

Nottinghamshire Local **History Association**



Working together ~ what we do best.

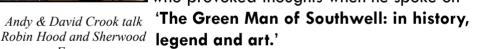
Volume 1, Issue 20 March 2015

NLHA's SPRING DAY - SCHOOL A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

There was a slight change to our line up at our packed Spring day school - Dr Claire Taylor was successfully replaced by Andy Gaunt of Mercian Archaeological Services who in-

formed our 91 attendees about 'King John's Palace at Clipstone and the Archaeology of Sherwood Forest', this flowed quite nicely

into the subject of our next speaker who was Dr David Crook speaking about 'Nottinghamshire and the Robin Hood Legend'. Breaking for lunch we held our AGM & regular bookstalls. After the break we resumed with **Professor Michael Jones** who spoke about 'The White Book of Southwell a source for Nottinghamshire history' and completing the day was Dr David Marcombe who provoked thoughts when he spoke on Andy & David Crook talk





Andy Gaunt speaks to a packed audience

NLHA AGM

Forest

The 34th AGM ran smoothly as co-opted members Ruth Imeson (Nottinghamshire Archives) and Dr Judith Mills (University of Nottingham) were elected onto the committee. John Parker was re-elected as Chairman, Chris Weir as Vice Chairman and David Anderson as

Honorary Treasurer. After many successful years as Honorary Secretary Colin Witham has stood down, we wish him luck for the future and thank him for the exemplary work that he has carried out on behalf of the Association. We still have a vacancy for Honorary Secretary if you are interested please get in touch. We would like to welcome new committee members Jane Abrams, Julia Hodson, Adrian Sissons, Malcolm Dolby and Andrew Jefferson. We are pleased to announce, yet again that we have a full committee. Associations assets stand at £18,762 and we would like to thank our auditors Messrs CJ Lucking & Co in particular Robert Butler.

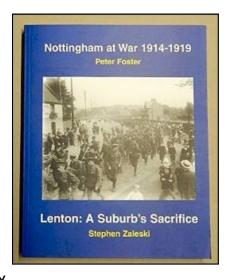


L:R Colin Witham, John Parker & David Anderson

ANGEL ROW HISTORY FORUM A HISTORY MISCELLANY

Cecil Roberts Room, Nottingham Central Library, 1st Floor, Angel Row, Nottingham. Tuesday 2nd June 10am - 12.00pm. 10am - 10.30am free refreshments and registration.

Steve Zaleski and Peter Foster will present 'A masterclass in local history', with two of Nottingham's premier practitioners telling us about how they became interested in local history and chose to adopt their different approaches, and how they



came to join forces. Peter is working on a WW2 Nottingham history and Steve will tell us about how he chooses topics for the Lenton Times, as well as telling us about his Lenton WW1 research which began years before it became fashionable to research WW1.

Mercian Spring Conference 2015 - Community Archaeology in the East Midlands - April 18th

For more details and to **book your place(s)** please see our website at: http://mercian-as.co.uk/conference 2015.html Price: Adults £15/ Under 16's £7.50 - Places are limited so please book soon to avoid disappointment.Donations from the proceeds of the conference will be presented to:

the Young Archaeologists' Club, and

the Robin Hood's Village Volunteer Dig 2015, in Edwinstowe.

Speakers confirmed so far include:

David Connolly of British Archaeological Jobs & Resources, and Past Horizons,

- No The Council for British Archaeology
- The Young Archaeologists' Club,
- Matt Beresford of MBArchaeology,
- Martyn Taylor-Cockayne The Portland Path Project
- Peter Hammond Clay Pipe Specialist,
- Rokia Brown of The Codnor Castle Heritage Trust,
- No Joseph Waterfall of The Battle of Hatfield Investigation Society
- Andy Gaunt of Mercian Archaeological Services (Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project update)

Registration from 9:30am - 16:30 Close FREE Tea and Coffee provided. Lunch can be purchased from various cafes at and near to the venue. The conference will be held at the Nottingham University Museum at the Lakeside Arts Centre.

University of Nottingham Library

Those of you who are actively involved in research on local history are probably aware that the University of Nottingham library offers lending facilities for external borrowers at a cost of £60 per year.

