

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 100 *Summer 2020*



Entrance to Mortimer's Hole on the south side of Castle Rock.
See article by Scott Lomax on page 3

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

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD BEILBY (1924-2020)

A very long-serving member who joined the Thoroton Society in 1947 has died. 73 years a member of the Thoroton Society must be a record. Bernard William Beilby passed away on 27 April at Annesley Lodge Residential Home, Hucknall, where he had lived for the last few years of his life.

When I first joined the Society Bernard and his wife Joyce were the 'lanternists', a term which was dated even in those days. They lived on Western Boulevard. Joyce died some years ago, and Bernard moved into a residential home in Hucknall to be closer to his daughter. For some years he came to winter lectures with Jean Nicholson, and then for a while his daughter brought him. He last attended a couple of years ago.

Bernard was described in the death notice as 'local historian'. He could equally have been described as local archaeologist, since I believe he was in the Peveril Group in the 1950s. From those days he always had an anecdote or two to share with us, notably about some of the hair-raising moments from his 'digging' days!

John Beckett

A CENTURY OF NEWSLETTERS

This Summer Edition is the 100th Thoroton Newsletter, so with the help of John Beckett, who passed on the majority of the details, here I have tried to give you a brief 'History' of the Newsletter.

In 1992 John Beckett put forward the idea for a Thoroton Newsletter to be sent to members. This was also the year of him becoming Chairman of the Society. So it is very fit and proper that we celebrate the 100th edition of our Newsletter in the year he retires as Chairman. 100 newsletters have been dispatched to members in the 28 years, while he has been the Chairman.

In July 1992 a biannual newsletter was introduced and the first edition of 4 pages was sent to members. This edition was produced and edited by Neville Hoskins. This was followed by an edition in December 1992 and the next one came in the April 1993 after the AGM at Tuxford. So, by April 1993 there had been three newsletters for members. The December 1993 newsletter confirms this as it is numbered as 4. Number 5, however, did not appear until August 1994, number 6 came in December 1994 and number 7 in August 1995.

By the time Carol Allen became editor in the summer of 1998, 12 newsletters had been provided and she edited number 13. 3 newsletters a year were being provided for members by the time that Janice Avery became editor in 1999. Her last newsletter was number 53 in 2008 when Howard Fisher took on the editorship and by 2015, when John Wilson became editor, we had reached newsletter number 80. John introduced more photographs and some interesting new regular items such as the Anniversaries section. By the time he handed over to me in 2019 we had reached 96 editions of the newsletter.

This is my fourth newsletter and I hope that this 100th Thoroton Newsletter will be enjoyed by you all despite the difficult situation we all find ourselves in at present. The fact that I had computer problems too, just when in lockdown caused a few worries.

It is a tribute to John Beckett that we have reached a century of newsletters in the year he retires as Chairman. Without his suggestion in 1992 that the Thoroton Society provided a newsletter for all its members, they would not have been so well informed and kept in contact with the Society. To all those who have contributed articles, provided photographs and edited the editions over the last 28 years we record our thanks. I wonder what the next hundred editions will bring.

Paul Baker

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

The Nottingham Vaccine Institution

Many countries around the world are desperately searching for viable vaccines to counteract the coronavirus Covid-19. But in the early 19th century smallpox, an acute contagious viral disease, was Public Enemy No. 1. Fortunately for some a vaccine was known and had been for some time. However, its use was limited by lack of funds and the public's reluctance to accept vaccination.

The great breakthrough in overcoming the disease was made by Edward Jenner in 1798, when he published his famous pamphlet on the causes and effects of Variolae vaccinae or cowpox. However, vaccination was regarded as a much more reliable antidote than variolation. It was first used in Nottingham by John Attenburrow, Surgeon to the General Hospital for 61 years. In 1800, after another outbreak of the disease, he started free vaccination at his surgery on Beastmarket Hill and other surgeons soon followed suit.

It was difficult for them to continue their work without funding, so in 1805 the Nottingham Vaccine Institution was set up by Dr. John Storer and Dr. Charles Pennington, both prominent long-serving physicians. (In fact, Dr. Storer, who became the first President of Bromley House Library, was appointed Consulting Physician Extraordinary for life in 1802.) The Institution was funded by public subscription so anyone could be treated whether paying for it or not. It was well used but an advertisement in the Nottingham Review in September 1808 revealed that it had run out of money. Occasional donations were made such as that of twenty guineas by the Borough in October 1809. The Institution struggled on until 1813, when it finally closed due to lack of cash.

However, the principle of free vaccination had been established. In March 1813 R. T. Stanley, a surgeon of Clumber Street, 'proposes to inoculate the poor of Nottingham and surrounding villages free of expense'. The work was also carried out by non-professionals, especially Edmund Hart who received the Freedom of Nottingham in 1814 for vaccinating 1,500 children gratis. He was elected an honorary member of the National Vaccine Establishment in 1822.

For the remainder of the 19th century, attempts by the Borough to combat smallpox were on an ad hoc basis. A Fever House was opened at the General Hospital in 1828, but, in conjunction with vaccination, it was still not enough. When the next major epidemic occurred in 1871 the Borough was not properly prepared. A couple of poorly built small hospitals were cobbled together, then abandoned. The next epidemic occurred in January 1903 and a smallpox hospital was then built on Bulwell Forest in four weeks without plans. It was difficult to enforce quarantine especially as many residents still resisted vaccination. From 1897 several registered as conscientious objectors, encouraged in 1903 by the Nottingham and District Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society. However, when there was an outbreak in 1921, over 10,000 vaccinations took place in emergency centres set up in the city. As the century progressed smallpox became a rare disease.

It was finally eradicated throughout the world in 1979, following an intense campaign of vaccination led by the World Health Organisation. We must all hope for a similar result as vaccines are developed to eradicate the coronavirus.

Terry Fry

Nottingham Caves Update.

Nottingham's caves are increasingly being more widely known and appreciated, in part thanks to projects such as the Nottingham Caves Regeneration project as well as ongoing work from Nottingham City Council. In the past year or so there has been major publicity, with coverage on television programmes including Songs of Praise. And perhaps in a first for radio, I gave an audio tour of Nottingham's largest cave system (the Peel Street cave/sand mine), which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

Promoting caves is an important part of my job because I believe the best way to ensure their protection is to ensure they are more widely appreciated and used. No other city in Europe has as many caves (approximately 870 at the time of writing, with this figure frequently rising), with such heritage (having been created from the medieval period well into the 20th century) and with as many uses as those which lie beneath the streets of Nottingham. Within the city centre every street has at least one cave and they can be found in the more outlying areas, particularly following the major roads leading into the city centre, such as Mansfield Road, Derby Road, Ilkeston Road and Alfreton Road.

