

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society

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Holy Trinity Church, Ratcliffe on Soar in the snow of 2021 (see page 5)

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

The County's Principal History and Archaeology Society

Visit the Thoroton Society website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

THOROTON SOCIETY NEWS

From the Chair of Council.

As we all move cautiously towards our post-COVID 'normality', the Society looks forward to resuming its characteristic pattern of events, excursions, and lectures. As you might expect, we are making these plans sensibly and with an eye to unfolding events. It has not proved possible to proceed with our 'Special Event' - a concert by the Lincoln Waites originally scheduled for June 2020, which we have once again postponed for this year. However, we are pleased to announce an additional online event for Saturday 26 June. John Beckett's valedictory lecture at the University of Nottingham, which was originally to be delivered as the Cust Lecture for 2020, will now be held online, as a co-partnership event with the Society. Booking details can be found later in the newsletter. This should provide a memorable and fitting recognition of John's service both to the University and the Society over some four decades. Likewise, we will be paying tribute to John, and to Barbara Cast, as we originally intended to do during 2020, at our re-scheduled Annual Lunch in November. Fingers crossed!

The Society is looking ahead to its 125th anniversary commemorations in 2022. An important part of this involves progressing the digitisation of our *Transactions* and past issues of the Newsletter. Any member of the Society who might have early issues of *Transactions* which they would be willing to let the Society have for this purpose are invited to get in touch with me (see my contact details on the inside back cover). We hope this will grow into a valuable resource commemorating the Society's role in advancing scholarship over the course of its 125 years. The Society's Council has recently considered changes to the format of the newsletter, in order to maintain its quality and significance whilst keeping a sensible eye on costs. As such, this will be the last newsletter to appear in its current format. The next issue will be the first to appear as an A5 booklet with colour covers, thereby bringing it into line with the style of our existing Annual Reports. The Annual Report will effectively become the spring newsletter each year, containing not only the usual information and updates on the work of the Society but a small number of articles relevant to the venue for our Spring Meeting. The newsletter continues to be edited expertly by Paul Baker, to whom we remain extremely grateful. I am pleased to announce that Hannah Nicholson will be joining Paul from the next issue as assistant editor, to help with the production process. We hope that these changes will ensure the continuation of the hard-copy newsletter, which we know is valued so highly by members. However, if anyone would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, as a PDF file, please do let Paul know.

I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well and looking forward to the resumption of some sort of 'normality' in your lives.

Richard Gaunt

Obituaries

Leslie Cram (1942-2021)

Members will be sad to hear of the death of (Charles) Leslie Cram, who served the Society as Honorary Programme Secretary 2004-2010. He passed away on 7 February 2021, aged 78, at Scalford Court Care Home. Leslie was born in Vancouver, Canada, on 18 May 1942, the son of Methodist missionaries to China whose journey back to England on furlough had been interrupted by wartime events. After a further period in China, the family returned to the Midlands, where his father served in the Methodist Church in Grantham, Hucknall, Bingham and Long Clawson before retiring to Harby, Leicestershire. Leslie was educated at



Kingswood School, Bath and went on to study archaeology and anthropology at Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he specialised in the Old Stone Age with a particular interest in the analysis of animal bones and stone tools. After a short period of employment at the British Museum, he became Principal Curator for the museum service of Reading Borough Council, where he took care of the special collections of Thames Valley hand axes, Mesolithic Thatcham, Roman Silchester and the ruined remains of Reading Abbey. While in this post he was involved in archaeology and planning, sites and monuments records, rescue archaeology and excavation units. He also arranged lectures and excursions, working with the

Berkshire Archaeological Society and Reading University Continuing Education Department. After his

retirement he moved to Harby, and soon began work on sorting and cataloguing his own family papers. The Cram archive, covering the family's origins in North Kelsey as well as his parents' experiences in China and amounting to 43 boxes of documents and 20 files of photographs, was deposited in Lincolnshire Archives. Leslie then helped to form the Harby History Group, and on its behalf collected photographs, personal papers and other historical materials about the village. His digital copies of these records became the basis for the Harby History website which he maintained and later transmitted for permanent preservation and access to the British Library's UK Web Archive, the originals being transferred to the Record Office in Leicester. Leslie edited the History Group's two publications, *Harby: Village Life in the Vale of Belvoir* (2010) and *Harby in the Vale of Belvoir 1975-2014* (2014) and he himself wrote an historical guide to St Mary's Church, Harby (2012).

Leslie joined the Thoroton Society soon after he retired. He enjoyed its combination of field archaeology and historical research, and admired its success in providing news from recent digs and informing local historical understanding through talks, outings and publications. When he assumed responsibility for its programme of events, he built on his earlier experience in Berkshire, aiming to offer a balance of talks that would meet the diverse interests and backgrounds of Society members. Leslie wore his expertise lightly, but he was an excellent companion to have on a local walk, making observations informed both by his knowledge of landscape and its history and by his acute artistic eye. Although in recent years his mobility was limited and he was unable to attend Thoroton meetings, he maintained a close interest in its events.

Richard Gaunt

Mary Greateorex (1928 - 2021)

Mary Greateorex and her husband Stan, who died 4 years ago, were regular attenders at both the winter lecture series and the summer excursions. Mary was born in Radcliffe on Trent and had a number of jobs before she and Stan married in 1951 and settled in Sherwood. Stan worked in transport, and Mary for the East Midlands Gas Board. In 1964 they moved to Wollaton, to a house in which they lived the rest of their lives. They both retired by the mid-1980s and became passionate gardeners. They belonged to garden clubs, Probus clubs, and - for more than thirty years - the Thoroton Society. Stan was also treasurer of the local National Trust, as a result of which they attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and met Her Majesty The Queen. Mary too became involved with 'Riding for the Disabled'.

John Beckett



Ivan Morrell (1945 - 2021)

The eldest of 3 brothers, Ivan from an early age, loved to help care for his two younger siblings and they always shared a fine brotherly bond. Ivan excelled at Maths and Engineering at school and college and worked up to the position of Engineering Manager at the Nottingham Royal Ordnance Factory. He married Audrey, the love of his life, in March 1968 and they lived happily in Beeston Rylands until Audrey's death in 2018. Of all the varied interests Ivan followed in his life - gardening, fishing, ornithology, the natural world, rugby union, Nottingham Forest, arranging family get-togethers - his main personal interest was local history, in particular the Anglo-Saxon period. He loved sharing information with like-minded local historians and produced evidence through his other talents, in-depth research and problem solving. Ivan is survived by his son Paul and two grandchildren, Callum & Sian.

John Wilson

Cynthia Roberta Whitt (1933 - 2021)

Cynthia died peacefully in her own home of a cardiac arrest on 25 January. She was born and educated in Nottingham and gained a diploma in Institutional Management at Gloucestershire Training College of Domestic Science. She had worked in various administrative posts before retiring from the Education Department of Southwell Diocese. In retirement she served as a volunteer on Nottingham Cancer Research Committee, was a member of Nottingham Arts Society and was a keen and loyal member of the Thoroton Society.

Gillian Short



David Bagley (1931-2021)

The Society was saddened to learn of the death, on 27 March at the age of 90, of David Bagley. David became a member of Council in 1994 and succeeded Ann Hoskins as Circulation Secretary the following year, adding publicity and press liaison to his remit in 2000. It was largely thanks to David's meticulous organisation and hard work that the distribution of mailings to members – not least the annual *Transactions* – was accomplished so efficiently. David continued in this role until his retirement in 2017, when he was elected one of the Society's Vice-Presidents. David lived in Woodborough and was closely involved with the work of Woodborough Local History Society. He shared his extensive knowledge of the village with Thoroton Society members at events and in the Newsletter over many years. In May 1997, David spoke at the Society's half-day school on the 1609 Forest Map, showing how the present appearance of Woodborough compared with the pre-enclosure map, as well as exploring the development of the village, the church, and its local families. At the Millennium, Woodborough Local History Society received £5,000 from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' programme for equipment to digitise their collection of local heritage materials, including photographs, maps, and other documents, and to undertake a programme of oral history interviews and contemporary photographic recording of buildings and local scenes. The project was the basis for a decade of work, resulting in an extensive website of local heritage resources (<https://www.woodborough-heritage.org.uk/>), which David introduced to Society members in 2011 (see Newsletter 65, Autumn 2011). Two years earlier, Woodborough hosted the Society's AGM; the event was described by Barbara Cast at the time as vying for the title of 'one of the best'. It was enlivened by David's typically insightful illustrated history of the village and his guided tour of the Church of St Swithun – 'one of three of this name in the county but the only one so spelled' (report in Newsletter 56, Summer 2009). David was a much-valued member of Council who made a crucial contribution to the work of the Society for more than two decades. The range of his interests, and the breadth of his knowledge, was hidden by a quiet and modest demeanour and a wry sense of humour. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and daughter, Alison, to whom we extend our sincerest condolences.