Did you also know that if you were an ex-student of the University you could take advantage of discounted membership at a cost of only £30 per year?

The University have agreed that the Association can take out corporate membership which would allow NLHA members to enjoy the same advantage of discounted membership as is available to ex-students.

Corporate members (external borrowers) may borrow up to six books at any one time, for a maximum period of four weeks; books not required by other readers may be renewed. Books may be recalled after one week if requested by another reader; fines are payable on all overdue loans - http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/library/libraries/using/borrow.aspx

By registering separately as a Walk-in User, external borrowers can access a limited range of electronic resources, which the University is permitted to make available to visitors under the terms of their license. Information on how to register and the resources available is at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/library/libraries/visitors/visitors.aspx

Further information on the library lending services is available at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/library/index.aspx and the library catalogue can be accessed at http://aleph.nottingham.ac.uk/

Anyone who is not an ex-student but who wants to take out membership of the University library should contact me at chairman@nlha.org.uk.

John Parker - Chairman

'Historic Gardens of Nottinghamshire' by Philip E. Jones

A fascinating insight into the history of some of Nottinghamshire's gardens, including Welbeck, Thoresby, Clumber, Newstead and Flintham. Thursday 16th April 2015 at 2pm. Floor 1, Nottingham Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham. Admission free, but prior booking essential.



Retford Library Family History Group

Meeting on the second and fourth Monday evening of each month, Retford Library's Family History Group has something for everyone, beginners or experienced researchers alike. The Group provides tuition and support on a range of online resources that are free – ideal for beginners working at home. We also have access to the library's 'on-the-shelves' resources as well as microfilm and microfiche catalogues for which tuition is available, making visits to larger archives so much more productive.

However, all Nottinghamshire libraries provide free access to Ancestry.com's Worldwide subscription worth around £150 if taken out privately so this is a big 'pull' for the Group. To access this facility during normal library hours just make sure you have your library card handy and book a 'slot' by phone or in person at any library.

With close working relationships with Library service specialists and also Nottingham Archive, why not join us for one of our meetings – they are free and run from 17:00-19:00.

Our next meetings are scheduled for 13th & 27th April, 2015.

For more details contact Retford Library on (01777) 708 724.



East Midlands Group of the Railway & Canal Historical Society

At the next meeting of the East Midlands Group of the Railway & Canal Historical Society (R &CHS) on

Friday evening 10th April 2015 (7.00pm), Terry McCarthy will be giving a talk called "Coal Wagons Roll – A History of the Humble Coal Wagon". Venue for the talk is the Meeting Room at Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, with the talk starting at 7.00pm prompt as the room has to be cleared by 9.00pm. Visitors are welcome, there is a small charge on the door.



Recording & Analysing Historic Buildings Workshop May 16th 2015. King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.

Mercian are delighted to be able to invite you to the first of their Experience days and workshops:

Recording & Analysing Historic Buildings Workshop

May 16th 2015. King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire. Full Day Course with Historic Buildings Expert James Wright

The workshop costs £30 per person

James Wright is a buildings archaeologist and historian with over fifteen years of experience in the field. He has worked extensively on industrial, agricultural, domestic, military, civic and ecclesiastical structures. He is a recognised and published expert in high status Medieval buildings especially castles, palaces and manor houses. He is currently working on the King's Clipstone Research Project in Nottinghamshire which is now in its tenth year and seeks to record and analyse the Medieval historic landscape and built environment of the palace of the Plantagenets and local peasant community in the heart of Sherwood Forest. Information about Experience days will be sent out to our mailinglist but can also be seen at http://mercian-as.co.uk/expdays.html as they become available. Mercian are preparing a number of workshops and experience days for people to learn more about archaeological techniques and subjects. These will be a mix of practical seminars and teaching, as well as providing the opportunity to gain hands-on experience. The days will be given by a mix of Mercian staff and visiting experts.

For more information and to book your place(s) please visit our webpage: http://mercian-as.co.uk/buildings.html

Jack the Ripper Conference, Nottingham 2015

21st-23rd August

The Jack the Ripper Conference is an annual event held around the UK for researchers, authors, historians and enthusiasts of the case of Jack the Ripper and the Whitechapel Murders.