In addition to promoting the caves, and trying to better understand them through research, it is important to be proactive in identifying sites where they exist. To this end I have been consulting archive resources, in particular 18th and 19th century auction advertisements and other sales records. More than 3,000 of these contain references to caves, although there are multiple records for the same property. Through this method I have identified the locations of more than 200 caves and have more than a further 100 to accurately pinpoint. The tally of Nottingham's caves is likely to exceed 1,000 before very long. The property records also help date some of the caves as well as establishing some of their early uses.

There are still likely to be many caves I do not have records of, particularly those under people's homes and beneath shops. If you have a cave beneath your property, please send me an email at scott.lomax@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Once a cave is identified it is added to the Nottingham City Historic Environment Record, which records all known archaeology in the city. Caves can then be considered within the planning process and efforts made to ensure their preservation should sites with caves be developed.

In January 2020, Nottingham City Council adopted the Land and Planning Policy Document (Part 2 Local Plan). This new document, which governs the planning process within the city, gives new protection to Nottingham's caves through the city's first dedicated caves policy. A Supplementary Planning Document gives further detailed information regarding requirements. The policy states:

'Proposals will be expected to recognise, conserve and enhance caves as a nationally unique feature and assess the impact of proposals upon the significance of the Nottingham Caves resource'

This is achieved through:

- Preserving the caves during groundworks associated with a development
- Retention of access into caves and 'where possible' providing access where a cave was previously inaccessible
- Enabling the recording of caves

The policy also states, 'Planning permission will not be granted for developments which destroy, damage or block access to caves unless it is adequately demonstrated that no reasonable alternative is possible and they represent the best sustainable use of the site, and/or the merits of the proposals for the site bring substantial social, environmental or regeneration benefits, which outweigh the harm to the significance of the caves and cannot be delivered by other means.' This emphasis on protection is a far cry from decades past where caves were considered an inconvenience to be destroyed or filled with concrete. I am proud that in a little over four years of holding the position of City Archaeologist, no caves have been destroyed despite major redevelopment within the city.

The recording of caves through historic sources, and ground investigations in advance of granting planning permission, aims to ensure that caves are not found during groundworks when it is often too late to prevent harm. Caves are, however, still being found by chance. Shortly before the COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, an engineer contacted me to investigate the discovery of a possible new cave. Heavy rain had caused a large sinkhole to appear in the rear garden of a property just a stone's throw from the castle. Looking into the hole it was clear that there was a deep rock-cut shaft, with tool marks visible showing it had been hewn by hand. The substantial quantity of

made ground that had disappeared into the shaft suggests a sizeable chamber below. The current restrictions mean that its investigation and protection are on hold for now.

In addition to protecting caves, the City Council is trying to encourage cave owners to make use of their caves. There has been some recent success, with an 18th/19th century former wine cellar beneath a property on St Mary's Gate being brought back into use after nearly four decades. The cave was once part of a large system which extended beyond the property's plot boundary and so when the adjacent multi-storey car park was built most of the cave system was destroyed. Now the two surviving chambers have been sensitively adapted, with the cave now serving as a tv/cinema room. Historic features have all been conserved and the residents of the property can now appreciate this piece of the city's heritage.

(See photograph of Peel Street Cave on Page 20)

Scott Lomax

An Allegorical Mass Drowning at Gainsborough

The winter of 1783-84 was extremely severe over most of Britain and mainland Europe. It is believed to have been caused, or at least exacerbated, by the eruption of an Icelandic volcano. In June of 1783 the Laki volcano, in the south of the island, started to eject vast quantities of dust and sulphur dioxide. This produced 'acid rain' and a global noxious haze. The volcano was active, on and off, for eight months until the next February. While the summer was unbearably hot, the eruption, and its subsequent pollution, is calculated to have lowered the global temperature by 1.3 degrees centigrade, which may have precipitated the harsh winter. Locally, the frost set in on Christmas Eve and lasted for two months. This had a major impact on the navigable rivers and canals which all froze. The boatmen were in dire straits as was reported in the papers, even from as far away as *Saunders's News Letter* in Ireland, 'The poor boatmen on the river Trent have been obliged, during the present hard frost, to draw wagon loads of coals from Oakthorpe to Castle Donnington, in Leicestershire, (near twelve miles) in order to obtain a subsistence'. The 'boatmen' referred to may have been the bow-haulers who manhandled the boats on the navigable rivers.

They were caught in a 'perfect storm' as the river Trent hauling path was due to fully open later that year. This towpath, from Gainsborough to Wilden Ferry, near Shardlow, was designed to replace them with the more cost effective horses. The river Trent itself was impassable down to Gainsborough, which was an inland port, the town furthest up the river that sea-going vessels could reach, and where the final effects of the tide are felt. Even so, on the 24th of January the *Nottingham Journal* recorded that only one boat had managed to travel upstream to Gainsborough, but none had sailed, 'the river again fast with ice'. On February 14th the *Nottingham Journal* also reported that: 'a Number of Boatmen, belonging to the Coasting Vessels, at Gainsbro', paraded this Town with a Model of a Man of War and Flags Flying; - they received from the inhabitants a very liberal Contribution.'

There were, naturally, all over the country, numerous cases of people falling through the ice. Consequently, the following account, which appeared in the *Kentish Gazette* of Saturday the 31st of January, did not seem implausible.

'A letter from Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, dated Jan. 24, Says: A few days since the following melancholy accident happened on the river Trent, the river being froze over, a great number of people assembled on it, when a dispute happening between two men, upon some slight difference, they went blows, which drew the people to one spot, and the ice giving way, upwards of ninety fell into the water, and notwithstanding every method was taken for their preservation, only four out of the number were saved. The untimely fate of so many, you may suppose has cast a gloom upon the inhabitants of this place, there being scarcely a family who has not some of their kindred to lament.'

This 'melancholy' accident was picked up and repeated by many other newspapers including the: *Hampshire Chronicle*, 2 Feb. - *Northampton Mercury*, 2 Feb. - *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette*,

3 Feb. - *Manchester Mercury*, 5 Feb. - *Hereford Journal*, 5 Feb. - *Hibernian Journal or Chronicle of Liberty*, 6 Feb. - *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 6 Feb. - *Saunders's News Letter [Ireland]*, 7 Feb. and *Dublin Evening Post*, 7 Feb. 1784.