Richard A. Gaunt.

(With thanks to Andy Nicholson for locating David's contributions to the Newsletter.)

Research Awards 2020

Can I remind researchers that awards are available for people undertaking research into Nottingham and Nottinghamshire archaeology or history. Applications are invited from individuals or societies and these will need to be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Thoroton Society by 1 September 2021 at:

barbaracast@btinternet.com

Details of the terms and conditions are available on the Thoroton website at www.thoroton.society.org.uk.

Barbara Cast

News from the Editor

I am delighted that Dr Hannah Nicolson has accepted the offer to become Assistant Editor of the Newsletter and the Annual Report, and I look forward to working with Hannah as we continue to provide members with interesting publications.

Please note if any member would rather have a digital online copy, rather than a printed copy of the Newsletter they should contact me to arrange this.

Robert Ilett wrote to me to record the anniversary of the opening on the 10th August 1945 of the Prisoners of War Camp 174 at Norton on the Welbeck Estate, as a training camp to instruct young German prisoners in the equivalent of A Levels and as a training camp for clergy of all denominations. The International Red Cross supervised and within a few weeks the occupants totalled 30 officers and 263 other ranks. One of those trained to the Clergy was Jurgen Moltmann who became an outstanding Theologian and a Bishop. The camp changed in 1948 upon the repatriation of the Germans and was then occupied by displaced persons including the remains of the Serbian Volunteer Corps.

(A review of Robert's Book *An Appreciation of Norton and Carburton POW Camps 1944-1948* can be found on the Autumn 2019 Newsletter)

The 2021 AGM of the Thoroton Society was held by Zoom on Saturday 24 April.

Paul Baker

Thoroton Newsletters online.

Issues 1-80 of the Thoroton Newsletter, chronicling 23 years of the Society's activities from 1992 to 2015, have been digitised and are now available to view on our website. They are all searchable so once you have an issue loaded in your browser just press Ctrl-F and type in a search term. The link to the newsletters is here: <http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/publications/newsletters.htm>

Andy Nicholson

Thoroton Society Events and Excursions.

Please see the Spring Newsletter Edition for the planned programme of excursions. The Wollaton Hall visit has been postponed until later in the year but the Society is hopeful that the easing of restrictions will allow other visits listed to take place, although they may still be subject to change at short notice. The planned Special Event, the concert by the City of Lincoln Waites on the 25th June, has been postponed until 2022 and replaced by the virtual Cust Lecture; details below. The visit to Nottingham Castle is still expected to take place on 6th July but decisions on all events will be made nearer the time, when we have heard from the hosts. Details of visits, when they are available, will be notified through the e-bulletin, but it would be useful if members thinking of attending any of the visits listed in the 2021 programme could contact David Hoskins, Chair of the Events sub-committee, by email so that they can be contacted directly nearer the time. (email address on page 19)

David Hoskins

The Cust Lecture.

This will be given by Professor John Beckett on Saturday 26th June at 2.30pm. This will be a partnership event between the University and the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, with both of which John has maintained a long and successful connection.

Please book via the following Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-creation-of-a-civic-university-the-cust-foundation-lecture-2021-tickets-152655335217>

Eventbrite automatically generates the Zoom link and will send it to everyone that has booked.

Booking for tickets is open. For those unable to attend, it is worth noting that we hope to record the event and for the lecture to be published in due course.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this very special event.

Membership.

Since the last Newsletter, three new full members, Jo Horsley, Richard Gosling, and Professor Roger Bayston and also one student member Mara Juric have joined the Society.

John Wilson

HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS.

Ratcliffe on Soar's 14th Century Spat with the Pope

Ratcliffe on Soar, a small village to the west of the county, has a large church dedicated to the Holy Trinity. At the beginning of the 14th century its advowson was vested with the Priory of Norton, Cheshire, who had acquired it in 1135 in dubious circumstances.^{1/2} The church underwent rebuilding and extending under Norton's direction resulting in a church far too large for its community which has never exceeded 136 persons. It was, however, considered wealthy probably due to it being on the major northern crossing point of the river Soar, the raising of tolls and the possible location of a refuge for travellers^{1/2}. The medieval Lords of the Manor kept up a running war with Norton in an attempt to recover the advowson with limited success. In 1198 the lordship rested with the Picot (Pycot) family, the descendants of whom retained the manor until at least 1313. Only in one year (1272) were the family able to recover the advowson but this was reversed the following year by Papal decree.³ The presence of a Picot descendant in Exeter may be influential to what happened in 1381.

In 1317 Ratcliffe's priest, John de Claro, died and his replacement, William de Alminsland, was given a 2-year leave of absence to complete his studies before he could take up the post. This left the living seemingly vacant and, as common in such cases, the Pope in Avignon moved to grant Ratcliffe to a French cleric, Cardinal Bertrand. Bertrand moved to appoint his own nominee and actioned the Prior of Lenton to fulfil the transfer. This was against the policy of King Edward II who, on learning of the transfer, prohibited the Prior from taking any action. Matters rumbled on into 1319. A letter to the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Hereford and Rigoud de Asserio, Bishop elect of Winchester, placed a mandate to cite before the Pope the Cluniac Prior of Lenton in the Diocese of York who had refused to obey the papal order directing him to induct the proctor of Bertrand, Cardinal of St Marcellus, into the rectory of Ratcliffe on Soar in the Diocese of York⁶. A second letter cited Walter de Alminsland who '*. . . by lay power had thrust himself into the parish church of Ratcliffe on Soar of which Papal provision was made to Cardinal Bertrand*'. In consequence, the Prior was summoned to York to explain his lack of action. Obeying Edward II's instruction, he did not attend and was promptly excommunicated⁷. Again the Prior was summoned, this time to attend the Pope at Avignon. On the 28th April 1320, Edward II wrote to the Prior of Lenton (Geoffrey de Chintriaco) issuing him with a prohibition order preventing him going beyond the sea or of his presumption to send an attorney without consulting the King who wrote "*in answer to his refusal to admit a parson to the church of Radeclive on Sore the king having prohibited his admitting a parson to that church pending the suit in the kings court between Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and the Prior of Norton concerning the advowson of the said church as the king understands that he is cited to answer concerning the same without the realm and that he is preparing to go out of the realm to answer*"⁸. It would appear that Geoffrey had been instructed to attend the Papal court (in Avignon) to explain and being under a travel prohibition he had appealed to the other Cluniac Priories in England to support him. He claimed that "*Lenton has being caught up in this dispute and it was causing great destruction of his house there*". The matter dragged on and by 1323 was getting rather nasty. On the 7th November 1323 the Pope wrote "*To the Archbishop of York, the Abbot of St Mary's York and the sacristan of Narbonne. Mandate to cite Geoffrey de Chintriaco, Prior of Lenton, who has disobeyed the Pope's order to carry out the provision made to Bertrand, cardinal of St Marcellus of the church of Ratcliffe on Soar in the diocese of York. Geoffrey having been excommunicated by Peter, cardinal of St Sasaunds, has for three years been contentious and has tried to extort from Cardinal Bertrand a part of the tythes belonging to the cardinals prebend of Croperi in the church of Lincoln and has otherwise harassed him*"⁹. The letter seems to suggest Geoffrey had attempted to extract revenue from Cardinal Bertrand in respect of a church in Lincoln. In the meantime William de Alminsland had finished his studies and returned to Ratcliffe with the village seeming to have continued as normal, oblivious of the dispute raging at a high level.

The Pope now appealed directly to the King. On the 3rd May 1325 Pope John XXII wrote "*To the King. Touching the provisions made by the Pope to Bertrand, cardinal of St Marcellus papal legate, of the church of Ratcliffe on Sore in the diocese of York, the executors deputed by the cardinal were hindered by royal prohibition made at the instance of Walter de Alisande (Alminsland) also occupied the said church from obtaining possession of it. The Pope begs the king to grant possession of the church to the cardinal's proctor to remove it from the said occupier*"¹⁰. However, the King had more pressing matters than a dispute over a rural church as his dispute with his queen, Isabella, was developing into open rebellion.

