

# THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



**NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 66**

**WINTER 2011**



*Sculpture by Alexis Rego in Low Marnham Church (see article)  
(photo: Howard Fisher)*

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## EDITORIAL

As regular readers of this *Newsletter* know, I am not in the habit of writing an editorial, it just doesn't seem necessary for every issue.

However, a note of explanation might be required to justify the thump on your doormats as this issue arrives, because it is four pages longer, and therefore heavier than is normal. I usually try to keep the number of pages in an issue to 12 or 16 – they have to be in groups of four for printing purposes – because consideration of the costs of printing and of mailing have to be kept to the forefront of the mind.

This issue is, therefore, a one-off, but I seek to justify the additional expense involved by pleading that the articles included about Bendigo, the *Nottingham Guardian* newspaper and the Beeston Bibles are relevant to 2011, given the anniversaries concerned and the display of one of the Beeston Bibles at the annual luncheon.

The report of the luncheon and its associated activities is always written by our Honorary Secretary, Barbara Cast, a matter of tradition. In a way this is a shame, not because Barbara doesn't write an excellent report of the event, but because we don't get the chance for an expression of thanks to Barbara for all the work which she puts in to make the event run smoothly, on oiled casters, and enjoyable for all who attend. Council members, and especially Standing Committee members, know only too well just how much work Barbara has to put into the arrangements for the success of the luncheon and also the Spring AGM event. It is an awful lot of time. John Beckett thanked Barbara at the event which produced a prolonged round of applause for her, but the *Newsletter* should also record the thanks of the Society for all the hard work Barbara puts in to the Society throughout the year. Thank you Barbara, it is very much appreciated.

Since we are approaching the end of another year, it will do no harm to also record our thanks to all Officers and Council for the work they voluntarily give to the Thoroton Society through the year, too many to name individually, but you all know who they are.

Finally a wish for a very pleasant Christmas for all members coupled with a really good and healthy New Year in 2012. It doesn't seem proper to talk about the traditional 'prosperous' New Year with the present troubled financial situation that Europe and, indeed, the world, finds itself in at present. We can, however, hope that these troubles ease during 2012 and that the world's trouble spots find some resolution to conflict, illness and tragedy.

Howard Fisher

## THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON, 2011

By Barbara Cast

If you missed the annual lunch this year, you missed a really outstanding event. As well as being held in the most attractive surroundings of The Hemsley at the University of Nottingham, we were served a very good lunch by helpful and friendly staff. For many of the guests, The Hemsley was well known as the old Staff Club for the University, now somewhat smartened for its new role, but still retaining the attractive features of the former house, including some lovely windows.

Apart from the actual meal, there were at least three highlights of the day.

Firstly we celebrated the forthcoming ninetieth birthday of our President, Dr. Rosalys Coope, by presenting her with an appropriate birthday card and a beautiful bouquet of orange and yellow roses and lilies. Then a surprise for

Rosalys; as members will be aware, she has contributed a number of articles to the *Transactions* over the years on her main topic of research, Newstead Abbey. Over recent months, discussions have been ongoing, behind Rosalys' back, to bring together these articles, and any other pieces of research Rosalys may have to hand, into one volume. One of the main conspirators is Professor Lumley, her son-in-law, who feels this would be a splendid birthday present from her family, her associates and her friends in the Thoroton Society and the Society of Antiquaries, of which she has been a member for many, many years. But, of course, it will mean that Rosalys will have to put off her retirement for a while – something which she seemed quite pleased about.

(Continued on page 14)

## **EXCURSION TO STAMFORD, SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2011**

*By Alan Langton*

Heavy rain in the early morning greeted members setting out to catch the coach to Stamford.

However, true to Thoroton custom during our journey the sun came out and continued to stay with us throughout the day.

Surprisingly only eighteen members opted to go on this excursion: it was a select group, but I would be interested to know why we were only able to half fill the coach on this occasion; were too many people away on holiday? Was Stamford not a popular place to visit? Or had Thoroton members 'done' Stamford thoroughly already? Is an excursion in September NOT a good idea? Let me know any thoughts please.

Anyway, those members who went on the trip had an excellent day, starting with coffee at the Crown Hotel, followed by a two hour tour of the Town Hall, which had been specially opened for us on a Saturday. This tour was lead by Mr. Mark Murtagh, the administrator, and Ian his assistant, who allowed us to view thoroughly the mayor's parlour with a collection of very old charters of the town and all the regalia and presentation gifts which Stamford has accumulated over the years.

We explored what used to be the court house as well as the dungeons. Our two guides kept us interested and amused by the anecdotal presentation of their knowledge.

After some free time for lunch, we were privileged to meet an excellent Blue Badge guide, Jill Collinge, who took us around Stamford, especially the Georgian areas, explaining the history and significance of many buildings and features which we could so easily not have realized were there. Jill's own knowledge and her explanation of many customs and words associated with Stamford's history made our tour most enjoyable and fascinating.

The afternoon ended with an adequate and enjoyable tea provided for us in the tea-room of the Stamford Museum and Information Centre; by chance, the owner had lived in Nottingham some years ago, and he enjoyed reminiscing about places he remembered.



*The Stamford Council Chamber and members enjoying the presentation by the guides.  
Photos: Richard Gaunt*

# THE TRENT VALE LANDSCAPE PROJECT CHURCH ART TASTER DAY

Friday, 16 September 2011 was the date for the second Trent Vale Landscape Project church art taster day. The first was held earlier in the year at Morton, Lincolnshire and was as well attended as this second event in Nottinghamshire. The Project covers the Trent valley up to three miles on both sides of the river.

The day was conducted by Jason Morden the Nottinghamshire County Council Conservation Officer and the event took place at Low Marnham church and church rooms. The idea of the day was to give attendees presentations by six artists working in a church environment or inspired by churches in some manner.

The first presentation, however, was by Jason himself who guided the attendees round the church, explaining the structure and meaning of the elements of the building. Low Marnham is a redundant church in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust although there are still four services a year held in the building. Jason explained the church's dedication to St Wilfred, a saint contemporary with Bede and suggested some further reading to enable a better understanding of church structures.

The Church Conservation Trust gave a presentation about their work and showed slides of some of their buildings around the country.

Elizabeth Jones then explained the work of the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project, linked with the Open Churches project and explained how people could volunteer to contribute to the ongoing work in ensuring every Nottinghamshire church has an entry on the web site.

Elizabeth was followed by Dr John Lord of Lincoln who took the audience through over 2,000 years of church art in about half an hour. His well illustrated talk was most interesting and thought provoking.

After lunch the artists gave presentations.

