



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

August 2023

### A LOSS TO THE COUNTY?



The village of Mattersey was once famous for its ancient bridge, which was believed to have been built by monks (or their helpers!) in the 1200s although early members of the Thoroton Society on a tour around thought 1300s. In fact the Priory had been founded in 1185 but in the 1330s a hermit was petitioning about the making of a bridge at Mattersey and a causeway from Blyth. In the 1670s it was used as a loading point for timbers to be used in shipbuilding.

Plans to improve the Idle announced in 1949 had led to fears that bridge would be demolished so that assurances about its long-term future had had to be given. Then the Trent Board backtracked, and said in 1950 that underpinning it was impossible so it would have to go! A compromise was reached – there would be a new bridge in a different place but the old one could be retained for foot traffic only.

An entirely new concrete bridge on a different alignment was opened in March 1953. At the end of 1953 dredging work on the River Idle undermined the foundations of the old bridge and it partially collapsed. The bridge was at that time reportedly constructed of stone on wooden piers, which made it vulnerable. There was then a legal dispute about rights of way being 'stopped up' across the old bridge....because it had been demolished in January 1954. This went to court and the County Council lost in 1956 – so a foot crossing had to be reinstated!

When the bridge collapsed, there was wide national press coverage on the lines of 'bridge falls after seven hundred years' although little local coverage seems to have made this assumption. Despite this supposition that the bridge was 'ancient', more recent opinions are that it and its approaches had actually been rebuilt in the 1700s when the tolls were owned by Nottingham Corporation. We know there were petitions for its rebuilding in 1691. By 1906 it was in a poor state but NCC refused to take it over until it had been put 'in good order'. However, the 'loss' to the county may not have been quite as historic as some had assumed.

ADRIAN GRAY, EDITOR

CONTRIBUTIONS to the NLHA Newsletter can be sent to: [newsletter@nlha.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@nlha.org.uk)



The childhood home of D H Lawrence which is referred to as 'The Bottoms' in his famous novel 'Sons & Lovers' will be open for viewing between 11a.m. & 3p.m. on the following dates. Saturday 19th August, Saturday 9th September & Sunday 10th September. There is no entrance fee but donations towards the upkeep of the house are welcome. The address is Breach House, 28 Garden Road ,Eastwood.



LOUND HALL – near Bevercotes – will have an open garden events on 22nd August. Adrian Gray of the NLHA will speak about the Peake family of Retford and Bawtry, one of whom built the new hall in the 1930s.



If you have an enquiry about Nottinghamshire History, you are best to post this on our NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORY Facebook page, although we will carry some enquiries here.

RAILWAYS: “I wonder if anyone knows anything about a suggestion that was made in 1919 about building rural light railways in central Notts. ?

The Notts & Derbys tramway opened around 1912 and the Mansfield Railway opened during WWI. This has some claim to being the last general purpose railway built in England. It was always run by the Great Central Railway and was a branch of the Great Central London Extension opened in 1899. It was gradually run down after 1955. There were various colliery branches built after WWI but not any general-purpose light railways.

By 1919, with the development of the commercial pneumatic tyre and the carburettor, there was not really any need for these rural railways.

Reply to: Paul Gibbons ( 01773 ) 832864



## TALKS AND MEETINGS

We list all history meetings in Nottinghamshire that we are notified of, as far as we can.

### Arnold Local History Group

Contact: 0115 9200626, email address: [alhgroupo@gmail.com](mailto:alhgroupo@gmail.com)

Meetings are held at: Arnold Methodist Church, 54 Front Street, Arnold

**No meeting in July or August**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> Tim Coltman**

The story of two crosses

**October 17<sup>th</sup> Dr Richard Gaunt**

Gladstone in Nottingham

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Andy McKinnon**

New Ollerton – the development of a colliery village

**No meeting in December**



BEESTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chilwell Memorial Hall, 7.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

20 September: 'Florence Nightingale.' Danny Wells

18 October: 'John Glover's Sketchbook.' Stephen Flinders

Thursday 16 November at St Michael's Bramcote: 'God Save The King! Coronation Ceremonies and Celebrations from George IV to Charles III' Richard Gaunt

19 December: Christmas Meeting, quiz and AGM



[Blidworth and District Historical & Heritage Society - Home Page \(blidworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk\)](http://blidworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

BRAMCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All meetings take place in  
St. Michael's Church Centre, Church St., Bramcote NG9 3HD  
Visitors always welcome, with a suggested donation of £2.50.  
Refreshments available.  
See our website for further events, walks etc.  
[www.bramcotehistory.org.uk](http://www.bramcotehistory.org.uk)

[The Great Escape.....from Sutton Bonington !](#)  
Monday 18 September 2023, 8pm with Professor John Beckett

[Bramcote in the 1920s](#)  
Monday 16 October 2023, 8pm with Val Bird and the Research Team

## BURTON JOYCE AND BULCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Carnarvon Room,  
Chestnut Grove  
Burton Joyce  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG14 5DP

Members meet on the second Wednesday of the month from September to May at 7.30 pm  
Visitors are most welcome. Admission is £5.00 per person.

### PROGRAMME 2023

Please contact the society for details.



All meetings held in the Lower Hall Village Centre, New Hill, starting at 7.30 p.m.

<b>13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>The Medieval Kings &amp; Sherwood Forest</b>	<b>David Speed</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Rufford Abbey and its 19th century 'Savile' custodians.</b>	<b>Karen Winyard</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>The Humour of Hole: Introduction to Reverend Reynolds Hole of Caunton, one of the great characters of garden history</b>	<b>Martin Stott</b>

## Coddington History Group

21st Sept 2023 The Women in their Lives - The 4th and 5th Dukes of Newcastle. Richard Gaunt

19th Oct 2023 Fields in the Landscape. Emily Gillott

16th Nov 2023 Christmas Tales. Bob Massey

We meet in Coddington Village Hall, Main St, Coddington. NG24 2PN at 7:30 pm.

Admission £2 non members (including refreshments).

Contact: [derekrigby25@hotmail.com](mailto:derekrigby25@hotmail.com)

## Edwinstowe Historical Society

[www.edwinstowehistory.org.uk](http://www.edwinstowehistory.org.uk)

enquiries: [EdwinstoweHistorySoc@gmail.com](mailto:EdwinstoweHistorySoc@gmail.com)

Venue: St. Mary's Church Rooms, Mansfield Road, Edwinstowe, Notts. NG21 9NJ

Meetings held on 3rd Wednesday of the month, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Visitors welcome at a charge of £3

### **Programme for 2023/24**

Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Murder, Mystery & Mayhem	Bob Massey
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Top Ten Scandals from Sherwood Forest	Adrian Gray
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lady Arbella Stuart	David Templeman
Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting	
Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting	
Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	A Journey along the River Maun	In house
Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Newstead Abbey	Dennis Hill
Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup>	The Good, the Bad & The Reality	Mo Cooper
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	AGM	
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Follow the Moon & Stars	John Baird

## KEYWORTH

Latest news: [Keyworth & District Local History Society \(keyworthhistory.org.uk\)](http://keyworthhistory.org.uk)

# CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY GROUP

SHOWCASING WORKS of LOCAL ARTISTS &  
MAKERS

## George Martyn's Barn

31 Main Street, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire NG12 5AA

11.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023

[St Mary Magdalene Church (Grade I Listed Building) will open for "Ride + Stride"]

& 11.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023



This unique iconic feature of our Conservation Area, George Martyn's Barn was built 1651. One of several Listed buildings in the village GMB is opened to the public by CAAG (Conservation Area Advisory Group) intermittently throughout the year.

Access to this Grade II Listed building is ONLY through the front doors.

Please respect the privacy of the neighbours behind the barn.

Please be aware that our original floors are uneven. Sign our Visitor's Book, and if you want to receive information about our activities, let us know.

National Heritage Open Day Festival 2023

8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

CAAG Secretary: Sheila Barton email: [sheilakingdom@gmail.com](mailto:sheilakingdom@gmail.com)

CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY GROUP Linda Abbey (Chair)

Keith Barton, Sheila Barton, Daphne Butler, Dawn Clarke, Claire Hall, Nick Hodgett, Sue McCabe

Newark: other events

None notified.

Nottingham: other events

From Nottingham Civic Society:  
**SIR MICHAEL HOPKINS 1935-2023**

No sooner do we rejoice in the listing of the former Inland Revenue building on Wilford Street than we find ourselves mourning the founder of the practice which designed it.

