



# Nottinghamshire Local History Association



**Working together ~ what we do best.**

Volume 1, Issue 15

October 2014

## NLHA & The Thoroton Society Autumn Day School

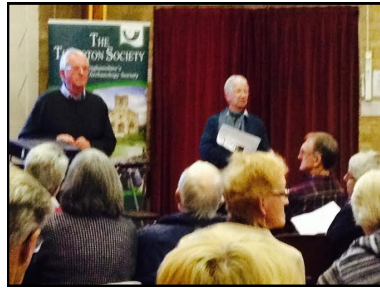
# The Home Front



An informative day was had by all who attended the joint day school held at the Village hall at Ravenshead. The day began with an address from the University of Nottingham's Professor Chris Wrigley (pictured with NLHA Chairman John Parker) who talked about the impact that the Great War had on people back home, the saying 'out with the old and in with the new' applied here - gone were chaperones and exclusive private enterprise and in were changing class relations amongst many other things. Chris talked about the hardship experienced by families of soldiers; with a lowly allowance, rising food prices, TB on the increase, overcrowded living conditions and women having to leave children and take on work to survive, this was a severe learning curve for many.

Our next speakers were Emeritus Professor of French medieval history (University of Nottingham) Michael Jones and his wife Elizabeth a teacher and scientist. Using parish garden accounts, school records and admissions, pig club accounts, letters, diaries, newspapers and a range of other sources they gave an interesting insight into Norwell during the First World War sharing interesting facts such as in 1918 when the Norwell school children were part of the National Blackberry Scheme and had five half days off school to pick 769 lbs of fruit.

## NLHA/Thoroton Day School Continued.....



*L to R Michael & Elizabeth Jones; Ted White and Christine Drew*

The next presentation was given by historian Ted White who introduced the audience to the Boots Company's wartime publication *Comrades in Khaki*. It was initially introduced to maintain lines of communication with Boots employees who were fighting overseas, gross receipts from sales were to be contributed to a fund for the sick and wounded when they returned. Boots dispensers were also with troops, treating their ailments and minor injuries. The publication was very short lived due to the depletion of staff, many had joined the war effort and there were not enough suitably qualified workers left to continue.

Christine Drew gave an interesting talk on the German prisoners of War at Sutton Bonnington; the largest camp in Nottinghamshire. It also had the highest number of prison breakouts; on 24 September 1917 22 German prisoners escaped through a narrow tunnel and fence, the sounds of their digging had been drowned out by the German band practice. Within six days all men were recaptured, the furthest getting to Chesterfield. Three men captured on Trent Bridge had bags containing English money, gloves, cufflinks, watches, toilet bags, knives, scissors, timetables, maps, and a plethora of food including twelve tins of sardines, seven tins of milk, bacon, ham, cheese, bags of prunes and dried toast. The press was full of the debauchery allegedly carried out at the POW camps. At Donington Hall Kegworth the prisoners were known as the Prancing Prussians as most of them were of senior rank and included the wealthy and well connected and even aristocracy. They were said to speak and write English better than those who guarded them. They received many gifts from the German government and their own families. Their biggest downside whilst there was boredom, a regular activities timetable had been devised for them including the use of hockey and football pitches, two lawn tennis courts and a gymnasium, spare time was spent relaxing in the beautiful gardens, reading rooms and tiered lecture theatre amongst other activities such as band practice. Their culinary preferences were respected and the dining room had the appearance of a banquet hall with tablecloths and what appeared to be a full silver service set out.

Jill Oakland finished off the mornings talks with an account of The Cedars VAD hospital at Beeston, once the home of Samuel Poyser a well known jeweller in Nottingham. The hospital was commanded by a Mrs Spendlove who had lost her son Gervase in the war.

After lunch and a chance to browse the bookstalls Pauline Marples kicked off the afternoon presentations with a talk on Clipstone Camp and the effect it had on local people in the Mansfield area. Committees were set up for the general care of the soldiers and the protection of young girls in the area; at its height the Camp had over 30,000 soldiers on site carrying out basic training and trench digging etc.

The YMCA played a large part in providing services for the troops; they provided a library, reading/writing room, refreshments, concert hall, billiards and snooker amongst others. According to parish registers the number of unmarried mothers in the area went up and twenty eight soldiers and one nurse from the camp are buried at St Alban's at Forest Town. An exhibition is on at the Mansfield Museum until 22nd November.