Jane Drummond showed work from the Lincoln Cathedral Embroiderers' Guild and explained some of the techniques used in their work. She was followed by a stone mason, Jerome Budor who showed the various types of stone used and explained something of the geology and the problems associated with working that particular type of stone. He showed tools

and techniques and had a display of work undertaken. Alexis Rago then discussed photography using pin-hole cameras and his work in producing installations involving sculpture, photography, sound-art and video exploring questions of ritual, humour and uncertainty inspired by particular church settings. He had presented some of his images and wonderful sculptures in the church (*see front cover*).

Derek Hunt gave a presentation of his work as an architectural glass artist working in stained glass for churches and public art concerns. He is an accredited conservationist.

He showed us work on traditional pieces and also modern work pushing forward the boundaries of what can be achieved in a modern context. His work is truly inspiring.

Claire White is a painter but works with multi-media, often cutting up her paintings to incorporate them into other work. She is inspired by church architecture and fittings. Her paintings were bright, full of colour and made the writer smile with happiness on looking at them. The final artist was Karen Slade who works as a tile maker. Karen had started her interest over 20 years ago as a consequence to her interest in Tudor reconstruction activities. She has worked with traditional medieval materials and firing. She showed techniques and many examples of her fine tiles.

The day was intended to perhaps provide follow-on activities with the artists providing sessions to enable people to start to explore methods and materials.



## BENDIGO – A NOTTINGHAM CHAMPION

By Howard Fisher

2011 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of William Abednego Thompson, the youngest of 21 children and the third of triplets named after the Old Testament characters, Shadrach, Mesach and Abednego. Born 11 October 1811 in the slums of Nottingham in what is now known as Trinity Walk where there is a plaque marking the place.

William was 15 when his father died and he and his mother ended up in the Workhouse for some time but after they left, William sold oysters on the streets before gaining work as an iron turner. However, he had an ability to box and by the time that he was 18 he was fighting for prize money, defeating his first eight opponents. At 21 he was a regular prize fighter; standing five feet ten inches and weighing just over 12 stones he was smaller and lighter than many of the best fighters of the time and he turned this to advantage in the ring.

Prize, or bare-knuckle, fighting was against the law but, nevertheless, many fights regularly took place, usually in open countryside or barns, away from urban areas and the magistrates who could close a fight down.

William earned the name of 'Bendigo' due to his fighting method which involved much bobbing and weaving thus "Bendy" Abednego became 'Bendigo', a name by which he was known for the remainder of his life. He fought in a southpaw stance, trained hard for all his fights and was a tricky fighter.

In 1835 he first fought Ben Caunt, a boxer born in Hucknall, who was three stones heavier and six inches taller than Bendigo. The fight lasted 22 rounds until Caunt hit Bendigo whilst the latter was kneeling on the ground and so was disqualified. Rounds had no set time and ended when a fighter went to the ground and there was then a half minute break before the start of the next round. Rules were few but one was that a fighter 'down' should not be hit. The

fighting was rough and tough with literally no holds barred.

Between 1835 and 1837 Bendigo fought three more fights, the first of 52 rounds against

John Leachman of Bradford; the second 51 rounds against Charley Langham of Newcastle and the third 92 rounds against William Looney of Liverpool. The latter fight took place at Chapel-en-le-Frith. In 1828 he met Caunt again, the fight went 75 rounds and ended when Bendigo was disqualified for going to ground without a blow being struck, although contemporary accounts back his assertion that he slipped.

Bendigo got his chance to become All-England champion in 1839 when he fought 'Deaf 'un' Burke

for the title at No Mans Heath, Leicestershire; a crowd of 15,000 saw Bendigo win in ten rounds on a foul by Burke head butting.

His last fight was in 1850 when he was 39 years old when he defeated a much younger man, Tom Paddock from Redditch. Paddock lost on a foul when, by all accounts, he was winning the fight. So ended an illustrious career in which Bendigo lost only the one fight.

Outside the fight ring he enjoyed fishing and was proud of winning fishing competitions. However, he had a darker side, was addicted to alcohol and mixed with the Nottingham Lambs, a group of thugs who were involved in political violence and rioting. Indeed, the Lambs had been his staunchest supporters during his fighting career and caused much havoc at many of the fights when mixing things with supporter gangs of Bendigo's opponents. Shortly after retiring from the ring he was appointed boxing coach at Oxford University but that didn't last long and he soon returned to Nottingham. He became a notorious drunken mess, was sent to the House of Correction 28 times for being drunk and disorderly although, when he was 59, he rescued three people from drowning in the Trent.

During his 28<sup>th</sup> session in the House of Correction he reflected upon his lifestyle and when, in 1872, he attended a religious meeting



*Bendigo's statue on the Hermitage pub in Sneinton. The pub was formerly called the Bendigo and is now for sale. Photo: Howard Fisher*

held by Richard Weaver, an ex coal miner, he was invited onto the platform and delivered a sermon. Although illiterate he became a popular preacher, regaining the respect he had lost in his alcoholic days. He died after a fall in his Beeston cottage on 23 August 1880 at 69 years of age. His funeral procession was a mile long and the streets were lined with thousands of people and The Times newspaper printed an obituary. His grave is in Bath Street Leisure Gardens. The *Old Wrestlers* pub in Sneinton was renamed the *Bendigo* but, after closing in the 1990s, reopened as the *Hermitage*.

Much has been written about this man who is remembered still for his exploits as a fighter and preacher, who lifted himself from the slums of Nottingham to become known throughout the land, rubbed shoulders with some of the highest in the country, who fell back into bad ways and then raised himself again to regain the respect of people. This respect is still strong 200 years later. As Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote of him:-

‘You Didn’t know of Bendigo?  
Well, that knocks me out!  
Who’s your Board School teacher?  
What’s he been about?  
Chock a block with fairy tales –  
Full of useless cram,  
And never heard of Bendigo,  
The pride of Nottingham.’

On Tuesday, 11 October 2011, a blue plaque was unveiled in Beeston by the Beeston & District Local History Society, Stapleford & District Local History Society, Beeston and District Civic Society and Bramcote Conservation Society, to mark the place where Bendigo lived in Beeston.



*The plaque in Beeston unveiled on 11 October 2011.  
Photo: John Beckett*



*The plaque is sited on the pillar on the far left of this picture, taken to show the building in Beeston where it is sited. Photo: John Beckett*

## **NEWS OF MEMBERS**

CONGRATULATIONS to our Vice President, Keith Goodman and his wife Margaret who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 26 August 2011.

A WARM WELCOME to new members Mr. Peter Rogan and Mr. M. J. Wilson. We hope they enjoy membership and can participate in the Society's activities.

We WELCOME Professor Martyn Bennett as the new editor of *The Transactions* and give great thanks to Dr. Richard Gaunt for all the work he has done as editor over the past years.