Michael Hopkins “arrived at the Architectural Association in London, a mature student [aged 23] in a black leather jacket with an Angry Young Man manner” according to his obituarist Fiona MacCarthy (who in fact predeceased him). Having studied with Frederick Gibberd and Basil Spence, both proponents of modern architecture who both interestingly designed new cathedrals, respectively Liverpool RC and Coventry, one might see where Hopkins was probably going. However, as MacCarthy states: “his later architecture took a different and more original direction as he became more concerned with the history of building and the place of architecture in the landscape. This growing sense of context brought his buildings a new richness, a poetic modernity rooted in his understanding of the past.”

Indeed while he was a student he and his architect wife Patty restored a timber-frame house in Suffolk. In order to repair it he unbolted its components, likened by MacCarthy to those of a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Meccano set. “Like a flash out of the blue” Hopkins understood the way buildings were constructed and the way they eventually looked.

Our listing submission for the Inland Revenue drew on this approach where we stated:

"At Nottingham, the design team was led by Ian Sharratt, and by William Taylor, who was born locally and who made a close study of the city's building traditions. Attention was particularly paid to matching the distinctive bricks unique to the city and used there in the nineteenth century, with the closest match found in clay from Barrow-in-Furness. The bricks were purposely made for this project. They were pressed into moulds and then fired in coal-fuelled Hoffman kilns to obtain a proper degree of hardness and colour variation. Yet these traditional elements were used in a modern way, with the brickwork laid in optimum factory conditions for speed and quality, then erected in panels on site. This involved prefabricating piers of load-bearing brick relating to those in neighbouring nineteenth-century buildings, in slightly larger than normal dimensions. These piers were topped by precast concrete capitals shaped to receive the ends of the precast shallow vaults that span between them. Trent Concrete of Colwick and other local firms prefabricated some eighty per cent of the building's structure, which was then assembled on site – including soffits that spanned almost 14 metres which had to be craned into position with exacting precision."

When previously Hopkins has been at work on the new Mount stand at Lord's Cricket Ground he evolved what he called his personal “reconciliation with history” as he became more conscious of his links with the architecture of the past, with the great industrial buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and with natural materials such as stone, wood and brick.

Hence his decision at Hathersage when he designed a cutlery factory for MacCarthy's husband David Mellor to use the circular foundation of the original village gasworks, “a poetic but also wholly practical example of a new building arising from the old.”

So sports fans benefited from his practice at Lord's, and opera lovers from his rebuilding of Glyndebourne, where Trent Concrete also worked. There is a wonderful mix of styles across from the Houses of Parliament, from the assertive Portcullis House to the astonishing Westminster underground station beneath it. And our two universities as well, the wonderful link building between NTU's Newton and Arkwright Buildings (also a major Civic Society case) and the Jubilee campus for the University of Nottingham. And now the former Inland Revenue building has a new future as part of their estate.

Michael Taylor, current principal of the practice, said that Hopkins's concern was to make historic connections and to put the materials together "in an honest and contemporary way so that the building would appear calm and make immediate sense to the end user."

## Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Labour History Society

## Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire

*MEETING VENUE:*  
*Beeston Suite,*  
*Highfields Fire Station,*  
*Hassocks Lane, Beeston,*  
*Nottingham. NG9 2GQ*

*Start time: 6.45pm.*  
*(Auction viewing from 6.00pm)*

Contact: [marktray60@gmail.com](mailto:marktray60@gmail.com)

## RADCLIFFE ON TRENT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY TALKS 2022/2023

### **2023**

6 Sept 'The Top Ten Scandals of Sherwood Forest', by Adrian Gray.

4 Oct 'Home and Away: Notts Red Cross and the First World War', by Dr Rosemary Collins.

1 Nov 'The Rutland Roman Villa Project', by Peter Liddle.

13 Dec 'The Duke and the bigamous Duchess: Holme Pierrepont in the 18th century', by Beryl Cobbing.

### **2024**

3 Jan 'The regicide and the authoress: John and Lucy Hutchinson of Owthorpe', by Dave Barton.

7 Feb 'Fish and Fasting in Early Modern England', by Mark Dawson.

6 Mar 'Florence Boot' by Sian Trafford.

3 Apr 'Exploring the history of Radcliffe's pubs, past and present' by Marion Caunt.

1 May 'Medieval houses of the East Midlands', by James Wright.

5 Jun 'An unheroic history of Robin Hood', by a speaker from the University of Nottingham Manuscripts Library.

All talks are on a Wednesday evening starting at 7-30pm in the main hall of Grange Hall, Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent. Tickets are available from Pen2Paper, Main Road, RoT or on the door, price £3. Doors open at 7-00pm.