Tellingly this story did not appear in any of the local papers of the time, there is no mention in the *Stamford Mercury* or the *Leicester & Nottingham Journal*. The *Journal* did include an odd letter in its 7th of February edition. 'A Correspondent from Derby must excuse our inserting his letter, till more fully assured of the Truth of the Facts, than from *Anonymous* information.' Did this letter, perhaps, refer to this event?

On Wednesday the 4th of February, four days after breaking the story, the *Kentish Gazette* published the following letter:

'Reading in yours and other papers, a melancholy account, dated from Gainsborough, of ninety persons being lately drowned in the river Trent, by the ice breaking while they were crowding the spot where two men were fighting upon slight difference, I cannot but consider it as a political allegory, meaning by two men who went to blows on such dangerous ground, Messrs Pitt and Fox, and by the great numbers of people who assembled to see them, not only the crowds that fill the House, gallery and lobby, to hear and hear of their disputations, but all your readers, and indeed all the nation, who peruse with such avidity their debates, negligent, both within doors and without, of all other business, and inattentive to the ice which is cracking under them, and will infallibly soon give way. - What latent meaning may be conveyed by the four persons that escaped, who they may be, I pretend not to interpret.

Yours, DAVUS'

Davus is the name of a Machiavellian slave in the play *Andria* by the Roman author Terence.

Finally, a week later, the *Kentish Gazette* quashed the story entirely:

'It is with the upmost pleasure we inform the public at large, from the best authority, that there is not the least truth whatever in the extract of a letter from Gainsborough, which asserted that 90 persons were drowned in the river Trent by the breaking of ice.'

Using exactly the same words, most papers retracted the story during the next week. The *Leicester & Nottingham Journal*, who had not printed the original claim, did not even bother trying to sugar the pill, stating bluntly, 'There is not the least truth whatever in the Extract of a Letter from Gainsborough,

On the 11th of February the *Caledonian Mercury* congratulated itself upon its perspicacity. 'We feel ourselves happy in being able now to assure the public, that there is not the least truth in the Extract of a letter from Gainsborough The above letter, which by some means found its way into most of the newspapers, but always appeared to us of so alarming a nature, and was attended with such suspicious circumstances, that it never obtained room in the *Caledonian Mercury*.'

So what are we to make of all this? Assuming the 'Davus' interpretation is correct, and it is difficult to think of another explanation, apart from a clumsy, easily disproved, prank, it begs the question as to why? Without going into the details, the political infighting between William Pitt [1759-1806] and Charles James Fox [1749-1806] was paralyzing the workings of parliament over that winter. It was not until the general election in April that Pitt consolidated his power. It is easy to understand this frustration with the political class, but is using the fabricated story of dozens of deaths a valid way to express one's opinions? Perhaps it is the fact that the location is so specific which makes this feel so tasteless, although a nameless town on an anonymous northern river would not have had the same impact.



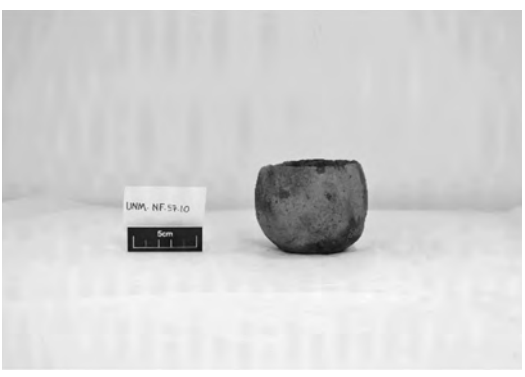
It may, or may not, be suspicious that the story, the explanation and the repudiation all happened within 11 days in one Kent newspaper. If it was intended to provoke discussion in the press, of the political shenanigans of the time, it failed. The letter by 'Davus' was not reprinted in any other paper.


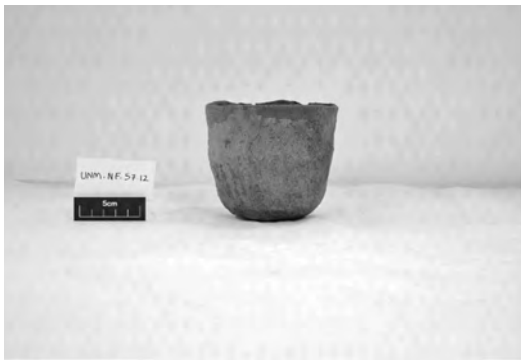

Keith Fisher

Meet the Netherfield Urns

(A follow-up to the article in the Winter Newsletter (issue 98))

The following data sheet describes the six Anglo-Saxon urns associated with the Netherfield cremation cemetery and donated to the museum in Lincoln by Dr. Alexander Fraser in 1912.

Urn	Photo	Data & Description
1		<p>UNMA: NF 57.8 Myres: 3875 / Fig 33 Lincoln = 1912.311</p> <p>Top Circumference = 268 mm Waist Circumference = 322 mm Bottom Circumference = 164 mm Top Diameter = 84 - 87mm Bottom Diameter = 50 - 53 mm Outer Height = 79 mm Inner Depth = 63 mm Weight = 314g</p> <p>Sub-biconical wide-mouthed form: "Small sub-biconical bowl with upright rim: smooth grey ware."</p>
2		<p>UNMA: NF 57.9 Myres: 3876 / Fig 65 Lincoln = 1912.312</p> <p>Top Circumference = 190 mm Waist Circumference = 410 mm Bottom Circumference = 350 mm Top Diameter = 112 - 116 mm Bottom Diameter = 60 - 65 mm Outer Height = 104 mm Inner Depth = 92 mm Weight = 508g</p> <p>Sub-globular form with upright or inturned rims: "Sub-globular vessel with wide mouth and in-turned rim: smooth grey / brown ware, well made."</p>
3		<p>UNMA: NF 57.10 Myres: 3877 / Fig 67 Lincoln = 1912.313</p> <p>Top Circumference = 255 mm Waist Circumference = 290 mm Bottom Circumference = 165 mm Top Diameter = 80 - 84 mm Bottom Diameter = 53 - 57 mm Outer Height = 58 - 65 mm Inner Depth = 48 mm Weight = 263g</p> <p>Hemispherical and related bowls with upright rims: "Small hemispherical cup with upright rim and thickened base: rough grey ware."</p>