## **THE OCTOBER LECTURE**

### **URSILLA SPENCE ON ROMAN ARTEFACTS AT SOUTHWELL**

*By Barbara Cast*

In an excellent and thought-provoking lecture, Ursilla Spence, Senior Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council, illustrated the many facets of Southwell's history, especially that recently revealed at the Church Street site and also through various archaeological investigations and surveys of the past. It was clear from the lecture that this is a town rich in history, including its distinguished ecclesiastical record but also its early, less acknowledged and understood past.

Ursilla set out what could be deduced at this stage from the significant and almost certainly unique Roman remains found on the site of the former minster School. But she also explained how previous work undertaken on this site had revealed information about its Saxon period. In particular the many burials which gave information about the development of Christianity in the town.

It was clear from Ursilla's talk that this exciting site could reveal much more. There are many questions still to be answered – what exactly was happening in the Roman period? Was it the headquarters of an important Roman general or a client king? Is it the water-feature of all water-features? What about continuity leading eventually to the founding of the Minster? And does the position of the over two hundred early Christian burials recorded so carefully by Bob Alvey suggest where a pre-Minster church may have lain? Then there is the thorny question of where such things as tessellated pavements and bodies disappeared to during the 50s and 60s.

We are very grateful to Ursilla for this insightful lecture on Southwell's early history – we look forward to reading more in the *Transactions* in the future.

## **THE THOROTON SOCIETY RESEARCH GROUP**

*By John Wilson*

The second meeting of the Group was held at Arnold Library on Saturday, 22 October 2011.

### *The Great War Centenary 2014*

The members were joined by Mark Dorrington, Principal Archivist at Nottinghamshire Archives. Mark informed the Group that the Libraries, Archives and Information Service were considering publications for the centenary of the Great War in 2014. Around three publications were funded each year by the County Council. The Research Group had been considering such a publication and it was agreed that we should collaborate in some way.

### *Members' Research Work in Progress*

Rachel Farrand talked about some of her current work on war memorials from the Great War and indicated some areas that needed further study. Some, such as the Dakeyne Street Lad's Club memorial, had connections with important local families. This research could form part of the proposed publication on the Great War.

Rachel pointed out that many churches had been demolished in recent years and their

memorials, including war memorials, had been lost. Others had been moved from their original locations. A member suggested that stonemasons' records, where they had survived, might give a clue as to the original locations of war memorials.

John Wilson described a study that compared infant death rates from diarrhoea in Nottingham between 1905 and 1916, when most homes had pail closets, with the death rates during 1923-26, when all homes in Nottingham had been converted to water closets. Up to 1916, there was a clear positive correlation between numbers of infant deaths from diarrhoea over the summer/autumn period and the number of warm or hot days in the summer. After all homes had been converted to water closets, there was no such correlation.

It was suggested that a similar study of the weather and public health during the years of the Great War could be part of the proposed publication. John also showed a chart of influenza deaths in 1919 and 1923, and pointed out that the less severe influenza epidemics post-1919 had not, to his knowledge, been studied. The latter could form a small research project.

# THOMAS FORMAN AND HIS NOTTINGHAM NEWSPAPERS

By Terry Fry

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 1 July 1861, a dynamic businessman from Lincolnshire, Thomas Forman, introduced The Nottingham Daily Guardian to the town. At the age of 42 he was already very experienced in editing and printing newspapers for this area.

He was born in Louth on 19 January 1819 and was apprenticed in the printing trade there. In 1846 he moved to Bedford to keep a bookshop, but not for long. Two years later his growing reputation as a skilled printer and an astute businessman led the owners of the failing *Nottinghamshire Guardian* and *Midland Counties Advertiser* to seek his services.

At the height of the debate over the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, seventy of the landed gentry of the county, including the Dukes of Newcastle and Portland, established the *Nottinghamshire Guardian* simply to promote Protectionism. They were terrified of the effect of Free Trade on their profits. Unfortunately they knew little about printing or editing and the paper was soon in debt. Fortunately they were impressed by Thomas Forman's skill and ideas. In March 1849 they unanimously accepted his proposal that he pay all the costs of production so that, in effect, it became his newspaper. Not only did he put it on a sound commercial footing, although it never really affected the circulation of Job Bradshaw's *Nottingham Journal*, but he also confidently introduced two more papers. These were the *Midland Sporting Chronicle* in 1852, mainly for racing enthusiasts, and the *Midland Counties Observer* in 1857, mainly for cricket fans. These activities were soon absorbed into Forman's next venture.

The time was ripe for another local newspaper. Following the Enclosure Act of 1845 Nottingham enjoyed the greatest boom in its history. Phenomenal advances were made in its two staple industries of lace and hosiery, and the introduction of steam power boosted

engineering and machine building. Thomas Forman was able to tap into this prosperity after Gladstone abolished the duty on newspapers, 'a tax on knowledge', in the Budget of 1861. On 1 July Forman brought out the first issue of the *Nottingham Daily Guardian*, not to be confused with the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*. It cost 1d as it still did in the 1930s.

The lay-out is very familiar to readers of 19<sup>th</sup> century newspapers. It quickly expanded from four pages to eight, of which the

first three were for advertisements only. Page 4 was basically for House of Commons reports, page 5 news from abroad and the United Kingdom, page 6 for commerce and market reports, page 7 for sport (mainly racing and cricket) and page 8 for more news and Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Forman's right wing convictions were often openly shown, especially at election time. In June 1865 he gave maximum coverage for all of Sir Robert Clifton's meetings but had little time for his Liberal opponents, Charles Page and Samuel Morley, particularly after the infamous fight in the Market Square between rival supporters on 26 June. Their agents, he wrote, 'have secured the services of an enormous number of so-called Lambs who should be styled Wolves'. Actually these Lambs, or thugs, were prominent on both sides. To be fair to Forman, he did print a letter from A. J. Mundella, who was outraged that his messengers had been accused of recruiting the Bludgeon Brigade, 'a scandalous libel'. On 8 June 1869 a full page was devoted to the funeral of Sir Robert Clifton, all the columns divided by thick black lines.

In February 1870 the newspaper gave its full support to the Independent and Constitutional candidate, Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C. On 22 February an advertisement proclaiming, 'Mr. Seymour will address a Monster Meeting in the



Great Market Square' was accompanied by a long editorial extolling the virtues of this 'True Blue'. In spite of all his exhortations Thomas Forman and Seymour lost, Forman certain that 'bribery has gained the victory'. However, two Conservative candidates were returned in 1880, and the *Daily Guardian* prospered as the town increasingly turned to the Tories in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

He continued to take an active part in the management of his papers until well into the 1880's. In 1875 he had been made a J.P. for the Borough, and he was consistently one of the most energetic members of the local Conservative party. Otherwise he made no further efforts to take up a conspicuous position in public life in the town.

