

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 92 *Summer 2018*



The Thoroton Plan Chest comes home!

See article on page 8

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 2018

For once we were unlucky with the weather for our Spring Meeting - it was cold and damp! But nevertheless, we enjoyed a most interesting time in Calverton. The Village Hall is superbly appointed, and we were well looked after by Tracey and, of course, by Jonathan and his team who once again produced a splendid and most attractive tea.

The President, Adrian Henstock, welcomed members to our 121st AGM and, as has become a tradition with Adrian, he then gave a most interesting introduction to our venue, focusing on the Seely family and their contribution to Calverton. As is often the case, this family founded their fortune on a local industry, in this instance, coal-mining, eventually owning various mines over a period of some sixty years, including that at Calverton. There were three MPs successively in the family – all called Charles – the second Charles being given the job of running the collieries. In 1875 he acquired Sherwood Lodge as a base to run his colliery empire – he was described as being “just and generous” to his workers and was a major philanthropist, greatly benefiting Nottingham General Hospital and founding several supporting convalescent homes. Another of his achievements was to have built St Paul’s Church in Daybrook. When he died in 1915 he was one of the wealthiest men in Britain according to *The Times*. One of his younger sons, Frank Evelyn Seely, lived in Calverton at Calverton Hall (unfortunately now demolished). The secondary school in Calverton is named for Colonel Frank Seely. Jack Seely, his younger brother, was a great adventurer and soldier. He led the last cavalry charge in battle near Amiens which both he and his famous horse, Warrior, survived and took part in other dangerous encounters during the Great War. Both lived until the ‘40s, Warrior dying just a few years before his master. After his death he was awarded the animal equivalent of a Victoria Cross. As Adrian remarked, it is appropriate that the service of animals in wartime be acknowledged in this centenary year of the ending of the Great War.

Professor Beckett then presented the annual report and again noted that it showed how wide the range of activities and work the Society was engaged in. John Wilson, Honorary Treasurer, presented the accounts. He noted the increased cost of postage but also the concurrent savings in officer time and energy the new system produced. Record Series volumes continued to sell well, indeed the last two volumes required a reprint due to high demand. The Chair thanked John Wilson for his careful supervision of the Society’s finances and also Martin Shaw, the Society’s Independent Examiner.

Professor Beckett commenced his remarks by inviting Stef Mastoris to address members on the Welbeck Atlas which came out in 2017 after many years’ gestation for which delay Stef apologised. However, the Atlas had been well received and quickly reprinted. He expressed his thanks to the late Eric Coddington whose generous donations to the Society had funded the publication, to Lady Bentinck and Derek Adlard of Welbeck Abbey and, for the CD innovation especially, to Andy Nicholson. But the laurel crown, he said, went to Adrian Henstock, Record Series Editor, for all his patience and hard work in seeing through the editing and production of this volume. It was a true Thoroton team effort!

John Beckett then went on to cover other matters of interest – that Stef would be talking about the Welbeck Atlas at the Lowdham Book Fair on 30th June; the White Book of Southwell publication would be out in May; a further volume in the Record Series was promised for 2018; the Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair would be held in Mansfield Library on 13th May when the Society would again have a stall; the Annual Lunch would be held in Nottingham Council House on November 3rd.

John then thanked Ceril Little for her contributions as a member of the Society’s Council for ten years and from which she was now stepping down. Council had nominated three new people for Council and John introduced them – Scott Lomax, newly confirmed as the City Archaeologist, and

Ruth Strong, who were both in attendance: and James Wright, another archaeologist, who was at a conference in Ireland. He thanked the Transactions Editors for another volume which, although he was sure would be as good as all previous ones, he had not of course yet read. He also thanked Keith Fisher who had provided Thoroton pin badges and which were available at the meeting.

John invited Judith Mills, the Membership Secretary, to explain how the Society was addressing the new Data Protection regulations. Finally, John spoke of the many areas the Society was active in – the Geoffrey Bond award, the Research Group, the Heritage Gateway, the Bibliography, indeed the Society had, in addition to its programme, a wide-ranging research arm. He then thanked those who were making the afternoon another pleasant occasion.

After the election of officers and Council, Dr Tom Smith gave a most interesting century by century history of Calverton, illustrated with many maps, historic and modern.

After tea members had the opportunity to visit the Grade II* St Wilfrid's Church - very unusual in its layout and containing some fascinating carvings. Another interesting and enjoyable Spring Meeting and informative AGM.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

LECTURE REPORTS

Professor Michael Jones, 'The White Book of Southwell', 10 February 2018

In Spring 2018 the Pipe Roll Society will publish 'The White Book of Southwell' a major source for the medieval history of Nottinghamshire, mostly compiled between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. For hundreds of years the White Book was housed among the archives of Southwell Minster. Today it resides in Nottinghamshire Archives for safe keeping. From May 2018 copies will be available to be purchased for the very first time [see advertisement on page 16 – Ed]

Professor Jones assembled a team of scholars, among them Thoroton Council members Dr David Crook and Dr Trevor Foulds, to work through the material and to sort out some of the issues which had not previously been resolved in relation to the White Book. We now know that the majority of it was compiled by three scribes working in Latin and Anglo-Norman French. Much of the material relates to legal matters, but there are also sections on the governance of the Minster. There is a particularly fine collection of documents relating to the village of Norwell, where Professor Jones has lived since he retired from the University of Nottingham fifteen years ago.

Thorotonians might feel slightly distant from this great scholarly work, especially if they are not Latinists, but there is an important direct link to our society. Dr Thoroton borrowed the White Book from Southwell when he was compiling his *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* – and the Minster had no end of problems persuading him to return it! But, as a result of that loan, Thoroton wrote his magnificent book, and when the Society was founded in 1897 it sought to honour him by taking his name.

John Beckett

The Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture 2018 Dr David Crook 'The First Siege of Newark 1218'

This year's Myles Thoroton Hildyard lecture was given on 10th March by Dr David Crook OBE on the subject of the First Siege of Newark. The title evoked visions of the Civil War, but no, this first siege happened 425 years before then.

