish the Nottingham City Museums Field Archaeology Section and appointed Charles SB Young as its director. Young's first excavation, on the eastern side of Drury Hill, began in August 1969.

Under Young's direction were a small number of professional site assistants as well as a number of volunteers, many of whom were school children (such as Julian Richards of Meet the Ancestors fame). Also assisting with the more physical tasks were a number of 'Borstal Boys' from Lowdham Grange and those employed under Manpower job creation schemes. The excavations and post-excavation work was largely funded by the Department for the Environment, with additional funding from the City Council as well as the Thoroton Society and a number of Nottingham companies, with later post-excavation analysis funded by English Heritage.

The Nottingham City Museums Field Archaeology Section continued this role, under Young's direction, until the onset of developer-funded archaeology resulting from the introduction of the Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (1990) and the growth of commercial field units. The final fieldwork undertaken by Young was at St Nicholas' Church in 1991.

With its fieldwork role at an end, the 'Field Section' concentrated on writing up its backlog of excavations and the provision of advice to the city's planning officers regarding development control archaeology and provided briefs to archaeological contractors to ensure work was completed to professional standards. At this time, the archaeological staff consisted of Young and his brother (and assistant) Gordon AB Young and Alan MacCormick, the Keeper of Human History.

In 1995 Gordon Young was appointed City Archaeologist whilst Charles continued to work on post-excavation analysis of his fieldwork, leaving the City Council in 1998. MacCormick continued his curatorial role until his retirement a few years later. The author first began working for Nottingham City Council in 2008, setting up the Urban Archaeological Database and later the Historic Environment Record, covering the role of City Archaeologist from 2016 onwards.

Although the role of City Archaeologist is very different from that undertaken by Charles Young, with more of a curatorial role, the City Council continues to ensure the preservation and appropriate investigation of archaeological remains so that the city's past can be better understood and appreciated. It is apt that the 50th anniversary sees an unprecedented amount of archaeological work in the city, with 14 archaeological investigations in the first three months of 2019 alone.

Scott Lomax, Nottingham City Archaeologist

The Rector's Gift: Integrating church development and village landscape at Car Colston (Nottinghamshire) and elsewhere

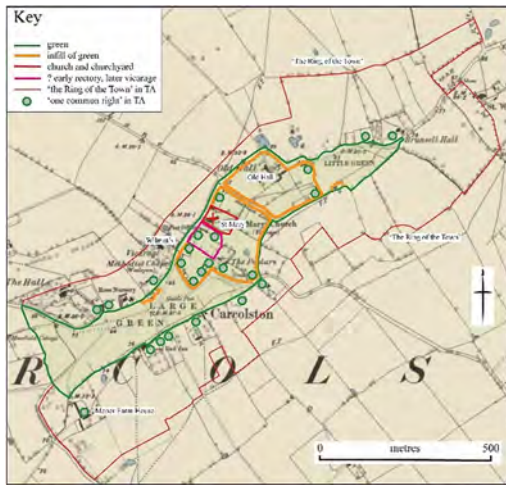


Figure 1 Car Colston, reconstruction of original green, with funnels eastwards onto access roads and widening westwards onto the heath along the Fosse Way: 'the Ring of the Town' and common rights as recorded in the 1843 Tithe award and apportionment (Nottinghamshire Archives Office, AT 26/ 5A, 5B). See Everson and Stocker 2014, Fig 3

of mid-14th century date (Figure 2). We identify this elaboration as the action of a last secular rector, as he transferred the rectory to Worksop Priory and became the living's first vicar: it was 'the rector's gift'. We further propose that this change of status opened the way for the monastery to exploit its new asset at Car Colston by creating a block of properties adjacent to their former rectory, now vicarage, which became the core of the encroachment of settlement onto the green, observed in



Figure 2 Left: Car Colston, church of St Mary from the south-east. Right: Car Colston, church of St Mary: chancel fittings – sedilia and piscina (Photos: authors). See Everson and Stocker 2014, Figs 1 and 2a

today's landscape. Further examples of similar 'rector's gifts' are proposed at Heckington (NGR TF143441) and Great Hale (NGR TF148429), both Lincolnshire, and at Wharram Percy (NGR SE858642), Yorkshire East Riding, and the extent to which these examples of rebuilt 14th century chancels are accompanied by the expansion of settlement across former greens is considered.