Thomas Forman died at his home, Castle Grove, in The Park, on 26 July 1888. He had been ill for a considerable time. His death was reported in the *Daily Guardian* in a single sentence, although his other paper, the *Evening Post*, was rather more fulsome. However, the rival papers were generous in their tributes, although the *Nottingham Daily Express* curiously placed its piece second in its Local News column after announcing that 'The annual show of hounds in connection with Lord Galway's pack was held at Serlby Hall yesterday'. The *Evening News* recognized his worth to Nottingham: 'Few of his townsmen were better known and, irrespective of politics,

his demise will be regretted by a wide circle of friends ... He was a gentleman of large business capabilities, shrewd and possessed of sound judgment which made his counsel valued by political and other friends'.

The newspapers he had introduced to Nottingham continued to prosper after his death, controlled by the dynasty he had established. Following his sons, T. Bailey Forman, a grandson, entered the business in 1908. Even during the General Strike in 1926 the *Guardian* was published daily. In the following month, June, Thos. Forman & Sons moved to their new factory on Hucknall Road, Carrington. In June 1953 they purchased the *Nottingham Journal* and *Nottingham Evening News* and three months later the two morning papers were amalgamated and came out as the *Guardian Journal*. The two evening papers, the *Post* and the *News*, were amalgamated in July 1963. Ten years later the printing dispute which began on 19 June 1973 finished off the *Guardian Journal*, which ceased publication that day. Now the only newspaper left in Nottingham was the *Evening Post*, which increasingly became a daily rather than simply an evening paper, until recently it was logically re-titled *The Nottingham Post*. Thomas Forman's *Daily Guardian* survived in one form or another for 112 years and his *Post* continues to prosper, a remarkable legacy left by the talented printer from Lincolnshire.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY**

The Nottingham Civic Society celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2012. The following notice appeared in the *Nottingham Guardian Journal* on 12 September 1961:-

'A Civic Trust is urgently needed in Nottingham to preserve the archaeological and historical interest of the city', said Mr. M. W. Barley, senior tutor in archaeology and local history for the Extra Mural Department of Nottingham University.

Mr. Barley, honorary secretary of the Council for British Archaeology told Nottingham Rotary Club members at their lunchtime meeting yesterday that Nottingham is in danger of losing buildings and streets of historical interest if some kind of civic trust is not formed.

He said he would like to see the Nottingham Corporation employ someone on the staff of the Castle Museum who would make it his business to ensure that nothing of archaeological interest is lost.

After the meeting, Mr. Barley told reporters:

"There are sufficient rate-payers in Nottingham who would be interested in supporting me in this matter".

Mr. Barley revealed that a group of undergraduates are to arrange a meeting at the end of the month to discuss ways and means of protecting archaeological discoveries. He explained that the Thoroton Society in Nottingham are doing all in their power to see that nothing of historical interest is lost. "They are doing a fine job," he said, "but I still feel that some official civic trust should be set up in the city." Mr. Barley also said it was time Nottingham had a good historical museum. "Leicester spends twice as much on its museum services as Nottingham," he said, "but I must admit that it does not spend so much on a civic theatre."

*The inaugural meeting of the Civic Society was held on 11 January 1962 and Mr. Barley was elected Chairman. The new Playhouse opened on 11 December 1963.* Ken Brand

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Smythson Circle; The Story of Six Great English Houses

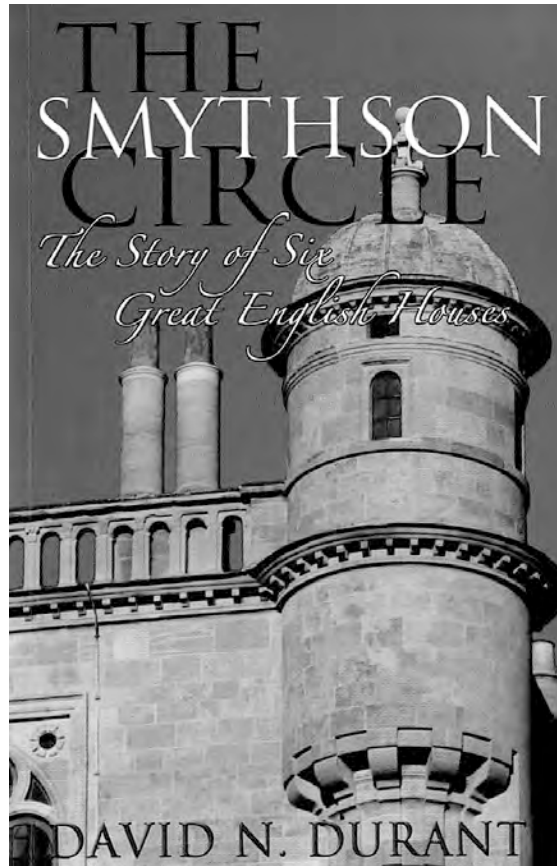
David N Durant; Peter Owen Publishers, 2011

It is now over 55 years since the publication of Mark Girouard's seminal book *Robert Smythson and the Architecture of the Elizabethan Era* (1966). Much has been published in the intervening years on different aspects of the most important houses which Girouard identified as being associated with 'the foremost [English] architect of the sixteenth century', Robert Smythson; including Lindsay Boynton's *The Hardwick Hall Inventories of 1601* (1971) and Pamela Marshall's *Wollaton Hall, An Archaeological Survey* (1996) to name but just two. Much has also been published on Elizabethan architecture more generally; from *The Making of the English Country House 1540-1640* (1975) by Malcolm Airs to Mark Girouard's recent *Elizabethan Architecture* (2009). All this new

information, from both archaeologists and architectural historians, has been avidly absorbed by David Durant and thoughtfully processed, with a number of his own discoveries and new ideas, to produce an interesting new book which concentrates on the what we know about the way in which these six great houses were actually built, and, as far as possible, who physically built them.

David has concentrated on only six houses, almost all of them in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. All these houses are closely linked by a tangled web of disparate associations which have been drawn together in detail in this book. The book explores different themes within the individual chapters which are devoted to separate houses. The disparate nature of their actual methods of building, and the varied sources available for each house, helps to illuminate the different processes of construction employed at this time, from the multi-phase construction of a now ruined house, like Old Hardwick Hall, to the single

campaign construction of a surviving house such as Wollaton Hall.



The one thing which enables David to communicate the detail of the construction of these houses is the fact that the building accounts survive, at least in part, for all these houses - a rare survival. This allows him to explore the different methods of organisation used by patrons and architects at this period. For all David's erudition and detailed knowledge, the text is clear and eminently readable. He concentrates his interest on the process of building and most particularly on the part played by the various craftsmen involved. Charting, where possible, the movements of some craftsmen from one building project to another. Different information

survives for each house and David utilises this to discuss different aspects of building and design for different houses, such as the provision of water for the building process at Bolsover Castle and the provision of garderobes and close-stools at Wollaton, allowing the book as a whole to explore many different aspects of why and especially how Elizabethan country houses were built.