"A weekend based around talks, displays, exhibits and socialising for those with a mutual interest. There are always some surprises along the way. We are a team of Jack the Ripper enthusiasts and sponsored by Jack the Ripper Tours of London" To book go to www.ripperconference.com



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We extend a warm welcome to all our new members this month, who include: The Pilgrim Fathers, Scrooby

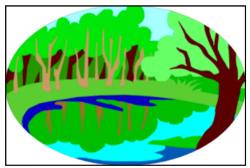
This public house is an 18th century building on the crossroads of the Great North Road (A638) and Saracens Lane and Church Lane, Scrooby. With an old barn and adjacent land, it may once have been a farm. Previously called The Saracen's Head, it is now a delightful gastro-pub serving delicious food – so good you often need to book a table. It is ideally situated to take a break if visiting the village – birthplace of William Brewster, one of the Pilgrim Fathers.



Contact Chris Jessop, 0771 7539 853

For detailed information about Scrooby, see www.scrooby.net

Friends of Moor Ponds Wood, Papplewick



This group, set up as a Millenium Project, is working on the remains of Papplewick's industrial past. In the woods can be seen the water courses (leets) and stone sluices which controlled the water from the River Leen. The steam engine at the cotton mill was the first of its kind, designed and built by James Watt of Soho Works, Birmingham

Contact Stephen Walker 01159 9630808

For detailed information about the group and its activi-

ties, see www.moorpond.papplewick.org

Friends of Newstead Abbey

Recently set up under the auspices of the World Monument Fund, this group aims to raise funds to help maintain and repair Newstead Abbey, along with the owner, Nottingham City Council. Various fund raising activities are currently being planned, and will be mentioned in future editions of this newsletter. A website is also being developed



Contact Derek Wileman 01159 638645

Brinsley Primary School

This school is a historic building which replaced an older school on a nearby site. It shares its site with a 1970's *CLASP* building. Pupils take an active interest in the historic Brinsley Colliery Headstocks heritage site and nature reserve, and have recently completed a project about that. Contact Mrs J Knapp



For further details see www.brinsleyprimarysch.uk.org and follow this link to read about the project in the local press

http://m.eastwoodadvertiser.co.uk/news/local/brinsley-schoolkids-celebrate-opening-of-hi-tech-headstocks-tour-1-7175605

Steve Soult Ltd



This company makes coffins in the traditional way, providing bespoke designs to meet customers' requirements. The company hopes to play an active part in the forthcoming (annual) re-creation of the historic *Coffin Walk* to Greasley, where Brinsley inhabitants were buried until the mid 19th century Contact Steve Soult 07944 046464

For further details see www.stevesoult.com

For details of the related history of Greasley see www.greasleyparish.com

Mercian Archaeological Services CIC

This Community Archaeology company provides opportunities for people to be



involved in archaeological research and excavations, and to receive training and other experiences from professional archaeologists. Their current activities include The Sherwood Forest Project and they are actively researching the King John's Palace site at King's Clipstone.

Contact Andy Gaunt at andy@mercian as.co.uk
For full details see www.mercian-as.co.uk



King Arthur at Lakeside

This is the new name of the 1871 Pumping Station at Bestwood, easily spotted by passers-by on the Mansfield — Nottingham A60 due to its distinctive tall tower. This was reputedly built to disguise the chimney of the working pumping station from the inhabitants of nearby Bestwood Park. It is now a restaurant serving delicious food, there is a Fitness Suite and Spa, and its lake is surrounded by beautiful gardens Some of the original building can still be seen from the mezzanine

floor, although most remnants of the Pumping Station were sold off by previous owners. Contact manager Tam Abouelela 01159 671444 Also see www.lakesidetower.co.uk

Jenny Page & Jane Abrams

Would you like to take an active role within the NLHA?

After 12 years in the post our Secretary Colin Whitham will be stepping down at our AGM in March 2015 and consequently we are looking for a replacement. In general terms the role involves ensuring that committee meetings and other meetings (such as the AGM) are properly administered. The Secretary also needs to ensure that the requirements of The Charities Commission are met and that annual returns are made as appropriate and in the correct format. The Association's registration details need to be current and accurate and the relevant insurances need to be properly maintained.