The scenario for the siege of 1218 began in the second half of King John's reign when he was heavily dependent on the administrative and military support of aliens from Flanders and from his former continental dominions which had been conquered in 1204 by the French King, Philip

II. Some of the most prominent of these men from the continent were involved in local government, among them Philip Marc, Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire from 1208 onwards. These continental incomers held many of the important royal and episcopal castles, which they tried to retain after the end of the French-supported First Barons War in 1217, and the death of John in 1216. The Bishop of Lincoln's castle at Newark was held by Robert de Gaugy, a Flemish lieutenant of Philip Marc, who refused to return it to the Bishop. An army to besiege it was assembled at Stamford in July 1218, the names of those summoned being recorded. This army marched to Newark and the castle was surrendered by de Gaugy after a siege of eight days, as recorded in chronicles and royal letters. This was the first of several such sieges to take place between 1218 and 1225, when the last castle held by an alien was surrendered to the King, then Henry III.

William the Marshall, "the best knight that ever lived", played a prominent role in this story of a desperate and dying king and his boy heir. It was William to whom John entrusted the accession of his nine-year-old son, and William who took responsibility for the king's funeral and burial at Worcester Cathedral. Those barons who had remained loyal to John made William protector to the young king and regent to the country.

Our speaker is a Society life member and was on the Thoroton Council for many years. David has contributed many articles to the *Transactions* since 1976, mainly on the medieval



history of the county, and he was the editor of our Record Section for ten years. He has now retired from his role as Senior Archivist at the National Archives, and he lives across the border in Lincolnshire. It would be difficult to find a more informed and knowledgeable speaker on the early mediaeval history of our county and his lecture was full of detail, authoritative glimpses into early documents and the careful exposition of the convoluted happenings of this turbulent period in our history.

Among the sources cited by David were the works of Matthew Paris, together with his engaging drawings. This is Matthew's self-portrait.

Barbara Cast

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

THE NOTTINGHAM BREWERY AFFAIR

William Robert Hamilton came to Nottingham in 1887 soon after qualifying as a Chartered accountant in London. He had somehow formed the impression, which he afterwards admitted was seriously mistaken, that Nottingham would be an easy place to make money. As a poor Scot who had lost both his parents as a child, he was keen to do well. With no local contacts it is not surprising that it took him some years to establish himself in spite of joining the Nottinghamshire Golf Club, then based at Bulwell. Indeed it seems likely that only by marrying the sister of a Conservative Member of Parliament and then starting a family did he become respectable enough in the eyes of local businessmen for them to seek his services.

The English family he married into were very religious non-conformists. As a result they became enthusiastic supporters of the Temperance movement. Indeed William had to sign the pledge and promise never to touch alcohol again before he could marry his wife. His formidable mother-in-law was especially committed to the movement and not only delivered lectures on the evils of alcohol around the country, but was a key member of a national committee of women under the chairmanship of the sister of John Bright, the famous politician, to set up a home for "inebriate women" in south London.

Being non-conformist, the family was naturally Liberal in politics, which fitted well with William's own views – his brother-in-law being both a Conservative and an Anglican was something of a maverick in the family. In due course William became prominent in the Nottingham Liberal party – for example he was Arthur Richardson's campaign manager in the 1910 Election.

Such was the background to the Nottingham Brewery affair, which was still a source of much bitterness in the family long after William's death. It arose from the Liberal government's determination to deal with the problem of drunkenness. It introduced legislation to control the sale of alcohol by allowing it to be sold only through licenced outlets at restricted times. The brewery owners naturally opposed the proposed legislation. As a prominent local Liberal, William became suspect in the eyes of the directors of the Company of which he had been appointed auditor some years earlier.

The first rumblings seem to have occurred in the spring of 1908 when he was asked by the Chairman Charles Cox for his views on the Licensing Bill. The undercopy of his reply dated 16 March survives. It is both diplomatic and reassuring: "... the present agitation against the Bill is very natural....if the brewers think their interests attacked, I can well understand their resenting it.... I think it will (diminish drinking), but, because of the reduced expenses,it will not reduce brewing profit. If I were a brewer I should not like the bill. But I think it is conceived in the public interest, and I do not think it will have for the brewing trade anything like the disastrous consequences which are foretold." He is careful to confine his comments to the business aspects of the matter and refrains from raising the moral and social factors which certainly bulked large in his mind.

His conciliatory approach had only temporary success. In November he wrote formally to the Directors of The Nottingham Brewery Ltd: "I conceive it to be possible that the political situation in regard to licensing matters may cause you to think that your Company's books should be audited by someone more in harmony with the Conservative Party than I as a Liberal can be." There can be no doubt that William privately thought such an attitude cast a monstrous slur on his professional integrity: "Not that political views do in fact make a difference to any self-respecting professional man". But he had an important client to retain, and he took particular care drafting the letter, writing it first by hand and then correcting the typescript. "Such being the circumstances. I should be glad to know....whether I have, as auditor, your complete confidence". If not, "I do not propose to offer myself for re-election".

The same day, 25 November, the Chairman wrote back to him, quite formally but in his own hand. He acknowledged receipt of William's letter: "I will lay the same before my directors at the next board meeting". That the personal relationship between the two men had remained intact until then is suggested by Cox's final sentence: "I must compliment you on the bold and manly tone of your letter". The board met on 11 December and later that day Cox wrote again to William. It was not good news: "In the opinion of the board the views you hold with regard to Brewery companies generally, as expressed in your letters, are NOT IN ACCORD with the interests of the Shareholders of this company. 'You cannot hunt with the hare and run with the hounds'. The tone of your letters clearly shows that you appreciate this fact." A formal letter of resignation as auditor would, therefore, be accepted.

This was a blow but hardly unexpected. Insult was added to injury, however, by the statement on his resignation in the Annual Report. The company year ended on 31 December and the

company's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, audited by William, of course, came out on 18 February. But unknown to him in advance, the Report stated: "The Auditors, W.R.Hamilton & Co., retire, and do not offer themselves for re-election. The cause for the retirement is that the active part taken by Mr. W.R.Hamilton in support of the Licensing Act was felt to be highly antagonistic to the interests of all brewery shareholders". This produced a furious reply from William. Writing formally as from his own company, he desired "to inform you clearly and distinctly that the alleged cause of our retirement is absolutely incorrect. Our Mr.W.R.Hamilton did not take an active part in support of the Licensing Act; on the contrary he took no part whatever....the introduction of any political feeling into the management of a business concern is entirely improper....In the circumstances we do not of course wish to act further as your auditors.." But that horse had already been pushed firmly out to pasture: the stable door was shut fast against him.