My one criticism of the book is its lack of a conclusion. This is in many ways made up for by the lengthy introduction and my personal recommendation would be to re-read the introduction when you come to the end of the book! Unfortunately the illustrations are small, and the photographs are not always of the highest quality.

This reasonably priced paperback will, I am sure, make the ideal Christmas present for anyone interested in Robert Smythson, local country houses or more particularly in the way in which country houses were constructed in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Pete Smith

# **A VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY AT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES**

It is three years since NAWCAT (Nottingham Archives Worldwide Catalogue) went live on the web. It currently holds over 15,000 catalogue entries but this only represents a small percentage of the catalogues of the total holdings. There are still 47 years worth of catalogues to add to the web ... and this is where volunteers are needed to help.

The Archives are looking for volunteers for two projects:

## **1. Retro-conversion of catalogues**

Volunteers are required to input earlier catalogues onto Excel databases which can then be transferred onto NAWCAT; training on the entering of the data will be given.

## **2. Data entering of bishop's transcripts catalogues**

Between 2005 and 2010, a group of volunteers listed all the bishop's transcripts (contemporary copies of the parish registers). The resultant catalogue for the earliest series, from c1600 to 1815, again needs entering onto Excel so that it can be transferred to NAWCAT. The earlier series have already been entered and can be viewed on-line on the web site at <http://nawcat.nottinghamshire.gov.uk> under references DR/1/6 for the years 1813 to 1835 and DR/1/7 for 1836 to 1902.

To date the present volunteers have worked at Nottinghamshire Archives but for these projects people are sought to work at home or in their local library. Volunteers don't even have to live locally; the Archives will happily post the necessary paper catalogues to be worked upon.

If anyone has an interest in history or even wants to update IT skills this could be the volunteer project to take up.

If interested please contact Nottinghamshire Archives, County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1 AG (tel: 0115-950-4524) to request an application form. Alternately forms are available to download from the website at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/archives)

## **NEW WEBSITE FOR LOCAL HISTORY**

*By David Bagley*

The *Nottinghamshire Loves Learning Partnership* which includes the City and County Library Service and Nottinghamshire Archives, launched its new website on 11 October. The meeting at Arnold Library was introduced by John Holmes, the BBC local history front man who reminisced about the 'old days' in researching local history items (i.e. only a few years ago and in pre-Google time!). Then his preferred approach was to ring a local Post Office to ask which local individual could be contacted.

The new website – [OURNOTTINGHAMSHIRE.ORG.UK](http://OURNOTTINGHAMSHIRE.ORG.UK) – is presented as an easy to use and very interactive source of information about all aspects of heritage in the county. It incorporates familiar sources such as *Picturethepast* which accessed the Library Service's file of photographs and extends this to cover broad headings of Topics, Places, Books to Buy and Diary of Events. This last section will be of interest to all Local History societies since it offers the chance to include all planned talks and events, hitherto only available through the quarterly *Nottinghamshire Historian*.

The entire site is intended to be interactive; each page providing for comments to be added which can enhance or extend the information presented, in a manner similar to Wikipedia on Google. Comments will be scrutinized by the editorial team and will add to rather than replace the main text.

Initially, the contents seem to be limited to what is already available in Library Service files but it is hoped that all local history groups and individual researchers will rapidly contribute to make the site a valuable resource. At the very least links to other larger databases can be included.

Although the organisers invited all Local History Societies to attend the inaugural meeting (*ours didn't apparently receive an invite, ed.*) they seemed to forget about the Thoroton Society, but there is a link to the *Nottinghamshire Gateway* on the site.

# THE BEESTON BIBLES

Our guest at the Annual Luncheon spoke about the King James Bible and we were fortunate to have an example of this book on display. This bible was found in Beeston church over a hundred years ago and the story of its discovery was given in an article in the Thoroton Transactions issue 6 in 1902 by George Fellows (pp 25-28). The article is reproduced below, in part, because of the interest in the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this version of the bible.

## A FIND OF OLD BIBLES AT BEESTON

In the account of the visit of the Thoroton Society to Burton Joyce in the 1898 volume of Transactions, it is mentioned, on page 31, that there was at Beeston Church, a black leather Bible similar to the one then shown to the members. The attention of the vicar of Beeston, Rev. Arthur C. Beckton, was called to this fact in 1902, and, after much search, he discovered *two* such Bibles lying discarded in a chamber in the belfry.

They are both Bibles of the "Authorised Version", issued by order of King James I. One is of the first issue, with all the errors which are characteristic of that edition; the other is of a subsequent issue, in which the errors of the first have been corrected, except the two in Ezekiel. Unfortunately neither Bible is in perfect condition.

The older Bible, when found, was bound in rough calf with brass corners. The title page, the address of the translators, some of the pages of the Genealogies, and everything subsequent to Revelation xviii., 12, is missing. The title page of the New Testament reads as follows:

THE  
NEWE  
TESTAMENT OF  
IESUS CHRIST  
¶ Newly translated out of  
the Original Greek: and with  
the former Translations diligently  
compared and revised by his  
Maiesties special com-  
andment  
¶ Imprinted  
at London by Robert  
Barker, Printer to the Kings most excellent  
Maiestie  
Anno Dom: 1611

The above occupies the centre of the page, and is surrounded by an elaborately executed woodcut showing the four Evangelists, with their respective symbols, at the corners. On the right side are the names of the twelve Apostles; on the left side, those of the twelve Tribes with their tents and distinctive badges; at the top is the word Jehovah in Hebrew characters. The text is black-letter, the chapter headings and marginal references in Roman type, and the alternative readings in italics. It contains the Apocrypha, a complete Almanac; table of proper Lessons, and part of "the Genealogies recorded on Sacred Scriptures, according to every familie and tribe with the Line of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, observed from Adam to the blessed virgin Marie by J.S. cum privilege."

Unfortunately, the title and some other pages of the Genealogies are missing. The covers measure 18 by 11½ inches, and the volume is 3¾ inches thick.

This Bible is known as the 'HE' Bible, a name arising from the error in Ruth, 111., 15, where "*he* wente into the cities" appears instead of *she*. This error is rectified in the later or 'She' Bible issue.