It is concluded that the change of economic status embodied in a 'rector's gift' – significant in its own right for its impact on church fabric and fittings – was sometimes a mechanism that initiated change in the physical form of the adjacent settlement, such as in-filling of greens.

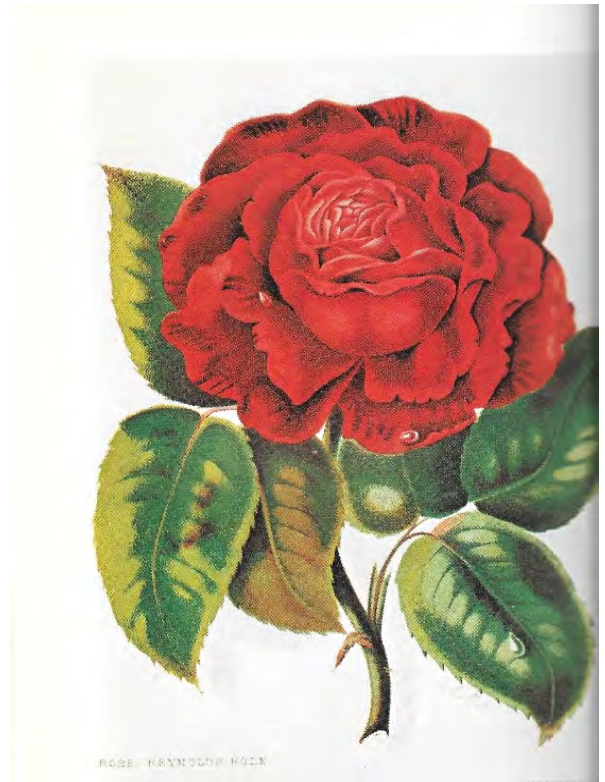
Paul Everson and David Stocker

The full published account of this study is: Everson, P. and Stocker, D. 2014. The Rector's Gift. Integrating church development and village landscape at Car Colston (Nottinghamshire) and elsewhere. *Church Archaeology* **18**: 65-80.

The Medieval Settlement Research Group's successful annual conference in September 2015 at Leicester was held jointly with the Society for Church Archaeology. Its theme was to explore the relationship between church and village, and the value of combining studies of church fabric with those of their surrounding settlements. The conference outing visited four sites intended to illustrate variations on that theme and to provoke on-site discussion and debate. The last such visit was to Car Colston in Nottinghamshire (NGR SK720430), guided by the authors. An academic paper rounding up and expanding our discussions on that occasion has subsequently been prepared and published in the journal *Church Archaeology*. This note signposts that publication and offers a synopsis of its argument.

Analysis of the unusual village plan of Car Colston identifies an original, very large green at its heart (Figure 1). St Mary's church formerly sat on it; and the principal block of settlement encroachment, creating the latter-day pattern of two separate greens, lies adjacent to it. The church, on the other hand, is notable for its elaborate chancel and fittings

The Annual General Meeting 2019



Upper row: portrait of Dean Hole by Charles Furze A.R.A.; rose *Reynolds Hole*.

Lower row: The Leech window, St Andrew's Church Caunton; Professor Beckett gives his Chairman's Address



Top row: Our President, Adrian Henstock, gives his address; His Honour J.V.Machin talks about Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole.

Middle: members await the AGM.

Third row: In St Andrew's Church; Tea.
Bottom picture; members relaxing over Tea.



NEWS

A positive book review!

The *Welbeck Atlas* received a very positive, indeed enthusiastic, review in a recent issue of the *Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society*. The reviewer drew attention to a comment in the Preface by the editor of the volume, Steph Mastoris. Having apologised to all his readers for the slowness of appearance of the volume, Steph states that 'After spending longer studying the Atlas than William Senior took to survey and create the original volume, I am... in awe of his achievement'. No comment needed!

