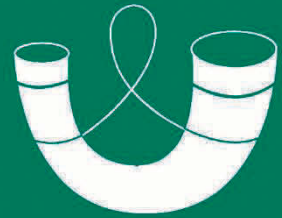


THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society

Issue 103

Spring 2021



Photograph: Dr Christopher Brooke

Worksop Priory

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

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

FIRST THOROTON EVENT FOR 2021 THE LECTURE BY PROFESSOR JOHN BECKETT

Antiquities, Archaeology and History of Nottinghamshire 1897-2022 (9 January 2021)

The Thoroton Society was relatively late on the scene, insofar as county historical and archaeological societies are concerned, only arriving within touching distance of the end of the nineteenth century. However, as we approach our 125th anniversary in 2022, the Society can reflect that it has made rapid strides in all aspects of its work during its subsequent history. The Society's by-now traditional programme of lectures, excursions, and publications – notably its annual volume of *Transactions*, and fifty volumes in its Record Series – makes it amongst the most enduring and well-respected county societies in the country.

Much of the achievement for the high reputation which the Society enjoys today is due, in no small measure, to the leadership and initiatives pursued during John Beckett's long tenure as Chair of Council (1992-2020). Who better then, to take a historian's look back at an organisation with which he has been involved over many decades, than a man who has contributed so much to its current success?

John's presentation was doubly fitting in reviewing the history and achievements of the Society in the context of launching a new departure: the Society's first ZOOM event. Whilst the experience can be disconcerting for the speaker, who lacks much active sense of the audience's reaction, it was clear from the wide range of reflections and comments which John's talk generated, that all those who had 'tuned in' for the occasion appreciated its characteristically high-quality research and accessible delivery. Pleasingly, the event gathered a truly global audience, with one participant staying up late in Thailand for the purpose!

The lecture was the first to be given in memory of Rosalys Coope, who died in December 2018. The Society's decision to memorialise Rosalys – a popular and influential figure in the Society for many decades – was particularly appropriate, given that 2021 is the centenary of her birth. Whilst we are unable to be at Epperstone for the Spring Meeting this year, we plan to be there in 2022 to recognise Rosalys' influence and example, not least as President of the Society. As John has been encouraged to submit his lecture for publication in *Transactions*, it would be invidious to try and summarise it here. However, one notable take-away is how the Society has used significant anniversaries in its own history – notably the golden anniversary in 1947 – to take stock of its purpose, its organisation, and its goals. As the incoming Chair of Council, this is an example which I hope we can emulate as we enter our sesquicentenary year. Whatever the future holds for the Society, we remain fortunate that John Beckett continues to be available to give us counsel and advice, as one of the Society's Vice-Presidents.

Richard A. Gaunt

(Images below and on the next page provided by John Beckett with the help of James Wright.)



Golden Jubilee, University of Nottingham, June 1947. Left to right back row: A.C. Wood, L.V.D. Owen (eds), John Holland Walker, Hon Sec., W.A. Potter, President. Seated: GNF Reddan (Hon Treasurer), J Bramley, F.E. Burton, and T.M. Blagg, guest of honour as a founding member of the Thoroton Society.

Image 1 shows the Society's officers, and also in the picture is Blagg, fifty years on from image 2 on the next page. It was first published in *Transactions*, LI (1947)



Rufford 1898. The figure on the extreme left in a bowler hat is Cornelius Brown; next to him stands the late Col. Mellish of Hodsock, and the fourth figure above the bicycle wheel, is Robert Mellors, above him Mr Ashwell; the bearded figure near the centre wearing a soft hat is W.P.W. Phillimore, next to him, in clerical collar, Rev J Standish; then in Norfolk jacket, with coat on arm, the present writer; above his left shoulder the Rev. T Swann of Orston, and below him, seated, F.A. Wadsworth (in bowler hat) and old Mr Robert White of Worksop in a wide-awake hat. Above and to the right is Mrs Williams of Bleasby and her husband the Rev H.L Williams (with heavy beard) and above and between them is seen the head of the Rev. F Broadhurst of Heath. After him, with black moustache, the Rev R Jowett.... Behind Mr Williams's left shoulder is F.R Pickerill; while last but one on the right of the picture, rather hidden by a lady's hat, is Mr William Scorer of Lincoln, Diocesan Architect. He and Mr Mellors both lived to be well over 90 and Robert White nearly as long

Image 2 – it has a caption but for your information this image appeared in Transactions and is the only known early image of the Society on an excursion. Tom Blagg annotated it with the names. He had been at the first meeting of the Society and can be seen in the middle of the picture looking very young!

THOROTON SOCIETY NEWS

News from the Editor

Some Recent Sad News. (I hope to include fuller obituaries in the Summer Newsletter)

Mary Greatorex died in her nineties in January. She and her husband Stan were regular Thorotonians at the Saturday lectures until Stan died some years ago.

Cynthia Whitt died suddenly and unexpectedly on the 25th January. She was a member for a number of years and attended the lectures regularly, until failing eyesight prevented her from doing so. Despite the eyesight and increasing mobility issues, she enjoyed attending the Annual Luncheon and was last at the Kelham lunch in 2019.

Ivan Morrell died also in January. Ivan provided the Newsletter with a series of interesting articles over the years, most recently in the Autumn edition 2019.

The Cover Photograph

The photograph of the Interior of Worksop Priory on the cover of this Newsletter, which Dr Christopher Brooke has given me permission to use, will hopefully encourage members to write pieces about Church History for future Newsletters. As Editor I would like to include a regular series of articles on some Nottinghamshire Church History in future issues of the Newsletter.

Apologies:

David Crook has contacted me to say that the Photograph of the Memorial on Cornelius Brown's grave, which was on the front cover of the Winter Edition, was obtained by David from a picture taken by David Carrington, which first appeared in Salon, the online newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Apologies for not including this with the photograph in the Winter Newsletter.

Pete Smith wrote to apologise: 'In my Review of the latest Pevsner, *Buildings of England, Nottinghamshire* by Clare Hartwell in the Winter Newsletter, I mistakenly referred to the photographer Martine Hamilton Knight as Martine Hamilton Wright.'

Paul Baker

Alan Langton

As already recorded in previous Newsletters, Alan has retired from organising Excursions although I know he will continue to be available for help and advice, and will no doubt join as a participant on excursions. Alan stepping down from his role after so many years has spurred me to read again John Beckett's 'Thoroton Society - A Commemoration of its first 100 Years' to look for early history of excursions. I came across this description of a Society's early excursion. '*In 1898 the Society paid its first visit north of the county. Alighting at Mansfield, the members were taken in five large brakes to Edwinstowe for lunch. They were squeezed into the 'Major Oak', twelve at a time, before moving to Rufford, the site of the first Society photograph. The programme on this occasion proved too ambitious. Visits to Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse churches had to be abandoned, and the party was able to visit only Warsop, before it was time for tea and the journey home.*' It brought home to me how organisation and not trying to squeeze too much into the day are so important (and making sure we all sat down to lunch together!). Alan was always able to do this and allow time for everyone to get the most out of the excursions organised over so many years. Thank you, Alan, from us all and we look forward to seeing you on future excursions.

Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman wrote the following: 'We have enjoyed organising outings for the Thoroton Society for a number of years and we always had great encouragement and good advice from Alan. He was always there to discuss the financial details and to our relief, took over the booking of the coaches, the sending out of forms to members and collecting the money. He also, armed with cheques from John Wilson, paid the bills. (see photograph of Alan and John on the back cover.) Alan came on all the outings and was a reassuring presence (it is always somewhat nerve-racking on the day!) Alan loved also (with permission of course) to play the organ in any church we visited which had one. Margaret and Penny would therefore like to offer many thanks to Alan for all his hard work, support and friendship'.

Paul Baker

Thoroton Society Events – Update, Spring 2021

Following the extension of restrictions into the first few months of 2021, the Society moved to alternative delivery methods for the Winter programme of presentations. Thanks to the help and assistance offered by Council Member James Wright, we are now using the Zoom platform for events until at least the end of April. After the success of the debut presentation by our recently-retired Chair, Professor John Beckett, we have further refined the provisional programme shown in the last Newsletter as can be seen below. We are now working on the assumption that organised outdoor and well-spaced events will begin to be allowed during the early Summer. Although there is still the possibility of some events being changed at short notice, we are hopeful that a constructive programme can still be delivered. All events will be publicised using the Thoroton e-bulletin and the Thoroton website and, where they are required, electronic links to our adopted booking system, Eventbrite, will be included.

Continuing Programme for 2021 – subject to change at short notice

Lectures by Zoom

Sat. 13 February	Dr Anna Scott	Pilgrim Roots & Mayflower 400 (Postponed from 2020)
Sat. 13 March	Gareth Davies	Nottingham Castle Archaeology (Postponed from 2020)

Lectures face-to-face (still provisional, pending easing of restrictions)

Sat. 9 October	Nigel Lowey	George Gilbert Scott
Sat. 13 November	Dr Richard Bullock	Elizabethan & Stuart revenue collection (Postponed from 2020)
Sat. 11 December	Pete Smith	Country Houses & the Motor Car

Excursions

The Society is hopeful that visit events will be able to resume in 2021. With the present ban on coach travel we are now proposing a series of local visits, which members will be able to travel to by car or public transport. Provisionally arranged so far are:

Wed. 19 May	Wollaton Hall & Gardens, led by Pete Smith.
Tue. 6 July	Nottingham Castle: the new galleries, caves (optional) and grounds.

Wed. 11 August Creswell Crags: talk & tour.

Wed. 22 September Newstead Abbey & its Gardens, led by Philip Jones and Pete Smith.

Whilst there is the possibility of some restrictions still being in place, visits may be restricted in numbers and in internal access, hence the inclusion of the gardens where applicable. If restrictions are eased to a suitable level at the time, it is hoped that the visits to Nottingham Castle and Creswell Crags will allow the inclusion of lunch.

Details for each visit will be published nearer the time using the Thoroton e-bulletin.

Other Events

Sat 24 April Spring Meeting & AGM, by Zoom.

Papers for the AGM should be included with this edition of the Newsletter.

Details and links for registration will be circulated using the Thoroton e-bulletin.

Sat 25 June Special Event; Concert by City of Lincoln Waites, Southwell. (Postponed from 2020)
Provisional, pending easing of restrictions.

Sat 6 November Thoroton Lunch at Welbeck Hall, West Bridgford. (Postponed from 2020)
Provisional, pending easing of restrictions.

Contact with members

Although our principal medium for contact with all members is still the Newsletter, this does not appear with sufficient frequency to cope with changes to our programme at short notice. Recently, much use has been made of the Society's website and the e-bulletin which is currently sent to approximately 75% of members. We would urge any members that have access to email, and have not already registered, to register their details with the Membership Secretary at Membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk so that they can be added to the distribution list for the e-bulletin. Those members without access to email may wish to consider whether there is a trusted relative or friend who may consider giving consent for their details to be added to our distribution list and who could then pass on any information sent out. There are also contact details in the Newsletter which can be used to check in advance whether any event is going ahead.

David Hoskins Chair, Events sub-committee

Dr Ben Cowell, Director General, Historic Houses



Congratulations from the Thoroton Society to Dr Ben Cowell, who was appointed OBE in the New Year's (2021) Honours List. Ben did his first degree at the University of East Anglia, but for his Ph.D he moved to Nottingham where he was supervised by myself, and Professors Steve Daniels and Charles Watkins. In 1997 Ben gave the Nottinghamshire History lecture to the Thoroton Society on 'The Politics of Park Management in Nottinghamshire, c.1750-1850'. This was published in *Transactions*, volume 101 (1997), 133-44. With his Ph.D safely banked, Ben left Nottingham and worked for English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, before moving to his current post as Director General of the Historic Houses Association which represents over 1,600 important country houses in independent ownership. He has also published several books, including one entitled *The Heritage*

Obsession. Unsurprisingly, Ben has been particularly busy through 2020 and into 2021 because of the need to keep occupants safe through the coronavirus pandemic. Hopefully, we will be able to invite him back to speak to the society before too long.

John Beckett

New Member of the Thoroton Society and the Thoroton Research Group

Dr Andrea Moneta of Nottingham Trent University. Andrea is a member of Global Heritage research group and Artistic Research Centre at Nottingham Trent University. His research interests include: Nottingham, the City of Two Towns; mapping the Wall of French and English Boroughs through creative technologies to foster a link between local heritage and community engagement; workhouses and the development of creative interpretation of welfare heritage; Design for Heritage at The Nottingham Castle

John Wilson

Early Members of the Thoroton Society

2022 sees the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Thoroton Society. It is of interest to look back at our early members, particularly those who can be regarded as Founder Members, who attended (or sent apologies for) the inaugural meeting in 1897. Some went on to be significant names in the history of the Society. Others were faithful, if relatively undistinguished, members for many years. Up until 1958, the Society in fact published the names and addresses of all members in the annual *Transactions* (unthinkable nowadays with data protection concerns).

I have prepared a database of early members who were in membership for a significant number of years, to act as a resource for future research. Hopefully, we will have the biography of an Early Member, so far as it can be traced, in each issue of the Newsletter (Editor permitting!) for the foreseeable future. Professor Beckett set the ball rolling in the recent Winter issue with a fine study of the life of Cornelius Brown. If any member would be interested in participating, and researching the life of an early Thorotonian, please contact me and I will send a copy of the list from which you can choose a person to research.

John Wilson treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk

Online Support for Nottinghamshire Heritage Groups

Triskele Heritage have been awarded a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund (administered by the Heritage Fund) to help facilitate online community heritage events in Nottinghamshire during 2021.

The escalation of covid-19 cases means that it is highly unlikely that in-person meetings for groups will be able to resume for many months. This is on top of the cancellation of most programmes throughout 2020. Our local societies are the lifeblood of heritage research and outreach throughout the region and, without them operating, we risk losing interest, membership and community cohesion. A large number of societies have already shown great innovation in moving programmes of talks online. Other groups, understandably, do not have as much confidence in using platforms such as Zoom to virtually host speakers for their members. Triskele Heritage are now offering support packages to help local heritage societies to get online. The project will host a simple five step programme including the following elements:

- An initial consultation via telephone, email or video call;

- An information pack giving very clear instructions, using non-technical language and illustrations, outlining the process of hosting online meetings;

- A practical online training session.