7 Jun 'George Parr, Radcliffe's international cricketer', by Marion Caunt.

## Sutton on Trent History Society

We meet in the Methodist Community Centre, High Street, Sutton-on-Trent commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Annual membership of the Society is £10.00 per annum and the fee for non-members is £2.00 per meeting.

Details here: [History Society - Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council - Sutton-on-Trent Parish Website, Newark \(suttonontrent.org.uk\)](http://www.history-society-sutton-on-trent-parish-council.org.uk)



## Thoroton Society news

Latest news: [The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire > Programme of events](http://www.thoroton-society.org.uk/programme-of-events)

### Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Awards

Every year since 2015 awards have been available from the Thoroton Society and through the generosity of Geoffrey Bond OBE for research projects undertaken on the history or archaeology of the county of Nottinghamshire. The awards are available to anyone undertaking such research, subject to the proposal being acceptable to the adjudicating panel made up of leading Thoroton Society officers.

Applicants do not have to be members of the Society - applications would be very welcome from students. The conditions attached to the awards can be found on the [society's website](http://www.thoroton-society.org.uk).

*Richard Gaunt, Chair, and Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary, Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire*

## Elain Harwood (1958-2023)

On Friday 30 June I attended Elain Harwood's funeral, which was a very moving celebration of her achievements. I was one of four of her school friends attending, having known Elain through College House Junior and Bramcote Hills Grammar schools. Elain's brother spotted my Thoroton badge and so I (unofficially) represented the society. The eulogies were given by Duncan Wilson CBE, Chief Executive of Historic England, and Catherine Croft, Director of the Twentieth Century Society, who had worked with Elain for many years and was her best friend. Elain's many achievements were celebrated, including her 2015 book 'Space, Hope and Brutalism: English Architecture 1945-1975'; which she called her bumper brutalism book, and her 2022 Honorary RIBA Fellowship. She was enthusiastic and tireless in her work listing and saving twentieth century buildings.

In his address, Revd Martin Harris said that if Elain had been there, perhaps the temple in Jerusalem would not have fallen in 70 CE as Elain would have had it listed! The congregation entered to selections from The Nutcracker and left to Swan Lake.... Very unusual and very Elain.

Jill Oakland

## Worksop Manor Lodge for sale

Savill's estate agency is currently selling one of Nottinghamshire's most interesting historic buildings, Worksop Manor Lodge, for £2,750,000.

It is likely that the Grade I listed property was originally built for the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury as a hunting lodge to the 16th century Worksop Manor and was probably designed by Robert Smythson, architect of Wollaton Hall, in c.1595. The Lodge is exceptionally tall with a basement and four storeys of small rooms in each wing above. The central range above the

basement contains two huge double-height rooms, the Great Hall and Great Chamber, one above the other.

Further details from [Savills' website](#).

## ‘The Great British Dig’ TV series: excavation at Strelley Hall

At long last the programme on Strelley Hall is being shown on the More4 channel at 9pm on Thursday, 6 July. According to the TV guide, *‘In the village of Strelley in Nottinghamshire, Hugh and the team go on a quest to find the long-lost medieval castle of the 14th-century knight, Sampson de Strelley.’*

Thoroton Society Council member, Dr James Wright, is featured.

[The Great British Dig website](#)

## Emeritus Professor Michael Jones

A volume of essays has just been published in honour of Emeritus Professor Michael Jones, a distinguished former member of the academic staff at Nottingham.