No doubt the Nottingham Brewery felt the need to explain the resignation of their auditor in a way which did not put their financial soundness or management probity into question. So the matter was for them somewhat delicate, and may explain, but does not excuse, their blaming William for their own decision. No doubt, too, they felt strongly about the new law: they believed their business to be threatened. The company results for 1908 lend some credence to these fears: the turnover of their main brewery business was down by a sixth (£72,000 to £60,000) from the previous year, and while costs were well controlled, profit had suffered; and most of that was due on fixed interest charges. Thus, anxiety fuelled their political antagonism.

But William, too, was anxious. He was a Liberal, dependent entirely on the goodwill of businessmen, who at that time overwhelmingly owned the businesses they ran. Businessmen are generally Conservative, and William's concern that the Brewery directors' "judgment" that "unless the political opinions of the auditors are in harmony with their own he cannot satisfactorily discharge his professional duty to the Shareholders" would be more widely held, comes through in his letter. There is no evidence, however, that the affair had any wider repercussions for his firm.

Today one might feel that William would have thought twice about continuing as auditor for the company in such circumstances. Although there is no evidence that, unlike his in-laws, he thought drinking alcohol was in itself immoral, he was a committed supporter of the Temperance movement and of the Government's proposed legislation. But these Victorian gentlemen were brought up to believe that any suggestion that one's professional conduct would be affected by one's politics was a comment on one's personal integrity and so not to be in any way admitted. Clearly this is how William felt and was thus very angry with the company.

John Hamilton, William Robert's grandson.



The original heliochronometer,
1930s © Notts County Council

THE HELIOCHRONOMETERS AT RUFFORD ABBEY – remembering King Edward VII

A heliochronometer is an extremely precise form of sundial which applies corrections to the time according to the sun to give a very accurate reading of the mean time as shown by ordinary clocks and watches. A well-maintained heliochronometer will give the clock time with a precision of a few seconds. Before the days of radio time signals, in many parts of the world, the only way of setting clocks was by means of a heliochronometer. Over a thousand of the instruments were made and distributed all over the British Empire and to other parts of the world. Production of heliochronometers by the instrument makers Negretti and Zambra only ceased in around 1913. There is an example of a heliochronometer in the garden at Bromley House Library.

Rufford Abbey in North Nottinghamshire was originally a Cistercian religious house. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries the building passed to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and his wife Bess of Hardwick and then to the Savile family. The second Baron Savile was a close friend of King Edward VII, and the King and Queen Alexandra were frequent visitors to Rufford. The King died in 1910 and Lord Savile was apparently heartbroken. In memory of his old friend, Lord Savile had a small pillar erected in the Rose Garden at Rufford, bearing the words "In memory of King Edward VII. Though the voice is hushed, his wondrous spell is in our hearts." Lord Savile also purchased a Gibbs-Pilkington heliochronometer, reportedly at a cost of ten guineas, and had it installed on the pillar.



The finely decorated baseplate of the new heliochronometer

When Rufford Abbey was sold in 1938, its contents were auctioned. One lot is described in the sales catalogue as 'Rose Garden. Lot 2913. A bronze sundial on stone pedestal with escutcheon tablet and inscription'. The 'bronze sundial' was sold but the pillar was left behind.

Rufford Abbey is currently owned by the Nottinghamshire County Council. In 2009, the Council decided to restore the Rose Garden at Rufford. Unfortunately, the site of the original rose garden is uncertain, so a new rose garden was created. The original pillar with the memorial to King Edward VII was found and it was decided to install a modern heliochronometer on it. The job of making the

instrument was given to Mr John Gunning of Petersfield, Hampshire. Amongst the requirements for the new instrument were that it should be made in stainless steel, not the more valuable (and stealable) bronze or brass and should be vandal-proof. This precluded the traditional mechanism which converted solar time to clock time and is, by its nature, vulnerable. Mr Gunning's design uses a much simpler (but less precise) means of converting solar to mean time but is very elegant with a lovely flower design on the main plate. So, Rufford now has its memorial to King Edward VII restored. Please go and look at it next time you visit Rufford.

With thanks to Philip Jones and Linda Hardy for their help with this article.



The new heliochronometer in situ in the new Rose Garden at Rufford Abbey

John Wilson

Post-Script – I presented a paper on the Rufford heliochronometers at the British Sundial Society annual conference recently. During discussions, a member said that he believed that Queen Alexandra had an interest in sundials and had installed a heliochronometer at Windsor Castle. Could it have been the Queen's interest that inspired Lord Savile to use a heliochronometer as part of his memorial to the late King? – a research topic for someone, perhaps?

INFORMATION SOUGHT

1 Did any of your relatives emigrate to Canada in the 1880s? One of our members is interested in obtaining information about local people leaving Nottinghamshire for a new life in Canada.

2 This year is the centenary of the publication of the first book on birth control by Marie Stopes. Does anyone have any information on early birth control clinics in Nottinghamshire?

If you can help with these queries, please contact John Wilson at newsletter@thorotonsociety.org.uk.

NEWS

The Thoroton Plan Chest comes home!

Members will recall the 'Thoroton Plan Chest' which was 'discovered' by Alan Wahlers at the offices of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Society at Southwell (see article in Newsletter No 86, Winter 2016). The chest had been donated to the Society by Henry Ashwell in 1904 (see article on Henry Ashwell by George Murfit in Newsletter no 90, Winter 2017). It is pleasing to report that the plan chest has been restored by Alan Wahlers and returned to its former home at Bromley House Library, and is, appropriately, in the Thoroton Room. For those curious to know what the drawers now contain, it can be revealed that there is a collection of music scores at Bromley House which are safely stored in the Thoroton plan chest.

Southwell Community Archaeology Group

Southwell Community Archaeology Group (SCAG) has received a £10,000 Sharing Heritage grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an archaeological investigation of the gardens at Vicars Court & Orchard land on Church Street, Southwell.

The land on which Vicars Court & the Orchard stands is part of the Southwell Minster assemblage. The site lies partly within a Scheduled Ancient Monument – Roman Villa Complex and Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and is next to the site of the former Minster School. That land has been gifted to the Dean and Chapter for heritage and community use.