We are looking for is someone who is organised and methodical, able to take good minutes, able to keep accurate records, has the relevant skills to organise a meeting well, has some knowledge of the law relating to the Secretary's role and is able to give clear advice on procedural matters.

Above all the key requirement is that you need to be patient and tolerant with a good sense of humour, unless meetings are over-running in which case you have the right to be grumpy!

GRAND RE-OPENING OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

Its what we have all been waiting for! Nottinghamshire Archives will reopen to the public on Tuesday 28 th April 2015 following an investment of £2.4 million in extension and refurbishment projects. The grand reopening on Saturday 2nd May when the Archives will be open from 9am until 4pm with a range of activities to suit all ages.

The reopening ceremony, led by Councillor Pauline Allen, Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council, will be held at 10:30am



Has anybody seen one of these?

During our visits to potential members, we are coming across various interesting artefacts, which we intend to feature in an occasional 'Hidden History' series. Recently we were fascinated to see these two items.

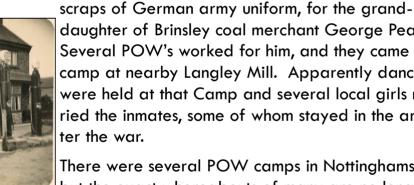
These two toys were made by German Prisoners of War for Nottinghamshire children, at the end of WW2, whilst the POW's were employed locally during their internment at nearby Camps.

This toy is made of odd bits of scrap wood. Its carved chickens have moveable heads. There

is a weight hanging below the board, and this causes the heads to move as if pecking-up corn when the toy is gently moved about. We don't know which Camp the maker was from, but his name was Otto and he worked on farms in the Papplewick area, about 1945 - 47

The second example came to light during a

conversation with a neighbour about the first one. It was made from



daughter of Brinsley coal merchant George Pearce. Several POW's worked for him, and they came from a camp at nearby Langley Mill. Apparently dances were held at that Camp and several local girls married the inmates, some of whom stayed in the area after the war.



George Pearce

There were several POW camps in Nottinghamshire, but the exact whereabouts of many are no longer known, and English Heritage say that there were many

more than those on their list. We think there was one at Bestwood Park or Redhill, which would be close enough to travel from, to work in Papplewick.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has information to share about the POW camps in Nottinghamshire during either the Great War or WW2. In particular, does anyone have such examples of things made by the POW's, and has anyone heard of OTTO?

Please send any information to us at membershippromotions@nlha.org.uk

Thank you in eager anticipation!

Jenny Page and Jane Abrams

Wollaton Bridge, Bridge Road Wollaton Site of Old Canal and Kings Head Public House

We have recently received an enquiry from Margaret and Graham Taylor who have been exploring the Nottingham Canal between Chalbury Road, through the Wollaton Flight and onto Bridge Road past the site of the Old Wollaton Colliery.

They have come across excellent photographs of the area (Britain from the Air 1919 – 1953), which clearly shows the route of the canal.

Margaret moved into Elvaston Road in 1953 and has great memories of the area and the old canal. Graham and Margaret have managed to obtain photographs of the area from the air taken in 1947 before Lambourne Drive was built. They can both remember the Colliery, the Raleigh and John Player Playing Fields, the Allotments and the "pre Torvell and Dean" estate area well. Margaret had a friend who lived in a rather primitive cottage on Old Coach Road and remembers Browns Woodyard. Her mother was one of the founder members of the efforts to build the Church on Lambourne Drive.

The purpose of this enquiry relates to the feature shown on old maps as Wollaton Bridge. Originally it was thought that this was so called because of Bridge Road and the Canal (next to the old Kings Head) but Wollaton Bridge appears on an old map <u>BEFORE</u> the Canal and the Railway. It looks as if it is sited between the pub (now renamed, and the traffic lights which on turning right is Glaisdale Road (formally the Old Coach Road to Strelly).

The question is what did the Wollaton Bridge actually "bridge"? There are no streams shown here although it was traditionally a rather damp area (further along is the old Tottle Brook and several mini tributaries, besides the Hemlock Stone Public House). Did it just "bridge" boggy land and was the whole area drained with the building of the canal and subsequently the railway which is itself bridged in this area?