Stapleford Cemetery Headstones Project

With the help and support of Stapleford and District U3A a group of volunteers have transcribed all the headstones in Stapleford cemetery. A book covering the older part of the cemetery has been produced that contains over 1200 inscriptions with an index and plan of the cemetery. The book can be found in Nottingham Local Studies library, Stapleford library, Nottingham Archives and the University Archives. The book also is on the internet and can be found at <https://wordpress.com/view/staplefordcemeterymemorials.wordpress.com> Members of the public can search and see the transcripts free of charge. Later this year a second book will be available containing the rest of the cemetery and crematorium memorials, a further 1900 inscriptions. These will also be available at the libraries etc and on the website. On the website there is also the facility to send an email with any questions/queries or request further information.

Janet Cross

A Walesby Gravestone



The photograph shows a gravestone rescued from a heap of rubble in the churchyard at Walesby. It is most probably that of Rosamond Walker.

A copy of the *Register of Walesby*, compiled by Rev. George W. Marshall LLD in 1898 records the following:

Baptisms 1580-1792; Marriages 1594-1753; Burials 1585-1791

The photograph clearly reveals the death to have taken place in November and the only surname that begins with WALK.. in the records is Walker which reads:

24 Nov. 1668wife of James Walker.

There is no record of a marriage of James Walker but there is a record of the birth of a child:

25 May 1659 Ann d. James Walker and Rosamond

An examination of the letters of the first name in the photograph fit the name Rosamond.

Further research shows:

22 Oct. 1620 James Bullivant m. Eshabeth Taylor

8 Sep. 1622 Rozamon d. James Bullenant

To summarise – this is the oldest gravestone found to date in the graveyard of Walesby Church and is probably of:

Rosamond Walker 1622-1668, daughter of James and Eshabeth Bullenant and wife of James Walker.

Tony Spratley

Listed Buildings

There are now thousands of listed buildings in England encompassing a wide variety of types, ages and designs. The 400,000th, announced on 20th August 2018, is the former head office of the Raleigh Bicycle Company here in Nottingham. It is known as the Howitt Building, designed as it was by TC Howitt. As members will know, Howitt was also responsible for the Council House.

This newly listed building was originally built in 1931 for the Raleigh Bicycle Company as its luxurious head office but subsequently sold to Nottingham City Council in the '80s. Currently it is home to the Marcus Garvey Centre which provides support and other facilities for Nottingham's African-Caribbean community, including a popular live music venue known as the Garvey.

A notable feature of the Howitt Building are the relief panels depicting cherubs engaged in varied activities associated with bicycle manufacture. Displayed on the building's façade and above the doorways of the ballroom/concert hall, they are known as the "little lads" as they were modelled on Howitt's young son Ian – Ian was killed in the Second World War. **Barbara Cast**

The Listing states-

Architectural interest:

- * as a carefully-executed and well-preserved example of an inter-war office building, with high quality external and internal detailing;
- * as an example of the work of the distinguished C20 Nottingham architect T Cecil Howitt, a number of whose major works are listed, including the Nottingham Council House and the Newton Building at Nottingham Trent University, both listed at Grade II*.

Historic interest:

- * as the flagship main offices for the Raleigh Cycle Company, built at the height of its commercial success as the world's leading manufacturer of bicycles in the early-mid C20;
- * for its importance from the late C20 onwards to Nottingham's African Caribbean community, originally in respect of a landmark challenge to the company's then selective employment policy, and now, as a cultural and social support centre, and by whom the former Raleigh company concert hall has been transformed into a successful performance venue.

ANNIVERSARIES

140 years ago

On 22nd February 1879, Henry Pelham Alexander Pelham Clinton, 6th Duke of Newcastle, died at the Park Hotel, St James', London, aged 45 years. He had succeeded to the Dukedom on the death of his father in 1864.

On 26th February there was a destructive fire at Clumber House, the seat of the Duke of Newcastle.

On 5th April the second section of the tramways to Forest Road and Carrington church was opened. In April, considerable quantities of pottery were turned up on land just off West Street. Much of the pottery was misshapen or broken and it was considered by Mr J. Potter Briscoe, Chief Librarian of the Free Public Libraries of Nottingham [later a founder member of the Thoroton Society] that there had been a pottery on the site in the 14th or 15th century.