After being awarded his doctorate at the University of Oxford in 1966, Michael Jones taught for a year at the University of Exeter before coming to Nottingham in September 1967 as an assistant lecturer. Promoted Reader in 1984 and Professor of French Medieval History in 1991, he retired in 2002 but has continued to be active in his main field of research, the history of the medieval duchy of Brittany. Thanks to particular political circumstances Brittany was able to develop into a largely independent and sovereign power within the kingdom of France at the end of the Middle Ages, with its own institutions, policies and traditions, before its definitive incorporation into the crown between 1491-1532. His work has especially traced the complicated political, social and cultural consequences of the confrontation between the Montfort dukes of Brittany and the Capetian and Valois kings of France. In addition for over 40 years he has worked in conjunction with Professor Gwyn Meirion-Jones

on a major interdisciplinary study of surviving seigneurial residences in Brittany (manoirs, châteaux) with a wealth of publications.

In retirement, he has also worked on local Nottinghamshire history, of which the major output has been an edition with colleagues of *The White Book (Liber Albus) of Southwell* (Pipe Roll Society, N.S. 61, 2 vols., 2018) and studies of Norwell in central Nottinghamshire where he now lives, a prebendal village owned by the church from Anglo-Saxon times until 1952. He edited *Nottingham Medieval Studies* from 1989-2008, and from 1990-97 he was one of the two literary directors of the Royal Historical Society, being responsible for seeing 12 volumes of the Camden Series through the press as well as several Handbooks, including revising C. R. Cheney's invaluable *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History* (2000), the book most frequently stolen from the old Public Record Office!

In 2002 he was awarded the Order of the Ermine by the Institut Culturel de Bretagne in recognition of his contribution to Breton history and culture. In 2006 he was elected 'correspondant étranger' of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, one of the five academies that make up the Institut de France (the French equivalent of the Royal Society, British Academy and Royal Society of Arts combined), and in 2017 he was promoted 'Associé étranger', becoming 'Membre de l'Institut'.

The *Mélanges* now published in his honour as an issue of *Annales de Bretagne et des Pays de l'Ouest (Bretons du Moyen Âge, entre Guerre et Paix*, ed. Yves Coativy, Anne Curry and Frédérique Lachaud), is a further tribute, chiefly from his continental friends and colleagues, to his contribution and its influence on those currently working on late medieval France and England.

[Download the flier](#)

*Dr Richard Gaunt*

## New book on the Chaworth-Muster family

Nicola Webb has just self-published a book entitled *Love, Duty & Sacrifice: One Hundred years of a Victorian Nottinghamshire family about the Chaworth-Musters of Annesley from around 1860-1970*, including extensive coverage of the roles of their sons in The First World War. Lina Chaworth-Musters was one of the early members of the Thoroton Society and sat on Council from 1897-99.

This is a Victorian story of love, duty, and sacrifice, which within 100 years, leaves the dynasty shattered and the family's wealth diminished.

[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

## Nottingham Victoria Station 3D

A project to digitally recreate Nottingham's Victoria Station (demolished in the late 1960s) has recently released an impressive video showing the Booking Hall as it would have appeared in 1903. An impressive piece of work.

- [YouTube video](#)
- [FaceBook page](#)

## DH Lawrence locations

A timeline map illustrated with stories, pictures and quotes from DHL's life, works and letters. Get to know him better, search for a specific place, date, item or novel.

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&ll=53.00351976585996%2C-1.3144716964502945&z=17&mid=1kPxsaX-GxMdng\\_Zo2onMkEiRCy\\_Gd9Cw](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&ll=53.00351976585996%2C-1.3144716964502945&z=17&mid=1kPxsaX-GxMdng_Zo2onMkEiRCy_Gd9Cw)

## Celebrating Notts Language website

The Celebrating Notts Language project is led by Professor Natalie Braber with Dr Victoria Howard, and funded by Nottingham Trent University's Institute for Knowledge Exchange Practice. It showcases the varied linguistic heritage of

people who call Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ‘home’. It aims to raise the profile of the many varieties of English and other languages spoken across the region.

The project has included hundreds of schoolchildren, ex-miners, poets, musicians, university students, community groups and other local people from Notts, whether they have always lived here, or have moved into or out of the area. They were asked to share what language means to them: their favourite words and expressions – whether dialect, familect (words used within families), ethnolect (language associated with an ethnic group), work-related vocabulary or words from another language; and poems, stories and songs which invoke place.

In collaboration with a sound editor and a web designer, the project team has produced this interactive map to share these audio clips and to celebrate the language of Nottinghamshire.