John Lock, the chairman of the group, says it is fitting that ten years after the group was formed to bring to public attention the risk by development to the adjoining parts of the Villa complex, that this very important piece of the wider assemblage is being investigated for the first time with the aid of the HLF grant.

This is a multi-disciplinary project being undertaken with the agreement and support of the Dean and Chapter and under professional guidance and involvement with Historic England and the County Archaeologist. In addition to its research potential the project will further enhance and develop the skills and understanding of SCAG members.

The project brings together a wide range of objectives, the aim of which is to add to the tantalising but incomplete record of the history of the land. Wherever appropriate, members of the group and the wider community will be engaged in the following activities:

- I. A visual examination and recording of the extensive unstratified archaeological material particularly with reference to 1 Vicars Court;
- II. A detailed topographical survey of the site assisted technically by Nottingham Trent University;
- III. A geophysical and remote sensing survey which it is expected will identify any anomalies in, for example, the Roman villa complex or the mediaeval Vicars Court complex
- IV. The examination and recording of extensive hitherto unrecorded architectural fragments possibly from the Bishops Palace or the Minster;
- V. The evaluation by excavation, under the supervision of Emily Gillott, Nottingham Community

Archaeologist, Dr Chris Brooke and Dr Will Bowden, of part of an extensive anomalous mound within the garden of 1 Vicars Court which may possibly represent the spoil heap from the 1959 excavations;

VI. Reconciliation of the findings with those of the Charles Daniels' 1959 excavation;

VII. The interpretation of the site as part of the wider assemblage;

VIII. Throughout the project the membership and wider community will be kept informed of the progress by the use of social media and web-based reports. Articles will be published in the local press and community paper. At the conclusion of the project there will be a public celebration event on or adjoining the project land which will include display of the material discovered and the survey work completed.

The project plan includes the preparation and publication of a popular booklet to be part of the story of Southwell for the community and visitors. If the final results are of significance a peer-reviewed paper will be offered for consideration as a publication in the *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*.

Sherwood Forest Archaeology and History project

In 2018 the Sherwood Forest Archaeology and History Project is celebrating entering its sixth year under the leadership of Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. See our website.

<http://mercian-as.co.uk/sherwoodforest.html>

At Mercian we are extremely proud of all the work we have done so far in and around Sherwood Forest, promoting the heritage of Sherwood Forest through community involvement. Sherwood Forest is a place of myths and legends known throughout the world as the home of Robin Hood, and the Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project enables people from all walks of life to become involved in an amazing community archaeology project. The project undertakes research of the highest quality and involves people both local and from afar in researching this wonderful 'Landscape of Legends'. The project seeks to investigate, interpret and promote the heritage of Sherwood Forest and bring back a sense of the wider historic landscape. Watch this space for impending announcements regarding the "Future of Sherwood's Past"

Over the first five years of the project we have:

- Undertaken dozens of projects at King John's Palace (the former royal hunting palace at the heart of mediaeval Sherwood), Mercian's Andy Gaunt identified the landscape of Clipstone as a designed medieval romance landscape, and Mercian have revealed the size of the palace, which was previously unknown, undertaken geophysical surveys, topographic surveys, trial-trenching, test-pitting and archaeological excavation. We have trained dozens of people at our annual fieldschools - with this year's school already filling up with delegates for the summer <http://mercian-as.co.uk/fieldschool.html>, and helped to raise the profile of the site and ensure its protection for the future.

Mercian's work at King John's Palace has resulted in the extent of the protected area being reviewed to ensure future protection. After all our hard work we are very proud of this fact, and we are working tirelessly to ensure the whole palace is protected properly.

- We have dug in the village of King's Clipstone to investigate the origins of the settlement, to tie in with our research aims of understanding the settlement pattern and landscape of the Forest.
- We have dug, and surveyed at the site of Thynghowe - a Viking Meeting site at the heart of the Forest and its surrounding landscape <http://mercian-as.co.uk/thynghowesfap.html> with our friends at The Friends of Thynghowe and the Forestry Commission, including a large community excavation in 2016. The work so far has helped to reveal and interpret the scale

and importance of this potentially internationally significant site which had been overlooked and forgotten until recent time.

- We have dug in Robin Hood's village of Edwinstowe with members of the village and community volunteers from our friends at Sherwood Forest Trust. We are returning to Edwinstowe for more archaeological investigation in the early summer to tie in with the Major Oak Woodland Festival.
- We have helped in the search for the Saxon Battle of Hatfield in the village of Cuckney alongside the Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society.
<http://mercian-as.co.uk/hatfieldsfap.html>, and also helped to show that Edwinstowe was the centre of a medieval cult of St Edwin, King of Northumbria, who was killed in the battle in the year 633 http://www.mercian-as.co.uk/reports/edwinstowe_church_survey_report_2017.pdf
- We have surveyed, fieldwalked and test-pitted at the site of St Edwin's Chapel in Clipstone and begun fieldwork at the site of Edward II's fortification at Beeston Lodge known as Clipstone Peel.
- We are currently undertaking a survey of the historic woodland of Birklands and Bilhaugh (home of the Major Oak, legendary hideaway of Robin Hood) as part of the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve Survey (you can come and be a part of this survey which will run over the next 5 years http://mercian-as.co.uk/intro_days.html#birklands). This project uses LiDAR data from the Friends of Thynghowe to inform walkover survey, with every feature discovered being photographed and recorded. The project will continue in March with a survey training session http://www.mercian-as.co.uk/training_days.html, mapping in high detail military pits, medieval holloways, ridge and furrow and possible WWII building platforms. We hope to include geophysical surveys and more into this exciting project soon.
- As part of the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve Survey we are also surveying the ancient heathland of Budby Common to the north of Birklands wood for the RSPB. This initial level one survey is recording hitherto unknown boundary banks and ditches, lots of ridge and furrow, and trackways and holloways. The first phase of research is already changing the interpretation for the heath.