<p>4</p>		<p>UNMA: NF 57.11 Myres: 3878 / Fig 73 Lincoln = 1912.314</p> <p>Top Circumference = 212 mm Waist Circumference = 253 mm Bottom Circumference = 132 mm Top Diameter = 70 mm Bottom Diameter = 39 mm Outer Height = 68 - 72 mm Inner Depth = 61 - 63 mm Weight = 168g</p> <p>Miscellaneous small bowls, cups, beakers and bottles: "Small sub-biconical beaker with everted rim and heavy angled base: rough grey ware."</p>
<p>5</p>		<p>UNMA: NF 57.12 Myres: 3879 / Fig 68 Lincoln = 1912.315</p> <p>Top Circumference = 345 mm Waist Circumference = 346 mm Bottom Circumference = 20 mm Top Diameter = 114 - 116 mm Bottom Diameter = 65 - 70 mm Outer Height = 83 - 89 mm Inner Depth = 71 mm Weight = 467g</p> <p>Splay-sided bowls and related forms: "Straight-sided cup with splayed rim: rough grey ware."</p>
<p>6</p>		<p>UNMA: NF 57.13 (Myres NF 57.7 in error) Myres: 3874 / Fig 33 Lincoln = 1912.316</p> <p>Top Circumference = 400 mm Waist Circumference = 465 mm Bottom Circumference = 275 mm Top Diameter = 123 - 130 mm Bottom Diameter = 80 - 84 mm Outer Height = 111 - 115 mm Inner Depth = 113 mm Weight = 620g</p> <p>Sub-biconical wide-mouthed form: "Sub-biconical bowl with slight ridge on the tall neck and short everted rim: rough hard brown / grey ware, well made."</p>

Nick Molyneux.

Sources & Thanks: (i) **Descriptions** from *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period Vol.1 & Vol. 2*; J.N.L. Myres; Cambridge University Press 1977; ISBN 0 521 21285 5 (2 Volume Set). (ii) **Thanks to:** Mark Laurie and Claire Pickersgill; University of Nottingham Museum of Archaeology (UNMA) and Eleanor Baumber, Collections Development Manager, Lincolnshire Heritage Service & Archives. (iii) **Photos:** Nick Molyneux, kind permission of the University of Nottingham and Lincolnshire County Council. (iv) **Measurement Data:** Mark Laurie & Nick Molyneux.

OBSCURE ANNIVERSARIES

120 years ago

There were severe snowfalls across most of Britain between 26th January and 16th February 1900. At Hodsock Priory, February was very cold, with deep snow followed by heavy rain. The autumn was mild with unusually little frost, and December was exceptionally warm. Harvest was early but the corn crops were light. Source - British Rainfall 1900

160 years ago

16th May 1860 Lady Noel Byron, widow of the poet, died at her residence, 11 St George's Terrace, Regent's Park, London. Her estate was left to her grandson, Ralph Gordon Noel King, the son of her daughter and the Earl of Lovelace, who was and had for some considerable time been working at weekly wages as an artizan (sic) in the Smiths' Department of Woolwich Arsenal.

140 years ago

14th May 1880. The Water Committee of the Nottingham Town Council met with the directors of the Waterworks Company at their offices in St Peter's Gate, for the formal transfer to the Corporation of the keys and books of the Company, in return for a cheque for £30,000. The Committee of the Corporation were then given a tour of the whole of the works designed or carried on for the supply of water to the district.

14th May 1880. Steam power was used on the Nottingham and Basford Tramway.

22nd June 1880 There was a heavy thunderstorm, doing immense damage, during which three platelayers were struck near Radford Station. One of them, named Hillery, was killed. A boy named Derrick, aged 8 years, was killed on the Trentside. There were also heavy thunderstorms on the 23rd and 24th.

22nd July 1880 There was a great Demonstration in the Market Place to celebrate the Centenary of Sunday Schools. Upwards of 20,000 Sunday Scholars were present.

23rd August 1880 William Thompson, better known as 'Bendigo' the bare-knuckle boxer, died at his home at Beeston, as a result of falling downstairs. He was aged 69. He was interred in the same grave as his mother at St Mary's Cemetery, St Anne's Well Road, Nottingham, on the 26th.

The funeral cortege was headed by Richard Weaver, the great Revivalist, and was followed by thousands of people, such a sight not having been seen since the funeral of Tom Sayers, in London, 19 years previously.

29th December 1880 Dr Hoffman, from the Burials Department, inspected the Churchyards of St Mary, St Peter and St Nicholas, and reported in favour of them being closed. - Nottingham Date Book

John Wilson

FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

Geoffrey Bond, a long-standing member of the Thoroton Society, has generously provided funds for several years now to support research into the history and archaeology of the county of Nottinghamshire. The Society also makes an equal contribution to support this important part of our remit, making a total of £2000 available.

In 2019 we again received six submissions and it was decided that three of them should be awarded grants; one receiving £792 towards an analysis of Nottingham horn cores associated with the city's industrial activity; another of £746 for bio-archaeological research at St Nicholas Church graveyard, in use from at latest the 18th century, together with documentary research on local residents; and the third of £732 to support research on nursing in the County with a view to publication of the findings. We look forward to reading more of their work in the Newsletter in due course and then fuller accounts, subject to editorial processes, in future editions of the Transactions.

The terms and conditions of the award can be found on the Society's website. The closing date for submissions for an award this year is the 1st September 2020

Barbara Cast

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CAST

Although it was not possible to hold a Society AGM this year, Barbara Cast, our long serving Honorary Secretary, stepped down after 26 years in post at what would have been her last AGM/Spring meeting.



Barbara's background was in archaeology, for which she was awarded a degree by the University of Nottingham. She also had a lifelong interest in history.

She first joined Council in 1994 as Minutes Secretary, and two years later she succeeded Rev E Patrick Rowley as Honorary Secretary of the Society. She held the position until the 2020 AGM and was a regular attender at Society lectures – she acted as chauffeur for many years to our past president Rosalys Coope, after Rosalys gave up driving. Barbara has taken a particular interest in buildings, and for some years has led the Response Group, which reacts when historically significant buildings are in danger of demolition and plans for new buildings are considered inappropriate.

As Honorary Secretary Barbara took responsibility for the Annual Lunch and the Spring Meeting/AGM. She always looked to find a different venue and menu for the lunch, as well as a speaker, and for the AGM it was on her initiative that we traversed the county stopping off in village halls and the occasional church, to learn more about places which we might not necessarily have visited otherwise.

In her early days as Hon. Sec. Barbara was still in the employment of Nottingham City Council at the Guildhall, and her links there were helpful to the Society because

she knew who to approach on any particular issue. Barbara is also active in the local history society at Bleasby, where she has lived for many years.