Graham can remember collecting coal which outcropped near Balloon Woods (on the site of the old infamous Balloon Woods Flats).

If anyone has any information please contact me at chairman@nlha.org.uk

One Stop Shop for Community Archaeology

If you are on the mailing list for Mercian Archaeological Services CIC they will be in touch over the next few weeks to offer many new and exciting opportunities for you to learn about and experience archaeology in the East Midlands. In the meantime, they have overhauled their website over the last few months with the intention of making it a regional hub and the 'go to place' for community archaeology on the web. They now have pages covering:

The latest news and opportunities from Mercian http://mercian-as.co.uk/news.html

Information about Mercian and their aims http://mercian-as.co.uk/about.html

The Services they offer http://mercian-as.co.uk/services.html

Feedback from their satisfied customers via their testimonials page http://mercian-as.co.uk/testimonials.html

Their recent, ongoing and upcoming projects http://mercian-as.co.uk/projects.html

Their publications http://mercian-as.co.uk/publications.html

Information for Groups http://mercian-as.co.uk/groups.html

Details of how to book talks and presentations http://mercian-as.co.uk/talks.html

Information on our NEW Experience Days http://mercian-as.co.uk/expdays.html

Times and booking information for their renowned Heritage Bus Tours http://mercian-as.co.uk/sherwoodbustours.html

Information on their upcoming Field Schools http://mercian-as.co.uk/fieldschool.html

The homepage for *The Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project* (including information about the project and its aims, fieldwork, research, processing, media coverage, funding, links, and Stories from the Forest) http://mercian-as.co.uk/sherwoodforest.html

Mercian's online Shop http://mercian-as.co.uk/shop.html

An introduction to their staff http://mercian-as.co.uk/staff.html

and details on how to join over 500 hundred others on our ever-growing Mailing List... http://mercian-as.co.uk/contact.html

The website is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in Community Archaeology, offering access to reports/ interim reports, newsletters, news articles, research papers, research articles (Sherwood Forest pages), and information and advice for groups about projects and funding. The aim is to provide hours and hours of information on local heritage and archaeology FREE for the public- which will hopefully keep you all going back for years to come!!!

A GRAVEYARD MYSTERY

One of our members, Jennie Kyte, read our article in the Nottinghamshire Historian Autumn/Winter about the Nottinghamshire Graveyard Project with interest.

Two years ago in 2012 along with her husband she visited Nottingham with the purpose of finding an ancestor's grave in the General Cemetery. On a previous visit to find a grave, its location was found very quickly in the Grave Register Book. However, she was very dismayed when on enquiring in advance, having researched all the details and grave number in Nottinghamshire Archives, she was told that the grave could not be located as the cemetery book recording graves had disappeared. (This was a huge loss; the cemetery contains 20,000 graves.)

She subsequently contacted Nottinghamshire Archives, who told her that they did not have a copy of the book. All they had was a map of the General Cemetery showing where the graves of around 1850 were located in the cemetery, though not with grave numbers or details - and some around 1856.

Fortunately the first burial (11 burials altogether) in the grave she hoped to find was in 1847, so she was able to see on the map where it was likely to be. However, when she arrived at the cemetery, she found that the cemetery had been expanded and changed in layout and that paths were now in different places. It took us a very long time indeed to ascertain where in the cemetery the graves of around 1850 were likely to be, as not only had the layout changed, but graves from later years were now mixed up with graves from earlier years. Furthermore the numbers on many of the headstones had been obliterated over time, and also the grave numbers were no longer in consecutive order, probably due again to added burials.

It seemed an impossible task ahead of them. However, her husband, a research scientist did not give up and after some hours during which he analysed the map from the Nottinghamshire Archives together with the grave numbers which could still be read, he announced that the grave was 10 yards from the spot where he was standing. The 10 yards around was crammed with graves, again with names on memorials obliterated and some heavily covered with greenery and bushes. They persevered until at last they had to give up. Just as they turned to leave, without hope or expectation, jennie pulled a holly branch away from a memorial, and was just able to see part of her great great grandfather's name.