Andy Gaunt. Director, Mercian Archaeological Services CIC

The Chilwell Explosion 1918

Members may be interested in the following events to commemorate the tragedy:

Wednesday 20 June 7.30pm Chilwell Memorial Institute

John Beckett: *'The Chilwell Explosion 1918 revisited'* (Beeston & District Local History Society)

Monday 25 June` 7.30pm St Mary's Church Attenborough

Maureen Rushton *'The Canary Girls of Chilwell' – the story of Chilwell Shell Factory*

Tuesday 26 June 6.30pm Attenborough Nature Reserve

Mike Spencer leads a walk around the Nature Reserve *'Chilwell Explosion Memorial Nature Walk'*

Wednesday 27 June evening St Mary's Church Attenborough

Combined Choirs Concert

Thursday 28 June 2.30pm Chetwynd Barracks

James McClusky *'Chilwell, the Chetwynd period No 6 NSFF 1915 to 1918'*

Thursday 28 June 6.30pm Attenborough

John Beckett will lead a historic walk around Attenborough starting at St Mary's Church (Beeston and District Civic Society)

Friday 29 June 7.30pm Chetwynd Barracks

Arletty Theatre perform a play 'Swan canaries'

Saturday 30 June from 2.00pm St Mary's Church grounds Attenborough

Period Tea Party with jazz band

Sunday 1 July A short parade with the Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers to St Mary's Church Attenborough for commemoration Service with short silence at 7.10 to 7.12pm

The End of Basford and District Local History Society

At an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting on November 22nd 2017 it was decided to disband the Society as laid down in its constitution. It was a unanimous but sad decision by the few members left, due to a fall in membership for years, resignations from the Committee coupled with a lack of replacement nominees, deaths and the lack of interest shown by younger people.

The Society was formed in 1984 by Karl Routledge-Wilson, Brenda Summers, Yvette Pollitt and Margaret Gardner, with Keith Train agreeing to be President. Subsequently, Rueben Carlisle, Alf Bowley and Bill Russell also filled this post. Stan Smith, a well-known figure in local history and writing circles, became Chairman in 1987 following the resignation of Dennis Cooke, and remained so until his death in 2016. Stan was the leading light in the Society for all these years, hiring speakers for the monthly meetings, arranging trips and editing the *Basford Bystander*. This is the Basford and District newspaper he introduced which is issue every other month. It covers Old and New Basford, Aspley, Cinderhill, Hyson Green, Carrington, Sherwood, Radford, Broxtowe, Bulwell, Highbury Vale &c. It contains local news, nostalgic memories and more serious local history articles and is thought to be unique in the county as an adjunct to a local history society.

Brenda Summers was the Secretary until her untimely death in 2001, when Christine Smith, Stan's wife, took over. She remained in the post until the very end and will continue to edit the *Bystander* for as long as possible. Yvette Pollitt served as Treasurer for the whole of the Society's existence. Bill Clarke was the official Photographer and gave slide shows to other societies, always donating his fee to Basford History Society. He and Alf Bowley were also regular members of the Thoroton Society.

The Society's members produced several publications, including Basford Probate Inventories from 1821-51, *The Green – A Journey Through Time* (about Hyson Green) and *Basford between the Wars 1919-1939*. Nine members under the editorship of Alf Bowley contributed to the latter. The *Moores of Old Basford*, *George Pallant's Basford and Cinderhill*, *Bystander Cream* (the best of issues 1-10 of the *Bystander*) and *Bystander Bulwell* were edited by Ztan Zmith (Stan's pen-name).

At first, the winter meetings from September to May were held at Vernon Road Library, but when that became unsatisfactory the Society were offered the Clover Green Community Room, Old Basford. In the summer months, trips were organised to local areas such as those with Peter Hammond, and further afield such as the one to Chesterfield with Alf Bowley and to Lincoln with the late Jack Cupit. Sadly, there was little interest in these outings in later years.

Christine Smith will continue to publish the *Basford Bystander* and requests that anyone who has memories they would like to share to contact her at 44 Cherry Tree Close, Brinsley, Nottingham NG16 5BA, telephone 01773 783009.

Terry Fry

The members of the Basford Local History Society generously donated £186.90 to the Thoroton Society on winding up the Basford society. This money will be put towards the page costs of a suitable article in a future issue of the Thoroton Transactions – Ed.

ANNIVERSARIES

100 years ago

The privations of the war meant that the Thoroton Society could undertake only a short half-day visit in 1918, this being to Edwalton, on Tuesday 25th June. About fifty members were entertained to tea by Jesse Hind Esq., JP in the garden of his house in the village. They then visited the small but interesting Church of the Holy Rood, where Mr Harry Gill read a paper on the history of the Church.

150 years ago

On 8th June 1868, 'the first sod of Clifton Colliery was turned by Lady Clifton, in the presence of many thousands of persons, on which occasion a silver spade was presented to Her Ladyship by the Independent Society of Nottingham as a token of respect.' [*Does anyone know what became of the silver spade? Is it still in existence? – Ed*]

On 28th July 1868 'one of the most extraordinary fires ever known in this neighbourhood broke out on the Trent-side, caused by the extreme dryness of the season'. On seeing the fire, Police Sergeant Walker from the Trent Bridge Police station climbed a tree and broke off several boughs which were used by bystanders to attempt to douse the flames. The steam fire engine arrived and directed a steady stream of water onto the flames which were soon extinguished. 'The fields, seven in number, through which the fire had passed presented a very peculiar appearance, with not a single blade of perfect grass to be seen. Many trees were half-burned down. This was an exceedingly dry summer, the driest since the drought of 1826'.
– Nottingham Date Book

170 years ago

On 7th July 1848, THE LINCOLNSHIRE CHRONICLE and Northampton, Rutland and Nottingham Advertiser carried the following news item:

'On Thursday the 29th ult. [June] a very heavy tornado passed over the village of Winkburn about 12 o'clock at noon, which, though it did not last more than two minutes, did considerable damage to property. It appears to have come in a westerly direction and tore up a number of trees by the roots and lopped the tops in several places, before it made any appearance in the village. Upon entering Winkburn, it took a quantity of tiles off the barn and outbuildings of Mr Sumer, farmer, as well as doing much damage to the roof of his house: it afterwards entered the garden of Mr Sampson, farmer, and took off the tops and boughs from a number of trees, and did other injury, it also removed a light from a cucumber frame a distance of twenty yards. It then entered the farmyard and damaged all the outbuildings by removing the tiles &c., also removing the stacks of straw, the waggons, carts &c. in all directions; one wagon was removed a distance of 50 yards. It completely levelled the barn, doing serious damage to a thrashing machine which was within: the damage to the barn and machine is estimated at upwards of £60. Fortunately, there was no-one about except a man-servant by the name of Joseph Ball, who was in the stack-yard at the time, and was seriously injured about his heel by a tile falling upon it: he has since been unable to work and has been removed

home. A large bough was blown down from a tree which overhung the stables of E. P. Burnell Esq. and did much damage to the slates of the roof &c.; several trees in the park were also torn up and boughs forced off from others. A labouring man, having on a smock-frock, was standing in the park at the time, and was taken up into a tree, where he caught hold of a bough, and alighted again without sustaining any damage. There was not a house in the village but what was most seriously shaken, and it is believed that the roofs of several will have to be replaced with new ones. The inhabitants were much alarmed, and every one deserted their houses through fear, and to view the destruction which had taken place’.