[celebratingnottslanguage.co.uk](http://celebratingnottslanguage.co.uk)

Welbeck and the Harley Gallery

Wollaton Historical & Conservation Society

Meetings: 7.30pm St Leonard’s Community Centre, Bramcote Lane, opp Wollaton library.

## NLHA LIST OF SPEAKERS

Our list (which is of speakers we are aware of, not ‘approved’ speakers) and it will include talks about Nottinghamshire or directly related history. If you are a speaker, please send your list of talks to [newsletter@nlha.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@nlha.org.uk).

**David Speed** ([speeddavid06@gmail.com](mailto:speeddavid06@gmail.com)): Offers six illustrated Powerpoint history talks: Beauvale Priory where two worlds meet; The Kings and Sherwood Forest; Robin Hood and His Times; The

Pentrich Revolt; Henry Sampson, Betrayal in Bulwell; Tangled Web: Nottingham Children's Nineteenth Century Education.

**Mo Cooper** is a community historian and a founder member of Nottingham Women's History Group. She delivers a variety of talks and walks. You can contact her at [mocooper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mocooper@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel 07950 472022.

<https://mocooper.weebly.com>

- The Clergyman, the Widow and the Milkman - an exploration of Nottingham's Edwardian landlords Talk
- Edwardian housing Narrowmarsh
- Gedling House – Georgian mansion to Buddhist Centre Talk (or tour from 2023)
- The good, the bad and the reality, A gallop through the women who have contributed to Nottingham's' history
- Nottingham, women's history
- Hearing Deaf Voices - the History of the Deaf Community in Nottingham
- Women's Suffrage in Nottingham, The long, long road to equality Talk Suffrage Nottingham Suffragette
- What did you do in the war mum? An exploration of how the women of Nottingham supported the war effort.
- WW2, women's history, Nottingham
- Walks (and talks)
- Beer, bleaching and burials in Basford
- Ladies, Lace and Lawbreakers – lace workers, grand ladies and the women that were transported for their 'crimes'.

**Robert Mee** can present a number of illustrated talks for your group. Presentations currently available include:

- Inn Signs and Local History: Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire pub names - what they can tell the local historian
- Nottinghamshire Castles: 11 definite castle sites, and a few more besides!
- Nottingham Classified: a look at 18th and 19th century advertisements in the local newspapers. (from May 2023)

All presentations are fully illustrated. They normally last from 50 to 90 minutes, but can be adjusted to suit your needs. Robert is often available at short-notice, if, for example, a speaker cancels. Fees are £60, plus expenses if over 40 miles (return from West Hallam) involved. Contact: email - [RobertMMee@btinternet.com](mailto:RobertMMee@btinternet.com); telephone - 0115 9327495/07757 134353

**Tom Andrews:** [tom\\_andrews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom_andrews@hotmail.co.uk)

- Modern policing of Nottingham, primarily the policing of Nottingham between 1930 – 1959 and Chief Constable Capt. Athelstan Popkess who invented police radios and mobile police vehicle patrols among other things, and Victorian policing of Nottinghamshire.

**STAA** at St Ann's Heritage Gardens provide speakers on this Grade 2\* listed site. Talks delivered by Mo Cooper.

- St Ann's Allotments, Nottingham's unique heritage gardens
- Stories from the Hungerhills

**ADRIAN GRAY** can be contacted at [adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk](mailto:adriangray@pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk) or 07470 366689. Adrian is a graduate historian and author of many books. His talks are all fully illustrated and include:

***Why did they all come from here?*** Why the Mayflower Pilgrims and the linked group who formed the first Baptists originated in the region of North Notts and West Lincs.

***Religious Liberty: A Gift to the World from Notts and Lincs:*** ideas about religious liberty now enshrined in the UN declaration of Human Rights can be traced back through the US 'First Amendment' to the thinking and writing of men who came from Nottinghamshire.

***Thomas Helwys: The Price of Freedom:*** Helwys, a Nottingham man, financed the move of the 'Pilgrims' to Holland and there became a Baptist. He risked his own life by returning to England and founding the Baptist denomination, where he wrote the first text in English that argued for religious liberty for all faiths – for which he was imprisoned.