This ultimately led to his abdication and death on 21st September 1327. The dispute again rumbled on. On the 25th January 1327 Edward III came to the throne but was under the dominance of Roger Mortimer and his lover, Edward's mother. On the 15th May 1327 Edward III passed through Nottingham probably staying at the castle¹¹. Geoffrey saw his opportunity and waited on the King and appealed for help. Edward wrote to the Pope and to Cardinal de St Susanna explaining the situation and defending the Prior as recorded in the Close Rolls. This had no effect. This dispute which had gone on for 11 years was finally resolved when Geoffrey Chintriaco resigned from the Priory at Lenton and was made Prior of Mentoule. Pope John XII wrote to Peter, bishop of Porto '*regarding a mandate to absolve Geoffrey de Chintriaco, Prior of Lenton, in the diocese of York, from the sentence of excommunication issued against him by the said Peter, then cardinal of St. Susanna's, in the cause between Geoffrey and Bertrand, bishop of Ostia, then cardinal of St. Marcellus, about the church of Radeclive on Sore.*'

Geoffrey de Chintriac's place is taken by a monk of Cluny Guichard de Jou (but the appointment may not have been taken up until 1331). It is not known who succeeded the rectory at Ratcliffe but may be John Gerard as he is recorded as rector on the 1st November 1331¹². Having gained some retribution and with the departure of Walter de Alminland, the Pope drew a line under the issue. Peace descended on the village but it was not to last. In 1349 the Black Death struck. How this affected Norton is unclear but it seems its finances were disrupted which brought the Priory to the attention of the Bishop of York. He referred the matter to his treasurer John de Wynwyck. John had become treasurer in York in 1349 having held the prebendary of South Muskham from 1347. That is not all, as Frederick Crooks described in 1925¹³ "*John de Wynwyck was actively devoted to the service of Edward III and honours and wealth were showered upon him*".¹⁴ The Calendar of Patent Rolls has an entry for 1st December 1358 which reads: '*John of Winwick (sic), treasurer of York to grant the canon of Norton 40/- a year rent from the lands in Burgh in Lonsdale in Licence granted by return for the church of Ratcliffe on Soar.*' It would appear that John had secured the prebend of Ratcliffe for a purpose the details of which were disclosed in his will with a date of the 3rd October 1359 which reads; '*The advowson of the church of Radeclive upon Sore shall be assigned to the chapter of Lichfield upon condition that they found and find for me and my benefactors a perpetual chantry of two chaplains in the cathedral church of Lichfield and that a distribution shall be made there every year on the day of my death to 300 poor people each receiving 1d and providing also that the chapter shall not make any demand upon my executors in respect of pension out of the church of Wygan during the time I have had it.*' He also made bequests in Oxford. There were a number of executors the chief amongst them being John's brother, Richard. On the 7th December 1359 John made his last appointment when Henry de Blakeburn was made rector of Ratcliffe. A few months later John died. Later, when the Will was proved on the 28th June 1360 Ratcliffe was mentioned again. Proved: '*That the advowson of the church of Radclyve (sic) on Sore should be assigned to the maintenance of scholars dwelling in Oxford in a hall to be built by his executors.* It is uncertain as to how this codicil came about but it was to have major repercussions for Ratcliffe church. As stated, the leading executor was Richard de Wynwyck and he set about his duties to implement John's wishes after he died early in 1360. He appears to have redirected the advowson of Ratcliffe from Lichfield to Oxford but on whose authority remains unclear but in 1361 the Inquisition Post-mortem confirmed the change and also named the hall to which the bequest was to be made. The Writs of Westminster record: '*It is not the loss or prejudice of the King or any other if he grants to Richard Wynwyck brother and heir of John Wynwyck executor of the will of the same John, that he may give the advowson of the church of Radeclive on Sore to the Provost and scholars of the King's Hall of the Blessed Mary at Oxford called "le Oriole" to find and maintain certain poor scholars dwelling in the aforesaid hall students of the said university forever. The aforesaid advowson is held of Ralph Bassett Knight as of his manor aforesaid by the service of the 20th part of a knight's fee. The same church is worth, according to the true value of the same, 40 marks (£26.13.4d) a year and the extent of the same is 50 marks.*'

We therefore have a clear idea of the value of Ratcliffe. St Mary's Hall Oxford was founded in 1326. It had an association with Oriel College which existed next door. Ratcliffe manor was now in the hands of the Basset family and from the reference above it seems that John de Wynwyck and his executor had come to an understanding over the advowson of the church probably from 1358. In 1363 Richard petitioned the Pope to confirm the bequest. This turned out to be a mistake as the Papacy had been inherited by Urban V who had been trained in the law and although a supporter of universities would not tolerate corruption and, in particular, diversion of revenues. In a response (Avignon 1 Urban V 1st Sept 1363) he granted the petition in regard to the foundation made from the goods of the deceased but not for the appropriation of the church. So complex was this decision that it runs to 60 pages. Richard refused to obey this and in 1365 sought support of Edward III. The Calendar of Patent Rolls for 20th October 1365 recorded at Sandwich, Kent, that the King grants a: '*License for the alienation in mortmain by the king's clerk John de Wynwyck treasurer of the church of St Peter York or his executor after his death of £50 yearly of lands, rents or advowsons of the churches not held in chief, to support poor scholars in the University of Oxford or other chantries or works of piety (Vacated because surrendered, the executors of his will having on 6th July 40 Edw III (1365) acquired the advowson of the church of Redeclyf on Sore in full satisfaction of the £50)*'

Once again Ratcliffe was embroiled in a battle over its advowson. In all this the Ralph Lord Basset the Lord of the Manor of Ratcliffe kept out of the dispute. Later the manor was to come to Hugh de Shirley. Nothing much happened in the early 1370s with the Pope grumbling about the advowson and, with his own local troubles, took no action except to grudgingly accept the appointment of Henry de Blackburn as rector of Ratcliffe. There then appears an entry in the Richard II's Patent Rolls for 20th May 1375. *'Commission to all sheriffs to arrest Walter Levenaunt, clerk, Westminster and Ralph Daventre and Baldwin Taillour, his proctors and all his aiders and abettors and have them presented before the king and council by sufficient mainprise, bail or other pledge, together with the cause of their taking all letters, processes and other things prejudicial to the king found with them. As the King has learned that, although Henry Blackeburn (sic), clerk, canonically obtained the church of Radeleve upon Sore, by virtue of the presentation of John de Wynwyck, down deceased, the patron thereof and long possessed it peacefully, the said Walter, well knowing the right of the said patron suggested in the court of Rome that the church was void and pertained to the provision of the apostolic see, whereas it did not and could not procure a provision thereof to him and various processes and personal citations against the said Henry to appear without the realm upon his right to the possession of the church and by the colour thereof by himself and his proctors strives to intrude into the said church and expel therefrom William Julyan who has been admitted and canonically instituted therein on the resignation of the said Henry by the presentation of Richard de Wynwyck, brother and heir of the said John and patron of the church.'* It would appear that Henry Blackburn resigned and Richard de Wynwyck appointed William Julyan as rector. The Patent Rolls have an entry for 6th December 1380 citing the Levenaunt, Daventre and Taillour for an undisclosed misdemeanour in Buckinghamshire for which they had been fined 20s and which they had not paid. There is no proof that this was in relation to a church but it is likely to have been so. A similar order was repeated in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and in Lancashire at about the same time for things that happened several years earlier. Again what they did is not stated. It is not known if the Buckinghamshire fine was paid but it does appear that the three were some form of roving enforcers. Their attack on William Julyan and Ratcliffe's church appears to have been in writing and their crime, reporting the events to the Pope without royal assent. It is not known if the group appeared before the court but in 1377 the Papacy returned to Rome. The knowledge concerning the appointment of William Julyan seems to have incensed the Pope who was now Urban VI who demanded his removal. Richard, with his support from the King, ignored the command. Walter Levenaunt however seems to have decided on direct action. On the afternoon/evening of the 9th October 1381 the church at Ratcliffe was attacked by the gang. This appears to have been encouraged by someone close to the Bishop of Exeter as Walter was a man of Devon and was then recorded as a clerk in the employ of the bishop. The Calendar of Patent Rolls for 1381 record that: Walter, a clerk of Exeter, who averring in the court of Rome that the church was void (living was vacant) and pertaining to the Pope's provision, procured provision thereof in his favour. It appears that Walter was not going to let the matter drop. Someone in Exeter was prevailed upon by the Pope to remove the Wynwyck appointee by force if necessary¹⁵. The gang finding the church doors barred attempted to burn them down. William Julyan was inside and departed up onto the roof. The attack failed for reasons not explained but since the church was immediately opposite the manor house the noise must have roused the Basset household to intervene. Retribution was swift. The King appears to have had enough of the gang's activities as the Close Rolls of Richard II dated 24th October 1381 record: *'Memorandum. The kings writ was publicly delivered to Walter Levenaunt, clerk, forbidding him under pain of forfeiture to depart to any foreign parts without special licence to sue ought thee by himself or others which may tend to (be) contempt of the King or to prejudice of the people and realm or the law.'*

The blocked priest's door in the chancel which was the one probably attacked on the 9th October 1381. The



opening on the right is carved out of a solid block of stone. That on the left was a cavity some 2m long now partially blocked. Before 2010 when the church was restored, both openings were filled with hard plaster flush with the wall. In 1381 the cavity on the left would have held the fouling bar 4 to 5 inches square which would have been drawn across the door and inserted into the right cavity. The door would have opened inwards. The outline of the priest's door in the east face of the tower can be seen in the pictures on the next page.