The octagonal Goodacre family memorial in General Cemetery, Nottingham, Grave No. 3598 has space for four panels with inscriptions, but two panels are missing. The inscription on one of the remaining panels is in memory of John Goodacre, who died on 13 April 1847: The inscription on the other panel reads:

"In memory of Richard Goodacre, Died Jany 19th 1875, Aged 67, Also of Sarah, His Daughter Died Feby 19th 1866, Aged 23 years, And of Frances Eliza, Wife of John Pepper, Died March 7th 1872, Aged 32 years, Also Thomas Storer, His Grandson Died Septr 24th 1873, Aged 4 1/2 years."

The grave and memorial is in the south east corner of General Cemetery (38 ft to the south wall or 16 paces from the grave; 42 ft or 22 paces to the west wall, and 4th row from the south wall. Location: Latitude 52 deg, 57 min, 25.5 sec. N: Longitude 1 deg, 9 min, 26.4 sec. W.)

Jennie is very concerned that, if the book has not been found, that a great many people over the years will not be able to locate graves where their ancestors are buried. She also hopes that the Church Cemetery has a separate record book. She wonders, whether it needs spreading around that people should if possible record where their ancestors are buried for future records and generations? Does anyone have any information about the missing records book?

Cambridge University Open Day

The Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education's (ICE) Open Day is Thursday 2 April. During the day you'll be able to speak to our friendly advisers and choose from more than 50 **free** events including:

- -- Talks and taster sessions with top University experts including **history taster sessions with Dr Rosemary Horrox**
- -- Special offers on selected courses if you enrol on the day
- -- Family-friendly activities, including a nature trail
- -- Accommodation available at the Hall

If you are looking to study in 2015, be it a short weekend residential course, or a part-time university qualification, our Open Day is the place to come to find out more. Make sure to come along to find out more about the different **history courses** that we offer.

<u>Book your place today to attend a talk or tour</u> – or simply drop in on the day any time between 9:15am and 7:00pm.

They recommend you book in advance if there are specific events you would like to attend, as places are limited.

Mundella Grammar School Reunion

Hi There. I am holding a Mundella Grammar School reunion in August 2015 at the Trent Bridge Inn 1400-1800 and beyond. For us ancients who first graced its Collygate Road por-

tals 50 years ago. As part of the afternoon, I wanted to have a short walk round the old sites (memory lane stuff) and it would be wonderful if a member of the Historical society could please perhaps show us some of the interesting Meadows heritage / history as part of the stroll, which needs to be about 30-45 minutes max. Is this possible please? Thanks in advance for your kind help. Paul Lucas T: 01538 754125; M:07773967530

E: lucasaid04@talktalk.net





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The Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair

Sunday 10th May 2015 11am - 3pm Cost FREE On Sunday 10th May 2015 the Nottinghamshire County Council Library Service will be hosting its third annual Local History Fair at Mansfield Central Library.

It will build on the success of our two previous Local History Fairs, where local history societies and heritage groups from across the county converged on Mansfield, and were joined by storytellers, children's activities, and demonstrations of local crafts such as spinning and lace making. We aim to make the Local History Fair a real family day out and were delighted that our last event attracted over 300 people.

We will devote a whole floor of Mansfield Library to the fair as well as extending into the main library. Mansfield Library is open to the public on Sundays between 11am and 3pm, and there is also **free** parking on Sundays in the Four Seasons multi-storey car park next door.

Once again we aim to feature live demonstrations of local crafts, storytelling, and other local history presentations by heritage groups — continuing to establish the **Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair** as an important showcase for local history in Nottinghamshire, where local societies will find a forum to promote their work, attract new members, sell their publications, and share expertise and experiences with other groups.

Nottinghamshire Local history Association and Arnold Local History Group will be exhibiting.

www.nlha.org.uk

Would you like to receive every edition of this newsletter direct to your email? If so please send your details to us. chairman@nlha.org.uk

Would you like free entry to our day schools? 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.

Are Your Details up to Date?

If you are a local history group could you please ensure that all contact details are up to date on our website and send copies of all your newsletters to Sarah Seaton via sarahnews@nlha.org.uk or contact us by post so that we can distribute relevant events via our newsletter. Diary events should still be submitted in the usual way. Please ensure that all news items have 'news' in the heading/title.