



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

April 2023



THE SOURCE OF THE EREWASH

The River Erewash is perhaps more commonly associated with Derbyshire but its source is, or maybe was, in Nottinghamshire near Sutton-in-Ashfield. Samuel Hieronymus Grimm drew a picture of 'the Spring of the Erewash' in 1773 which he labelled as at Sutton. Old guide books often referred to Selston as near the source. Of course with rivers what counts as the source is open to question, as rivers may have many sources. However, the older Ordnance Survey maps take the source as being SE of Kirkby-in-Ashfield whereas for the source to have been at Sutton we may have to take what the OS called the Maghole Brook as the true origin. This labelling can be seen faintly on the original OS drawings.



Samuel Lewis's 1855 book on English rivers opted for Kirkby as the source.

A 1914 book on Nottinghamshire water supply followed the OS and said the source was near Kirkby, though an earlier guidebook had described it as 'near Alfreton' – a mistake which was often repeated. The map of 1913-4 shows it as just about identifiable near Kirkby station with 'Rises' being a clue. Was this where Grimm sat to draw the scene, mistakenly labelling it as Sutton, or did he go to the 'wrong' source? Perhaps we will never know as industry and railways have obliterated everything anyway! In fact an 1891 press report discussed the problems caused by water in building Kirkby Tunnel and that the 'Robin Hood Hills' there were the source of both the Leen and the Erewash.

Maybe someone else knows where Grimm sat down with his sketch book?



CONTRIBUTIONS to the NLHA Newsletter can be sent to: newsletter@nlha.org.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Our friends at Thoroton made an interesting discovery:

A recent Google search for an ancient monument in the county uncovered the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record's new website, which appears to have had a very quiet launch last November. The HER data has been available for several years on Historic England's Heritage Gateway website but this new online resource offers many additional features:

'The HER includes sites dating from the Palaeolithic through to the 20th Century. There are currently over 25,000 data entries in the Nottinghamshire HER. They refer to features ranging in size from single chance finds, such as Roman coins, to large sites such as WWII airfields. The HER contains records of designated heritage assets such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens, as well as undesignated ones such as other historic buildings and structures, archaeological sites and finds of all types, and historic landscapes.

Using the search tools and mapping window on this site you will now be able to explore our records detailing the area's rich heritage. Linked to these records are a range of sources including reports of surveys and excavations, plans, publications and a collection of air and ground photographs. The HER is a dynamic resource and new information is added to the record all the time, we aim to make more of this available in the future.'

The Nottinghamshire HER online is here: <https://her.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>

Request for Information:

john.geenty@googlemail.com

I am in the process of researching for a book concerning the history of 504 Squadron of the Royal Air Force. I'm not sure if you're familiar with them, but 504 Squadron was part of the Auxiliary Air Force leading up to the Second World War and based at Hucknall and known as the County of Nottingham Squadron. My aim is to write a history of the human side of this Squadron during the war – the stories of the men and their families and their experiences in the context of the events they had become a part of.

As an AAF unit, the Squadron was part time and made up of young men who were often figures in Nottinghamshire Society at the time. They were the sons of business leaders or landowners – who could afford to fly and sought the challenge. I am wondering if your society has ever done any work around 504 or is aware of the history of some of the families involved? Key people in the Squadron include Sir Hugh Seely, later Baron Sherwood who was the Commanding Officer and a local MP

for a number of years. William and Michael Royce who were involved in the Mansfield Shoe Company and Anthony and Michael Rook who were part of Skinner and Rook Wine and Tea Merchants

HARLEY FOUNDATION

News Release

**Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection
Opens 25 March 2023**



Lady Margaret Stuart, Countess of Nottingham, by Paul van Somer, c. 1620. © The Harley Foundation, Portland Collection

Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection, at the Harley Foundation, North Nottinghamshire, offers a new, revealing look at this world-class art collection.

The Portland Collection, built up over 400 years by a single aristocratic family, is vast and varied. Exhibitions in its dedicated museum change every three years.