In 2015 she published *Harry's Story: the memoirs of a Nottingham Childhood, of life as a young miner and of the privations and horrors of the Great War* (2015). Adrian Henstock, the Thoroton Society's president, wrote a sympathetic review of Harry's remarkable story (Thoroton Society Newsletter, 80, Summer 2015)

Sadly we were not able to thank Barbara for her work as honorary secretary at an AGM, but we know she is not going away. We expect to continue to see Barbara at Society events! But for now the best we can do is to offer our appreciation for the many years of keeping the Society on the straight and narrow.

John Beckett

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BECKETT

Had we been able to meet at our AGM in April, we would all have had opportunity to pay tribute to Professor John Beckett who was to tell us at that meeting that he was stepping down as Chair of Thoroton Council. As it was, with all events and meetings having to be postponed because of coronavirus, it behoves me to try and express our appreciation of all John has done for the Society over his many years of membership and of leadership.



Much could, and will be said of John's academic career, his involvement in many aspects of history, his writings etc – but this will not be the place. Here we will concentrate on John's involvement with the Thoroton Society. However, just to set John in context - John Vincent Beckett FSA FRHistS; son of William and Kathleen Beckett; born in London but educated at Nottingham schools; attended the University of Lancaster and, four years after graduating, was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree. He came to the University of Nottingham in 1979 and achieved a readership in English regional history in 1987 - three years after that he gained his current professorship. After a distinguished academic career John retires from the University this summer – a neat year in view of his birthdate!

But to turn to JVB and Thoroton. Having made his mark as a member of the Society, John was elected on to our Council on 26th May 1988 and “Dr John Beckett” was welcomed by the then Chair of Council, Dr Rosalys Coope. It was on 25th October 1990 that the first mention of John as “Professor Beckett” was recorded in Council minutes. Soon after we read that

Professor Beckett was to be editor in chief of the proposed centenary history of the City of Nottingham. At the council meeting held on 17th October 1991, Rosalys announced her retirement as Chair of Council and said that JVB " would be a most suitable replacement". The following Council meeting in February '92 was Rosalys' last as Chair (and incidentally my first attendance in preparation for taking on the role of Assistant Secretary Minutes). John was duly elected Chair following the 1992 AGM. At that first meeting the Editorial and Record Series committees were combined into the Publications Committee, John having previously been a member of the Editorial Committee since 1989. John gave his first Chair's address at the 1993 AGM – incidentally it seems not to have been the custom for the Chair of Council to address AGMs - this has happened ever since that year. One of the memorable matters approved at this meeting was to hold lectures at the YMCA premises on Shakespeare Street – a move from the Cathedral Hall on Derby Road due to it being somewhat cold and in need of restoration. Shortly after the move the Society screen disappeared from the YMCA premises! It was in 2006 that lectures moved to the New Mechanics on North Sherwood Street and, apart from early problems with sound, it has proved very successful.

He was Chair during the Society's centenary in 1997 and was a leading light at most of its events, including the Centenary Dinner held at County Hall. He was also at the helm during the time when the Society's contribution to the Nottinghamshire Millennium activities was being planned: a very enjoyable and memorable programme was delivered, comprising visitations to each of the six wapentakes and a popular roving roadshow.

JVB has proved himself a strong campaigner and champion of the county's history. One of the constant areas of active involvement for John has been, and continues to be, Laxton, the last remaining village in Europe still working the open field farming system. At the 1989 AGM the meeting concluded with a talk by Dr John Beckett entitled "What future for the past in Laxton?" and, at the next AGM in 1990, Professor Barley told members about a paper he and Dr Beckett had prepared on concerns about Laxton's future at that time. The members were asked if they would agree to the Society's "support to safeguard the village and its landscape". As a result of the unanimous agreement of members a resolution was passed endorsing the concerns "about current threats to Laxton and strongly urges the District Council and English Heritage to adopt, as a matter of urgency, the recommendations in the statement". Matters have progressed since those days and John will remain closely involved with Laxton under its new owners as a member of Laxton Manor Trust and advisor on heritage.

He has spearheaded campaigns supported by Thoroton and likeminded bodies on several occasions over the years. Such as, from 1997 (and intermittently since), when the reorganisation (or dismantling) of the City's museum and archaeology sections was underway. This was painful and slow to be resolved; some museums were lost, never to be replaced; talented and knowledgeable staff were redeployed in lesser jobs or left. The Museum Service lost its registration during this period, to later regain it – with the support of the Society. Council minutes continued to illustrate ongoing concerns with the City Council's attitude to conservation, archaeology and museums. We are only recently beginning to see a more positive attitude from the City Council towards Nottingham's historic legacy and its archaeology – there are professional officers in post for conservation matters and archaeology and the Castle project is set to provide new and hopefully more profound understandings of this most important of Nottingham's landmarks. John has been one of those in the forefront of efforts to encourage and direct a greater emphasis on the safeguarding, interpretation and enhancement of the City's significant history and archaeology.

Also in 1997, opposition to mining under Newstead Abbey was growing, not only by Thoroton but also by the City Council and the Byron Society. The campaign was still ongoing in 1998 when John addressed two public meetings - a petition was handed to Culture Minister, Chris Smith, when he visited the Abbey that year. By the end of 1998 the campaign was still underway but by now the mining industry was facing difficulties and the Newstead extensions were in doubt. By early 1999 the mining company was bankrupt which finally brought to an end the peril of subsidence. Newstead Abbey was subsequently the focus of a restoration programme and it continues to be a place of great interest and, sometimes, concern to the Society.

There have been major contributions to the County's historic resources during the period of John's tenure. One of them is the Society's own website which includes a wealth of resources and links and, especially, the Bibliography and the Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway. These latter resources are used by a wide variety of people, local and from wider areas. Writing for the Heritage Gateway is yet another outlet for members' research work. As John himself said in 2007 "the Society's electronic resources do provide a more public and active role, including for our schools." Also developed in recent years is the Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Research Award which has supported a number of worthwhile projects over the years. Another great success supported by Thoroton and with much direct involvement by John is the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project which brings together information on all churches within the Diocese – another superb resource. Also, the Society sponsored the free journal East Midlands History and Heritage which provides interesting articles on our part of the country and offers opportunities to contribute. Resurrecting the

Nottinghamshire Victoria County History, supporting the special lecture programme, taking up the cudgels when local history and archaeology teaching was disappearing, accelerating the digitisation of Throsby's Thoroton in the programme of British History Online (his own admitted minor triumph) – there is so much more to be added to this remarkable list of achievements.

