



NEWSLETTER
December 2025
KELHAM HALL



Anthony Salvin, 1799–1881, Design for Kelham Hall, Nottinghamshire: Entrance Elevation, undated, Watercolor with pen and brown ink over graphite on slightly textured, thick, cream wove paper, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, B1977.14.1160.

Kelham Hall near Newark is one of the best Victorian buildings in the county. The usual reports say that ‘it was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and completed in 1863.’ However, here we have a drawing from Yale University of Anthony Salvin’s work there – an architect much better known in Nottinghamshire for his links with Thoresby and he did work on Newark Castle about the time he did these drawings for Kelham.

Salvin had been commissioned to rebuild Kelham in 1843 and much work was done between then and 1846. However the Manners-Sutton family seem to have been dissatisfied with Salvin’s efforts and replaced him with Scott – who was a friend. Then, in 1857, much of the

house apart from Salvin's new service wing went up in flames anyway. It became the largest mansion that Scott ever built. All this rather left Salvin's section as a bit of an adjunct to Scott's main house, but Salvin is now regarded as a significant architect alongside Scott.

Of course the Manners-Sutton family could not maintain Kelham and it became a theological college, though often referenced as a 'monastery' which it was not. In this era it had a frequent, famous visitor – the poet T S Eliot, who immortalised a local kingfisher in his 'Burnt Norton' poem.

Meanwhile, please note we are missing 2025-6 details for several local societies. If you are involved, please send your programme to newsletter@nlha.org.uk

ADRIAN GRAY, EDITOR

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

Events



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Bob Massey History Walks and Talks

December

11th Dec Waggon and Horses Redhill 7pm
Redhill and Christmas Tales

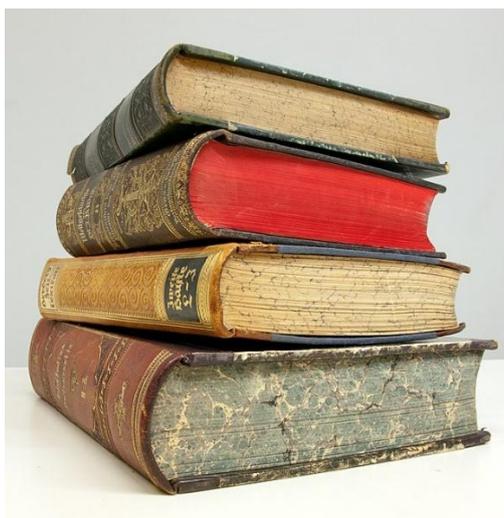
15th Dec Robin Hood and Little John Arnold 7pm
Arnold Christmas Tales

GEOFFREY BOND AND THOROTON SOCIETY RESEARCH AWARDS

The deadline for applications for the Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Awards has been extended to 31 December 2025. They are open to individuals or groups undertaking research on the history and archaeology of Nottinghamshire. Awards can be used to support research including the acquisition of research resources or travel expenses. The conditions of the award and details of the application process can be found on the Thoroton Society website where there is also a list of previous successful awards.
<http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/bond-awards.htm>.

Enquiries or completed applications should be sent to me at markdorrington52@gmail.com.

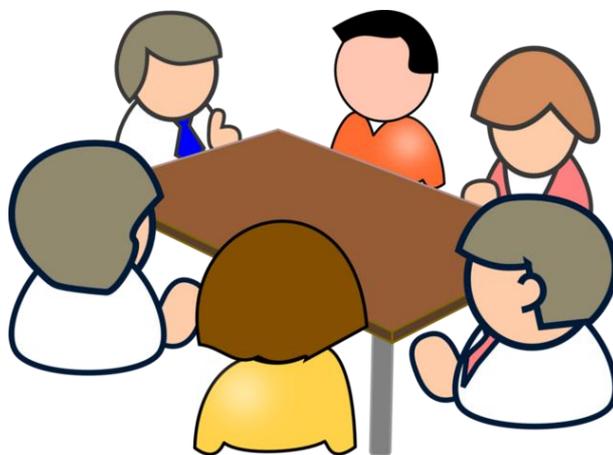
Mark Dorrington, Research Awards Administrator



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BOOK STUFF!

Have you got a book on Notts history? You can send the NLHA a copy and share information about it through our Facebook pages. Contact the newsletter editor for reviews and wider coverage.



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ANY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS?

² Wikimedia Commons public license

³ Wikimedia Commons public dedication

If you have an enquiry about Nottinghamshire History, you are best to post this on our NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORY Facebook page for more rapid responses, although we will carry some enquiries here. It can be found here:

[NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORY | Facebook](#)

TALKS AND MEETINGS

We list all history meetings in Nottinghamshire that we are notified of, as far as we can. We are also building up a directory of history organisations in the county so we can support each other...but if you do not tell us, we do not know!

