



## NEWSLETTER

### February 2023



We start this edition with a painting by the little-known Victorian artist Laslett Pott, who was born in Newark and then had a failed career learning architecture in Nottingham before going on to greater success as a popular artist – the sort of Victorian art that was loved by many at the time, but which is now terminally unfashionable it would seem. He had a son who was an Army officer but also a successful commercial artist drawing cartoons for ‘Punch’ and several daily papers. The ‘Laslett’ name resurfaced for Robert Laslett John Pott, who was an officer in ‘Operation Market Garden’ at Arnhem. Believing himself dying, he wrote a last letter to his wife – but then recovered, and went on to be a missionary including in Sudan where he had been born. The story of the ‘last letter’ was then turned into a song, ‘Black Swan Song’, by his grandson Joel Laslett Pott and his band Athlete – this was in aid of the British Legion. So the Laslett name is still around!

Some of Pott’s paintings were acquired for the art gallery in Nottingham...but it might be nice to have him at last remembered in his hometown of Newark.

You can watch the ‘Black Swan Song’ video here: [Athlete - Black Swan Song - YouTube](#)

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

# NLHA SPRING FORUM

Sat, March 25, 2023, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Programme:

9.30am Registration and Refreshments

10.00am Welcome

10.15am **Richard Gaunt**: A Great Electioneer and his Church Patronage. The 4th Duke of Newcastle

11.30am **Rowena Edlin-White**: The Sherwood Forest Group of Writers

12.30pm Lunch & Book Stalls

1.15pm Nottinghamshire Local History Association AGM

1.45pm **Denis Hill**: Major Hayman Rooke

3.00pm **Adrian Gray**: Myths and Legends of the Mayflower Pilgrims

4.00pm Close

Ravenshead Village Hall 11 Vernon Crescent Ravenshead NG15 9BP

NLHA Spring Forum: Ticket Link

[Nottinghamshire Local History Association's Spring Forum Tickets, Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Programme Details:

## Talks:

### A Great Electioneer and his Church Patronage. The 4th Duke of Newcastle

by Richard Gaunt

Richard's talk explores the 4th Duke of Newcastle's patronage in a number of Nottinghamshire Anglican livings as well as his interest in church building.

**Richard Gaunt** is Associate Professor in British History at the University of Nottingham. He is currently Chair of Council of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire.

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### The Sherwood Forest Group of Writers

by Rowena Edlin-White

The Sherwood Forest Group were 19th century radical ruralists, poets, novelists, essayists and topographical writers, including Robert Millhouse, Spencer T. Hall, Joanna Williams, Lucy Joynes, and the Howitt family - a fascinating bunch whose work is still relevant today.

**Rowena Edlin-White** is a professional author, researcher and independent publisher who has been on the speaker network in Nottinghamshire for 25 years. Currently she specialises in women's history and forgotten authors. Her most recent book, Exploring Nottinghamshire Writers, is published by Five Leaves.

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## Major Hayman Rooke

by Denis Hill

**Hayman Rooke:** a little-known man who is famous the world over!

**Denis Hill** has concentrated his career in North Notts, which has primarily been spent in heritage related work, including lecturing, training, mentoring, and supporting community groups with local heritage projects.

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## Myths and Legends of the Mayflower Pilgrims

by Adrian Gray

Adrian's talk describes how the 'history' of the Nottinghamshire separatists has been distorted and confused, both in how it has been told and how it has been memorialised. The result is an entertaining story about what happens to 'public history' when it is in the hands of sectarian or commercial interests.

**Adrian Gray** is a Cambridge history graduate and author of around 30 books, including several dealing with Nottinghamshire and the heritage of the Pilgrims and other groups. A NLHA member, he leads the Pilgrims & Prophets community history group in north Nottinghamshire.'



### 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

8 February 2023 : Andy Smart - Nottingham Theatre History

8 March 2023 : Hayden Reed - The Great Northern Railway in and around Nottingham

12 April 2023: Speaker to be advised - The Bennerley Giant

10 May 2023: Steve Lemottee - Sport on the Forest Recreation Ground since the 17th Century OR "It's not just cricket".

## Sutton on Trent History Society

Monday 13th March 2023: Nottinghamshire Timber Buildings by Jason Morden

Monday 17th April 2023: 'Aye Up Me Duck' by David Amos

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.



### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next meeting is 2pm March 4th in the International Community Centre on Mansfield Road, Nottingham, when Dr Katrina Navickas will speak on "Fighting for Spaces: from Enclosure onwards."

## 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)

**Monday 13th February 2023**

*The 20th Century seen through Medallions by Simon Wilson*

**Monday 10th March 2023**  
*Emergency Money by Mark T. Ray*

**Monday 10th April 2023**                      *Members Society Auction*

## INSPIRE EVENTS SPRING 2023

**January – March 2023**

### **EXPLORING LOCAL MAPS**

**FREE Mansfield Central Library**

**10.30am / Friday 17 February**

Join one of our librarians for a group session, where they will demonstrate the range and variety of local maps available in Inspire libraries, with hints and tips on how to find and interpret them.