***The Top Ten Scandals of Sherwood Forest:*** this is an unconventional approach to telling the story of Sherwood and the Dukeries. Rather than following it chronologically, we examine the tale through ten scandals – money, sex and political – that define what happened to Sherwood and the great houses that were built there.

***Worksop, Witches and a Place in American History: the Life of Richard Bernard:*** Richard Bernard was born in Tudor Epworth and became a great figure amongst the puritans and separatists under James I based mainly at Gainsborough and Worksop. Later he became a great writer, influenced John Bunyan and his daughter helped found a state in America. Today he is best-known for his authoritative guide on witches, based on his experience in Worksop!

***Rebels and Radicals: the turbulent early Quakers from Notts:*** the Quakers were the most radical religious group of their day, challenging law and order wherever they went. They began in Mansfield with George Fox, their first meeting place was probably in Skegby, and their first 'martyr' was James Parnell of Retford. They travelled the world, courting controversy wherever they went and often they went to prison and suffered beatings.

***Historical Highlights from Bassetlaw:*** the Bassetlaw region of North Notts is little known, yet it is an area with an amazing history full of battles, bravery, scandal and...some beautiful places. This is a personal selection of the most interesting places in the area and what they can tell us about its history.

***Historical Highlights from Newark and Sherwood:*** this is a personal selection of the most interesting historical sites in Newark and Sherwood District – lost medieval fragments, forgotten villages, vanished castles, the forgotten world of the medieval fishpond and much more! Lots of pictures and ideas for doing some exploring of your own.

***The Capricious Trent – the Battle between People and the River Trent:*** the course of the lower River Trent from Farndon and Averham to Gainsborough and beyond has seen some remarkable events in English history as people have struggled to keep it under control. This talk introduces you to the lost channels, great floods and little village ferries that illustrate the course of this most intriguing of England's rivers.

**Myths and Legends of the 'Mayflower' Story:** the 'Mayflower' story is one that has 'grown in the telling' with many false claims and even monuments in the wrong place. This entertaining talk examines some of the 'red herrings' of the story including some shameless profiteering and examples of deliberate distortion of the truth.

**Rebellious Women of Nottinghamshire:** this talk compares two generations of Nottinghamshire women who fought against 'the system'. The first generational example is of the puritan women who supported their husbands to take on the Monarchy and to then survive amidst the wilds of New England. The comparison is made with radical, working-class preaching women in Nottingham in the early 1800s – who featured at one of the best-known public executions and then inspired the novelist George Eliot, until they were put back into their place by repressive men!

**Some Nottinghamshire Artists:** enjoy some paintings of the county and hear the stories of local artists who enjoyed success or failure along the way. Some you will have heard of, some are now pretty obscure, but all are interesting in their own ways.

**Dr Rowena Edlin-White:** A professional author, researcher and speaker for over twenty-five years, specialising in local history, women's history and the region's forgotten authors. Currently taking only daytime bookings. Contact [ro@edlin-white.net](mailto:ro@edlin-white.net) for more details.

**Four Forgotten Nottingham Authors:** Muriel Hine, Cecil Roberts, John Collis Snaith & Dorothy Whipple were all best-sellers in their day. **Note:** other combinations of writers available from my book, *Exploring Nottinghamshire Writers (Five Leaves)*.

**The Sherwood Forest Group:** Early 19<sup>th</sup> century radical ruralists, Robert Millhouse, Spencer T. Hall, Lucy Joynes, Joanna Williams and the rest – a fascinating bunch.

**William and Mary Howitt, a Literary Marriage:** Quaker couple among the most celebrated writers of their age; radical in their politics, they wrote more than 160 books between them.

**No Surrender! Women's Suffrage in Nottinghamshire:** Our very own suffragists and suffragettes; stirring stories of intrepid women – and some men!

**Grace's Diary: the Journal of Grace Jane Dexter 1884-93:** the life and aspirations of a young teacher, befriended by Florence Nightingale. Late Victorian Nottingham & Derbyshire, in her own words.

**Spinster of No Occupation? Mary Ellen Shaw 1859-1926:** the life of an energetic woman who worked to improve social conditions in Nottingham at the end of the Victorian era.