In the later volume at Beeston Church, the first leaf of the address "The Translators to the Reader" is mutilated, and everything beyond Revelation xx., 12, is lost. As in the earlier book, the title page of the Old Testament is missing. The title page of the New Testament is similar to that in the original volume, except that the words "appointed to be read in Churches" appear, and in the list of the books of the Bible an error has crept in, which is not in the earlier issue, viz, I and ii, Chronicles are given as I and ii Corinthians. This volume was bound in oak boards, beveled from front to back and on the inside edges, covered in unstained white calf, "blind-tooled", with brass mountings. Straps instead of clasps were used to fasten both books.

These books are now in the hands of Mr. John Castor, bookbinder, of Beeston, who is taking great interest in the work of restoring and repairing them, under the supervision of the vicar.

... Any reader wishing for still fuller information should refer to the book "Old Bibles" by Dorè (Eyre and Spottiswood, 1888)

Much of the foregoing information has been gathered from this source.

A conference was held at Hampton Court between the Church and the conforming Dissenters on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 1604, at which Dr. Reynolds, the leader of the Puritan party, suggested that a new translation of the Bible be made, and the conference "moved His Majesty that there might be a new translation of the Bible because those which were allowed in the reign of King Henry VIII and Edward VI were corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the Original." To this, King James assented.

There were fifty-four translators appointed, who were divided into six companies. They met at Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster, and wisely decided to introduce as little change as possible into the Bishop's Bible *i.e.* the Bible, which hitherto was usually read. Their translation was, and still is, known as the "Authorised Version".

GEORGE FELLOWS

*Ed: The section omitted in the above lists the errors in the first issue of the bible; any member interested to see what these were can read the Transactions a copy of which is in the Reading Room at Nottinghamshire Archives with copies also being in other repositories.*

## **THE DOVECOTE AT THOROTON**

The Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust has owned the Grade 11 listed dovecote at Thoroton for 22 years and, in October 2011, was delighted to announce that restoration work has begun which will result in one of the county's few surviving medieval dovecotes being open to the public.

Months of research, negotiations and planning have enabled the work to commence and the Trust acknowledges a grant from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme, and an earlier donation by County Councillor Martin Suthers OBE from his Electoral Division Initiative Fund. The balance will be provided by the Trust's own Dovecote Fund.

Restoration work is ongoing and the next step is a radar survey to identify any weaknesses in the external walls. The whole project is being coordinated by architect Alan Wahlers, one of the Trust's volunteer technical experts. Essential to the success of the project has been the help and co-operation of the owner of the paddock, and of the garden of the residential building across both of which the dovecote is built.

On Friday, 21 October, master thatcher Roger Scanlan of Spratton, Northamptonshire, and two craftsmen showed NBPT officers, local residents and some supporters, how the work was being done. The old water reed thatch is being replaced on a 'like for like' basis. Longer lasting than straw, 6-7 feet tall water reed is uniform in length; its tapering growth making it ideal for thatching. It sheds water very efficiently, has no seeds to attract vermin and can be packed close so birds cannot penetrate.

An ornamental block cut ridge of sedge and straw will seal the apex.

The dovecote was granted listed status in 1965 when it still housed pigeons in the 480 boxes which remained intact. It belonged to Thoroton Hall and stood in the stackyard of Ransoms farm. Its future was put in jeopardy in 1989 when plans to build on part of the farm were made and its acquisition by the Trust certainly saved it from possible demolition. It was probably built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is the only thatched example of a dovecote left in Nottinghamshire. Originally it had about 600 nesting boxes built into the massive stone walls and the pigeons it housed provided year round meat for the pot, eggs, manure and even possibly saltpetre for explosives in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The birds, called squabs, were eaten before they fledged at about six weeks old and weighed 12 – 14 ounces. They were particularly useful during winter. It is suggested that by the 18<sup>th</sup> century when farmers began to grow the humble turnip, livestock could be fed throughout the winter and so pigeons lost their importance and dovecotes began to fall out of use. Before this, non-breeding livestock was frequently slaughtered in the autumn when it could not be fed through the winter period, the meat was smoked and pickled.

It is really good to see this dovecote receiving the care and attention that it warrants and it will be especially good to see it open for public examination in the course of time.

(See pictures on the back cover)

(Continued from page 2)

Pete Smith, a member of our Council, has volunteered to help Rosalys with this project and we greatly look forward to seeing the completed volume.

The second highlight was that our guest this year, Bishop Paul Butler, the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, gave a brilliant after lunch talk on the King James Bible, the four hundredth anniversary of which is being celebrated this year. Bishop Paul spoke of the history of the Bible translations through the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the contributions made by forerunners to the 1611 version of such men as William Tyndale and Myles Coverdale, and the great work of translation and consolidation conceived and executed under the royal patronage of King James 1. A most enjoyable and informative talk; we are very grateful to Bishop Paul who is, incidentally, a member of the Society and who studied at the University of Nottingham.

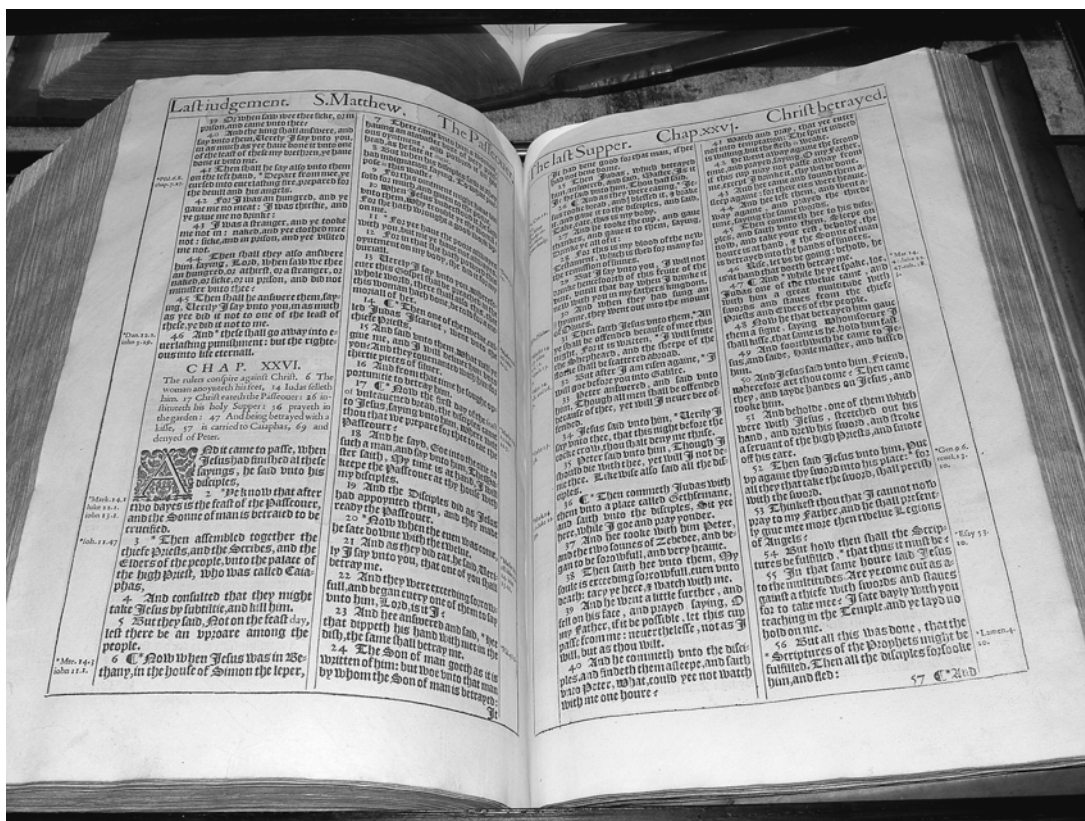
Which leads us to the third highlight – another guest, but this rather a silent one. Dorothy Johnston, Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham, brought to the lunch one of the two King James Bibles belonging to Beeston