On 30th May there was a Grand Parade of the Robin Hood Rifles, under the command of Lieut. Col Seeley.

3rd July saw the first anniversary of the opening of the Castle Museum: and in September, a grand fete was held in the grounds of the Castle Museum.

At the Assizes on 25th July, Mary Ann Sanderson was condemned to death for the murder of Alice Raynor, by performing an unlawful operation. The sentence was later commuted to penal servitude for life.

150 years ago

On 19th January 1869, the new Mechanics Hall was opened, partly on the site of the original Hall. The new building was to the design of Mr T Simpson.

'On 30th May there died Sir R.J. Clifton, Bart., who had been the senior member of parliament for Nottingham. An election for a new Member was held on 15th June. At the close of the poll the numbers [of votes cast] were Sir Charles Seely Esq. (Liberal) 4634; William Digby Seymour Esq. (Conservative) 4525. There was much disturbance, the Riot Act was read, and the Pensioners called out, but little damage was done with the exception of a few broken heads and windows. The result of the election was contested, with a commission being opened on 29th July at the Shire Hall before Mr Baron Martin, to try the election petition, presented by the Independent Society, against the return of Charles Seely Esq. The evidence being weak, the petition was abandoned on the fourth day, and Charles Seely Esq. was declared duly elected.'

160 years ago

1st February 1859. 'One of the greatest and most alarming fires that had occurred in Nottingham for many years took place at the hosiery Factory of Messrs Hine and Mundella [later the Nottingham Manufacturing Company]. The destruction of the factory... extending from Parkinson Street to Station Street, was complete. Some 300 persons were thrown out of work'.

On 21st February a serious gas explosion took place at premises on Peck Lane.

At the Spring Assizes on 11th March, Thomas Brown Birkett was convicted of the wilful murder of a gamekeeper named Wm. Watmough, at Barnby in the Willows on 18th November 1858. His sentence was afterwards commuted to penal servitude for life.

200 years ago

13th April 1819. 'Coal gas first used in Nottingham to illuminate the streets. The gasometer and works had been erected in Butcher's Close... on the premises formerly occupied as a worsted mill &c by Mr John Hawksley. Only ten lamps were lit the first few days. Attracted by the sight, thousands came to indulge their curiosity, and numbers of the least informed of them scarcely dared to venture onto the pavement near the pipes, for fear of an explosion, or were lost in amazement at beholding flame exist without a wick.'

250 years ago

17th February 1769. Murder of Mr Thos. Burrill, of Newark, a pawnbroker of good property, of the age of 79. A short time before his death, Mr Burrill had taken a watch in pawn for 30s. [£1.50] of a man named Hebb, residing at Claypole. Hebb, his brother and another person, resolved to reclaim the watch without discharging the lien upon it. They entered the premises and proceeded to strangle Mr Burrill, then stealing the watch. They fled to Lincolnshire but were apprehended at Welbourne and returned to Newark for trial. Hebb was found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang. The corpse was removed to St Ann's Well, where it was dissected pursuant to the terms of the sentence. The bones of the malefactor, arranged on wires, ornamented the studio of a medical gentleman of the neighbourhood for many years afterwards.

2nd June 1769. 'We are induced to notice a marriage that took place this day at Bulwell, viewing it as illustrative of the partiality for display characteristic of the period. The bridegroom was Mr Charles Copeland, merchant, and the bride was Fanny, daughter of Mr Melville, hosier.' A grand procession took place to and from the church. After the ceremony, the company repaired to Mr Melville's house, and joined in a very elegant entertainment. The newly married pair had each of them seventeen of their own brothers and sisters then living.