Another major initiative - it was in October 2000 that Council received a paper by the Chair and Hon Sec setting out proposals for a Standing Committee of officers which would meet several times a year with a mandate to direct policy, to generally oversee the management of the Society's business and ensure it is carried out in a timely fashion, and to coordinate the programme. This has worked extremely well over the years and made the running of the Society much more efficient and coordinated.

Despite a busy schedule at the University (and extra responsibilities such as those five years as Director of Victoria County History which required being in London most of the week) John has always been fully involved in the Society and supportive of new initiatives, of the publication of many excellent volumes, of Society involvement in conservation and heritage matters, of research and writing. I think we would all agree that he has mostly achieved his aims for the Society, as stated in Newsletter No 1 of July 1992 "to make the Society truly a County society, to maintain the scholarly standards of the Transactions, to improve communications with members and to try to attract some younger members". Even the last hope has been somewhat fulfilled by the growing number of active archaeologists in our ranks! Many accolades have been made to John over the years – as the late John Fox said "*thank you for putting Thoroton so squarely on the local history map*". And as so many of us would say - thank you John for being a great Chair, an inspiring leader and a friend to so many of us.

Barbara Cast

Nottingham's own Lifeboat, the 'Robin Hood'

On 7th January 1867, Nottingham's own lifeboat was formally launched, on the River Trent. The boat was destined for the lifeboat station at Boulmer, Northumberland. The existing lifeboat at Boulmer was one of the early boats built of fir and possessed none of the 'recent improvements'. The coxswain and crew, although they had every confidence in their old life-boat, were desirous of having a larger one' [1]. Funds were raised in Nottingham, largely through the efforts of Samuel Collinson Esq, towards which T F Gimson Esq of the Park in Nottingham gave £200. The boat was 33 feet long and 8 feet wide, with ten oars. The cost, including carriage, stores and other costs was £420. The boat was conveyed to Nottingham for its naming and displayed at the Industrial Exhibition Building.

At half-past twelve on 7th January, a procession was formed, consisting of the bands of the



South Notts Yeomanry and the Robin Hood Rifles, many soldiers in uniform and the Fire Brigade with their engines. The lifeboat on its carriage was manned by a crew in Guernseys, sou-westers, red woollen scarves and cork jackets, drawn by six powerful horses. The procession paraded the principal streets to the great Market Place, where the Mayoress, Mrs J L Thackeray, christened it the 'Robin Hood', to great applause. The carriage of the boat having been taken to the bank of the river Trent, one end of the vessel was slowly raised, and immediately after it slid down into

the water, with the crew on board, the Yeomanry Band struck up 'Cheer, Boys, Cheer'. The boat

rowed a short distance down the river and back again, after which a trial was made of its self-righting properties. A chain having been fastened round the side of the boat, a couple of men worked a crane and wound it out of the water. On attaining a certain height it fell over, and came up keel uppermost, but scarcely six seconds had elapsed before it toppled over again and danced about on the surface like a cork, the water shipped during the process rapidly leaving it. This operation was repeated with the same success.

The new lifeboat had been conveyed from the builders in the south of England by the Great Northern Railway, and from Nottingham to its ultimate destination at Boulmer by the Great North Eastern Railway, in both cases without charge.

The 'Robin Hood' had a long career at Boulmer and was very popular with the crew. The boat was eventually retired from service and broken up in 1892. Her service history included:

1871	1 January	Boat from Schooner OXALIS, of MacDuff	Saved 4
1876	28 April 02.00	Ketch BAVINGTON, of Newcastle	Saved 4
1887	26 October 01.30	Brig SUCCESS, of Sunderland	Saved 4
1887	13 February 10.30	Fishing cobbles, of Boulmer, stood by	
1888	4 March 07.00	Boat from Schooner MARSHALL, of Wick	Saved 4
1888	27 November 09.30	13 fishing cobbles, stood by	
1889	26 February 12.30	Three fishing cobbles, stood by	
1889	10 May 11.00	Five fishing cobbles, stood by	
1889	31 December 00.30	Smack EFFORT, of Berwick	Saved 2
1890	2 November 04.00	Schooner KATHERINE, of Banff	Saved 5

Altogether the Robin Hood saved twenty-three lives and stood by in case of rescues needed on four occasions.

Unfortunately, no picture of the 'Robin Hood' exists. However, the picture on page 13 shows the ten-oar Self-Righter 'Florence Nightingale', which is of the same design. The 'Florence Nightingale' served at Sunderland station.

Modern lifeboats are expensive. A D-Class inshore lifeboat costs £52,000, a B-Class Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat costs £214,000 and a Shannon Class all-weather lifeboat costs around £2.1M.

Sources: Lifeboat Magazine July 1867 volume 6 issue 65; The Nottingham Date Book for 7 January 1867; Information from RNLI records; Data from RNLI website. See the RNLI website www.rnli.org.

Thanks to Keith Fisher for drawing my attention to the lifeboat and to Hayley Whiting, Archivist at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, for much help.

John Wilson

SOCIETY NEWS

Members should have received the papers for the Spring Meeting which had to be postponed due to the current pandemic. These list the nominations for the Society's Council and the change of officer roles following the retirement of Barbara Cast and John Beckett. Barbara is continuing as Hon. Secretary of the Society, but Rosemary Muge has been nominated as Honorary Administration Secretary in order to take on the day-to-day work of administration associated with the Society's Council. Much of the work of organizing the Spring Meeting, the Annual Lunch, and Special Events, which Barbara used to carry, will be arranged through an enlarged Events Committee, formed from officers and members of Council. These changes will be approved at the rescheduled AGM. John's retirement as Chair of Council will take effect from the first meeting of Council following the AGM when his successor will be appointed. As Vice Chair, Richard Gaunt has indicated his willingness to succeed John, subject to the approval of Council. We hope that members will bear with us as we make the transition through the current crisis. Anyone who would like to offer assistance or help with the

practical work of the Society, in terms of helping at meetings or events, is encouraged to get in touch with John Wilson, who is co-ordinating the Events Committee at present.