Many thanks to Keith Fisher for this piece. Keith notes: do we give credence to the tale of the unnamed labourer being blown up into a tree because of his smock? Was it a Newark Blue Smock?

[No reason not to give credence. A similar event took place in Sneinton in 1785. See Thoroton Newsletter no 74, Winter 2013 – Ed.]

200 years ago

From the 12th May to the end of the month, ‘the town was enlivened by the extraordinary circumstance of three candidates in the Whig interest canvassing the town simultaneously, in anticipation of a general election’. The three candidates were Mr Denman, Mr Birch and Lord Rancliffe, who was the sitting member. The only Tory candidate was Thomas Assheton Smith Esq, who was nominated by Dr Storer [of the Nottingham General Hospital] and Francis Hardwicke Esq. At the ensuing election ‘the contest was one of the most exciting on record, and both sides exerted themselves to the utmost possible extent. It was attended by a great amount of drunkenness and disorder, breaking of windows, blue and yellow fights in the streets, intimidation and other party animosities’. The Whigs won with Lord Rancliffe having a majority of just 23. After the election, around three hundred Whig supporters dined together in the Exchange Hall. However, the other side resolved to petition Parliament for a scrutiny. The petition was duly presented, and a committee of the House appointed to enquire into its merits. However, In March 1819, when the committee met, they came to a resolution that the petition was informal, and Lord Rancliffe declared duly elected. However, ‘the petition is understood to have been the joint production of no less than twenty-two attorneys, and would doubtless have been much more carefully worded had there been only two or three’.

On September 28th, 1818, ‘a calamity of the most appalling description’ occurred at a wharf belonging to the Nottingham Boat Company. A boat had, that morning, arrived from Gainsborough with a general cargo. Part of the cargo consisted of twenty-one barrels of gunpowder, each containing about 100lb, which were destined for the mining industry in Derbyshire. The three crewmen proceeded to unload the gunpowder when one of the barrels broke open and about three or four pounds of gunpowder spilled onto the wharf. Hezekiah Riley, the captain, put as much of the powder back in the barrel as he could, but there was some powder mixed in with the general dirt on the wharf. A passer-by, one James Musson of Edingley, obtained a burning coke from a nearby ship and, shouting, ‘Look lads, I’m going to have a flush!’ dropped the coke onto the residue of gunpowder on the wharf. Unfortunately, ‘the result was awful. The “flush” being doubtless connected with the barrels by a small train [of powder], the whole exploded and Musson, with nine others were in a moment utterly destroyed.’ ‘The loss of property, though secondary to the loss of life, was immense. The explosion was heard at Ratcliffe, Bingham, Loughborough, Alfreton, Loscoe and even at Newark’. A liberal public subscription was immediately raised for the relief of the families of the unfortunate sufferers.

On December 23rd, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall 'to consider the propriety of petitioning the House of Commons to repeal the Corn Act passed by the late parliament.' During 1818 and for much of the following year, the framework-knitting population suffered very severe privation, arising from the absence of employment. To mitigate this distress, a public subscription was raised in December and January, amounting to above £3,000. The committee gave relief to nearly 3,500 families by periodically distributing tickets, to the value of 4d each, exchangeable for meat, bread, flour, Scotch barley, potatoes or coal. - Nottingham Date Book

YOUR SOCIETY

New Members

Dr Rowena Edlin-White	Mr L Meaden
Mrs Carole Pimblett	Mrs Anthea Popplestone
Ms Elizabeth Clifton	Miss Helen Swift
Mr Scott Lomax	Mr James Woodcock
Mr Alan Marshall	Mrs Jessie Woodhouse
Mrs Emma Mason	

We welcome all these new members to the Society and hope they will have many happy years with us.

Obituaries

The Revd John Alan Banks

Sadly, we have to report that another of our faithful members has died. John Banks was a Nottingham boy who attended the Nottingham High School and then ministered to various parishes in the county all his life, apart from a brief spell in Oxford. He was an interested historian, especially in the history of Nottinghamshire, which led to his membership of the Thoroton Society.

John was born in Sherwood and worshipped originally at Saint Martin's Church, before pursuing his Theology Studies at Oxford University, and at Westcott House Theological College. Ordained in 1958, John's first post was at Warsop (1958-1961). He served for three years in the parish of Saint Aldgate and Holy Trinity, Oxford, before being appointed to Ollerton and Boughton for eleven years. He became Rector of St Leonard's Wollaton from 1975 to 1983. After a period of ill-health, John helped at Bramcote and Arnold parishes until he retired in 1995.

John was much loved wherever he was; he was a people person and was always deeply interested in other people, especially those who were facing mental difficulties in their lives. His preaching was always passionate about the Gospel, a love which he always radiated in his life. He was a faithful priest and was much influenced by the example of the saintly Bishop of Southwell, Russell Barry, who often figured somewhere in John's sermons, as did his love for cricket. He led the Diocesan Cricket team for a number of years.

John died peacefully on 1st February and leaves a widow Sue, and three sons, one of whom is also a priest. His funeral service was held at Ravenshead, where a very large congregation mirrored representatives from most of the parishes where he had served.

Alan Langton

We are also sad to report the deaths of the following members:

John Bailey; Marjorie Clay-Dove; Audrey Morrell and Audrey Okrafo-Smart

General Data Protection Regulation

The General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR as it's known) is a piece of legislation that will come into effect on 25 May 2018. All companies, institutions, organisations, societies, groups and other associations that hold personal data have to comply with the new regulations. You will probably have already been contacted by your bank, clubs and others about this.