The roof was lowered circa 1440 and, in the other picture below, the top of the door and the original roof line can be seen. It would have been to the roof that William Julyan would have fled when faced with the Bishop of Exeter's men in 1381.



In the meantime, Walter Levenaunt had fled to his estates in a remote part of Devon but was sought by the King for on the 7th May 1383 the Calendar of Patent Rolls records: *'Mandate to sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs and other ministers to arrest and bring before the King or council, Walter Levenaunt, clerk and Ralph Daventre and Baldwin Taillour, his proctors, to stand their trial for proceedings at the Roman court in breach of a late ordinance of Parliament (25 Ed III) in respect of the church at Reddeclive on Sore from which church the said Walter was attempting to expel (William Julyan) by fire on the doors under colour of a papal provision alleging that the right belongs not to a lay patron but to the Pope.'*^{16/ 17} Walter was not captured for the records of petitions in the records that he appealed to Richard II to be released from the charge of outlawry in 1384. The petition is stamped Windsor Castle, 30th July. This was successful as the Close Rolls for 17th February 1385 state: *'Walter Levenaunt, clerk, (in recompense) to Richard Wynnewyke (sic) and Henry Blakebune (sic) clerks (proctors). General release of all actions real and personal all claims and demands – a memorandum of acknowledgement. Master Walter Levenaunt, canon of Exeter cathedral, to Master Richard de Wynwyke, Canon of the cathedral church of St Mary's Lincoln. Recognisance for 1500 marks to be levied in Devon. The memorandum of defeasance upon condition that the said Walter Levenaunt shall not directly or indirectly by himself or another trouble the prior and convent of Burscough of the order of St Augustine in the diocese of Lichfield or any other touching the title or possession of the parish church of Radeclif upon Sore in the diocese of York or any cause or claim depending thereupon.'* This was a massive fine amounting to £1000 in silver. Why Henry Blakeburn was mentioned is unclear. This was not the end for Ratcliffe as the reference to Burscough indicates that Richard had second thoughts about the bequest to St Mary Hall in Oxford. Ratcliffe was disposed of to the penurious leper priory in Lancashire probably because it was the closest one to Huyton where John de Wynwyck was interred.

The Prior was delighted stating the acquisition of Ratcliffe staved off the bankruptcy of his priory. Thus ended a tumultuous century for a Nottinghamshire rural parish church. One final word. In 1925 Frederick Crooks wrote to Oriel College to seek information as to why they never took up the bequest. The Rev G C Richards responded saying that the college knew the bequest had been made but had no information as to why it never made a claim. It was never mentioned again.



John de Wynwyck's alabaster effigy in Huyton church, Lancashire,

This is believed to be carved from Chellaston Derbyshire Stone.

Notes:

- 1/2. Ratcliffe (then Redecleve) was acquired by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester in reward for assisting William I to the throne in 1067 over his Elder brother Robert, later coming to the Baron of Halton (1101), the Priory of Runcorn (1117) and thence to Norton (1134). Data as per Patrick Greene, Norton Priory – The Archaeology of a Medieval Religious House, 1989. Norton also owned another Nottinghamshire church, Kneesall near Ollerton, and two other churches, Burton Stather, in Lincolnshire and Castle Donington in Leicestershire.
The original ford was less than 50m from the church until it was moved in an attempt to make the river navigable in 1636. In 1786 the ford was moved again to its current location when the Ratcliffe Cut was dug for the Loughborough Navigation.
3. The Calendar of Patent Rolls for 13th May 1318, Westminster. The Ratcliffe Chronicles p 19 and an order from Henry III to the Bishop of York held in the Register of the Archbishop of York dated 1st October 1270 (but not enacted until 1272)
4. Calendar of Papal Registers – Letters Avignon Pope John XXII
5. Calendar of Papal Registers – Letters Avignon Pope John XXII dated 10th February 1319
6. This is not the only time that the Prior of Lenton was excommunicated over the appointment of a priest to a local church south of the Trent. In 1263 the Pope appointed Bartholomew de Agnani to the living of Barton in Fabis. Unfortunately the prior had other ideas and wished for a man called Thomas de Raley to be appointed telling the villagers that Bartholomew had died. This was untrue and that fact was apparent when Bartholomew's proctor appeared to take possession. He was met by a mob comprising the prior and the servants of Thomas de Raley who robbed the proctor of his Papal letters and murdered him in the churchyard. The prior was called to appear before Pope Urban IV and when he declined was promptly excommunicated.
7. Close Rolls Edward II National Archives (document is held as SC8/196/9759) in the National Archives)
Victorian History of the County of Nottinghamshire Vol II page 95.
8. Calendar of Papal Registers – Letters at Avignon
9. Calendar of Papal Registers – Letters 3rd May 1325
10. Edward was later to move against Roger Mortimer and his mother in 1330 in the same castle.
11. Calendar of Papal Registers – Letters Avignon. Regesta 100 1330 to 1331
12. John de Wynwyck and his Chantry in Huyton Church, 29th October 1925, www.hslc.org.uk
13. The exact date of his death is not known but was in the first three months of the following year. Some sources quote 1359 but it must be remembered that the year did not start until April making John's year of death 1359/60.
14. F.Crooks, *John Winick and his charity at Huyton Church*. *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, (1926) 26-38.
15. The Bishop of Exeter in 1381 was Thomas de Brantyngham but there is no evidence he was involved. Suspicion fell on a relation of the Picots (or Pycot) the former Lords of the Manor of Ratcliffe, who were influential in the affairs of the diocese of Exeter and so it is possible that it was a member who made one last attempt to meddle in the advowson of Ratcliffe. Someone seems to have persuaded Walter to act on behalf of the Pope but the group's activities elsewhere indicate they were meddling in church appointments at least from 1375. The association between the Pycot family and the Exeter cathedral going back to the 13th century when John Pycot was elected dean. This was disputed by the bishop who asked one of his hard men Walter Lechlade to have John removed. In a fight Lechlade was stabbed to death. John was later banished to a monastery. However, the Pycot connection with Exeter endured. There is an unsubstantiated rumour that Richard II moved to limit the Pycot influence in Exeter after 1383 but this cannot be proved.
No other explanation as to why Exeter was involved in a church some 200 miles away over which it had no jurisdiction, is forthcoming.
16. National Archives 8/183/9/133
17. In July 2010 during a SPAB working party recesses were found in the sidewall on both sides of the blocked up door of the chancel. These appear to relate to a sliding bar which could be drawn across the inside of the door and some oak remnants were discovered. This has raised speculation that this was the door that was assaulted by Walter de Levenaunt in October 1381 which was barred by the priest.

Ray State

Battle Bridge, Upton

Battle Bridge today is little more than a mundane culvert on the A612 between Upton and Averham. But does its name hold clues to a more interesting past? Nick Molyneux takes a closer look at possible origins.

The bridge lies on a bend, crossing what appears to be an unnamed watercourse running from the western side of Mickleborough Hill down into the Car Dyke, then to the Pingley Dyke and on into the river Trent at Averham. In its current form, it is a fairly undistinguished structure on a pronounced kink in a modern A-class road. It is so low-key that many motorists are probably not aware they are crossing a bridge at all. There is no road sign to confirm its identity as "Battle Bridge". There seems to be a current local belief that the name Battle Bridge is connected to the sieges of Newark during the English Civil Wars of the mid-seventeenth century. A quick google search for 'Battle Bridge, Upton, Nottinghamshire' soon found a family history website suggesting that '... the entrance to the village over Battle Bridge (so-called due to the activities at that location in the Civil War)'. But is it?