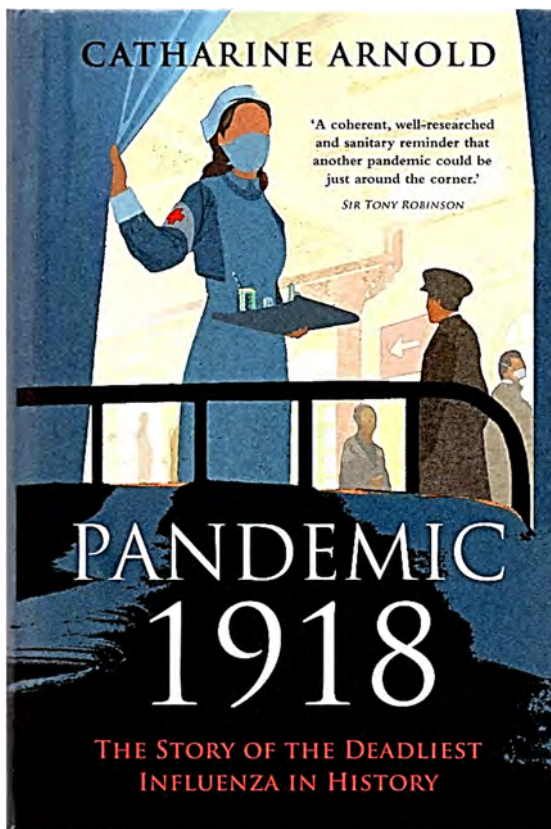
BOOKSHELF

Pandemic 1918 – the story of the deadliest influenza in history

By Catharine Arnold

Michael O'Mara Books hardback £20 ISBN 978-1-78243-808-3

This brilliantly written book is not a happy read. It opens with the exhumation, in 2008, of the corpse of Sir Mark Sykes (1879-1919) from his grave in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, adjacent to Sir Mark's family seat of Sledmore, in Yorkshire. Sir Mark, a British diplomat, had died of the Spanish 'Flu during the Paris Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. As befitted a member of the nobility, Sir Mark was buried in a lead-lined casket. This meant that the decay of Sir Mark's body was slowed considerably and allowed Professor John Oxford to obtain tissue samples to look for the Spanish 'flu virus. The term 'influenza' dates back to around 1500, when the Italians introduced the word for diseases that they attributed to the influence (*influenza*) of the stars, or perhaps of the cold (*influenza di freddo*). The book traces the multiple outbreaks of influenza during the later part of the Great War and after. There were three separate peaks of cases, two in 1918 and a third in the winter of 1919.



The disease was a particular problem for the military. America had come into the war fairly late on, and troops were being moved to huge training camps prior to travelling by sea to Europe. Men arrived at some of the camps already suffering from 'flu and the disease spread quickly amongst the troops. Several troopships became 'plague ships' with many soldiers suffering from the disease and a large number died on board. The story of the USS 'Leviathan' is particularly poignant. The ship had originally been the German-owned luxury liner *Vaterland*, which happened to be in the port of New York when the Americans declared war on Germany. The ship was seized by the American government and converted for use as a troopship. For the transport voyages to France, the giant ship would carry 10,000 'doughboys' (US troops). On her ninth voyage, commencing on 29th September 1917, the ship left the USA with up to one hundred and twenty sick troops suffering from 'flu. The numbers afflicted increased throughout the voyage. Many were buried at sea, whilst others were buried in France. Few countries seemed to be unaffected by the 'Spanish Lady'. The book gives many harrowing

accounts, from countries as far apart as Canada and New Zealand, of families falling ill, members dying and there being insufficient coffins for all the dead.

The book makes most depressing reading, but then there is a change in tone. A chapter entitled 'Viral Archaeology' starts an account of post-Second World War attempts to find the source of the outbreaks of Spanish 'Flu which reads like an exciting detective story. The remains of 'flu victims were exhumed from a number of sites, one of the most famous being at the former mining town of Longyearbyen in Spitzbergen. At the latter, it was hoped that useable tissue samples could be obtained from burials in the permafrost. Exhumations were carried out by a specialist company, the London Necropolis Company and autopsies carried out 'in a respectful atmosphere' in order that tissue samples could be recovered for analysis. It would seem that the virus responsible for the Spanish 'Flu outbreaks is

similar to the notorious Hong Kong and Bird 'flu viruses. The research will help to counter another pandemic should it ever occur.

The book is beautifully produced and well referenced. Only a few minor errors have escaped the proof-reader. For instance, it is unlikely that soldiers slept in 'Nissan huts'! The author mentions Nottingham several times, but I doubt the number of deaths quoted for the city - 60,000. This is about a quarter of the entire population of Nottingham at the time. I wonder if this is a mis-print for 6,000?