**Dr Stephen Walker** - Contact : 07752-666-075 [stephenj\\_walker@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenj_walker@btinternet.com)

Any money I raise from this activity is regarded as a donation to support the work of the 'Friends of Moor Pond Woods'. [<http://moorpond.papplewick.org>]

**'A thread in the web of time: the archaeology of the 18th century cotton mills at Papplewick'** Over the last 20 years archaeological exploration has provided evidence about how the cotton mills in the

Leen Valley were supplied with water, and how the system was modified to account for changing circumstances. The talk reports and discusses the progress of the work.

**'A London Boy at Mr Robinson's mill'** The story of the child workers who were brought from workhouses to work in these early factories.

**'Spinning yarns: the history and operation of the cotton mills at Papplewick'** A talk focussing on the history and operation of the spinning mills in the period 1778 – 1828. This was the first site in the World to use a steam engine to provide rotary motion in a textile factory.

**'From bluebells to blue-tits: the natural habitats of Moor Pond Woods'** A review of the varied habitats of this Nottinghamshire local nature reserve and discussion about how it is managed and maintained.

**'From Marylebone to Massachusetts: the life and times of Henry Leonard'** Recounting the story of a Nottinghamshire textile worker from his recruitment in the 1790s, through his employment to his eventual emigration in the 1850s.

**'Bulwell, 1750-1880: Industrialisation and urbanisation in the Leen valley'** Exploring the evidence for the development of a Nottingham suburb.

**'Moving On: Investigating the migration of mill workers to Darley Abbey'** Darley Abbey was a planned industrial hamlet built on a green-field site at the end of the 18th century. This talk looks at the evidence from censuses and parish registers to explore the migration of early factory workers.

**'The history and heritage of Gedling Borough'** Gedling Borough is one of the administrative districts of Nottinghamshire. This talk explores the history and development of the various places that make up the district.

### **Bob Massey:**

BOB MASSEY will start the autumn season with two history walks in Arnold Hill Park Arnold, both on the 3rd September.

**Maggy Watkins** can be contacted at [talksandtours@gmail.com](mailto:talksandtours@gmail.com) or by mobile: 07950167821. Her talks are fully illustrated and include:

- \* The Mayflower Pilgrims
- \* Mayflower New Beginnings - notable characters, myths and firearms in America
- \* Katherine Swynford the Scandalous Duchess

**Keith Small** can be contacted at telephone 01636 679261 or email: [keiparkinson75@btinternet.com](mailto:keiparkinson75@btinternet.com)

- The River Trent in the Countryside and in History
- A Brief History of the Nottinghamshire Lace Industry
- A Brief History of the Nottinghamshire Mining Industry
- A Brief History of the Nottinghamshire Tobacco Industry
- Truths and Myths of Robin Hood and His Merry Men

**Martin Stott** is a former BBC journalist who has made programmes for Radio 4 and the World Service from 21 countries. He is the co-editor of *By Any Other Name*, the heritage rose journal of the World Federation of Rose Societies and writes the garden history blog: [www.storytelligarden.co.uk](http://www.storytelligarden.co.uk).

Fees go towards the restoration of the garden at Bromley House Library. Martin is a trustee of the library.

- The humour of Hole – Nottinghamshire vicar Samuel Reynolds Hole (1819-1904), celebrated preacher, rosarian, horticulturalist and author of the immensely popular A Book about Roses, was the first organiser of the National Rose Show and president of the world's first National Rose Society. Hear the life story of this giant (in all respects) of the Victorian gardening world through his humorous writing.
- The history of the rose – The fossil record suggest roses have been around for at least 25 million years. This is a potted history of the nation's favourite flower and the amazing characters involved in its evolution, including two Nottinghamshire horticultural heroes.
- Nottingham's 'Royal' Garden – In the centre of Nottingham, hidden from sight, lies a rare Georgian town garden that was created in 1752 by Mary Howe – a direct descendant of King James I – and George Smith, of the famous Nottingham banking family. The garden is part of Grade 2\*-listed Bromley House, now the home of a fabulous subscription library. This is the story of Bromley House, the library and of the plans to restore its precious gem of a garden.

Contact: [Martin.Stott@bulletin.co.uk](mailto:Martin.Stott@bulletin.co.uk)

This Newsletter is published by Nottinghamshire Local History Association. You can submit material to the editor, Adrian Gray, at [newsletter@nlha.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@nlha.org.uk)