The Current Build & Watercourse: The present bridge dates from 1964, when it replaced an earlier brick-arch structure. It consists of prestressed concrete planks with an in situ concrete deck and has the reference number 3216C. Although Ordnance Survey maps seem to have no name for the water running under the bridge, the county highways contractor, Via East Midlands Limited, refers to the watercourse as Beck Drain. The Trent Valley Inland Drainage Board, which has responsibility for the watercourse between the bridge and the Trent, refers to it as Battle Drain or, perhaps rather less interestingly, TVB301407.

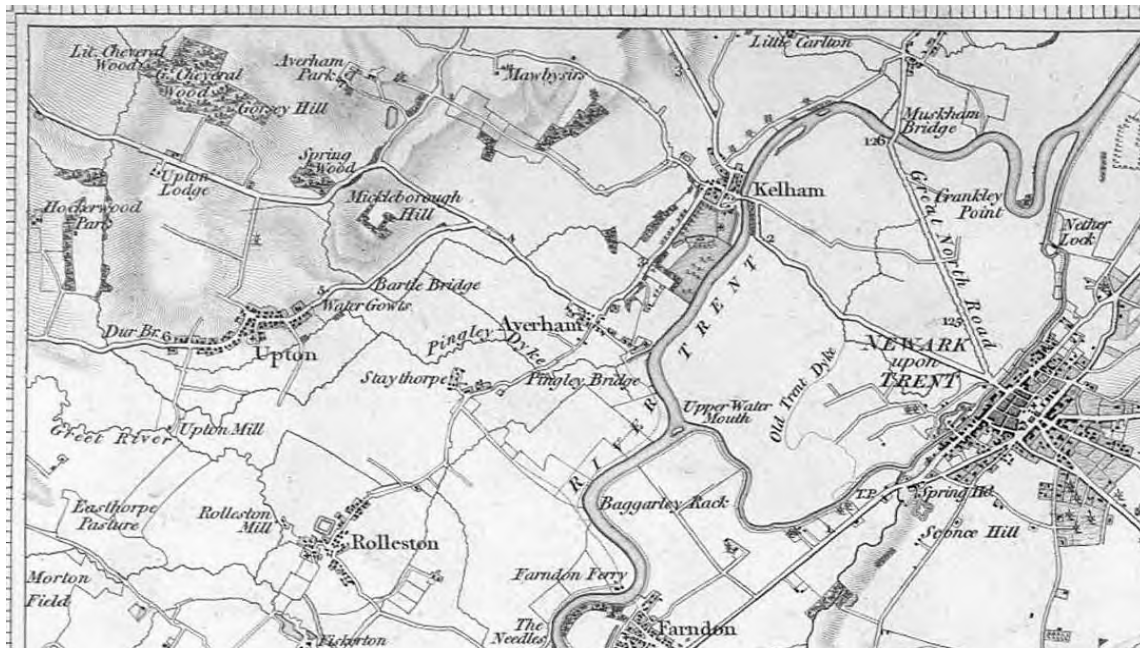
Botwulf's Bridge?: I was originally drawn to Nottinghamshire's Battle Bridge after reading a very informative paper about St. Botolph, the 7th century East Anglian saint, by Dr. Sam Newton. St. Botolph (*Botwulf*) is associated with bridges, boundaries, trade and major road routes. This association with travel is perhaps most strikingly illustrated by the fact that three of the main gates into the medieval City of London each had its own church dedicated to the saint. Each of these dedications survive: St. Botolph without Aldgate; St. Botolph without Bishopsgate and St. Botolph without Aldersgate. As the names imply, all were located just outside the walls. A fourth St. Botolph's was by the Thames wharves at Billingsgate, another entrance into the city. It burned down in the Great Fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt. Like London, Lincoln also has an extra-mural roadside dedication in St Botolph-by-Bargate, the church being on what was once the southernmost boundary of the town on the main road to the south. Also in Lincolnshire, perhaps his most famous association with a given place is Boston, the place-name meaning either Botolph's (*Botwulf's*) settlement (*tun*) or preaching-stone (*stan*). The town's magnificent Boston Stump is one of some 65 to 70 churches which have been dedicated to the saint and there are a number of other place-names which may also be associated with him. Amongst those other places was a Battle (or Bottle) Bridge across the river Nene into Peterborough, recorded in Domesday as *Botuluesbrige* ("Botwulf's Bridge"). Could there be a similar origin for our Battle Bridge?

St. Botolph Dedications in Nottinghamshire?: For those of us who had forgotten, St. Botolph's Day is the 17th of June. So, there was more than just a touch of serendipity about correspondence I received from Dr Denis Pepper of The Society of St. Botolph on that very day last summer. The Society is free to join and has a very informative monthly newsletter, which shares information on all things Botolphian. I was enquiring as to whether or not the 7th century East Anglian saint had any known dedications or connections to the County of Nottinghamshire. Dr Pepper's news was disappointing. It seems that Nottinghamshire is and always has been a Botolph-free county. If there was no obvious local connection between St. Botolph and the bridge, it was time to look elsewhere.

The English Civil War and a Case of Mistaken Identity?: If the name did not derive from the protector of travellers, perhaps the local belief in an origin associated with the English Civil War was correct? The main road between Nottingham and Newark ran through Upton and over the bridge and might reasonably be expected to play some role in the conflict. The importance of Muskham Bridge on the Great North Road across the river Trent during that period is well documented. It was a major tactical objective for the attacking forces in the sieges of Newark in both 1644 and 1646. However, if Battle Bridge was the site of an important engagement during the Civil War, I've struggled to find reference to it. Coincidentally, there was a significant Civil War action fought on the 28th of August 1651 involving the daring capture of a bridge at a place called Upton Upton-upon-Severn. A small group of Parliamentarian troops under Colonel John Lambert captured a badly damaged structure across Severn, allowing the New Model Army to block Royalist communications with Wales. Could knowledge of this event have encouraged a belief in a Civil War derivation for a Battle Bridge in Nottinghamshire's Upton?

The English Place-name Society (EPNS): The EPNS' survey of the County's place-names is clear that in 1585 it was called Bartlebridge, significantly pre-dating any connection to the Civil War. Dr. Paul Cavill has kindly shared further work on the place-names of Upton, which confirms a series of "*Bartle*" references during the 17th and 18th centuries. (See Appendix I below). So, even within living memory of the Civil War, the name had not acquired any formal association with military action.

The Ordnance Survey (OS) Name-change: Henry Steven's 1820 Survey of the Trent clearly shows our bridge as being called Bartle Bridge. Similarly, in the OS First Series sheet 70 published in 1856 the name is still Bartle Bridge (see Map 1 below). However, a change takes place in the second-half of the 19th century when the OS maps begin to use the term "Battle Bridge". Quite why the name changed is still uncertain. Perhaps a map-maker's "correction" for local dialect or the learned opinion of a country parson or school master?



Map 1: Ordnance Survey First Series, Sheet 70 (1856) showing “Bartle Bridge”, Upton

The meaning of Bartle?: The EPNS currently concludes that the “Bartle” element is obscure. Yet the surname Bartle is not uncommon in surrounding parishes. Appendix II below gives the number of individuals named Bartle in Nottinghamshire according to the 1841 census. Of 63 people so named, just over half are in the Southwell area. There are also a number of bridges across Nottinghamshire named for families or individuals (see Appendix III below). We may never know who the Bartle was who was first associated with Battle Bridge or why but it seems most likely that the bridge originally took its name from that of a local family. In doing so, the naming of the bridge is following something of a local tradition. It may lack the excitement of a spot where Roundheads and Cavaliers fought a skirmish. It may not have the significance of a holy place where pious travellers sought the protection of a venerable saint but for the best part of three hundred years it proudly bore the name of a Bartle. I wonder if there might be any appetite to change it back?