Church, but in the care of her department, so that we could all see one of the original copies which is still in existence. A splendid and very large volume, it and its partner had somehow managed to survive in Beeston through many changes, including the rebuilding of the church. The Bible's existence became known through the Thoroton Society: during an early excursion one of the participants spoke to the Vicar of Beeston, also on the trip, of their whereabouts and they were rediscovered in the church tower. You can read about them in an early volume of the Record Series, written by George Fellowes, one of my predecessors as Hon. Sec.

So, quite a day, one to be remembered and talked about for some time. Put 3 November 2012 in your diary. We have a venue booked and, for those who are worried by the escalating cost of the lunch – next year will be very much cheaper, but no less good. And we have a guest speaker already lined up.

(Ed: George Fellowes article in the Record series is reproduced in this Newsletter – see page 12)

The bible on display at the lunch. Look closely at verse 36 to see one of the errors – where 'Judas' is printed instead of 'Jesus'.



# THE TALKS PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2012 – The Norah Witham Lecture

## **WILLIAM BOOTH 1829-1912: Freeman of Nottingham – Citizen of the World**

**Speaker:** *Gordon Taylor, Retired Associate Director of the Salvation Army, International Heritage Centre.*

Gordon Taylor retired at the end of September 2011 after working for the Salvation Army as a researcher, archivist and historian for 25 years. He is currently working on a book about the life and legacy of William Booth, to be published in 2012 to mark the centenary of his death.

One hundred years ago, on 20 August 1912, General William Booth, Founder of The Salvation Army, died at his home in Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, at the age of 83. He had travelled a long way since his birth in Notintone Place, Sneinton, Nottingham, on 10 April 1829, the third child of Samuel Booth, gentleman and his second wife, Mary (née Moss). Apart from four years when the family lived in Bleasby, his first 20 years were spent in Sneinton, though the school and the Methodist chapel he attended were a short walk away in the centre of Nottingham, as was the pawnbrokers' shop where he served his apprenticeship.

In 1849 he went to London where he worked as a pawnbrokers' assistant before entering Christian ministry in London and Lincolnshire. After seven years as a minister in the Methodist New Connexion, he was a freelance evangelist and founded a Christian Mission in London, which in 1878 became the Salvation Army.

In 1890, just after the death of his wife, Catherine, he published his book, *In Darkest England and the Way Out*, which gave impetus to the development of the Salvation Army's social outreach. From Britain, the work extended to every continent, and at the time of his death in 1912, the Army was active in 58 countries.

To mark this anniversary, Gordon Taylor reviews the life and influence of William Booth, his debt to Nottingham and his legacy to the world.



*Statue of William Booth at Notintone Place, Sneinton*

*Ed:* Number 12 Notintone Place is the house where William Booth was born on 10 April 1829. The plan of NOTTINGHAM of 1827 shows the three houses standing independently as they do today. In the 1830s they became part of a terrace of three-storey houses, which were eventually demolished in the city redevelopment schemes of the late 1960s. The three original houses, numbers 10,12 and 14, were retained and restored and the site around developed by The Salvation Army to include an elderly persons' home and a goodwill community centre, thus becoming a living memorial to the life and work of William Booth, Founder and first General of The Salvation Army.

The restoration and development was carried out in 1969-71 by Messrs Simms Sons & Cooke of Nottingham and was designed by the Architect's Section of International Headquarters. The complex was officially opened by Sir Keith Joseph, MP, Minister of Social Services, General Erik Wickberg and Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth, on 1 October 1971, receiving a civic trust award in 1972.

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2012 – The Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture

### **MORE NOTTINGHAM TOWNHOUSES: No. 17 Castle Gate.**

**Speaker:** Pete Smith, Senior Architectural Investigator, English Heritage

Pete Smith is a Senior Architectural Investigator with English Heritage and a member of the Council of the Thoroton Society. He has published widely on various aspects of the country house, particularly those in Nottinghamshire.

This lecture will concentrate on the 18<sup>th</sup> century townhouse now known as No. 17, Castle Gate, Nottingham. It will form a prelude and introduction to the Society's planned visit to No. 17, Castle Gate arranged for Thursday, 19 July 2012. It will also attempt to place this townhouse in the wider context of the townhouse in general and in comparison with other examples in Nottingham in particular. The lecture will also explore a number of Nottingham townhouses which were not included in the lecture given by Pete in January 2004.



*No.17, Castle Gate, Nottingham*

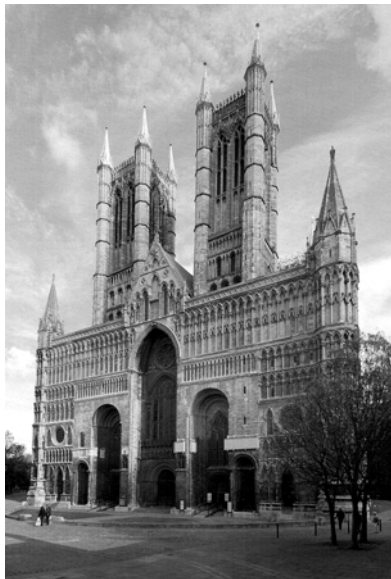
SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2012 – The Maurice Barley Lecture

## THE EARLY WEST FRONT OF LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

**Speaker:** David Taylor, Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham.

David Taylor is a lecturer at the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham. Fortunate to work with the late Maurice Barley, his interest in recording standing buildings began in the 1980's and has continued under the guidance of Philip Dixon. He has also published work with Pamela Marshall on Newark Castle and Wollaton Hall.

Over the past few years, David Taylor has undertaken, with the enthusiastic help of a series of University of Nottingham students, a detailed archaeological survey of the thirty-six voids, chambers and staircases within the west front of Lincoln Cathedral. Just published, the preliminary results of the survey show a new understanding of the process of construction in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries including evidence of a great fire which has never previously been recorded.