- Access for society members to a free online talk on an aspect of the county's history.

- Follow-up support.

We hope that we can help Nottinghamshire's heritage societies to get online. Groups are invited to contact James Wright on james@triskeleheritage.com to discuss joining the enterprise.

Training will take place during February, March and April 2021.

James Wright

ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERIES IN NOTTINGHAM NEW AND OLD

A New Cave (2020)

In the summer 2020 newsletter it was reported that a possible cave had been discovered in Nottingham but that investigations had been put on hold due to the global pandemic. The feature was discovered when, due to very heavy rain early in the year, a sink hole appeared in the rear garden of the property. This had exposed a rock-cut shaft, with tool marks visible, which was roughly square shaped in plan. A large amount of the garden above had disappeared into the shaft, raising the possibility this was a cave and not simply a deeply cut pit.

The site is at the rear of a property on Friar Lane, although specific location details cannot be revealed at this time. In December the collapsed material was removed and this revealed a chamber leading off the shaft, in the opposite direction to Friar Lane, at a depth of approximately 4m below ground level. Historic maps do not provide any clues as to why a cave of this uncommon type should exist at this location. The cave must predate the 19th century building at the site, given the position of the shaft, and is probably much older than the 19th century. Documentary research will take place in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, due to the depth, and the position of the chamber, the cave could not be investigated further. However, discussions between the site owner, a structural engineer and myself enabled a solution to be found to ensure that the cave is fully protected whilst allowing the ground, and services, to be reinstated in a safe manner. The shaft will be backfilled with loose granular material and, at a level above the cave, will be capped with concrete. This will mean that should the opportunity arise in the future it will be possible to once again expose the entrance to the cave chamber. It is really encouraging that engineering solutions can be found which enable caves to be preserved whilst enabling works to be completed. Over the past few years I have worked with developers and engineers to ensure that caves are preserved and it is heartening to see such a huge change from the times when caves were all too frequently filled with concrete. With the City Council's new caves policy and forthcoming guidance for cave owners, the future of these important parts of our heritage looks much brighter.

Caves have, on a small number of occasions, been the cause of sink holes and so each time a sink hole appears I try to investigate. At least two have been reported in the Nottingham Post this year, including one on High Pavement and a second on South Sherwood Street (the latter reported in December 2020). Neither of these sink holes involved caves.

The Water Cave (1936)

There is a cave at the foot of the Castle Rock, which despite being next to Mortimer's Hole, is relatively little known. The cave is known today as the Water Cave, for reasons which will soon become clear. At the time of its discovery in 1936 it was named the South Cave. The cave was discovered in circumstances that attracted great interest. George Campion, who was Director of the Thoroton Society Excavation Section, had been undertaking excavations at and around the castle for a number of years. That same year he had led investigations at the Western Passage and the Northwestern Passage.

In February 1937, when excavation had been completed, Campion told The Nottingham Journal that on three successive days he had what he described as a vivid dream in which he saw a cave at the foot of the Castle Rock. The dreams encouraged him to excavate at a specific location and upon digging into the ground he revealed a cavity in the rock. Campion was keen to point out that his dream was not some sort of psychic experience, but instead that he had always suspected there might be a cave at that location and having spent so much time thinking about the castle and its caves he inevitably dreamt about it.

Campion and his fellow amateur archaeologists were assisted in excavating the cave by staff from Nottingham Castle. Upon full excavation a chamber was found to measure approximately 12m in length, 5m in width and 7m in height. Holes in the sides of the chamber provided evidence of a timber platform. Passages were found on either side of the chamber, running in the directions of Mortimer's Hole and the Western Passage. Unfortunately this cave, which is of medieval date, is now largely inaccessible. When discovered it was remarked that the cave floor was approximately 2m below the River Leen (Castle Boulevard largely

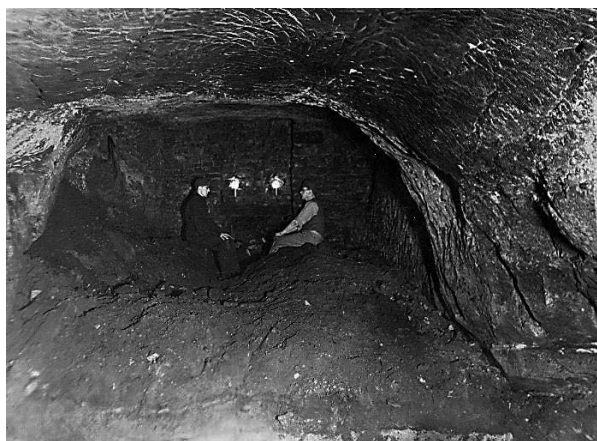
follows the course of the Leen). Being below the water table the cave is flooded. It was because the area was prone to flooding that the land at the base of the Castle Rock was substantially raised, thereby hiding all trace of the cave. Mediaeval pottery in the lower fill of the cave seemed to suggest the cave was partially filled during that period.

The cave appears to have been accessible, at least in part, during the 17th century. Lucy Hutchinson, wife of Colonel John Hutchinson (Parliamentarian Governor of the town of Nottingham during the Civil War) wrote in her memoirs of her husband that there was a spring, which was known as Mortimer's Well, near to Mortimer's Hole. This must have been the cave we know today as the Water Cave. Campion believed the cave was a boathouse, whereby boats would travel along the River Leen and sail into the cave where goods they were carrying could be unloaded. If Campion was correct then there must have been a significant diversion of the River Leen at the foot of the Castle Rock, or a manmade channel leading from the river to the cave. Certainly, there was a channel excavated to divert water from the Leen in order to power the mills that once stood in the Brewhouse Yard area but due to limited archaeological work in this area it is not known whether boats could get close to the Castle Rock, let alone enter into a cave.

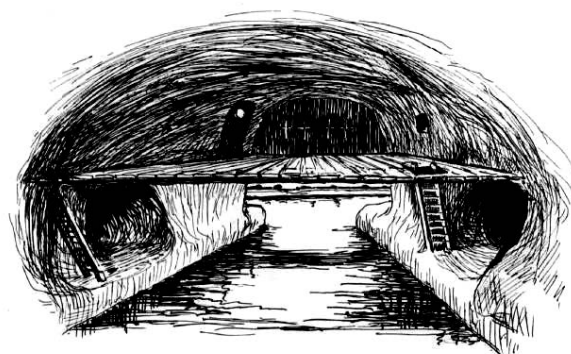
Unfortunately, we cannot know whether Campion was right, although future archaeological work in this area, should any excavation be undertaken, could shed some light on the function of this cave and its undoubted important role in the servicing of the medieval castle.

Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist

Two Images of the Water Cave provided by Scott Lomax.



Photograph 1935



South Cave, Nottingham Castle

Campion's vision of the Water Cave

Tales from the River: an Enigmatic Wooden Structure from Cromwell Quarry

In July 2020 Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by The Guildhouse Consultancy on behalf of Cemex to undertake the excavation of a wooden structure. As part of ongoing archaeological monitoring at the quarry, a large palaeochannel was recorded which contained the remains of a substantial linear wooden structure (Plate 1). The channel is located c. 750m south of a Roman villa complex and c.800m NNE of the location of an 8th century bridge over the River Trent (Salisbury 1995). The palaeochannel sequence comprised basal sands and gravels overlain by buff-brown to orange-brown sands with interbedded clays sealed by 2-3m of overbank alluvial silt and clay.