Don't forget to get your 'flu jab in October.

John Wilson

YOUR SOCIETY

Changes amongst the officers of the Society

Dr Judith Mills, who has been our Membership Secretary for several years, has now retired from that role. John Wilson, currently Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, has taken on the role of Membership Secretary with effect from the AGM. He has passed the role of Newsletter Editor to Paul Baker, who will take over the Editorship for the Autumn Issue of the Newsletter. Please send contributions for the Newsletter to Paul at editor@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

Please send all membership queries to John Wilson at membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk. John also has a separate email address treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk. Please do NOT use John's old email address wilsonicus@btinternet.com, which is on the back of the green programme card. This address suffered a 'hack' recently and is no longer in use.

Annual Subscriptions for 2020

To reduce postage costs, I will be sending out as many renewal requests as possible by email, rather than by 'snail mail'. The renewal requests will go out in November. Please renew promptly.

John Wilson, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Excursions

You should have received, with this issue of the *Newsletter*, invitations to take part in our third and fourth all-day excursions. These are to Bletchley Park on 16th July and to Kirby Hall and Fotheringhay Church on 12th September.

Bletchley Park is something of a departure from the usual Thoroton forays, in that, far from being ancient, the most interesting 'bits' date back only to the Second World War. Bletchley is where the notorious Nazi 'Enigma' codes were broken, in great secrecy. The area of the site available to visitors has been much enlarged with a number of other 'huts' now refurbished. The site also hosts the National Museum of Computing, which is a separate charity.

We obtain refreshments at our own expense in either a NAAFI hut or a British Restaurant. Don't forget to bring your tin hat and gas mask.

The last excursion of the season will visit Fotheringhay Church in Northamptonshire, with its memories of Mary Queen of Scots. After lunch in a local pub we visit Kirby Hall, a partly ruined Elizabethan manor house, now run by English Heritage.

Please let Alan Langton have your booking forms by the dates given on the forms. Also, please supply separate cheques if you are going on both excursions. This makes our accounting much easier.

Obituary - Dr Stephen Wallwork (1925-2019)

Dr Stephen Wallwork, a distinguished Chemist, and a historian of the Nottinghamshire community of Beeston, died in February 2019 aged 93.

Stephen Wallwork was born in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1925 and educated at Manchester Grammar School where he swapped from specialising in modern languages to science and mathematics [Chemistry]. He then gained a scholarship in chemistry to Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1943, researching alongside Margaret Roberts (later to become Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher) and Dorothy Hodgkin (later a Nobel Prize winner). After graduating (first degree and D.Phil) in Oxford, he moved to Nottingham University where he joined the Department of Chemistry in 1949. He began as Assistant Lecturer and later rose through the ranks to become Senior Lecturer and then Reader. He also spent a year as Acting Head of Department, in Physical Chemistry. With the support of Professor F. E King, Head of Chemistry when Stephen was first appointed, he set up the X-Ray Crystallography department. There was no X-Ray Crystallography research at Nottingham University before his appointment. He started with a project fund of £1,000, in a 3m² laboratory which also served as his office.



During his time at Nottingham, Stephen published over 80 papers on his crystallographic research and in 1956 a book *Physical Chemistry for Students of Pharmacy and Biology*, which was translated into Spanish and Japanese, as no book at the time presented physical chemistry in a sufficiently understandable way for non-physical scientists.

Stephen's work in crystallography led him to become secretary of the Crystallographic Group of the Institute of Physics, and the Chemical Crystallography Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He also played a pivotal role in setting up in 1982 the British Crystallographic Association, from two committees he had helped form, the European Crystallography Committee and the United Kingdom Crystallographic Committee. By the 1980s, with retirement in sight, and with a growing interest in local history, particularly the history of Beeston, Stephen gradually shifted his range of interests, without ever abandoning either Chemistry or History.

In 1983 the University advertised an M.A. in Local and Regional History, and Stephen was one of the first cohort of students. For someone with no qualifications in History, and no known previous desire to study the subject, this was a considerable risk. Stephen told his tutors that he did not expect special treatment because he was on the University staff. He did not get it: his first essay was returned to him with instructions to rewrite it as a history essay rather than a scientific paper!