### **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS – THE CAPTIVE QUEEN IN ENGLAND 1568 – 84**

**£3 West Bridgford Library**

**2pm / Tuesday 28 February**

Discover the fascinating story, not found in the history books, of Mary's years of captivity in England. Follow her journey as a captive Queen from Carlisle, via Bolton Castle, Wingfield Manor, Sheffield Castle and Manor Lodge, Chatsworth, and Worksop Manor to Chartley in Staffordshire. David Templeman's talk conveys the intrigue, passion, plots and escape attempts often glossed over by biographers.

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

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.

1 Feb 'Hidden Histories of Nottinghamshire Gardens', by Martin Stott.

1 Mar 'Radcliffe: a thousand years of growth', by Dave Barton.

5 Apr 'The life of Gertrude Savile of Rufford: scandals in a Georgian family', by Ruth Imeson

3 May 'Emma Wilmot, the forgotten artist of the Victorian Dukeries', by Dr Richard Gaunt.

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

## Arnold Local History Group

Contact: 0115 9200626, email address: alhgroupo@gmail.com

Meetings are held at: Arnold Methodist Church, 54 Front Street, Arnold, (for sat nav please follow

**February 21<sup>st</sup> David Amos**

Annesley & Annesley Hall through the ages

**March 21<sup>st</sup> AGM**

Followed by: Memories of old Arnold

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Mick Whysall**

A very Victorian murder

**May 16<sup>th</sup> Steve Flinders**

Archaeology beneath our feet

**June 20<sup>th</sup> Peter Godley**

Nottingham Cave excavations

**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**

(w NG5 7GP).

## KEYWORTH

Our next event “Putting Keyworth on The Map” will be held in Keyworth Village Hall on Saturday 11th March 2023.

## Thoroton Society news

### Wollaton Historical & Conservation Society

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

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

David Templeman – “The Captive Queen of England 1568 – 1584”. Discover the fascinating story of Mary's years in captivity in England. Wollaton H&CS

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Chris Weir – “Nottinghamshire in the time of Jane Austen”. Illustrating trends and themes and using quotes from her novels. Wollaton H&CS

April 26<sup>th</sup>

John Whitfield – “The Truth about the Cuban Missile Crisis”. Revelations of the unknown facts behind the Cuban crisis. Wollaton H&CS

#### **Watson Fothergill Walk 10 am Sunday 12 March, tickets £15 each.**

The walk meets outside Visit Nottingham Tourism Centre and we spend 2 hours exploring the life and buildings of Nottingham's most flamboyant architect, Watson Fothergill, a.k.a. Fothergill Watson. Walk concludes at Fothergill's pub where food and drink can be purchased. Maximum 20 people, so please book in advance. More dates to follow later in the year or email [watsonfothergillwalk@gmail.com](mailto:watsonfothergillwalk@gmail.com) for private bookings. More info:

<https://watsonfothergillwalk.com/home/watson-fothergill-walk/>

This is the link for tickets with all the details:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watson-fothergill-walk-architecture-of-victorian-nottingham-tickets-507446715787?aff=NLHA>



**A new free History talk**  
**Knitting, Poverty and Water**  
(Arnold in the 1800s )

**6th February 2023**  
7.00pm

**Robin Hood and Little John**  
**Arnold**

**Come and learn about Arnolds past**  
[contact b.massey@mail.com](mailto:b.massey@mail.com) for details



**More Rogues,  
Vagabonds  
and Villains**

**A free**  
**evening of**  
*stories of the areas  
turbulent past*

**22nd February at 7pm**  
**Robin Hood Lambley**

with local historian Bob Massey

*All welcome*

## **SOME CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **Received by the NLHA:**

Thank you for sending me the latest issue of the Journal. In it I saw mention of Ken Coates and the St Ann's survey. Ken Coates came to Nottingham in 1940 as a Bevin Boy to work down the pit. I was in the Nottingham branch of the Young Communist League then and we held Sunday evening meetings on Slab Square (is it still called that?) Ken came to one and joined and soon became organiser. The rival left youth organisation was Labour League of Youth. I remember hearing Ken having an argument with their secretary, a lass named Betty Smith. The next thing I knew was that they got married and that was the end of the Labour league of Youth!

Are there still lots of speakers on Council House Square? I remember there being up to 5 or 6 little groups on our version of 'Speakers Corner'.

Best wishes

Eric Walker

PS I lost my idealism in 1957 with the execution of Imre Nagy in Hungary. But strangely from 1965 onwards I spent a lot of time in the Eastern Countries and Russia for both business and for my church and also, because I learned Esperanto and most towns there had Esperanto clubs, I made a lot of personal friendships.

## **NLHA LIST OF SPEAKERS**



We are re-starting this list (which is of speakers we are aware of, not 'approved' speakers) and it will ONLY 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!

**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.

**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

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)