The enigmatic wooden structure was defined by two rows of large posts driven into the underlying sand and gravels along the left bank of the channel edge. Between these posts were the remains of at least two if not three wattle panels (Plate 2). These elements were extremely fragile and excavation progressed rapidly due to the often hot and dry weather conditions. The wattle has yet to undergo identification, but it is likely to be either hazel or willow as these species have the necessary flexibility and length to be woven into sturdy panels.

Within the channel sediments, multiple unused or displaced upright timbers were recorded (Plate 3). These offer a valuable insight into the structure as they may indicate the full uneroded lengths of the uprights. In addition to the driven posts, large jointed timbers were located offset to the main post alignment and were anchored into the base of the channel by upright posts (Plates 4 and 5). The main upright timbers showed evidence of slumping which may have caused part of the main structure to collapse. This may be due to processes associated with the lateral migration of the channel or to increases in channel energy over time. The presence of large jointed timbers perpendicular to the main structure has led to the suggestion that this may represent a pier-like construction. The upper two thirds of these jointed arrangements have been eroded away and therefore exactly how these elements tied into the main alignment of wattle and posts is unclear. Tantalisingly, several timber items, which have been interpreted provisionally as belonging to sewn plank boats, were also recovered. It is tempting to suggest that the structure represents a possible mooring point within an active, high energy channel.

The remains recorded here probably represent only a third of the original structure. None of the superstructure, which may have lain above the water line, was preserved. In addition, no large blocks of stone, commonly associated with fish weirs and bank stabilisation, were found during excavation. In consequence, the structure remains open to interpretation.

A single radiocarbon age determination of 688–882 cal AD (BETA-564739, 1230+/-30 BP) from elements of the structure, as well as an 8th century dress pin located within the channel deposits, provide provisional evidence for a broad Anglo-Saxon date for the structure. It is hoped that some of the timbers may be suitable for dendrochronological dating and that further radiocarbon samples will be submitted. A detailed programme of post-excavation and palaeoenvironmental analysis is forthcoming and it is hoped that this will provide further insights into the character of the structure and the surrounding landscape.

Reference:

Salisbury, C. 1995 'An 8th century Mercian bridge over the Trent at Cromwell, Nottinghamshire, England'. *Antiquity* 69, 1015–18.

Plates



Plate 1: Long upright post rows aligned along the edge of a channel.



Plate 2: Fragments of fragile wattle panel.



Plate 3: Unused or displaced upright timber.



Plate 4: Mortise joint with upright securing post

Tom Keyworth and Kristina Krawiec, Trent & Peak Archaeology

ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Incitement to Insurrection? An Unexpected Historical Parallel



Anyone watching events on Wednesday 6 January 2021, when a group of supporters of President Trump stormed (and temporarily took control of) the Capitol building in Washington DC, may have comforted themselves with the thought that nothing of that nature could ever happen in this country – at least not since the exposure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605. The actions of the assembled crowd, troubling enough in themselves, were magnified by the impression – currently the subject of an impeachment trial by the United States Senate – that Trump had incited an insurrection, by intimidating elected lawmakers against ratifying the election of President Joe Biden.

An intriguing historical parallel arises from events in British political history during the spring of 1829. At the time, the passage of Catholic Emancipation – the right for Catholics to be elected as MPs – was dominating public affairs. The issue of granting political rights to Catholics touched a raw nerve which went back to the Reformation and the subsequent history of hostility between Protestants and Catholics. The opponents of the Catholic Relief Bill, the legislation enabling Catholic Emancipation, which was introduced to parliament in February 1829, rallied themselves in a range of ways to oppose the government measure. Brunswick Clubs, named after the British ruling house (the Hanoverians) were formed – although not in Nottinghamshire - open-air public meetings were convened (addressed by pro- and anti-Catholic speakers), petitions were circulated for signature and subsequent presentation to both houses of parliament, and parliamentarians who had strongly-held convictions on the issue, were unrelenting in their opposition to the ‘act of betrayal’ entailed in granting Emancipation.

The 4th Duke of Newcastle, of Clumber Park, was a noted ultra-Protestant opponent of Emancipation and was particularly incensed by the fact that it was legislated for by a Tory government headed by the Duke of Wellington. Wellington had decided to introduce Emancipation after the Irish Catholic leader Daniel O’Connell was elected as MP for County Clare in July 1828. Faced with this direct legal challenge, Wellington reached the conclusion that, if Emancipation was not speedily granted, Civil War in Ireland might ensue.

Protestant opponents realised that one of their best hopes of resisting Emancipation was in making a personal appeal to King George IV, whose coronation oath had always been a barrier against introducing the measure. The King, ensconced with his favourites at Windsor (notably his mistress Lady Conyngham), had only reluctantly assented to a Catholic Relief Bill being debated in parliament, and the Protestants directed their attention in his direction. In the middle of February 1829, Newcastle was approached by the Secretary of the London and Westminster Protestant Club to present their petition (estimated at 100,000 strong) to the King at Windsor. The petition was to be delivered to Newcastle at Windsor by a large procession of coaches,

and he would then present it to the King. In his diary, Newcastle described the scheme as 'beyond all precedent but also of such prodigious magnitude that I am sure that no Minister can stand against it - The whole machinery is excellent'. Somewhat portentously, Newcastle observed, 'this will do & we shall now see who shall be master - & whether we shall preserve our religion & our Laws'. Nothing more was heard of this scheme until Newcastle's tart observation on 30 March that he had received 'an odd letter' from Wellington which Newcastle had answered 'in his own way, which he will not admire - He wishes to lord it over Every one, he shall not do so with me'.

What had happened in the interim? Newcastle told Wellington that he had only seen the petition for the first time the preceding evening: 'it was not what I Entirely approved of, but being in circulation [,] it was impossible to Suppress it'. Newcastle noted that the petitioners wished: *to mark their respect* [my italics] by attending their Petition in carriages to Windsor, where I was to have received it from them & to have laid it before the King - It was, however, Subsequently understood that this mode of *Shewing their respect* [my italics] on Such an occasion would not be agreeable to the King, & the Scheme was, in consequence abandoned.

It was an established privilege for peers of the realm to request a personal audience of the Crown. This was a device which Newcastle had previously used for political purposes. Wellington suspected that this was being used as cover for an attempt to stiffen the King's resolve against his ministers and against Emancipation.

Having gone to Windsor to pre-empt the scheme, Wellington learned that the King had not given explicit permission for the presentation of the petition. The Duke proceeded to launch a shrewd counter-assault. According to Ellenborough: [Wellington] impressed upon the King the danger of the Precedent; & Showed the object was to collect a Mob to overawe Lady Conyngham and Persons residing under his Protection. He showed the King the Act of Charles II limiting the number of Persons who might present a Petition. Under the Act against Tumultuous Petitions of 1661, any petitions with more than twenty signatories had to have the consent of three Justices of the Peace to be legal, and only ten people could appear to present them. Having adroitly raised the prospect of a threat to the safety of the King's mistress, Wellington secured royal approval to dissuade Newcastle against proceeding with the plan and instructed him to send the petition by way of the Home Secretary, Robert Peel. Wellington left open the possibility of a personal audience between Newcastle and the King. Newcastle had - from misjudgement or from ignorance - found himself drawn into the centre of a potentially incendiary situation. For Wellington, it raised serious constitutional consequences. Wellington told the King that it was a dangerous precedent to allow peers to present petitions at audiences because 'if they Gave answers in the King's name they became responsible for these answers, & in fact usurped the functions of the Secretary of State'.