Clipstone Camp Source:

<http://homepage.nflworld.com/malcolm.marples/Pauline.html>



Robert Ilett followed on with a his talk about the area of Worksop around the time of the war; one million shaving sticks were ordered for the war effort from the extensive wood turning industry based there. Robert also investigated some of the households from the Dukes of Portland and Newcastle to the working man whose money was spent on his boots before his wife and children.

Val Wood continued with a look at day nurseries in World War One. The government wanted people to set up crèches to enable the mothers to work and contribute to the war effort; in Woolwich 5000 children attended crèches. In Nottingham there was no provision for children and many were cared for by friends/neighbours and family members with some being taken to school alongside older siblings much to the dissatisfaction of the school boards. Nottingham sanitary reports advised that it was important for mothers to remain at home and care for their children.

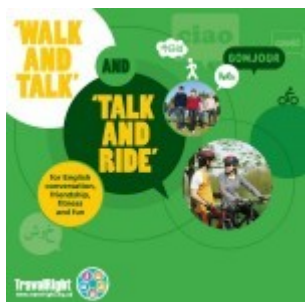
Faith Blackmore and Neil Bettison talked about Trent to Trenches events throughout the county. To mark the 100 year centenary of The Great War, Nottinghamshire County Council has established the Community Commemoration Fund. Financial grants of up to £300 are available to local communities to help reflect on what the war meant for their local area and how the lives of people were changed forever. See



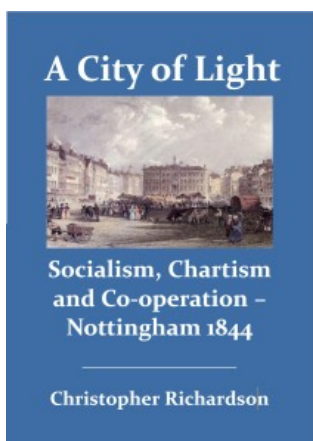
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/history/trenttotrenches/communitycommemorationfund/>

In his closing speech John Beckett looked at how since the war, the world had changed rapidly and that current students show more interest in WWI & WWII than any other subject. John advised that there is a lot of knowledge about those who died during the war but very little is known about those that returned and the support that was available to them as they rebuilt their lives. One word that should be associated with the war was DUTY.....

## Angel Row History Forum



Would you like to visit some of our counties fantastic heritage/local history sites but unsure of how to get there? On Thursday December 11th hosted by transport historian Robert Howard and NLHA Committee Member Jenny Page our History Forum, features TravelRight - travel information for North Nottingham presented by Juliet Line and Chris Matthews of TravelRight. This is a FREE event open to anyone with an interest in local history. Refreshments will be available. The session is in the Cecil Roberts Meeting Room on the first floor of Nottingham Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HP. TravelRight is part of the Sustainable Travel Collective Ltd, a charity promoting and encouraging the development and use of sustainable forms of travel. TravelRight is being delivered as part of the Nottingham Urban Area's successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme helping to establish Nottingham as an exemplar for integrated sustainable transport. See [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/istfprojects](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/istfprojects)



### City of Light

#### A book about Socialism, Chartism and Co-operation – Nottingham 1844

The book was launched to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first co-operative society in Nottingham set up on the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers.

During the past year we have celebrated the pioneering work of Co-operators, Chartists and Socialists in and around mid-19th century Nottingham with a series of events, beginning with the book launch in June 2013.

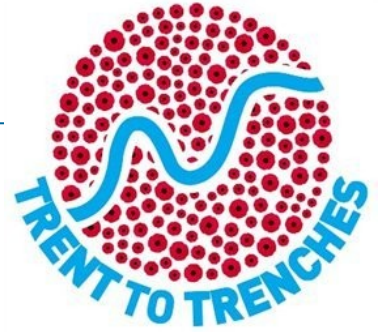
Talks, walks and book sales soon followed, and there are photographs and comments on these in the 'Events' pages.

Many of these events have taken place in collaboration with other organisations, and most of them are included in the 'Contacts' pages. Some have been nominated to receive donations from the sale of the book during the Special Offer period.

**Special Offer!** A seasonal class conscious gift – Chris Richardson is launching a 'Special Offer' for the Xmas/Solstice/New Year period: the book will sell at the usual price of £7.99 but will be posted to the buyer or someone they nominate free of postage & packing charges (saving £1.50), with a message of their choice (e.g. if it is sent as a present), signed and gift wrapped.