*The West Front of Lincoln Cathedral*

## THE SATURDAY SEMINAR SERIES

This popular series of talks held on Saturday mornings from 10 am to around 12.30 pm continues with the following talks advertised. The events are held at the University of Nottingham's Department of History at Lenton Grove on the main campus. The admission at £5 includes coffee/tea and biscuits at the interval and beverages are available prior to the commencement of the talks at 50p a cup.

14 January 2012 Researching Nottinghamshire's Architectural History by ELAINE HARWOOD of English Heritage

11 February 2012 Going Local with the National Trust by BEN COWELL of the National Trust

10 March 2012 The South Oxfordshire Project: Perceptions of Landscapes, Settlement and Society, c500-1650 by STEPHEN MILESON of the VCH and editor of the *Oxoniensia* journal.

Full details from Professor Beckett at [john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:john.beckett@nottingham.ac.uk)

## SNIPPETS

JOHN HAMILTON, who members will; know has gone to dwell in the south found the following inscription on a monument inside the church of St. Lawrence on the Isle of Thanet:

*Haud procul hinc situs Petrys THOROTON L>L>B>, Ecclesiarum de Colwicke et West Bridgeford in agro Nottinghamiensi, Rector, ecclesiae Collegiatae de Wolverhpton Prebendarius. Natus est A>D> MDCCLXIII, Decessit A.D. MDCCCXVII. Compositum jus, fasque animo, santosque recessus mentis, et incoctum generoso pectus honesto.*

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### WORLD'S LONGEST WEATHER RECORD

A recent report on the BBC website says that a retired meteorologist has spent 20 years producing what he believes to be the world's lengthiest weather record.

Jim Rothwell, 80, from Southwell has gathered data for Central England from 56 BC to the present day, using more than 40 different data sources. Painstaking work cross-checking sources he has produced a climatic profile for each month back to 1659. Between 1167 and 1659 there are reports for each summer and winter but beyond that information is rather sporadic.

Mr. Rothwell will donate his records to the Nottinghamshire Archives and the national Met Office but he will continue to add to his data.

### THE ALAN BALL LOCAL HISTORY AWARD

Congratulations to Nottinghamshire County Council for winning the 2010 Alan Ball Local History Award for Dr. Stuart Jennings's book, *These Uncertain Tymes, Newark and the Civilian Experience of the Civil Wars 1640-1660*. The award is administered by the Library Services Trust, and is given to encourage local history publishing by public libraries and local authorities.

Mr. Michael Saich, Chairman of the Library Services Trust, presented the award to Councillor Keith Walker, Chairman of the County Council, at a brief ceremony held in Nottinghamshire Archives on 12 October 2011. Also present was Councillor Kay Cutts, leader of the County Council, and Professor Martyn Bennett, who supervised Dr. Jennings's original thesis on civil war Newark. Stuart Jennings said a few words about his work, and guests were invited to inspect a small display of the archives used in the book.

*John Beckett*

### LOCAL NEWSPAPERS PRINTED OUTSIDE THE EAST MIDLANDS

Terry Fry's fascinating article about local newspapers resonated the other day when it was announced that the *Derby Telegraph* and *Nottingham Post* are now being printed outside the region in Birmingham. Northcliffe Media owns both papers and also the *Lincolnshire Echo* which was relaunched in October as a weekly edition after the 118 year run of daily editions was ended.

### VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

Recently announced by VCH is that Nottinghamshire workshops under the guidance of Philip Riden commenced on 4 October, contact is Philip.Riden@nottingham.ac.uk or 01246-554026. Work-in-Progress is announced on Normanton-on-the-Wolds, Clipston and Plumtree.

### BROMLEY HOUSE

Showing until 9 December at South Nottingham College, Clifton, is an exhibition of photographs from the Julia Margaret Cameron Trust on the Isle of Wight. The exhibition is part of the campaign to raise awareness and funds for the restoration of the photographers' studio at Bromley House.

This is a rare opportunity to see seminal images tracing the history of photography through the years and really is an exhibition not to be missed.

## NEWSTEAD ABBEY

The New York based World Monuments Watch has recently placed Newstead on a list of 67 of the World's most treasured sites which the organisation believes must be saved.

Nottingham City Council reacted by welcoming the inclusion on the list and was hopeful that it could lead to partnership opportunities.

## CLUMBER PARK

A new visitor centre has recently opened at Clumber Park facilitated by a lottery grant of £797,000. The new Discovery and Exhibition centre is housed in the former Brewhouse at the park and features interactive displays which help visitors learn more about the park and its wildlife.

## METAL BOX, MANSFIELD

An exhibition running until 7 January 2012 at the Leeming Street Museum in Mansfield celebrates the story of the company and its former Rock Valley factory through hundreds of tins, original artwork, photographs and interviews with former employees.

This should be an most interesting exhibition to visit.

## MEDIEVAL TREASURE TO BE OPENED TO PUBLIC VIEW

The 15<sup>th</sup> century Wollaton Antiphonal, the most stunning of the medieval manuscripts cared for at the University of Nottingham, is to be made available to the public using the *Turning the Pages* technology pioneered by the British Library.

A research grant from the Art and Humanities Research Council awarded to Emeritus Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre (School of English Studies), is enabling the creation of a virtual edition of about 40 openings, including all the richly-decorated folios. The project team is based in the *Manuscripts and Special Collections Department* of the University of Nottingham.

Details about the volume's preservation history will be shown in the virtual publication. A touch-screen kiosk will be installed in Wollaton church, enabling visitors to browse the manuscript and a later on-line version will open the book to more distant readers.

## APOLOGY

In the Autumn issue under the review of the book *Turning Back the Pages on Maid Marian Way* one of the co-authors was named as Nick Scott. This should have read Nick Smith to whom we offer our sincere apology for this error.

*DEADLINES for items for the Newsletter are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November every year.*

*COPY should be sent to the EDITOR, Howard Fisher, 21, Brockwood Crescent, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5HQ or by email to [handjaf@virginmedia.com](mailto:handjaf@virginmedia.com).*

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

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



*The Thoroton Dovecote Under Renovation.    Photos: The Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust*



*Inspecting the Beeston Bible at the Luncheon with verse 36 being pointed out by Professor John Beckett.*

*L to R: Bishop Paul Butler, Barbara Cast, Rosalys Coope, John Beckett and Dorothy Johnston                      Photo: Howard Fisher*



*Our President, Dr. Rosalys Coope, being invited to say a few words by Chairman John Beckett after being presented with lovely flowers by Secretary, Barbara Cast*

*Photo: Howard Fisher*