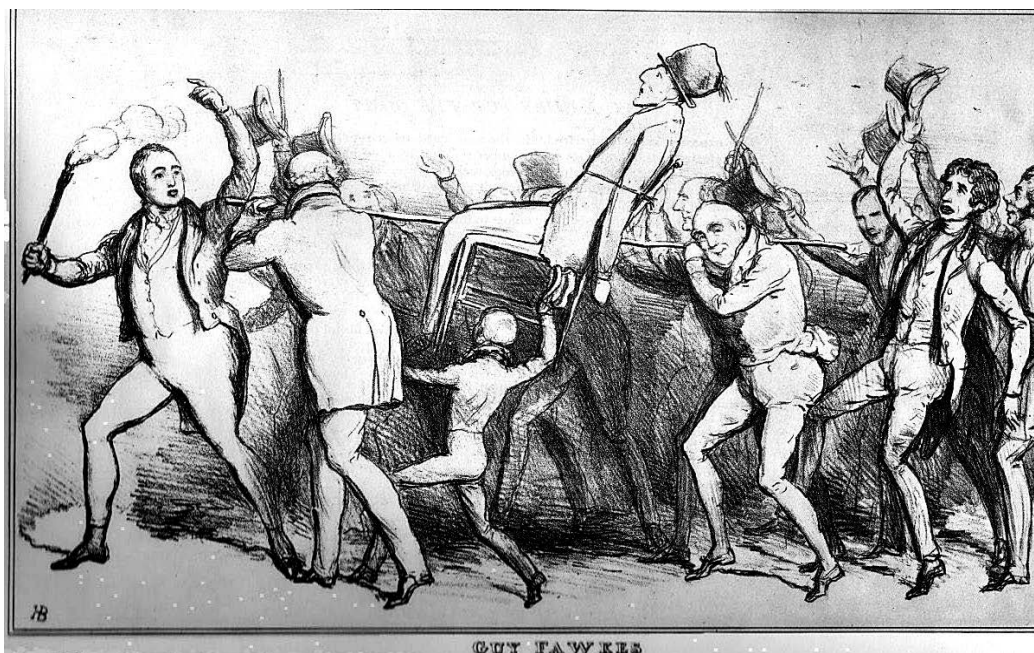


Illustration: Satirical cartoon by 'H.B.' (John Doyle) showing a group of Protestant opponents of Emancipation carrying Wellington, dressed as Guy Fawkes, to a ritual burning. Newcastle is the figure on the far right. (Author Collection).

Events in Washington DC during January 2021 remind us that the proper functioning of government depends upon the careful negotiation between authority and power.

The potential for incitement and insurrection raised by Newcastle's presentation of the London and

Westminster Protestant Club petition, during March 1829, reminds us that this negotiation continues to be a central part of our own history too.

For more on Catholic Emancipation, see Richard's discussion with Lady Antonia Fraser at: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/exhibitions/online/georgians/lunchtime-talks.aspx>

Richard Gaunt

John Hobhouse: Later 1st Baron Broughton

John Hobhouse was one of the more colourful Members of Parliament representing Nottingham during the mid-19th Century. Born 1835 in Bristol, educated at Westminster School and Trinity College Cambridge, he formed a strong friendship with Byron, travelling throughout Europe. Remarkably, they sat in a brougham, drinking champagne, eating canapes on a hilltop watching the decisive Battle of Dresden 1813, between Napoleonic forces ranged against an Austro-Prussian force. They followed Napoleon's entry into Paris nine months later. Hobhouse claimed to have had a private meeting with Napoleon in his bed chamber, but this has never been verified. A severe critic of the Bourbon Monarchists and fervent supporter of Napoleon, following his return from exile in 1815, Hobhouse published a pamphlet condemning the monarchy, resulting in the Paris publisher being imprisoned for seditious language.

Further adventures abroad followed, notably in Greece, where with Byron, he supported the independence cause. When Byron died in 1824, he was the sole executor of his last will and testament, later supervising Byron's funeral arrangements. Returning to England in 1816, he unsuccessfully stood for parliamentary election in February 1819. He followed his defeat by writing an anti-government pamphlet, incurring the displeasure of Parliament with him being imprisoned in Newgate for two months in December 1819. Upon release by an appeal to the Queen's Bench Division, he stood for Parliament again and was elected with significant press and public support to sit for the Westminster constituency, as a Reform Party member. This was much to the chagrin of the ruling elite. He held the seat from 1820 to 1833. His fame lies in that he was the first MP to use the expression, 'Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition' in an 1826 debate. It was meant to be a rhetorical jibe in respect of '*loyalty*', but it became enshrined in conventional usage to this day. Regarded as a classical scholar and making very clever use of the English language in parliamentary debate, he quickly climbed the political career ladder. Grey decided that it was better to 'take him on board' rather than have him as a radical backbencher.

A prolific writer of 'radical' pamphlets and political outpourings, he was appointed Secretary of State for War in Grey's Whig administration in 1832, Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1833 and held Cabinet post under Melbourne's government in 1833. He married into the 'upper tier of aristocracy' taking the daughter of the Marquess of Tweeddale to be his wife in 1828. The dowry was reported as being some £15,000 [equivalent to over £250,000] in today's value.

He first became associated with Nottingham in 1834 when with 5 successive fellow members [Nottingham being a 'two-member' constituency] he held the constituency seat until 1848. Curiously, he then went on to represent Harwich with John Bagshaw [another former Nottingham MP] relinquishing his seat in 1851, when he became Baron Broughton of Broughton de Gyfford in the County of Wiltshire, joining the House of Lords. The barony lapsed with no male heirs. In the 14 years he represented Nottingham, archive material fails to disclose him coming to Nottingham on no more than just five occasions, which corresponded with each parliamentary election, or bi-election. When asked in an interview with *The Times* newspaper parliamentary reporter, about the civil unrest in the lace and other related hosiery and fabric industry in Nottingham, he blithely said: '*I did not know that Nottingham had any (industry)....I have never seen any, or been made aware of its existence*'. To add to his lack of understanding of local affairs, (as was the prevailing situation with many of his contemporary parliamentary colleagues), Hobhouse when asked in 1834, was also unaware that Nottingham Castle's burnt out building was attributable to the October 1831 riots, or that three Nottingham men had been executed, following the trial of 26 men, under the auspices of the Special Commission set up in January 1832.

Broughton was a part owner of Whitbread Brewery, founder of the Royal Geographical Society and amassed a significant wealth which, at his death was in excess of £125,000, over £10,000,000 in 2020 terms.