If you organise a local society, **you can advertise for free** on our Nottinghamshire History Facebook group which reaches thousands of people. Just join the group at:

[NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORY | Facebook](#)

Arnold Local History Group

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

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

Membership is £10.00 pp per year. Entrance on the night is £1.00 pp for members and the cost for visitors is £3.00 pp.

ALSO AROUND ARNOLD: BOB MASSEY TALKS

Aslockton: Cranmer Local History Society

Contact: kaucker@gmail.com or 01949 850298

Or: Robert James on rob.james1805@btinternet.com

2nd June 2026: Adrian Gray, 'Marriage Disasters of Sherwood'.

Membership subscriptions are the main source of funding for the Group's monthly meetings, website and publicity.

Meeting Entry Fee:

Members: £3 Non-members: £5

Beckingham History Group

The meetings take place in the Village Hall in Beckingham at 7pm

For info contact Marion Dickinson: marion08@btinternet.com

BEESTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Jill Oakland (Chair) Beeston & District LHS

Bilborough: St Martin's History Group

We meet every second Tuesday in the month and our group is open to all locals past and present, many of whom were born in the area.

At each meeting we discuss aspects of Bilborough and Strelley life, usually from Victorian days to present. Our meetings start at 2.30pm and finish about 4.00, and we are trying to get going an evening talk at the church every month from 7.00pm.

For more information please email info@stmartinsbilborough.org.uk

3rd Tuesday each month from May to September, 7pm for 1-1.5 hrs

Bleasby

Contact: barbaracast@btinternet.com



BLIDWORTH MINERS WELFARE FUNCTION ROOM, MANSFIELD ROAD, BLIDWORTH, NOTTS

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM

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

Jan 6th: A local history presentation by members & committee
Feb 3rd No Speaker, An evening with members & Guests Participation
March 3rd: Society AGM & Meetings Review

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 £3.00.
Refreshments available.
See our website for further events, walks etc.
www.bramcotehistory.org.uk

BURTON JOYCE AND BULCOTE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society meets at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May, with the exception of December, in Burton Joyce Library.

The annual cost for members is £15.00. Visitors are most welcome. Please pay £3.00 on the door.

Chair: Steve Wright
Teresa 07855 082416. Email: secretatry@bjblhs.uk
Meetings Secretary: Christine Shepherd 0115 9618840.

Date	Speaker	Topic
10 December 2025	Social evening	
14 January 2026	Jeffrey A Sheard	Seely Family Dynasty
11 February 2026	Dave Mooney	The History of Busking and Street Performance
11 March 2026	Laura Parker	Excavations on the Burbage
8 April 2026	Chris Weir	Village and Town Bands
13 May 2026	Peter Liddle	Bradgate Park

Coddington History Group

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

All the events are in the Village Hall, Main Street starting at 7:30pm. Everyone welcome, Members FREE, non- members £2 - includes refreshments.

Contact: iturner@coddington.org.uk

Programme 2025-26

All the events are in the Village Hall, Main Street starting at 7:30pm, generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. Everyone welcome, Members FREE, non- members £2 - includes refreshments

Thursday 19th February 2026. *Ian Jackson – The Derwent in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.* The power of water, and harnessing it to aid technology.

Thursday 19th March 2026. *Andrew Smart – Their names will live on.* An illustrated talk about local unsung war heroes, drawn from his book of the same name.

Thursday 16th April 2026 *Denis Hill – The History and Heritage of Wellow village.* – That's the one with the maypole! Discover more about this quintessential North Nottinghamshire village

Thursday 21st May 2026 *Stephen Gay – Woodhead, the lost railway – Part 2.* Stephen scarcely needs an introduction- he has entertained us with tales and wonderful photos several times before. This talk leads us along the rest of the line.

East Leake & District Local History Society

Meetings are normally held in the parish church at 7.30pm.

December 10th 7.30pm

“The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie” – a talk by Mark Temple

2026

January 21st 7.30pm

“Law and Order. The History of Police and Policing” – a talk by Bob Massey

February 18th 7.30pm

“Medieval Great Houses of the East Midlands” a talk by Dr. James Wright

March 18th 7.30pm

“Educating East Leake” – a talk by Jacki Allan

April 15th 7.30pm

“Lady Arbella – the Queen that Never Was” – a talk by David Templeman

May 20th 7.30pm

“Rushcliffe Estate” a talk by the Rushcliffe Estate Project Team

Edwinstowe Historical Society

www.edwinstowehistory.org.uk

enquiries: EdwinstoweHistorySoc@gmail.com

Venue: St. Mary’s Church Rooms, Mansfield Road, Edwinstowe, Notts. NG21 9NJ
Meetings held on 3rd Wednesday of the month, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Visitors welcome at a charge of £3
Programme for 2025/26

2025.