This was not, perhaps, the best start, but things could and did get better. Stephen brought to local history his scientific mind-set. His M.A. dissertation involved a careful reconstruction of the late sixteenth century outbreak of plague in Beeston. Demographic analysis of this type was still quite new – as indeed were computers – in historical research in the mid-1980s, and by using a statistical package to collect and analyse his data, Stephen brought something quite new into local history. He went on to use similar techniques to estimate the population of Nottingham prior to the decennial censuses beginning in 1801. All of this work was new in the 1980s: today it would simply be a matter of collecting data in Microsoft Excel and pressing a couple of keys to undertake the analysis as if by magic.

Stephen graduated with his second Master's degree in 1985, aged sixty. He was first and foremost a scientist, but in local history he brought his orderly mind to what was disparate and often inconsistent data. This was clear in the work he undertook with Geoffrey Drinkwater. Beeston has an enclosure map from 1809 showing how the fields were laid out *following* Parliamentary enclosure. But no one knew what the pattern was *prior* to 1809 until Stephen and Geoff found a way of reconstructing the pre-enclosure village using data from documents which enabled them to trace the open field furlongs, and then to map the material. The results of their findings were set out in articles published in *The Nottinghamshire Historian* in 2002 and 2007. These showed how a scholar from outside the discipline of History can make a telling contribution to the subject using skills developed in another subject area.

Stephen's approach to research also served him well when, between 1985 and 1990, he held the position of Statistical Assistant in the Department of History at the University. This post, long since defunct, had originally been a position in the old (and equally defunct) Department of Economic and Social History. Stephen did not think much to History 'statistics' and referred instead to 'numerical history' but he undertook important work on Nottingham, and on the lace and hosiery trades (for Professor Stanley Chapman). He continued to help voluntarily in the History Department for several years after his second retirement.

Stephen became very knowledgeable on every aspect of the local history of Beeston and was one of the authors of the two historical trails published by the Beeston Civic Society. He was also much in demand as a popular lecturer on the history of Beeston, taught a WEA class on that subject and led the research efforts when that class became a research group.

Stephen was first and foremost a scientist but had a thirst for new, intellectual experiences, a desire to extend his skills and to be as helpful as possible to others, and an interest in problem-solving. He came to enjoy local history as a hobby to which he could bring his orderly mind and, in the process, make a real contribution to learning. Stephen was still publishing his historical research in 2018, his last on early land use in Beeston being published in the *Nottinghamshire Historian* in Autumn 2018, just a few months before he died.

Stephen's publications in Local History are listed in the Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online: <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/bibliography>

John Beckett

May I add my own appreciation of Dr Wallwork? He lectured to a massed audience of biology and pharmacy students when I was an undergraduate at Nottingham in the early 1960s. I well remember his clear lectures, delivered with very precise speech, and his kindness to those students who could not grasp the arcane theories behind some of the physical chemistry syllabus. Sadly, I no longer have my copy of his book, referred to above by Professor Beckett, but I recall it as being very helpful.

John Wilson

Other long-standing members of the Thoroton Society who are no longer with us are Veronica Woodward and Pauline Miller.

New Members

Mr Michael Mewse;

Rev Karl Routledge-Wilson.

We welcome them to the Thoroton Society.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS

Chairman: Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA

Secretary: Barbara Cast BAHons Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottingham, NG14 7FX
email: barbaracast@btinternet.com

Treasurer: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH email: treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £27.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £16.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £38.00

Institutional Ordinary membership £27.00

Institutional Record Section £22.00 (non-UK £26)

RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact for details: John Wilson email: treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

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 editor@thorotonsociety.org.uk

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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Fifty years of archaeology in Nottingham – see article by Scott Lomax on page 7



Clockwise from top left:

- Woolpack Lane in 1970. The pre-Norman Conquest ditch as cut by the later Post-Norman defensive ditch.
- excavation in progress at the Service Courtyard of Nottingham Castle;
- section through the pre-Norman Conquest ditch found at Drury Hill.
- Charles SB Young excavating at Woolpack Lane in 1970.
- Charles SB Young and Gordon AB Young supervising diggers.