David Yates

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY:

Rev Richard Jowett Burton

Rev Richard Jowett Burton (1870-1937) was present at the Inaugural Meeting of the Thoroton Society and was a member from 1897 to 1936, a total of thirty-nine years. Like many clergy of the time, he was interested in history and archaeology. There were eighty-four clergy in membership of the Thoroton Society at various times during the first twenty-five years, out of a total membership of 670 (12.5%). By contrast, at the present time there are just two clergy members. Rev Burton published one paper in the Transactions of 1924 and there is a record of papers in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal and the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society (see below)

Richard Jowett Burton was born in 1870, at Heanor in Derbyshire, to George Burton and his wife Hannah Eliza Haslam. George was a farmer and maltster. He and Hannah had five children – William Roby b. 1864; George Whysall b. 1865; John Haslam b. 1867; Hannah Haslam b. 1868 and Richard Jowett b. 1870. Sadly, their father George died in 1871, leaving Hannah to bring up her family and run the family business.

The 1871 census at Heanor lists:

Hannah E Burton, age 39, widow, head of household, maltster and farmer.

Hannah H Burton, daughter, aged 2

Richard J Burton, son, aged 1

and two servant girls ages 11 and 16.

By the 1881 census, still at the Market Place, Heanor, Hannah had four of her five children at home with her. She is shown on the census return as retired at the age of 49, so the business must have been prosperous. Her family was now recorded as:

William Roby Burton, son aged 16, a banker's clerk

George Whysall Burton, son aged 15 who had just left school

Hannah Burton, daughter aged 12

Richard Jowett Burton, son, aged 11.

Also resident in the house were John Patton, aged 32, a lodger, who was curate at St Luke's Church in Heanor, and a servant girl aged 17.

It is interesting that some of the children were not at home at the two censuses. Possibly they were away at schools. However, there is no evidence for this.

By 1891, Richard was a student of theology at Hatfield Hall (now Hatfield College), University of Durham. At the 1891 census he was recorded as visiting Joseph and Sarah Richardson at Chorlton on Medlock, Lancashire. He was ordained in 1896 and in 1897 was licenced to the curacy of Darley Dale by the Bishop of Southwell.

Rev Burton took an active part in the Thoroton Society - perhaps too active at times. TM Blagg wrote of an incident on an excursion in the Society's early years:

"On one of these expeditions a hind wheel of one vehicle collapsed and the Rev R Jowett Burton of Darley Abbey and Miss Browne, daughter of Mr Hugh Browne of Aspley, who were on the back seat, were shot onto the road in a heap. Their flirtation had already attracted some interest, and as they were married shortly afterwards everyone said it was the mix-up on the roadway that clinched their courtship" [1] However, I have found no evidence for the 'marriage to Miss Browne' (see below).

Two of Richard's brothers, George Whysall Burton and John Haslam Burton, had emigrated at some point to Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. George died in 1896 at Salisbury, Rhodesia and John in 1899 at Bulawayo, Rhodesia. Their mother Hannah died in 1901 at Heanor. At the time of the 1901 census, Richard was living alone, as a clergyman, at Sandiacre Lodge, Sandiacre St Giles, at Dale Abbey. At that time, Sandiacre Lodge was in Dale Abbey Civil Parish but part of Sandiacre St Giles Ecclesiastical Parish. His role would have been as curate of Stanton by Dale with Dale Abbey. He later held a curacy at Worksop.

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph of Tuesday 20th December 1904 reported that "The 'Morning Post' says a marriage has been arranged and will take place in early February between Rev Richard Jowett Burton of Worksop and Dorothy Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr George Crompton of Stanton Hall, Nottingham

and Mrs George Crompton of 5 Clarence Terrace, Regent's Park". In January 1905, Richard married Dorothy Mary Crompton (1877-1960) at Marylebone, London. Richard's address was given on the marriage certificate as 39 Polkes Street, Worksop. However, this address appears no longer to exist according to StreetMap on the internet. Possibly the area has been redeveloped.

Under 'Ecclesiastical Preferments', the Ross Gazette 13 June 1907 stated that "The Bishop of Hereford has instituted the Rev Richard Jowett Burton MA to the Rectory of Hughley, Salop, on the presentation of the Earl of Bradford". Later that year, the Hereford Journal of Saturday 19 October 1907 informed readers that the Bishop of Hereford had licensed Rev Richard Jowett Burton MA to the perpetual curacy of Church Preen, on the nomination of the trustees of the late Mr Arthur Sparrow. Richard therefore held two church appointments.

Richard and Dorothy's first child, Edward Jowett Burton, was born at Hughley Rectory, Cressage, Shrewsbury, Shropshire in 1907. By 1911 there were two more children, and the 1911 census shows the family at Hughley Rectory, where Richard was rector of Christ Church at Cressage. The household consisted of

Richard Jowett Burton, aged 41, clergyman

Dorothy Mary Burton, aged 33, wife

Edward Jowett Burton, son, aged 4

Catherine Mary Burton, daughter, aged 3

John Philip Burton, son, aged 7 months

Eliza Burton, aged 37, visitor who was married. (It is possible that Eliza was the widow of one of Richard's two brothers, who had both died in Rhodesia, but I have no evidence for this).

There were also a cook, housemaid and nurse present at the census, so the family lived in some style.

An obituary in the Cheltenham Chronicle for Saturday 8 January 1938 states that from 1912 to 1916 Rev Burton was rector of Eaton Constantine, Shropshire. He resigned the living and in 1920 took up residence at Hyde Brae, Chalford, Gloucestershire. Hyde Brae is a substantial house on a hill, so the Burtons must have had means. For many years he interested himself in archaeology and for a period he acted as the Stroud honorary secretary for the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. He was a member of the Council of that body and also a Freemason and a founder-brother of Durham University Lodge. He died in 1937 and was buried at Chalford Church. His will, left to his widow, amounted to £1,637.

Papers by Rev Richard Jowett Burton:

A Nottingham Riot in 1678 *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* 1924 vol 28, pp56-66

Hundred of Appletree and Wapentake of Wirksworth: 'Ayd to his majestie King Charles 1, 1627' *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* 1899, vol 21, pp69-83

Archaeology of Longtree Hundred *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 1928, vol 50, pp313-318

John Wilson

Notes: 1. Blagg T M, The Thoroton Society: some memories of its first thirty years

Transactions of the Thoroton Society 1946 volume 50 pp 13-24

Newspaper references courtesy of britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

Other biographical details via ancestry.com.

BOOKCASE - BOOK REVIEWS

St Ann's, The End of an Era

By Peter Richardson

This book contains a photographic record of Peter's memories of the Nottingham area of St. Ann in the 1960s, when his grandparents lived there, and when it was going through the process of being demolished and rebuilt. At the time Peter was a student at Derby College of Art, following a course in photojournalism, and he used his visits to his grandparents to photograph some of the scenes he saw, which clearly became etched in his memory. Peter is to be congratulated for the way in which his book captures the delightfully honest character and social history of this area of Nottingham during a time of incredibly traumatic change.

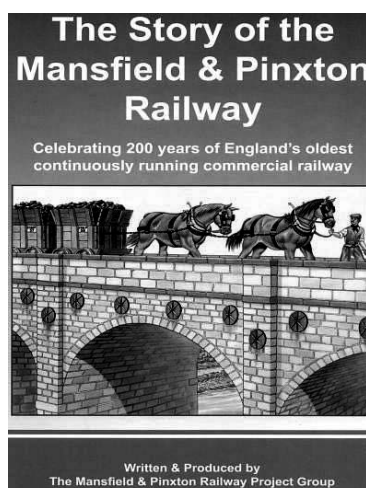
The book is a collection of photographs of people and places, characters and scenes, which reveal the daily life and experience of an area called 'home' by those who lived there. The sections deal with an examination of The Community, of Pubs, Shops, Factories and Churches, of Front doors and Streets, of Back Yards and Alleys, and of Washday. In his photographs David is able to convey not just the effects of the ugly demolition process that was happening at the time, but also the genuine natural-ness and happiness of a life which was being lost forever.