For this display, opening 25th March 2023, visitors will enter a museum filled to the brim with fascinating art and objects, a giant cabinet of curiosities. There will be silver and tapestry, paintings and jewels; art that has come home after a long loan to a prestigious national gallery, and stunning star items that visitors know and love – such as Michelangelo's 'Madonna of Silence' or the pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution.

A highlight of the display is a Picture Gallery, stacked with Tudor and Jacobean portraits - many of which have never been seen publicly before.

Lisa Gee, Director of The Harley Foundation, explains:

"It is said that a picture paints a thousand words, so what do these portraits tell us? Historic portraits were almost always flattering, filtered images which are like the social media of their day. But behind the gleaming fabrics and jewels were fully rounded individuals. Despite their starched clothing they were as human as we are."

Highlights from *Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection* include:

- Lady Margaret Stuart, Countess of Nottingham, by Paul van Somer, c.1620.
A rarely shown portrait which shows the Countess wearing an elaborate dress with an improbably plunging neckline. This was in the style of Queen Anne – it revealed her power and status, as well as her décolletage.
- Map cabinet, inlaid with ebony and ivory, c. 1625.
Thought to be one of just six made, and the only one in the UK. This intricately inlaid cabinet shows an early map of the world, taken from Ortelius' 1570 *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, widely considered to be the first modern atlas.
- Silver wine fountains, by Adam Loofs, c. 1688.
These monumental display pieces were commissioned for William of Orange, later King of England, and gifted to Hans Willem Bentinck, who was to become the 1st Earl of Portland. Old silver such as this is rare - most large pieces were melted down to make new, more fashionable showstoppers. This is believed to be the only surviving pair and one of the highlights of the spectacular silver in The Portland Collection.
- The Horsemanship Tapestries, by Wauters after Diepenbeke, 1660.
William Cavendish, ancestor to the Dukes of Portland, was one of the great horsemen of his day. He literally wrote the book on horsemanship, which led to the modern art of dressage (a copy of 'The Horsemanship Book' is also on display). These tapestries were woven from the Abraham van Diepenbeke illustrations in his book, and we believe that only eight sets, each of five designs, were made. You can see three of these huge textiles in the display (the others can be seen at Welbeck Abbey, on tours of the State Rooms which will run during March and April).
- Bess of Hardwick, in the style of Rowland Lockey, c. 1587.
The Countess of Shrewsbury, aka Bess of Hardwick, was the mother of the Cavendish dynasty, ancestor of the Portland family, and an icon of Tudor England. This is believed to be the primary copy of her most famous portrait.

The Harley Foundation has invited different experts to explore *Unseen Treasures* and create gallery trails. Pick up a leaflet and have Dr Karen Hearn (Tate, UCL) or Hannah Obee (Wallace Collection, Chatsworth, Harewood House) take you on a journey. You might learn about celebrity in Tudor Britain, the surprising story of a conjurer turned calligrapher who made a self-portrait with microscopic text, or how embroidery could save your life – and earn you an Earldom.

Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection, opens at the Harley Foundation, North Nottinghamshire, on 25th March 2023. It will be open 6 days a week and is free to enter.

- Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection will open at The Harley Foundation on 25th March, 2023. It will be on show for 3 years.
- The exhibition will include works of art that have not been exhibited publicly before, accompanied by other important pieces from this world class art collection.
- The Harley Foundation, a cultural centre of excellence in the Midlands, is on the historic Welbeck estate in North Nottinghamshire, 15 minutes from the A1 and M1.
- Entry to the museum is free. There is also free parking on site.
- Tours of the State Rooms at Welbeck Abbey are running between 25th March and 6th April. Prebooking essential. See www.harleygallery.co.uk.
- For visitors wishing to stay at Welbeck to visit Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection, please go to <https://www.harleygallery.co.uk/visit-us/things-to-do/> for information on available bed and breakfast and cottages.