If any reader knows of any connection between an individual or family named Bartle with a connection to the bridge, or has evidence as to the reasons for the name-change, please e-mail the author at n.molyneux@live.co.uk

Appendix I - EPNS References to Bartle Bridge (JEPNS 40) - Bartle Bridge 1638 CWA, 1670, 1703 Deeds, 1709 AbstrT, 1745 DioTerr, 1757 Deeds, 1770 Terrier, 1795 EnclA, bartle bridge 1612, 1625, 1632 CWA, Bartle Bridg 1670, 1684 Deeds, Bartle brig 1687 DioTerr, Bartlebridge 1724 ib, 1739, 1764 Deeds (cf. Bartle Bridge Leys 1684 Deeds, ~ ~ close 1684 ib, 1733, 1766 AbstrT, 1817 DioTerr, Bartlebridge Furlong 1776 AbstrT; v. brycg, the first element is obscure).

Appendix II - the 1841 Census - Nottinghamshire Distribution of Surname “Bartle” - Whatever the distribution of the surname Bartle when the term Bartle Bridge was first recorded in the 16th century, by the mid-19th century the area north of Southwell was something of a family stronghold.

Rank	Census Area	Settlements	Persons
1	Southwell	Boughton; Eakring; Farnsfield; Kneesall; Laxton	34
2	East Retford	Bevercotes; Clarborough; South Leverton; Tuxford	9
3	Gainsborough	Misterton	8
4	Radford	Lenton; Sneinton	6
5	Nottingham	St. Mary	4
6	Newark	South Collingham	1
7	Worksop	Carlton-in-Lindrick	1
		TOTAL:	63

Appendix III - Other Family-named Bridges - Nottinghamshire has a number of bridges named for local families or individuals. The English Place-name Society *Place-names of Nottinghamshire* (1940) notes the following examples:

Bridge Name	Settlement	Explanation
Mann's Bridge	Cotgrave	Associated with the family of Mary Mann (1754)
Grimesbrig	Epperstone	Earlier name of Wash Bridge (1280), near Grims Moor from Old Norse name <i>Grimr</i> .
Gray's Bridge	Clayworth	Associated with the family of Samuel Gray (1850)
Otter's Bridge	Clayworth	Associated with the family of Roger Otter (1682)
Pickin's Bridge	Perlethorpe	Associated with the family of William Pickin (1790)
Hartrey Bridge	Mansfield	From woman's name <i>Heahthryth</i> as <i>Eghtradesbrug</i> (1227) now Newbound Mill Bridge

Sources: (1) *BCW Project* (British Civil Wars, Commonwealth & Protectorate 1638 - 1660)

website: [<http://bcw-project.org/>]; (2) *Cullens of Upton Family Website* [<http://members.bex.net/jtcullen515/Upton.htm>]; (3) *The Botolphian - Newsletter of The Society of Saint Botolph*, Issue 85, June 2020; (4) *The Forgotten History of St. Botwulf (Botolph)*, Dr. Sam Newton, first published in *The Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, 43 (2016), pp. 521-550; (5) *The Place-names of Nottinghamshire*, J.E.B. Gover, Allen Mawer and F.M. Stenton, English Place-name Society, 1940 reprinted 1999; (6) *Upton, Thurgarton Wapentake, Nottinghamshire*, Jean Cameron, Paul Cavill, and Richard Jones, JEPNS 40 (2008), 23-34; (7) Find My Past website: [<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>]; (8) Ordnance Survey First Series (Old Series) Sheet 70 (1856); (9) Genesreunited.co.uk website.

With thanks to: Dr. Paul Cavill, *English Place-name Society*; Mike Hawkins, *Bridge Manager, Via East Midlands Ltd.*; Neil Hunter, *Technical Support, Water Management Consortium and Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board*; Jason Mordan, *Senior Practitioner Historic Buildings, Nottinghamshire County Council*; Dr. Denis Pepper, *The Society of St. Botolph*.

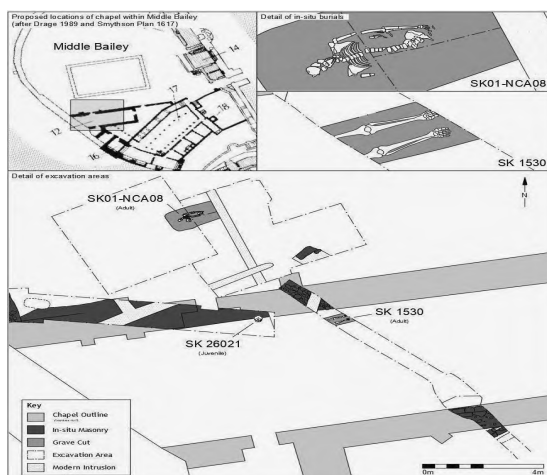
Nick Molyneux

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS.

This year's Maurice Barley lecture was by Dr. Gareth Davies of Trent & Peak Archaeology, who gave a summary account of the numerous excavations that have taken place at Nottingham Castle during the major redevelopment project, in advance of the final publication. There follows some more details that Gareth has provided for this Newsletter and this is followed by some other Historical burials from Scott Lomax.

The Great Chapel and Burials

Some particularly interesting findings were made in the Middle Bailey of the Castle, including on the site of the Great Chapel. During the 14th century significant sums of money were spent on Nottingham Castle. The Middle Bailey is highly re-developed during this time, and one important element, known from documentary evidence, is the installation of the Great Chapel. This building is depicted on the Smithson plan of 1617. In the area of the Chapel, the upper half of a burial had been excavated in 1978. This was at the time thought to be a Civil War casualty, but it remained a bit of a mystery.



As part of the redevelopment project, Trent & Peak were asked to excavate the remaining shallowly buried half of the burial, so that it wasn't damaged during the groundworks. Pottery finds and radiocarbon dating of the bones gave a 16th century date, so this burial was not a Civil War casualty. However, it raised intriguing questions about later use of a burial ground around the Great Chapel. The redevelopment works also gave the archaeologists new opportunities to explore the question of the Great Chapel in this part of the Castle. Part of an additional burial was located just south of a portion of east to west aligned wall that aligned very well with the Smithson plan projection of the chapel. A further parallel wall located to the south was also observed in a service

trench excavation, giving some confidence that the chapel has been located. The identified burial was that of an older male. The archaeologists were able to preserve the burial *in situ*, but an osteological assessment demonstrated that the individual had been buried in a shroud and then in a coffin. One interesting bit of pathology identified by the osteologist was evidence for patellar tendonitis, commonly known as runner's knee, and often associated with heavy lifting and sustained muscle use. Just north of the *in situ* adult burial, a disturbed juvenile burial was also recovered, again within the presumed chapel interior, almost abutting the northern wall. This individual returned a radiocarbon date of the 14th to 15th century, somewhat earlier than the burial excavated in 1978. The identification of burials within the presumed Great Chapel interior may imply high status individuals, whilst the later burial to the north may suggest a longer lived but less intensively utilised burial ground.

The excavations of the great chapel in the middle bailey highlight that the castle had transformed from a strategic fortification and military stronghold into a complex site and household with functions including the servicing of religious life and administration by the later medieval period.

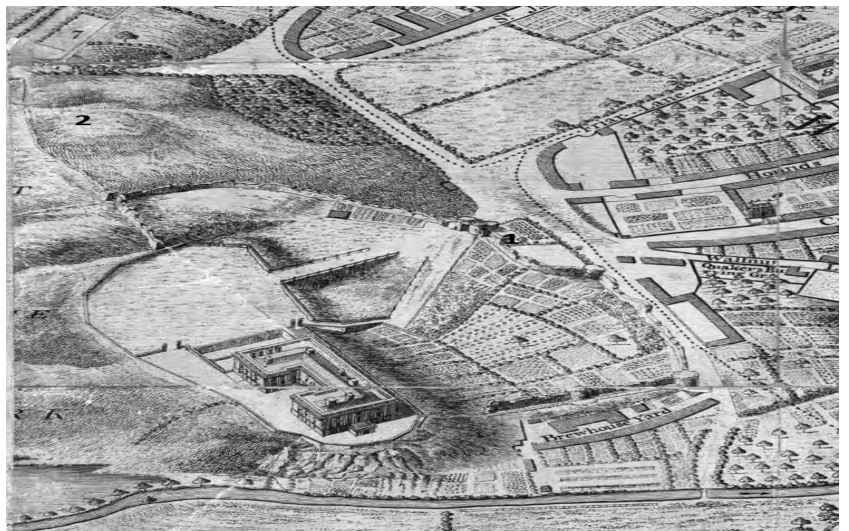
Gareth Davies, Head of Archaeology, York Archaeological Trust

Castle Burials

The two human skeletons found during the castle redevelopment, and the likely Tudor individual first discovered in 1978 and fully exhumed in 2016, are just some of the many human remains found at the castle over the past 240 years and it is highly likely that there are numerous burials yet to be discovered. In the 1970s the tibia of a child estimated to have been aged 12-14, was found during archaeological works in the Middle Bailey, indicating that at least one further individual was buried near the chapel. Landscaping works after the castle's destruction in 1651 appear to have disturbed the remains. The rest of the skeleton may still be within the site.