As an organisation comprised wholly of Members, the Thoroton Society has a justified and legal right to hold your personal information and use it for Society purposes – after all we could not tell you about lectures, excursions and other events, or send you the quarterly *Newsletter* and annual *Transactions* without it. We do not need to ask for your permission to do this.

About two-thirds of Members receive the *eBulletin* roughly twice a month. Anyone can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of the message. But to comply with the new legislation we do have to get your explicit permission. Consequently, in a couple of weeks everyone on our existing mailing list will get a message with a link asking you to confirm that you are happy to continue receiving the *eBulletin*. If you do not respond to the message you will be taken off the mailing list.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR 'JUNK' OR 'SPAM' FOLDERS IN CASE THE *eBULLETIN* GETS REDIRECTED.

Finally, under the new legislation, the Society is required to publish a 'Privacy Notice' outlining what information we keep and how we use it. After this has been given final approval it will be published on the Thoroton website. You can request a hard copy by contacting the Membership Secretary: membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk

Judith Mills

BOOKSHELF

'What buys a king's shilling?'

by Terence Woolley

Terence Woolley Publications £7.99 ISBN 978-0-9576599-4-0.

This latest book by Terence Woolley is set during the early nineteenth century, and is about an army lieutenant, Joshua Kerry, who has grown up in Nottingham before he 'gained the king's shilling' by joining the army. The first third of the book is set in India where his company is supervising the safety of the East India Company, and the last two thirds of the book take place in and around Nottingham. This is quite an exciting book ranging from army life in India during the Napoleonic wars, followed by life in Nottingham and surrounding villages where the leaders of the framework knitters have reached the end of their patience with their employers, a mood which later was to erupt in the Luddite Riots. Almost an account of 'out of the frying pan into the fire'!

Woolley's knowledge of the old geography of the city of Nottingham and his descriptive prowess are able to paint a vivid picture of the contrasting poverty and wealth of a divided society. He also describes movingly the violence of the outburst of criminal damage aimed at the wealthy managers of the poor framework knitters as they strove against the unemployment caused by the growth of machinery and their abysmally low wages. Woolley's descriptions of a soldier's life in India at the time, and of the abject poverty of people who had no means of paying for medicines or for food when times were hard, and of the inhuman nature of justice at the time are movingly documented in the book.

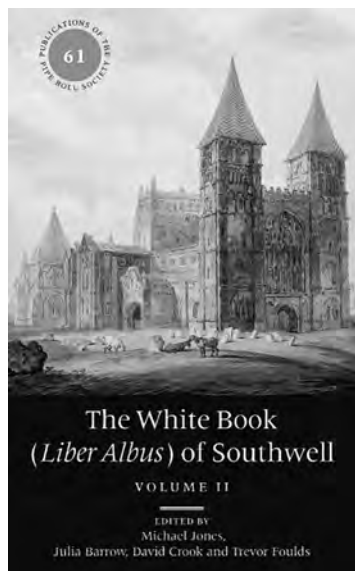
This is not meant to be a learned history book. It is a fast-moving historical novel in which the concern of the hero (Josh) to get back to his Indian wife and child is intermingled with the traumas of contemporary early nineteenth century life of his family in Nottinghamshire. As is true for many novels, this book ends happily with justice being done to the criminals, Josh's concerns for his Nottingham

relations are eased, and he is sent back to his company in Madras where he is reunited with his wife and child.

An exciting read, although a few items of proof reading are required in its printing. Disentangling some of the names of the different gangs of machine-wreckers can also be quite challenging.

Alan Langton

JUST PUBLISHED: SAVE 25%



The White Book (*Liber Albus*) of Southwell: Two-volume set,

Edited by Michael Jones, Julia Barrow, David Crook & Trevor Foulds, with contributions from Neil Bettridge, Jean Cameron, Paul Cavill and Teresa Webber.

This is the first complete edition of an invaluable and extensive collection of medieval documents compiled between c.1350 and 1460 and which ranges from papal bulls to royal charters to the privileges granted by many archbishops of York. Thanks to their great variety, the documents are important not simply for ecclesiastical history but for broader social and economic trends in medieval Nottinghamshire either side of the Black Death.

Published by Boydell & Brewer for the Pipe Roll Society, the two volumes run to 944 pages and include two colour and 14 black and white illustrations. Its published price is £100 but members may order with a special 25% discount and pay **£75 plus £3.70 p&p.**

Order online at <https://boydell.co/2q4QT4b> and enter code **BB584** at the checkout or call Boydell's distributor, Wiley, on 01243 843 291 and quote the same code. If you have any queries please email marketing@boydell.co.uk

Buildings in the Broadmarsh Area of Nottingham: An Architectural and Historical Investigation

by John Minnis

Historic England, Research Report No. 60/2017

This report was commissioned by Historic England as part of its Heart of Nottingham Heritage Action Zone project, undertaken in partnership with Nottingham City Council.

This extremely detailed report concerns the buildings within a single block of the Broadmarsh



Former Petrol station on Canal Street

Area bounded by Carrington Street, Canal Street, Greyfriars Gate and Collin Street. It begins with a brief history of the original development of this area in the 1820s as largely back-to-back housing, though it concentrates its attention on the surviving buildings which were all redeveloped between 1890 and 1935 as commercial premises. These clearly reflect the social changes that characterised this period as they include a petrol station and a dancehall.

Each of the 8 separate buildings is then discussed in detail, first with a brief outline of their history, then a description of their façades, and interior (where permitted) and the method

of their construction. Each building is then summarised and its place in the wider general development of the architecture of the period is discussed. For example, the design of Gordon House (6-12 Carrington Street) is based on the design of the recently completed Selfridge's Store on Oxford Street.

The report is lavishly illustrated using many of the drawings provided for their original planning applications, now in the Nottinghamshire Archives, and with good quality colour photographs of not only their familiar facades but also of their rarely seen rear elevations and where possible their interiors.

This report will be of interest to all concerned with the conservation, history and development of Nottingham. It is only to be regretted that such detailed surveys cannot be provided for all parts of the city. The report is downloadable as a pdf from the Historic England website.

Pete Smith

The Chairmakers of Worksop
Michael J. Jackson
Worksop Archaeological and Local Historical Society

Worksop Archaeology and Local History Society have recently published an excellent volume which is a must for all enthusiasts of locally made artisan furniture and, in particular, local craftspeople.