December 17th No meeting

2026.

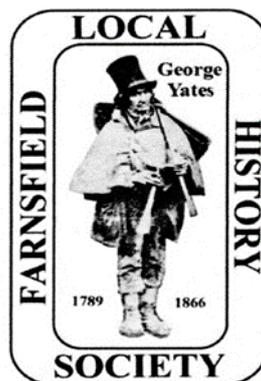
January 21st No meeting

February 18th	Mary Queen of Scots. Part 2.	<i>David Templeman</i>
March 18th	Lace, Slums & the Occasional Riot (The making of Victorian Nottingham)	<i>Chris Weir</i>
April 15th	Historical Highlights from Newark & Sherwood.	<i>Adrian Gray</i>
May 20th	AGM	
June 17th	English Country Houses (not what they seem)	<i>Mike Higginbottom</i>

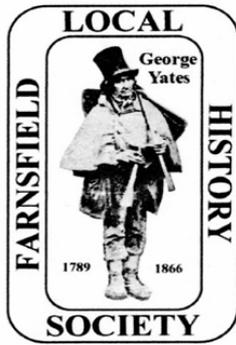
Elston Pentagon History Society

Venue: Elston Village Hall, Top Street, Elston, Newark, NG23 5NP

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors £4.



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



Farnsfield Local History Society

Programme of Speakers 2025

All meetings held in the
Lower Hall, Village Centre, New Hill, NG22 8JL
starting at 7.30 p.m.

Coffee & Tea provided after the talks which last around an hour.

8 th January	The History of Papplewick Pumping Station	Peter Nicholls
12 th February	Prototypes, Paupers and the Poor Law: A history of the workhouse in Southwell	Charlotte May Fiona Lewin
12 th March	AGM Followed by Members' evening	
9 th April	The Top Ten Scandals of Sherwood Forest	Adrian Gray
14 th May	The River Trent in Landscape and History	Keith Small
11 th June	The History of Southwell Ploughing Match	Claire Hardstaff & Ploughing Match Trustees
10 th September	Gardens of Delight. A glimpse into the variety of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in Nottinghamshire.	Jason Mordan
8 th October	In and out of Wedlock Four 19 th century case studies	Karen Winyard
12 th November	Great Houses of the East Midlands	Dr James Wright

Membership costs £15 per year (membership year from March - February). Non-members are always welcome at meetings for a £3 donation payable on the door. The Society also arranges summer & Christmas social events and occasional trips to places of local historical interest.

For further information contact FLHS Secretary Gill Sarre: gill_sarre@hotmail.com

Website <https://farnsfieldlhs.co.uk/>

Visitors are welcome at our meetings & we ask for a donation of £3.00 which includes coffee/tea

For further information contact: gill_sarre@hotmail.com

HARBY

Harby History Group started over 20 years ago. We meet in Harby Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month (apart from July, August & December).

Meetings start at 7:30pm unless specified. Entry fee of £2.

Harby History Group calendar for 2026

28 January- Fighting for Football- Women v. Misogyny. Returning guest speaker Elaine Johnson.

25 February- King Arthur. Returning guest speaker Erik Grigg.

25 March- Richard III or Mary Magdalen. Topic TBC. Member speaker Harold Paine.

29 April- The Development of the English Knight. Returning guest speaker Nigel Amos.

27 May- Holme Church. Trip. Guided by Nigel Priestley of Collingham History Society. 7pm start. Cash donations to the church.

24 June- History Walk of Boultham Park. Trip. 6:30pm start. £4 per person. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

30 September- Rhyme and Reason 3. Returning guest speaker Sam Millard.

28 October- International Bomber Command Centre. Guest speaker Dave Gilbert.

25 November- RAF Ground Personnel. Returning guest speaker Dan Ellin.

Contact: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk

KEYWORTH

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

Guests Welcome - £2 on the door

Meetings take place on Fridays in The Centenary Lounge, Keyworth Parish Hall and start at 7.30pm

5th December Xmas Social. Ticket Only. "A history of local carols at K&DLHS part II". Stephan Green

Chinemarelian (Kimberley) Historical Society

All talks are on a Thursday evening starting at 7.30pm, in Kimberley Community Room, (part of Kimberley School), Newdigate Street, Kimberley NG16 2NJ.
Annual membership is £6. Talks cost £2 to members and visitors are welcome to attend them for a cost of £4.