In 1927, following demolition of the Drill Hall which stood on Castle Road to the south of the gatehouse bridge, on the course of the external moat of the castle, labourers found the skeleton of an adult male estimated to have been aged between 30 and 35. The skeleton was found within the ditch, at a depth of between 6ft and 8ft. The bones were well preserved, with the teeth described as being in a 'perfect' state of preservation, but few other details are known.

The Northern Bailey of the castle is too often forgotten, having not been part of the castle site since the late 18th century, when it became the site of the General Hospital. The archaeology of the site, which was investigated by University of Leicester Archaeological Services during the site's redevelopment after the hospital's closure, was considerable. Among the remains investigated were substantial curtain walls of the Northern Bailey, as well as defensive ditches or moats. The partially disarticulated remains of at least six individuals were recovered, though more than half the bones had been disturbed by a Victorian gas pipe.



An extract from the Badder and Peat map (1744) showing Nottingham Castle and its environs. The site of the 1927 discovery and Derry Mount are shown (labelled as 1 and 2 respectively)

Although some of the skeletons were contemporary with the hospital, and were thought to have been used as a reference collection, some of the individuals were interpreted as being of medieval date. The lower half of the skeleton of an adult male was found in the fill of one of the large medieval ditches, and the presence of 12th to 13th century pottery within the fills of this ditch may point to the skeleton belonging to the 13th century. Of particular interest, and intrigue, were remains discovered in 1781 during the digging of foundations for the General Hospital. A mound, described by Thoroton as being of artificial construction and

dating to the Civil War, was levelled as part of the works for the hospital and during these works some important discoveries were made.

Fortunately, contemporary accounts exist and these describe how 'several' human skeletons were found at different depths. The remains included several skulls, one of which was thought to have marks consistent with a bullet wound. A dagger and two swords, one of which was plated with silver, were also found. The dagger was thought to have been a Scotch Dirk 'such as are worn by the Highlanders'. A token bearing the date 1669 was, according to Robert Throsby (writing in the 1790s), also found. In addition to the General Hospital, during the 19th century the Northern Bailey became the site of a small number of other buildings including an educational establishment named Standard Hill Academy, a three-storey building with an observatory. It was during the construction of this building that a 'many relics of the time of Charles the First' were found, with ten skeletons also uncovered. The skeletons were thought to be male and each, it was reported, had their skulls adjacent to their bodies. A local dentist drew all the teeth but other than a short description written in August 1842 to commemorate the bicentennial of the Raising of the Standard, no records can be found.

The Northern Bailey remains all appear to have suffered violent deaths and it would appear were, at least in some cases, the victims of execution.

Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist

BOOKCASE - Book Reviews

See back page of the Newsletter for photographs of the Front Covers of the three books reviewed here.

'Nottingham Settlers and Locations in the Eastern Cape of Good Hope'

Rob Smith has just published a work of 600 pages on The Nottinghamshire Settlers to the South African Cape during 1820.

A limited number of copies are available directly from Rob for £34 plus p&p. Please contact robsmith52@outlook.com

The middle months of 2020 were supposed to form a season of commemorations and family reunions marking the bicentennial of the story of the '1820 Settlers'. During 1820, over 90,000 people applied to join a state-led emigration plan to the southern tip of Africa with the intention of escaping poverty and starting a new life in a land that promised much. For the most part, the bicentenary celebrations were cancelled due to the pandemic, Rob Smith has published a wide-ranging study of the Nottinghamshire Settlers to mark the occasion.

4,000 applicants were accepted for the venture of which 200 originated from Nottinghamshire. The main party, led by surgeon Thomas Calton of Collingham, settled in a location they named Clumber in honour of the 4th Duke of Newcastle (the county's Lord Lieutenant) who was their principal sponsor and fundraiser. Southwell magistrate, the Rev.J.T.Becher, and Newark-based Clerk of the Peace, Edward Smith Godfrey, managed the detailed arrangements and monitored the progress of the party. Sadly, Dr Calton died shortly after their landing, but despite this setback his party was statistically the most cohesive group of all. Furthermore, Clumber was, and is, situated at the heart of the settlement, as is the satellite district of Southwell named after the home town of settler Benjamin Keeton of the wider Becher family.

Their central locations and sustained residence has meant that the Nottinghamshire settlers have been heavily involved in all of the main successes and tribulations enjoyed and endured by the settlers. As such, their story is representative of the British settlers as a whole. They witnessed the last four of nine frontier wars spanning one hundred years, experienced the Great Flood of 1823, serious crop failures, a bizarre episode of tribal starvation, political neglect, and much more. More positively, they were engaged in significant cultural, scientific and industrial developments, spiritual progress, discoveries of diamonds and gold and advancements in the field of medicine.

This book covers some heartbreaking setbacks and spectacular successes, but a key intention has been to make some record of the ordinary daily lives of the people, particularly for their first two decades in the South African Cape. The research draws on regional and national archives and official documents in South Africa and England. Regular contact between Rob and the descendants of central characters now living in the UK, Africa and around the world, helping to reveal some of the feelings and attitudes of those descended from these intrepid pioneers. Rob has benefitted from meeting family historians, touring settler locations, and visiting museums and monuments during a hectic tour of the Eastern Cape in 2016. There he found a thriving community with a 'can do' attitude reflecting the spirit of communal determination inherited from their forebears.

Richard A. Gaunt

'Battle of Flames'
'Nottinghamshires fight for Survival in WWII'
David Needham

ISBN 978-1-909813-687, Bannister Publications Ltd. (Chesterfield, 2020), £17.99
(<https://www.bannisterpublications.com/product-page/battle-of-the-flames>)

'If the Battle of Britain was won by "The Few", the Battle of the Flames was won by the many'. This is the opening sentence to the introduction to the book that David has compiled and written.

The 'many' were the ordinary people whose everyday jobs did not involve fighting fires or saving lives, but when the time came would step up to the mark and be counted. To these ordinary people the war was something they read about in the newspapers or they heard of on the wireless as they listened to the BBC over the airwaves. The war was seeing loved ones enlisting and going off to fight.

But, in 1940, the war suddenly became more real as it came to these shores, not from an invasion, but from the air as Hitler's Luftwaffe carried out bombing raids on the south coast and later spreading to the industrial towns and cities across the country. These bombing raids would bring forth the 'many' as they came forward to play a vital role in this nation's history as auxiliary fire fighters, ARP wardens, ambulance drivers and first aiders, many more roles would be filled as the war progressed by the 'ordinary man and woman'.

Nottinghamshire air raids began in mid-August 1940 with various attacks on the city, however, it would be the air raid on the night of the 8/9th May 1941 that would see the city suffer its worst bombing and greatest loss of life. It would be on this night that the word 'Blitz' would be added to Nottingham when describing the events of the 8/9th May. During the night some of Nottingham's major buildings would be struck by bombs and various incendiary devices. Across the city, buildings were destroyed and burned, from the university on Shakespeare Street, to the city centre and the Lace Market, out to the Co-operative Bakery on Meadow Lane. The destruction would spread across the perimeter of the city including Beeston, Sneinton, Carlton and West Bridgford. In total, during the night 424 high explosive bombs and 6,804 incendiary devices would rain from the sky. The death toll on that night was 160 men, women and children, with hundreds treated for injuries. The greatest loss of life was at the Co-operative Bakery (50) and the Dakeyne Street public air shelter (21). This air raid would not be the last, but none that followed would have the same devastating effect as that which took place in the early hours of the 9th of May 1941.

This book is the second edition of David's original work, first published in 2009, timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the 'Nottingham Blitz'. This new version explores in-depth the air raids, the destruction, the loss of life and the aftermath. The book (226 pages) has many new images with a large number in colour. For David, ex Divisional Officer of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, what started as an article for the journal of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service in 1990 was much more, especially when he started talking to the wartime veterans of the Fire Service and the Air Raid Precautions Service. A bigger picture began to be revealed, one that needed to be told.