"The Chairmakers of Worksop", compiled and written by Michael J Jackson, is a comprehensive history of a now lost craft which flourished in Worksop – that of chair-making. The



Chair with backstamp from the workshop of Elizabeth Gabbitas

book is a 50-page volume which represents many years of research on the chair making industry in Worksop, a town little known as a centre for this craft. It contains a full list of Worksop chairmakers and the years they were actively producing chairs. The last recorded chairmaker was John Kelk who carried on until the early 20th century; he and his work grace the front cover of the book — a fitting tribute to woodcraft now largely disappeared.

Chair making in the town began around 1820 with John Gabbitas setting up in his workshop in Worksop's Common End, now Victoria Square. There are still members of the Gabbitas family living locally. John employed workmen who themselves, with his expert tuition, would also become craftsmen. These included Isaac Allsop, Benjamin Gilling and John and Joe Godfrey. All produced chairs of quality in local elm and ash, with the chairs often marked with the maker's name.

Michael was a long-time and well-known member of the Thoroton Society until his death in 2017, which occurred just as this book was going to print: this is a fitting memorial to a great historian and advocate for the town of Worksop. The book is available at a cost of £10, including postage and packaging. To buy a copy send a cheque payable to WALHS (Worksop Archaeological and Local Historical Society) to Harry Richardson, 3 Newcastle Court, Tuxford NG22 0GY.

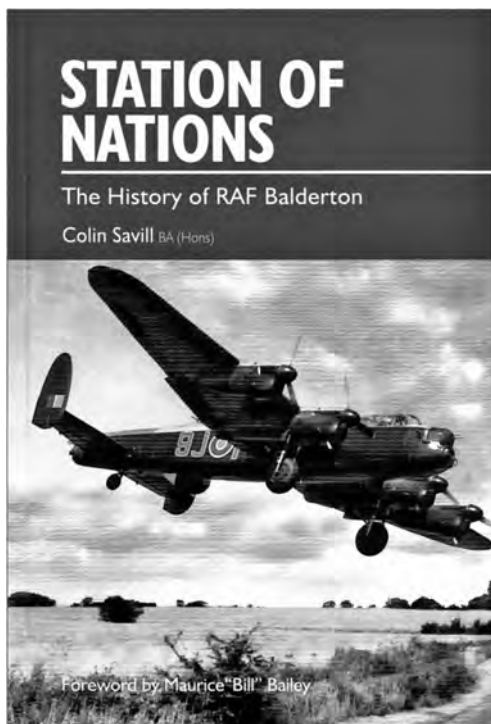
Barbara Cast

Station of Nations: the history of RAF Balderton

By Colin Savill BA

Newark Air Museum 2018 £17 ISBN 978-1-9996353-0-5

Balderton, just to the south of Newark, was mentioned in the Domesday Book and for centuries was a small farming community. Prior to the onset of World War 2 there was a rapid expansion of the Royal Air Force and many new airfields were needed. Land around Balderton was requisitioned for use by the Air Ministry in 1939 and a number of landowners lost land with little compensation. In 1941, RAF Balderton was opened as a satellite airfield for RAF Finningley with, initially, grass runways. During 1941, a tarmac perimeter track was laid.



The first 'residents' of RAF Balderton were no. 25 OTU (Operational Training Unit) which acted as a 'finishing school' for aircrew flying Handley-Page Hampden bombers. Various other units followed. The book details the stories of the squadrons and other units who were based at Balderton, and personal stories of many aircrew. Many of the individual stories are deeply moving. For example, on Saturday 16th August 1941 a Hampden bomber crashed into a row of houses on London Road, Balderton, killing two of the crew and six children who were sleeping in their home.

Other units at Balderton included Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons. By late 1943, the US Air Force were present at Balderton, which was one of twelve RAF stations to house the Douglas C-47 (Dakota) and the gliders they would tow for airborne assault, including for D-Day, 6th June 1944. Later that year, Lancaster bombers were based at Balderton.

The author of this fascinating book is a trustee of the Newark Air Museum. After service in the RAF he became an engineer. The material for the book was researched by the RAF Balderton Research Group and they have done an excellent job. Through this book, the service of all those who were based at RAF Balderton can be remembered. Many of them did not come back from their missions.

BOOKS FOR SALE

A member of the Society has the following books for sale:

Transactions 1918, 1922, 1931, 1939. All Hardback copies

£5.00 each

Annals of Newark Upon Trent 1879 by Cornelius Brown

350 pages. Green and gold special edition

£50.00 ONO

Sherwood Forest 1908 by Joseph Rodgers

£40.00 ONO

For further information, please contact the Editor at newsletter@thorotonsociety.org.uk who will put you in contact with the seller.

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: wilsonicus@btinternet.com

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £25.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £15.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £35.00

Institutional Ordinary membership £25.00

Institutional Record Section £20.00 (non-UK £24)

RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact for details: John Wilson email: wilsonicus@btinternet.com

RESPONSE GROUP

The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County.

If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Barbara Cast - contact details above.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

A group of researchers continuing the VCH of Nottinghamshire. For information and to join the group contact the County Editor, Philip Riden at philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume which is distributed to all members.

The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public.

Quarterly Newsletters are circulated to every member.

LECTURES

Lectures, unless stated otherwise in the programme booklet, are held at the Nottingham Mechanics, 3, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with the Bookstall open from 2 p.m.

DEADLINES for Newsletter items are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November of each year.

Copy should be sent to the EDITOR, John Wilson, 38 Stuart Close, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8AE
email wilsonicus@btinternet.com

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

All copyright remains with the author and photographer. No item may be reproduced without the express permission of the author and Newsletter editor. Due regard for copyright issues must be given when sourcing items for illustration.

Acknowledgement of authorship and photographer will be given where this information is known.

All views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily shared by the Thoroton Society, its officers or Council members.

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



The Spring Meeting
Clockwise from top left: Professor John Becket with our Speaker, Dr Tom Smith; members thumb through their copies of *Transactions*; a splendid tea was served; with superb cakes; all supervised by a swan made from apple!



Lord and lady Savile with their weekend guests, including King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, at Rufford c. 1905 See article on page 6 © Picture the Past