Contact s.arundel@sky.com for further information.

Programme 2025-26 Season:

4th December - Dr David Amos - "An Illustrated Tour of DH Lawrence's Eastwood"
8th January - Robert Mee - "Classified!" - a look at 18th & 19th century advertisements.
5th February - Dr David Nunn - "Frank Burton, Kimberley's Hero of Arnhem"
5th March - Elizabeth Holloway - "The Life and Times of a Little Mester"
2nd April - Stephen Flinders - "The Magnificent Seven - the end of a 19th Century Horror and the Birth of the Garden Cemetery"

LAMBLEY

All talks take place at Lowdham WI Hall on a Monday evening, start at 7.30 and are followed by tea or coffee afterwards. New members and guests always welcome. Full details at www.lambleyheritage.co.uk

Lowdham Local History Society

Meetings are normally at the WI Hall from 7.30pm.

2025

11th December Paul Mann talking about 'Prince John and the siege of Nottingham'.

2026

12th February Ellis Morgan talking about 'The History of Thurgarton'.

12th March Steve Wright talking about 'The history of Nottingham Mining'.

9th April John Cotterill talking about 'Nottinghamshire in the Great War'.

All Meetings held in the Lowdham WI Hall at 7.30pm. Membership is just £15, non-members pay £3 for each evening.

Contact: maureenhandley45@gmail.com

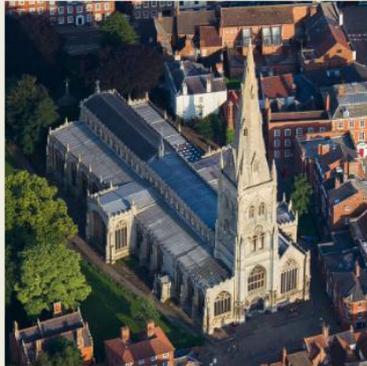
Newark: National Civil War Centre

Fri 12 December 2025, 7pm



**A Merry Noyse at
Christmas**

Sat 31 January 2026, 7pm



For Whom the Bell Tolls

Wed 4 February 2026, 7pm



**Queen James : LGBTQ
History Month**

Fri 13 February 2026, 7pm



**The British Civil Wars and
the Wider World**

Sat 31 January 2026, 7pm



**The Norton Disney
Dodecahedron**

Wed 4 February 2026, 7pm



**Silent Witnesses: What the
Human Remains Tell us
About the Battle of
Stokefield**

Sat 2 May 2026, 4.30pm



Country Beats and Dancing Feet: Dancing in Stuart England

Bookings: [📅 A Little Something for Fellow History Enthusiasts 📅](#)

NOTTINGHAM

FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAM MUSEUMS

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Meetings are held at Nottingham Castle on Saturday afternoons, commencing at 2pm prompt

Speakers for 2026

Meetings are held at Nottingham Castle on Saturday afternoons, commencing at 2pm prompt

17 January Denis Hill: Ashfield Heritage

21 February AGM; short talk by Ed Breeds: Green's Mill: Current projects and future plans
Bring-and-buy sale in aid of funds

21 March Adrian Gray: Marriage Disasters of the Sherwood Nobility
adriangray@pilgrims&prophets.co.uk

18 April Catherine Pincott-Allen: The demise of Richard Thomas Parker, the last man to be publicly hanged in Nottingham

16 May Ann Inscker: Recent developments across the Human History Collections of Nottingham's museums

20 June Stephen Wright: Trains, trams & trolleybuses: Public transport in Nottingham

18 July Rowena Edlin-White: Sherwood Forest Group of Writers

August - no meeting

19 September Robert Mee: Classified: A look at 18th & 19th century advertisements in local newspapers

17 October Grant Cullen: William Henry Lee: Worksop's WWI VC

21 November Mark Dawson: Nottinghamshire puddings

12 December Graham Woodward: History of Royal Mail roadside pillar boxes. Raffle in aid of funds

Visitors are welcome on payment of £3, but please contact the Chairman at janetlievesley@gmail.com beforehand so that staff at the Castle Gatehouse can be informed

If you are interested in joining us, please contact janetlievesley@gmail.com

NOTTINGHAM HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

We have a working party on a Tuesday morning from 11-1pm, if anyone is interested and would like to join us recording the finds and reassembling the pottery. no experience required as training will be given.