To quote from David's book: *'This is the story of the people of Nottinghamshire and the aerial war waged against them.'* For anyone like me, whose only knowledge of these events came from stories from my parents, the book is a fascinating and revealing read and a sad and tragic reminder of these dark days in Nottinghamshire's wartime history. A fitting tribute to the 'many'.

Kevin Powell

Dangerous to show: Byron and His Portraits
Geoffrey Bond and Christine Kenyon Jones,

(London, Unicorn, 2020) ISBN 978-1-912690-71-8

I wonder how many Thorotonians have had their portrait painted? Today it is regarded as somewhat pretentious, but acceptable in some contexts such as a retirement gift from colleagues. Before the camera came into vogue the way to record one's image was via a portrait or, in Byron's case, portraits. In this

superb book by Geoffrey Bond and Christine Kenyon Jones the Byron portraits are reproduced in full colour and discussed in detail. We learn about Byron's own view of the images, which ones are in public or private ownership, which were painted from life, which were painted after his death, copies, engravings, and many more subjects, quite apart from issues of accuracy and the extent to which the artist could be persuaded to make changes - today's Photoshop! There are portraits which might be Byron, and others said to be him which may not be. And then there were John Murray's marketing tools. To sell Byron's first great poem, *Childe Harold*, Murray wanted to add a portrait to help the second and subsequent print runs. Byron initially objected but eventually came to accept Murray's viewpoint. Not everyone appreciated this exposure of the poet: Lady Liddell, on spotting Byron in Rome in 1817, covered her daughter's eyes and warned her 'Don't look at him. He is dangerous to look at'.

The central focus of this book is the portraits of Byron dating from his childhood (chapter 1), his early years of fame (chapter 2), 1813-16 (chapter 3) and two chapters (4 and 5) on his years in Italy and Greece (1816-24). A final chapter is entitled 'Imagining Byron' and looks at many of the images produced after he died including statues, films, satirical prints, snuff boxes and medallions. It includes Max Beerbohm's representation of what Byron might have looked like had he lived longer (p. 114). Each chapter looks at the portraits from the period discussing both the originals, and copies. The images are dated and engravings and other reproductions discussed. Variations are noted, and the impact they had on the image, and the date when it first came to public view. Of course many of the images are well known and have been reproduced numerous times.

Others have long been in private hands and are therefore less accessible, although many of them were brought together for an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in 2002-3. Byron used an engraving by Henry Meyer for members of his fan club, sending prints to satisfy their curiosity in the manner of a modern List A celebrity. Perhaps the most interesting chapter, at least to this reader, is chapter 3 which is entitled 'Establishing "brand Byron"'. It covers the most famous images of Byron, notably Thomas Phillips' oil paintings of 1813-14. The original Byron in Albanian costume now hangs in the British Ambassador's residence in Athens, and an 1835 copy is now in the National Portrait Gallery.



If you are interested in Byron, this book is for you, and if you are interested in portraiture this is your book. Byron lived an extraordinary life, and died relatively young, and yet there was 'time a plenty' for numerous portraits and images to be produced. The book is a tour de force and reflects the authors' knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, their subject

John Beckett

A HERITAGE GROUP'S REPORT

John Hess reports on the Trent Bridge Heritage Team's work.

'Covid and Cricket'

It was towards the end of our latest Zoom meetings, we all smiled...and talked with excitement about the hopes for the cricket season of 2021. Since last June, our small group (volunteers with the Trent Bridge Heritage team) have been involved in a 'once in a life-time' project...gathering a unique collection of interviews, documents and photographs - even face-masks - that records how cricket coped with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of our "Cricket and Covid" stories reflect the personal difficulties many people experienced, but also celebrate the resilience of players, volunteers, and lovers of cricket at all levels in the professional and the recreational game. With more than 110 interviews written up by the end of 2020, the Heritage team could reflect on what's been achieved. 'When we started in June, it was genuinely thought that there would be no cricket at all' was a comment from Peter Smith, a retired journalist, who like me got involved in the project. We had no idea that some 30 weeks later we would still be meeting on Zoom. The initial aim was to create an archive for future cricket lovers and historians wanting to research the impact of Covid-19 on the game. It was also a desire to keep the Heritage volunteers involved while locked down and during an absence of cricket. The Heritage team had done a project a few years ago on the use of Trent Bridge Pavilion as a convalescence hospital during the First World War. But Mike McNamara - one of the longest serving Heritage volunteers - had been frustrated at the lack of first-hand accounts. So in the middle of the first lockdown, the 'Cricket and Covid' project was set up. 'There is a uniqueness to this', Steve Le Mottee, Trent Bridge's Heritage Officer reported. 'No other county cricket club

appears to be undertaking such an exercise, and we are not aware of an equivalent in any other sport'. The value of what has been collated and collected will be very significant nationally. The archive includes the thoughts of Notts stars – such as Stuart Broad and club captain Steven Mullaney – from the first lockdown to the early glimpse of a return to playing cricket behind closed doors. First-hand accounts by club staff add their unique insight and interviews published by the club's own website have also been included, together with a selection of social media postings by players. But it's the depth and range of personal stories from across the wider Nottinghamshire cricket "family" that is impressive, from the recreational, youth and women's game, to bat manufacturers and local businesses, who've struggled with the lack of the regular Trent Bridge crowds. And some common themes have emerged, according to Heritage volunteer and oral historian Samantha Ball. The brief was to ask people to help make history, but it quickly became apparent that Trent Bridge means more than just cricket. It also means friendship and a sense of belonging. In the early lockdown, common themes, while missing family and cricket, were gardening and watching movies on Netflix, but that was followed by story after story of resilience and how cricket can react quickly, adapt and change when it needs to. The interviews and the entire project were done in real time. It wasn't a case of having to catch up and recall memories months after the event. The collection also charts the language of Covid...the bubble, biosecurity hand sanitizing...and the signage and safety protocols that eventually enabled cricket to resume late in the summer. Some of the interviews highlight initial concerns about the long-term prospects for the game among the recreational players. Finding enough volunteers or players for a Sunday match, and worries about a shortage of revenue, appeared to overshadow a lively debate about "cricket teas". What is also clear from the interviews is a recognition of how the English and Welsh Cricket Board, the game's leadership and Trent Bridge officials supported the recreational game when it was at its most vulnerable. The project also touches on personal loss. After seeing his mother die from Covid-19, one of its interviewees contracted the virus and fought for his life in hospital. The collection includes photographs that illustrate how Trent Bridge adapted. The normal changing rooms were taped off and out of bounds because they couldn't guarantee social distancing. Instead, the Long Room in the historic pavilion was used by visiting teams, and the Executive Suite was adapted as a changing room for the Notts players, with taped floor markings to maintain personal distance and Covid safety protocol. There are a fantastic collection of words and photographs and a variety of Covid face coverings and charity T-shirts that were produced by other county clubs. but they are still looking for some NatWest Cricket Force hand sanitizer and disinfectant! Among the Heritage volunteers, their most prized acquisition isn't a photograph, interview or facemask, but a cartoon that's now become the "Cricket and Covid" project logo. Designed and drawn especially for this project by celebrated cartoonist Pete Dredge, it illustrates a Notts fielder stretching out to catch a ball, little realizing it's a giant sized Covid-19 cell with its distinctive spikes. Like so many Notts fans, Pete Dredge is looking forward to next season. The next consideration is how to safeguard the collection for future generations. Assuming that current generations would be keen to 'move on' once Covid is eventually beaten, the initial idea was to place it in a time-capsule to be kept safe at Trent Bridge, possibly to be opened in 25 years' time. But as the project has widened and deepened, the Heritage team is looking at how to future proof the collection and make it more widely available in the short-term.

The team is still gathering personal accounts and material for future historians. Hopefully with the new season, we can meet up in person again and look forward to a long summer of cricket.

John Hess



Cartoon by Peter Dredge

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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, the Hon Secretary Barbara Cast - barbaracast@btinternet.com

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LECTURES AND EVENTS: 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 2pm. Other events such as Excursions will be notified in prior Newsletters to the event with booking details.

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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.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. The Spring Newsletter from the 2022 edition will be included at the end of the Annual Report. Deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter are: **1 February (and Annual Report deadline), 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November each year** . Please send all contributions to the Editor by email.

pb3448@gmail.com.

There is also the eBulletin which members can request to receive . If you do not already receive this you can sign up for it by contacting admin@thorotonsociety.org.uk .

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FRONT COVERS OF THE BOOKS REVIEWED