We all have memories of our earlier life which we always assume at the time to be the norm for the lives of our friends and other people too; it is only as we grow older and our experience widens that we begin to realise how different other people's life-experience is so uniquely different from our own. Looking at today, Peter's record may appear a sad historical disaster for the people of St Ann's, but he manages to capture a snap-shot of people, situations and home-life in which the people had grown up and lived in for most of their life. To these people, life in St Ann's was comfortable and happy and settled, and the photographs show this to have been true. The quality of the photographs, and Peter's ability to capture a record of people in situ in varying situations, warts and all, is excellent. The comments which accompany the scenes are similarly a true reflection of 'life as it was'. Overall, Peter records a delightful contrast of comfortable living during a time of earth-shattering change.

Alan Langton

**The Story of the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway
by the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway Project Group 2020**

£8.00 incl P&P from Trevor Lewis trevorandpam@gmail.com



2019 saw the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway. Although by no means the earliest railway in the country, it can claim fame as the oldest continually running commercial railway in England. This fascinating, carefully researched, well written and beautifully illustrated book is the culmination of a Heritage Lottery-funded project involving four local organisations. The group was set up in 2016 to commemorate the opening of the railway on 13th April 1819.

The book covers the earliest days of the railway through to today, when the line is still in use for passenger services. The railway was built after much debate as an alternative to constructing more canals, to connect Mansfield to the Cromford Canal. In the early phase, the railway had horse-drawn wagons to carry coal and other materials, but in 1845-1850, steam locomotives were introduced. The early railway was dangerous, as numerous reports of accidents testify. New stations were built and new rolling stock, including much improved passenger carriages, gradually introduced. The railways interconnected with others, and passengers could travel from Mansfield to as far as Scarborough.

Following the infamous Beeching Report in 1963, the stations on the line were closed, leaving Mansfield as the largest town in the country without its own railway station. The rails, however, were kept and the line used for transport of goods. At the end of the 20th century, passenger services were reintroduced. New stations were built at Sutton Parkway (1995) and Kirkby (1996), and the Mansfield station was refurbished and reopened in 2001.

The book includes much detailed information for the railway enthusiast and there is a list of references and a glossary of railway terms. Accompanying the book and included in the price is a smaller A5 booklet entitled 'Walking the Line'. It gives details of several walks along and around the original site of the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway. The two books together represent excellent value and give a fascinating insight into this important piece of railway heritage that is still in modern use.

More information on the project can be found in Newsletter issue 94 Winter 2018.

John Wilson

Other Bookcase news

Rob Smith has just published a work of 600 pages on *The Nottinghamshire Settlers of 1820*. A limited number of copies are available directly from Rob for £34 plus p/p. Please contact robsmith52@outlook.com or (m) 07752 968579. A review of the book will be in the next newsletter.

Richard Gaunt

In the Summer Newsletter, look out for the Book Review by John Beckett of Geoffrey Bond's new book *Dangerous to Show: Byron and his Portraits*.

Paul Baker

Books and booklets looking for a new home:

A complete set of *Victorian Nottingham, a story in pictures*, by Iliffe & Baguley (20 volumes)
A complete set of *Edwardian Nottingham, a story in pictures*, by Iliffe & Baguley (3 volumes)
A copy of *A Collection of Views of old Stapleford, Nottinghamshire* by Ralph Penniston Taylor (pub. c1984)
A copy of *Notes on the History of Stapleford, with lessons thereon*, by Robert Mellors (pub. 1906)
A pamphlet with a brief history of *Stapleford Church Street Board School* (pub. c1980)

If any member(s) would like to acquire any of these volumes, in exchange for a reasonable donation to the Society's Bookstall, please contact David Hoskins; dhoskins@talktalk.net, 0743 611 4158

David Hoskins

TWO IMPORTANT CENTENARIES THIS YEAR

The artist Andrew MacCallum was born in 1821 – he painted many landscapes including the one of Sherwood Forest shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

Even more important is that in 1521 Anne Ayscough (erroneously spelled Askew) was born. She was closely associated with many of the dissident families in Nottinghamshire and she was also a writer and poet, writing in English, and a Protestant martyr who was condemned as a heretic in England in the reign of Henry VIII. she was tortured in the Tower of London and burnt at the stake on 16th July 1546.

Barbara Cast

OBSCURE ANNIVERSARIES, SPRING (March, April, May)

From Spitfires to Wife Auctions

Note NDB = Nottingham Date Book; BR = British Rainfall; NJ = Nottingham Journal

1941

18th May. By 4th November 1940 the Retford and District Spitfire Fund had raised £5,228 (Nottingham Journal 5 November 1940). Eventually the fund was able to donate £5,345.6s.3d to the cost of the airframe of Spitfire Mk Va number R7218. The aircraft became operational with No 611 (West Lancashire) Squadron, RAF, at Hornchurch on this day in 1941. The Spitfire flew its first operational sortie on 25th May 1941, flown by Pilot Officer J.F.Reeves. However, the Retford Spitfire had only a short operational career. It was shot down in aerial combat near Moeres, Belgium, whilst escorting a flight of Stirling bombers to Lille, on 8th July 1941. The pilot, Flying Officer J Machacek (Czech) of 145 Squadron, was reported missing, believed killed. (www.rafcommands.com accessed 26 Dec 2020)

The creation of funds for the purchase of Spitfires was very popular in the early stages of the Second World War. Mr EG Barton, a well-known farmer at Saundby, near Retford, offered to open a farmers' Spitfire Fund with a donation of £100. He made the offer in the hope that the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire branches of the National Farmers' Union would join together to create a joint fund. However, not everyone was keen that funds for Spitfires be set up. Mr F Clayton, Mayor of Morecambe and Heynsham, was opposed to the public subscribing for Spitfires, and refused to organise any fund in the town, in spite of people offering him donations. "If people have money to give" he told a reporter, "they should give it for the comforts of those who pilot aeroplanes or to their dependents. There is no shortage of Spitfires through lack of money and public money should go to charity". (NJ 23 August 1940).

1897

18th March. Severe thunderstorm with hail 11.30am at Beeston Fields. 0.14ins of rain fell in 15 minutes (BR 1897).

28th May. Severe thunderstorm with much hail damage - Normanton on the Wolds (BR 1897)

1884 – a bad season for fires in Nottingham:

14th March. Destruction by fire of the Midland Hosiery Co.'s factory in New Basford. The damage was estimated at about £35,000.

20th March. Fire at the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, which destroyed a portion of the stands.

7th April. Mr Morton's bleaching works at Sneinton Elements was destroyed by fire. Damage was estimated at £12,000 to £14,000. A fire had also occurred at the same premises on 21st April 1883, but this had been speedily extinguished. (NDB)

1883

27th April. The Blue Bell Hill Board Schools opened (NDB). The school stood on Blue Bell Hill in St Ann's, an area that has been completely redeveloped. The new Blue Bell Hill School, for infants and juniors, opened in the 1980s, is on Gordon Road in St Ann's. JW is an 'old boy' of the original Blue Bell Hill School.