LECTURE REPORTS

Nora Witham lecture given by David Norbrook, 8 February 2020 'Lucy Hutchinson's Memoirs: The Manuscript as Autobiography'

Anyone who has ever tried to write about a friend or loved one will empathise with Lucy Hutchinson (1620-81), whose quatercentenary falls this year. A woman with a wide and discerning intellect, who wrote poetry, theology, and responses to Milton, she prized her marriage to John Hutchinson (1615-64) and the family which they raised at Owthorpe in Nottinghamshire. The outbreak of the British Civil Wars in the early 1640s thrust John Hutchinson to the centre of local events as the Governor of Nottingham Castle. He was one of the signatories of the warrant authorising the execution of Charles I in 1649 and was directly responsible for the slighting of Nottingham Castle (for fear of what Cromwell might do with it), two years later. At the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, Lucy forged a letter in her husband's name (a tribute to her ability to master his signature), which offered an exculpation for his role in the death of Charles I and saved his life. John, never feeling comfortable at having escaped the fate of his fellow regicides, died in Sandown Castle in Kent, four years later, on charges of conspiracy.



Lucy, still only in her mid-forties, was left to mourn her husband's life. As only a writer could, she mourned him by writing about him. It was a difficult and perplexing task. Like biographers before and since, she was faced with difficult choices: how far to fill-in the essential context and background to the life, and how far to concentrate on the individual life itself? What balance to achieve between public and private affairs? How to explain difficult, deeply-felt decisions such as the decision to support the execution of a king who saw himself as God's chosen representative on earth? Fortunately for us, the nature of Lucy's self-editing – her additions, deletions, blotting-out (and tearing-out) have left a suggestive set of archival traces in the book into

which she wrote her 'Life of John Hutchinson of Owthorpe in the County of Nottingham, Esquire' - the proper and original title of the work, which was subsequently adapted, upon first publication in 1806, into 'Memoirs of the Life...'.

The book is well-known to generations of both Nottinghamshire historians and historians of the British Civil Wars, for Lucy Hutchinson has much to say of value about both. However, in bringing out the particularities of the original manuscript, as part of a new critical edition of Lucy's works, Professor David Norbrook and his colleagues (including Professor Martyn Bennett of the Thoroton Society) have returned to the minutiae of the text's original production, including analysing the surface of the paper, the nature of the ink and the true significance of what, on initial sight, look like inky smudges, but when subjected to close inspection reveal a thumbprint which may well originate with Lucy herself.

David's lecture explored the patient, scholarly process by which the editors recovered aspects of the text which have evaded (or just not interested) previous editors. If the survival of the original manuscript owes much to the intervention of Sydney Race, who encouraged Nottingham Castle Museum to purchase it in 1922 (the British Museum and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge were potential competitors), then its long-term deposit at Nottinghamshire Archives has enabled it to survive

the succeeding century intact. Appropriately enough, the work will be a central exhibit in the new 'Rebellion Gallery' at Nottingham Castle, when it reopens in the spring of 2021, a century after the book returned to its native county.

In questions, John Beckett raised the issue – hinted at by David in his lecture – of a connection with the county's great antiquarian historian, and the Society's eponymous hero, Dr Robert Thoroton. John wondered if they could have met given that Owthorpe and Car Colston (Thoroton's home) were only about eight miles apart as the crow flies. The society's President, Adrian Henstock, who was unfortunately unable to attend the lecture, subsequently expressed his doubts that they ever met, despite their being very close contemporaries in age. As far as Adrian is aware, Lucy lived in London before moving to her husband's home in 1641, which is when Thoroton was studying at Cambridge; he received his MA there in 1643 at the age of 22. His movements for the rest of the Civil War and the Commonwealth are unknown, but as a non-combatant Royalist it seems possible that he lay low with his parents at Car Colston and perhaps moved into Newark along with many Royalist gentry towards the end of the war. Lucy of course moved into Nottingham Castle with her husband before returning to Owthorpe in 1647. It is of course possible that, as near neighbours in the Vale of Belvoir, they may have come into contact, but, if so, Adrian suspects there would have been enmity on both sides. Lucy would no doubt have thought of him as a mere physician!

Although Thoroton escaped sequestration of his property after the war, his active Royalist father-in-law Gilbert Boun did not, and Robert spent much time and money sorting out his debts. His bitter comments reveal his attitude towards the Hutchinson family: 'After he [Gilbert] had been imprisoned at Derby about a year or more by the first setters-up of the late horrid Rebellion in those parts he was – with the loss of all he had – violently expelled by the Governor of Nottingham' from his Nottingham town house. Thoroton's entry for Owthorpe in the *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* provides a pedigree of the Hutchinson family including both John and Lucy but his only comment is to say that the old church was rebuilt by Colonel John Hutchinson who was buried there. There is a memorial to him with text penned by Lucy. David revealed that Lucy wrote eight alternative versions of this epitaph in manuscript before settling on the one we see today.

These insights demonstrate why Lucy felt compelled to write the life of her husband and why it may well have been the hardest literary accomplishment of her life; she was writing for the benefit of her children as much as (if not more than) a critical posterity. Why the manuscript lay unpublished until 1806 is another story.

Richard A Gaunt

Thoroton Lecture 14 March 2020

A report from John Beckett.

Many years ago, a speaker en route to address the Thoroton Society fell among thieves – literally, since they relieved him of his slides. Without the slides he could not give the talk. What were we to do? I think we all went home. But Neville Hoskins went to his slide collection and provided the society with what was in effect a quiz for the day when another speaker was unable to speak. That day turned out to be 14 March 2020 when our appointed speaker, Dr Richard Dance, was unable to come to Nottingham as a result of the Coronavirus restrictions. Neville's slides, now converted to Power Point, were presented by David Hoskins, and the relatively small but keen audience was asked to comment on the pictures.

Unsurprisingly some of the meeting was pure nostalgia, but many of the pictures tested our knowledge (or not) of some of the most obscure places in Nottingham. There were no marks out of 10, and no prize winner, but it was an interesting and informative afternoon, which challenged us all to think more clearly about how much we really do not know about our city. Some of the slides were of Thorotonians on excursions. Not only had we to guess the location of the picture, we had to adjust for the ageing process in the case of a few of our members! It was quite challenging really!

Photographs used in the lectures are shown on the back cover.

Lecturing in the Virtual World!

The conditions under which we have been living in recent times, since the appearance of Coronavirus, have called for some lateral thinking! And so it came to pass that on 23 April 2020 I found myself sitting in my study at home, surrounded by computer screens, and ready to start a Zoom session! Professor John Holford, Professor of Adult Education in the School of Education, together with several colleagues at the University of Nottingham, had conceived of the idea of providing some adult education style classes, some linked to the virus and its impact, and others more general in style and content, with the intention of providing background and learning rather than leaving us all to sit at home wondering what to do next.