And – £2.50 will be donated to a local society from every book sold: People's Histreh, Nottingham Women's History Group, and Notts & Derbyshire Labour History Society have been nominated so far, but you choose which to support. More information from <http://acityoflight.wordpress.com/>





## The Stories of the People of Annesley in the Great War

All Saints Church, Annesley, Nottinghamshire, NG15 0AY **Every**

**Wednesday from 17 September - 26 November 2014 from 1pm -**

**3pm** An exhibition of Great War photographs and memorabilia This events forms part of Trent to Trenches, a countywide programme of events to commemorate 100 years since the start of WW1.

## Men & Boys of Colwick Who Died in WWI

Church of St John The Baptist, Vale Road, Colwick, Nottingham, Notts, NG4 2GP **Saturday 1**

**November 2014 from 11am** Talk & photos on the lives of some of our lost boys & men of

Colwick. Refreshments available afterwards. Contributions for refreshments if taken would be appreciated. This event forms part of the Trent To Trenches programme which marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. For more details please see

[www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/trent-to-trenches](http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/trent-to-trenches)

## Remembering The Fallen of Stapleford in World War One

The Memorial Chapel, St Helen's Church, Church Street, Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, NG9 8GA Tel: +44(0)115 9394979

**Every Saturday until 15 November 2014 from 10am - 12noon** A display near the WW1 War Memorial will show results of recent reasearch about local men who died, their place of birth, military number, rank and regiment, when they died and where they are remembered. A member of the local history society will be available at all times to give information and advice about methods of research for anyone who want to find out more.

## Eleven – Eleven – Eleven Travelling Exhibition

The Chase Neighbourhood Centre, Robin Hood Chase, St

Anns, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG3 4EZ Tel: +44(0)115 8412670 **Wednesday 5 -**

**Tuesday 11 November 2014 (Weekdays only)** Created by a team of volunteers, this exhibition explores some of the themes uncovered in conversations with different community groups about the 1914-18 period in their own countries. The exhibition looks at the use of propaganda, opposition to the war, women's roles, revolution and how the world changed afterwards. You will explore moments in global history that still have significance to us today.

**Open:** Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday

## Nottinghamshire Great War VCs

Worksop Library, Memorial Avenue, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2BP Tel: +44(0)1909

535353 **Wednesday 19 November 2014 from 2pm - 3pm** A talk by Tony Higon from The

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Victoria Cross Committee. Learn more about men from Not-

tinghamshire who served in the Great War and were awarded the Victoria Cross, including

Worksop's Sgt. William Henry Johnson. FREE admission however booking is required on

01909 535353

### Yuletide Wollaton Tudor Christmas Celebrations



Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG8 2AE **6th - 7th December 2014, 11am - 4pm**

Some activities may incur an additional charge. Experience a true Tudor Christmas, meet the Lord of Misrule, taste warm mead and tasty fayre at their food festival and enjoy music and merriment. A wonderful sight for all the family, and why not join in with a special visit of the Tudor kitchens (£3pp). Car parking charges

apply & Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE entry into the hall.

**Sunday 14 December 2014 from 11am - 4pm** Head to the Nottingham Industrial Museum at Wollaton Hall with all the family for a fabulous Christmas steaming event. Meet Santa in his grotto and around the steam gallery. For all ages.



### Christmas with Lace City Chorus and Guests



St Mary's Church, High Pavement, The Lace Maket, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 1HN **Saturday 13 December 2014 at 7.30pm** Join "**Christmas with Lace City Chorus and Guests**" on **Saturday 13 December** at the lovely, atmospheric **St Mary's Church** in Nottingham's Lace Market. This outstanding show chorus of over 100 voices will bring its own unique level of musical skill, showmanship and energy to this Christmas event. Five times UK and Netherlands' Sweet Adelines International Women's Champions, Nottingham's

Lace City Chorus has in recent years performed in the USA (Detroit, Houston, Nashville) and in Canada. Next year, the chorus will represent the UK at the 2015 World Championships in Las Vegas. All the family will enjoy the evening at St Mary's, where the guests will be the:

Rich male voices of Nottingham's popular Major Oak Chorus

Delightful East Bridgford Primary School Choir

National award winning quartet, Storm

Comments from previous Lace City shows include, "*Sparkly choreography was a feature in Lace City's performance*" (Nottingham Post), "*Wow, I was blown away by the sound*", "*It was absolutely brilliant! Wonderful harmony from everyone concerned*". **Tickets £10 & £5 (under 14's) are available from the Nottingham Tourism Centre in person on 08444 77 56 78 or via this website.**