1878

April. Several pieces of mediaeval pottery, manufactured in [Nottingham] were turned up in a piece of land on West-street, Nottingham. This find consisted chiefly of water jugs, with the upper portions of the outside covered with a green glaze, and flat-bottomed vessels, all of which were faulty, having either broken or fallen in shape in the kiln and been thrown aside. This proved conclusively that West-street was in the neighbourhood of a pottery. They are believed by Mr Briscoe*, in whose possession this find is, to be specimens of late fourteenth or fifteenth century work. (NDB)

* Mr J Potter Briscoe, founder-member of the Thoroton Society.

1866

14th March. Opening of the Dining Hall in Byard Lane. It [was] 87 feet long, 35 feet wide and 30 feet high. It [would] seat 350 to dinner. (NDB). The sole proprietor was John Dabell. The Dining Hall advertised regularly in the Nottingham area press, but by 1879 the directors of the Nottingham Dining Hall Company had put the business up for sale (NJ 16 June 1879).

[Does anyone know anything about the Dining Hall? – JW]

11th April. A serious explosion of gas, which was being prepared for scientific optical illusions, occurred in the Mechanics' Hall, which seriously injured a Mr Johnson, who was preparing it; but beyond smashing the windows, no material damage was done to the building. (NDB).

1856

20th April. St Mark's Church opened. The cost of the erection was £5,000. The living is about £160. (NDB). St Mark's church was built in 1855 on land just off Windsor Street, now Huntingdon Street. There were 1,100 seats, half of them free from pew-rents. The church was closed and demolished in 1958. (wikipedia)

1854

15th February. An infuriated bullock, after racing along Parliament-street, Bunkers-hill, Haughton-street, Thurland-street, Pelham-street and Clumber-street, was attracted by a red shawl hanging in Mr Scott's shop door. It dashed its head through the glass and tossed the shawl about the street. It next attacked a butcher named Chas Simpkins, but he evaded the charge by falling down, and it then bounded along High-Street knocking down a man named Dido, well known in the horse market. After visiting the shop of Mr Crocker, hairdresser, it again encountered Dido, and again knocked him down. It next struck at two men in The Poultry, then attacked Mr Withers (Station-master at Grantham) whom it knocked down against the Poultry Hotel. The

persevering Dido, declaring he would be equal to the beast yet, seized it by the tail and cut the tendons of its hind legs with his pocket knife. It was afterwards killed by a butcher named Wm Breedon. Several other persons were injured besides those mentioned. (NDB)

1853

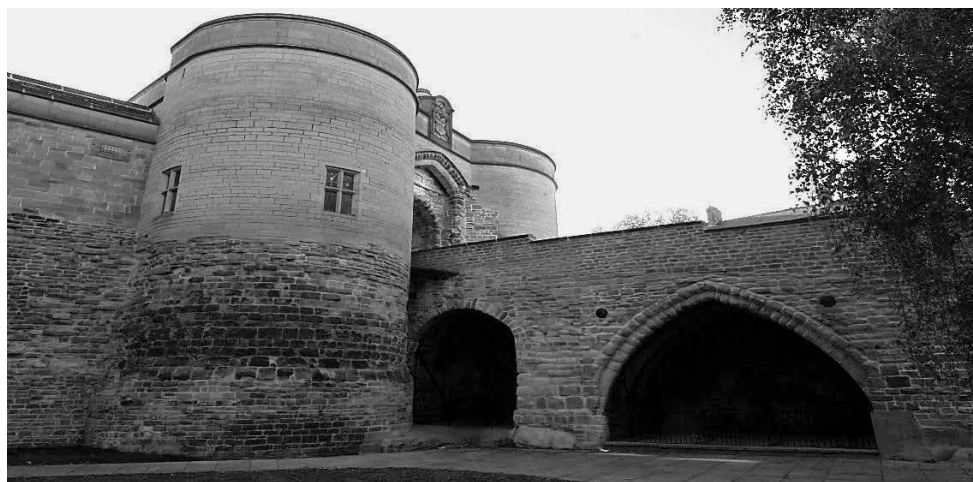
6th May. In the construction of a sewer on Smithy-row, at about the depth of two feet, the excavators found a thick layer of concrete, composed of particles of iron in firm cohesion with sand and gravel, the whole forming a solid mass of great hardness and weight. It is conjectured that this deposit was the result of the sweepings from the 'row' of 'smithies' which formerly extended from High-street to within a few yards of the Exchange. (NDB)

1852

28th April. About 12 o'clock, a female about 38 years of age, accompanied by her husband and two of his companions, stood in the Market-place near the sheep-pens. The female was the wife of Edward Stevenson, rag merchant, Millstone-lane, and he had come to the determination, with her consent, to sell her by auction. A new rope, value sixpence, was round her neck. Stevenson, with his wife standing unabashed by his side, held the rope and exclaimed "Here is my wife for sale. I will put her up at two shillings and sixpence". A man named John Burrows, apparently a navvy, proffered a shilling for the lot, and after some haggling she was knocked off at that price, and they all went to the Spread Eagle to sign articles of agreement, the lady being the only party able to sign her name. (NDB)

John Wilson

FUTURE EVENTS AND REQUESTS



Photograph James Wright

Nottingham Castle reopens this Spring. I am planning on having in the Summer Newsletter some photographs and words about the new attractions and past history of the Castle, and also hopefully some news of archaeological discoveries at the Castle while all the work was being completed.

As already mentioned earlier in this Newsletter I would

also like to have a series of articles on Church History in the Newsletter too, so any contributions are welcome.

Throughout May 2021 the Inspire website, on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, will be hosting a virtual 'Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair'. The aim is to showcase local History Societies work and raise the profile of Historic Nottinghamshire. More information will be on the Thoroton website.

Finally John Sutherland has been in touch asking if any Thoroton Society members have any information on the designers and manufacturers of the sculptured details and motifs in the cast iron balustrades of the (Tarbotton's) Trent Bridge. Please do contact him by email if you do have any information. jcsuth@ntlworld.com.

Paul Baker

New Members since the Winter 2020/2021 Newsletter

The Thoroton Society welcomes: Miss Linda Hardy, Dr (Mr) Andrea Moneta, and Mr Tom Andrews.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHiS

Chair: Dr Richard Gaunt: richardgaunt@nottingham.ac.uk

Vice-Chair: David Hoskins: dhoskins@talktalk.net and 0743 611 4158

Hon Secretary: Barbara Cast BAHons. email: barbaracast@btinternet.com

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

Membership Secretary and Coordinator of Events Committee: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH
email: membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk

Honorary Administration Secretary: Rosemary Muge: rosemarymuge@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £27.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £16.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £38.00

Institutional Ordinary membership £27.00

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

RESEARCH GROUP

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

RESPONSE GROUP

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

If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Coordinator, 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 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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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.



Alan Langton with John Wilson at the 2019 Annual Lunch (see Page 4)

Photograph David Hoskins



Painting by Andrew MacCallum 'Major Oak' (see Centenaries on Page 16)

Photograph Barbara Cast