Arnold Local History Group

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

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

April 18th Mick Whysall

A very Victorian murder

May 16th Steve Flinders

Archaeology beneath our feet

June 20th Peter Godley

Nottingham Cave excavations

No meeting in July or August

September 19th Tim Coltman

The story of two crosses

October 17th Dr Richard Gaunt

Gladstone in Nottingham

November 21st Andy McKinnon

New Ollerton – the development of a colliery village

No meeting in December



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

[Nottingham's Georgian Town Houses](#)
Monday 17 April 2023, 8pm with Peter Smith

[A History of Ice Cream....with a Nottingham flavour](#)
Monday 15 May 2023, 8pm Jill Oakland

[Bramcote Hall Preparatory School](#)
Monday 19 June 2023, 8pm Jill Ward and Steve LeMottee

[Annoying Ancestors](#), plus [Notts. Family History Society](#)
Monday 17 July 2023, 8pm
Gay Evans & Peter Duke

[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

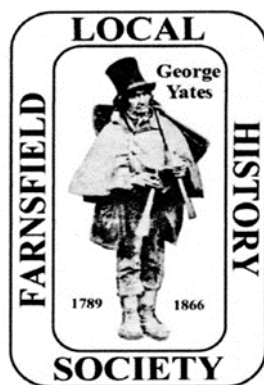
Venue: Carnarvon Room,
Chestnut Grove
Burton Joyce
NOTTINGHAM
NG14 5DP

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

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".



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

12th April	Friendly Societies: The story of how they changed both our social and political life for ever.	Bob Massey
10th May	To be confirmed	
14th June	A thread in the web of time: Evidence for the operation of 18th century cotton mills in the Leen Valley of Nottinghamshire	Stephen Walker
13th September	The Medieval Kings & Sherwood Forest	David Speed
11th October	Rufford Abbey and its 19th century 'Savile' custodians.	Karen Winyard
8th November	The Humour of Hole: Introduction to Reverend Reynolds Hole of Cauntton, one of the great characters of garden history	Martin Stott

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Labour History Society

Women and Chartism



**A talk by Associate Professor Dr Matthew Roberts,
Sheffield Hallam University**

Dr. Matthew Roberts is a specialist in 19th century British political and cultural history with a special interest in radical politics and protest. He has explored the organisation and activities of movements such as Luddism and Chartism (the campaign by working people to gain the vote and reform Parliament). In this talk he will look particularly at the role of women in the Chartist movement.

Saturday 13th May 2023, 2.00 p.m.
Doors open at 1.30 p.m.

The St. Thomas Centre Hall, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield. S40 3AW

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89081191159>

Free on-site car parking
Refreshments available

For more information, please contact rogerntanner@yahoo.co.uk
www.nallhuc.wordpress.com

*Highfields Fire Station,
Hassocks Lane, Beeston,
Nottingham. NG9 2GQ*

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

Contact: marktray60@gmail.com

Monday 10th April 2023

Members Society Auction

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.

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.

Sutton on Trent History Society

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.



KEYWORTH

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

Thoroton Society news

Latest news: [The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire > Programme of events](#)

Wollaton Historical & Conservation Society

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

April 26th

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

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.

David Speed (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 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; telephone - 0115 9327495/07757 134353

Tom Andrews: 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 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 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 19th 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

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’s latest programme of walks:

1; Arnold front street 2 walks the first starting at 2pm and the second at 4pm different walks both on the 16th April.

2; I’ll be at the scout fair at Thackerys lane park on the 21st May from 10-3pm ill be doing a walk at 2pm in the area start from my stall.

3; a walk at St Mary’ss recreation ground behind the church walk at 2pm on the 4th June at the car park.

4; King George V park gates opposite the AMP building 2pm on the 25th June

5; Killisick park out side the community centre at 2pm on the 9th July

6; Mapperley meeting at the war memorial at 2pm on 23rd July

7; Arnot hill park 2 different walks at 2pm and 4pm meet at the cafe 3rd September

Maggy Watkins can be contacted at 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

- 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

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