## The Hammer of Defiance: A Play Recounting the Luddite Rebellion



Galleries of Justice Museum, High Pavement, The Lace Market, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 1HN **Friday 21 & Saturday 22 November 2014** Performance times - **Friday 21 November at 8pm and Saturday 22 November at 3pm & 8pm** Two hundred years ago people from Sutton, Kirkby, Hucknall, Linby, Papplewick, Annesley, Mansfield, Selston and all the surrounding villages stood up to the government of the day to demand a better life for themselves and their families. For several weeks the area was at the centre of national attention as politicians, poets, soldiers, framework knitters, newspaper proprietors and judges came face to face with each other in a confrontation that was to have consequences for ordinary people across the country. This is a true story of riots and recriminations, of rebellion, greed and revenge - performed in the historic Galleries of Justice Museum where many of the protagonists would have met all those years ago. **Tickets are available from the Galleries of Justice Museum by calling 0115 9939822 or emailing [hospitality@galleriesofjustice.org.uk](mailto:hospitality@galleriesofjustice.org.uk)** Prices - £7.00 Adult / £6.00 Concessions

### Lenton Priory Archaeological Dig

A unique opportunity to be part of the archaeological team unearthing Lenton's medieval priory. This is no ordinary dig and no ordinary site. Be a part of this Heritage Lottery Fund supported community archaeology project as a volunteer archaeologist.

Digs 27 Oct – 19 Dec 2014 (weekdays), with the opportunity to be involved for up to five days of your choice.



*Remains of the Priory Source: Lenton Times*

Four places per day available, with the option to work on the dig itself or in finds processing. For more information or to sign up see <https://martinmasfairlenton.weebly.com>. Or contact [manager@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk](mailto:manager@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk) or 0115 9588590.

### Boots Archive



Are more than a business resource, they are branching out into more community engagement activities and would like to talk to some local groups to see what you would like them to offer you – whether this is resources, open days, volunteering opportunities etc. They are also working on a plan for a Boots Museum in Beeston and would like community groups to

have a say on the content they include and the events that they run. If you have any views or suggestions or would like someone to visit your group for a talk please contact Charlotte McCarthy Senior Archivist Alliance Boots Archive and Museum.

✉ D122 Corporate Records & Archives, Thane Road, Nottingham, United Kingdom, NG90 4XY

☎ +44 (0)115 9593307, Internal 723307

✉ <mailto:charlotte.mccarthy@boots.co.uk>



Working together ~ what we do best

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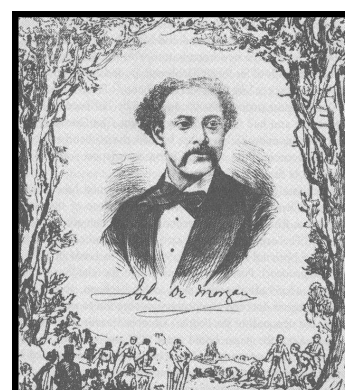
## Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Labour History Society The Selston Enclosure Riots – 1877 - 1879 A talk by Clive Leivers

**2.00 pm, Saturday November 8th, 2014**

(doors open at 1.30 pm) at The Tin Hat,  
Matthew Holland Complex, Chapel Rd,  
Selston, Notts NG16 6BW

NDLHS, 22 Boythorpe Avenue, Chesterfield,  
S40 2QE. 01246 270628.

Contact: [hilary.cave@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.cave@btinternet.com)



John de Morgan

Leader of the Commoners' Protests



Nottinghamshire County Council's Archives building will close temporarily from **Saturday 18 October 2014 until Spring 2015**, to allow work to progress on the £2.5m investment project to extend Nottinghamshire Archives' building and preserve the county's rich documentary heritage for future generations. The building will re-open in spring 2015 with increased storage capacity for historical archives, a new refreshments area, two meeting rooms and exhibition spaces. There will be volunteering opportunities and the chance to join the Friends Group.

### NLHA Volunteers needed

We are looking to recruit volunteers to help serve refreshments at our two day schools, this involves the procurement, making and serving tea, coffee and biscuits during the registration period and at lunchtime. Free entry into the day school is provided for all volunteers. Please contact us if interested.



#### WEBSITE:

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

#### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/nottslocalhistory](https://www.facebook.com/nottslocalhistory)

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