I was one of those invited to share the responsibility, and that meant sitting in my house, linked by Zoom to 20 or more other people, who were all sitting in their houses, but who were ready and willing to learn. My subject was the Green Spaces (see photograph on the back cover) of post-1845 Nottingham, and I took the audience on a quick gallop through the walks and parks around the city.

It was all a bit hairy. Zoom, one of the many new packages designed to bring people together – Face Time, WhatsApp and Teams are others – proved more than a match for facilitator and audience alike! I could not see the audience – all of whom could have switched off and poured themselves a strong drink, of which I would have been blissfully unaware – and I struggled to match my PowerPoint presentation to the words of my delicately crafted text. Finally, the questions and audience participation were all channelled through the facilitator, so I still did not know who was out there! And they were all virtual anyway, so I could not ask James Dymond (parks supremo for Nottingham) to hang on for a couple of minutes afterwards for a quick chat, and so on.

So here I am. The days of the great lecture theatre with 400 seats (Coates Auditorium, Keighton Auditorium, both on University Park) are surely numbered when all you need is a speaker in his or her kitchen, and an audience of however many turned up – sorry, logged in – to listen more or less intently. For students what a breakthrough. Now they don't even need to get dressed and go to the University to hear the lecture! They can eat their Cornflakes with one hand and tap a few notes into their laptops with the other!

For me, mixed feelings. I am sure the technological problems can be resolved, but virtual people are in a different world from real people. No doubt I could get used to it in time, but for now I shall cling to the hope that it will not be long before I can once again address an audience and 'feel' the feedback even if it is negative!

John Beckett

EDITOR'S NOTE. East Midland History and Heritage Issue 5 (August 2017) carries an article on the Nottingham Green Spaces 3013-2016 project on pages 27, 28 and 29.

CORRESPONDENCE AND EDITORIAL NOTES

Elizabeth Robinson was in touch thanking for the full-page obituary on Robert Robinson, Bobby, in the Spring Newsletter. It had been appreciated by her and the family. She reminded us that he used to make mince pies for all the members at the Christmas talk and that she was involved in teas/coffees when the talks were at the YMCA. Bobby's mince pies were another reason she suspects many Thoroton members will remember him!

John Harlow wrote with further information, further to John Wilson's request for more information in the Winter Edition and the correspondence to me in the Spring Newsletter.

'My Grandfather, WH Harlow, and his elder brother Edward Harlow came from Burton-on Trent and got jobs at Wright's Bank at 1 Carlton St. After a few years Edward left and started in business as a stockbroker and accountant. My grandfather was supposed to join him but was put off, so he left in 1899 and started in business as an estate agent and accountant. At that time business was suffering and the banks customers were unable to pay back their loans or interest, so the bank was repossessing many

properties. TW Chicken, the manager, encouraged my grandfather to leave and gave him some properties to manage for the bank. In due course the properties would be sold and the bank repaid. Wright's Bank was taken over by Lloyds later.'

In the last edition I wrote that there would be a report on the Castle Restoration. However due to the situation we find ourselves in at present I can only report that the construction of the castle continues, and archaeologists are still working on site. Richard Gaunt passed on to me the April Castle Transformation Newsletter and members might like to know that there are plans to reintroduce the Nottingham Catchfly to the Castle grounds. This plant has not been present for some time and there is a planned project to ask volunteers to grow the flower at home and then replant it at a date in the future in the Castle grounds.

Paul Baker

FINALLY AS WE HOPEFULLY RECOVER FROM ONE PANDEMIC - NOTTINGHAM AND PAST PANDEMICS

In May 1349 it is reported that the Black Death caused the collection of the portage tax, which was to raise money for repairing the bridges over the rivers Leam and the Trent to be cancelled. but there is limited documentation of other impacts the Black Death had on Nottingham. Scott Lomax in his book 'Nottingham: the buried past of a historic city revealed' does point out that in the 14th century the area around Lace Market was abandoned.

In the 1590s plague struck Nottingham and victims were isolated in their homes or in plague huts set up outside the town. Prevention measures were also taken to stop residents from surrounding towns coming to Nottingham. It is reported that the watchmen in towns around Nottingham were paid to stop residents of these towns travelling to Nottingham.

In 1603 when plague was again feared, the Corporation ordered a closure for two weeks of the alehouses in areas of Nottingham.

During the first half of the 18th century, there was not a single decade in Nottingham without at least one serious outbreak of smallpox, which killed a great many children.

(see Terry Fry's article on Page 2 of this Newsletter)

In 1918 Spanish Influenza, the deadliest pandemic up to then to affect Britain until this year saw 250,000 people die. My grandmother aged 28 died in 1918 from Spanish Influenza. In Nottingham an Emergency Influenza Hospital was set up by Dr Philip Boobyer, the Medical Officer for Health, at Amnesty House in Queen's Walk. Beds were also set aside at Bagthorne Isolation Hospital but most of Nottingham's population who caught the influenza were cared for at home. There were restrictions to what people could do and gathering in crowds was banned to help to avoid the infection spreading. With no National Health Service in 1918, doctors' fees were beyond many of Nottinghamshire's population, therefore self-medication at home was the usual way to deal with illness. Carbolic soap was recommended to households for washing their hands and their bodies to prevent infections spreading. The mortality rate in the week ending 23rd November 1918 reached 74 deaths which was the highest recorded week. On average 36 people had died each week up to November 1918. There was great disruption to public services, with schools and places of entertainment being closed. It is, however, interesting to note that the Goose Fair did take place.

A recent book by Catherine Arnold of Sherwood who lost her grandparents in 1918 called 'Pandemic 1918; the Story of the Deadliest Influenza in History' and online the Nottingham Heritage Gateway 'Nottinghamshire and the Great Influenza Pandemic 1918-19' by Joan Knight are further references.

Paul Baker

NEW MEMBERS OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY.

We welcome 3 new members since the last Edition.

Dr Michael Hawkes, Mr Martin Hulme, Mrs Carol Williams.

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

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Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

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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, Paul Baker MA FRGS 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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THE THOROTON SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 237755.

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



Clockwise from Top Left:
- A Green Space in Nottingham;
- Dr David Norbrook gives the Nora Witham Lecture;
- Thoroton members celebrate the retirement of Keith Train in 1984, at Flintham Hall. Taken from the Neville Hoskins Collection;
Bottom - A cave under Peel Street, used as an air raid shelter. See article by Scott Lomax on page 3