Also we are available to give illustrated talks to groups about the Caves of Nottingham

Contact: pauline.dewberry@ntlworld.com

Friends of Nottingham Archives



Nottingham Industrial Heritage Association

Our meetings are held at 19:30 in Nottingham at The International Community Centre 61b Mansfield Road, unless stated otherwise. Click here for a location map. This is convenient for the Tram, Trent buses and NCT buses. Car parking is also possible in the vicinity.

The following indoor meetings for the Autumn 2024 / Spring 2025 season have been arranged:

Non-members will be very welcome to attend all meetings unless indicated. An admission fee will be charged on the door. This is £5.00 for non members, NIHA members £2.

www.niha.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S HISTORY

For more information and updates:

www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk

email: nottmwomenshistory@gmail.com

Nottingham: other events

Watson Fothergill Walks

Join tour guide Lucy Brouwer to explore the Nottingham city centre buildings of Victorian architect Watson Fothergill. Why did the Victorians think a mortgage was like a monkey? How can one architect have two names on one building? What links one of Nottingham's foremost Victorian architects with Mick Jagger and Thomas Hardy? These questions and more will be answered on a guided walk around the buildings of architect Watson Fothergill in Nottingham City Centre. Learn about the buildings of one of Nottingham's most prominent Victorian architects, his signature style and the influence of the Gothic on the city's buildings.

A walk of approximately 2km (1.25 miles) 2 hours. Participants are asked to come prepared for all weather eventualities and to wear footwear suitable for city walking. Meet for 10 am start outside Nottingham Tourism Centre on Smithy Row (next to Council House). Finish at Fothergill's pub where there is the option to stay for refreshments. Advanced booking is essential as places are limited. Maximum group size 20. <https://watsonfothergillwalk.com>

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Labour History Society

<https://www.facebook.com/nottsderbyslabourhistorysociety>

Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire

REGULAR VENUE:

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

GENERAL MEETINGS:

*Monthly: September to April
& AGM in July,
Start time: 6.45pm.
(Auction viewing from 6.00pm)*

Contact: marktray60@gmail.com

PROGRAMME for 2025 - 2026 Season:

Monday 8th December 2025 *Society Coin Auction*

Monday 12th January 2026

Short Papers by society members

Monday 9th February 2026

Biblical Coins

Steve Jackson

Monday 9th March 2026

Nottinghamshire - History & Numismatics

Mark T. Ray

Monday 13th April 2026

The Dark Side of Medallions

Simon Wilson

Monday 13th July 2026

Annual General Meeting

NUTHALL AND DISTRICT

2 December "History of Father Christmas - Dave Mooney

Meetings held at 2.30 pm, The Temple Centre, Nuthall, NG16 1DP

Visitors welcome £3 per meeting

hsnuthall@gmail.com

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.

Note that all but one (November) of this year's talks are on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at 7-30pm.

2025

10 Dec *Captain Popkess, Chief Constable of Nottingham City Police (1930–1959)* by Tom Andrews

2026

14 Jan *Radcliffe's lost houses* by Marion Caunt

11 Feb *The life of Mary Bailey, poet and lace runner* by Karen Winyard

11 Mar *Nottingham Castle in 1000 years of history* by Dave Barton

8 Apr *Lowdham Grange Borstal* by Jeremy Lodge

6 May *Laura Knight* by Julia Powell (first Wednesday in May)

10 June *Victoria Station and the Great Central Railway* by Steve Wright

Phone: Radcliffe on Trent Local History Society:
Marion Caunt 0115 9332685, Dave Barton 0115 9332633.
Email: radcliffeontrenthistorysociety@gmail.com

Railway & Canal Historical Society

Our meetings start at 2:00pm and are held in The Wesley Room, Beeston Methodist Church, Chilwell Road, Beeston NG9 1EH. We suggest a donation of £5.00 (which includes tea/coffee & biscuits) and usually finish around 3:30pm.

Retford & District Historical and Archaeological Society

Alternatively, please email retfordhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/RetfordHistoricalSociety/>

Date	Speaker	Subject
2025		
10 December	Jan Reade	A Victorian Christmas
2026		
14 January	Roy Evans	Life in an Edwardian Village
11 February	Gareth Howell	War Heroes to Enemies of the State: The Life, Work and Struggles of Coal Miners 1919-1990
11 March	Stephen Flinders	History Beneath our Feet
8 April	Adrian Gray	Scandal and Adultery: Marital Disasters of the Sherwood Forest Nobility
13 May AGM	Judith Goodall	Local Scattered Graves

Meetings are at Chapelgate Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors £3.00.

Southwell

We meet in Southwell Public Library at 7.30 p.m.

Programme 2025/2026

SEPTEMBER **Wednesday 24th**

Michael Kirkby
The last Redcoats of Nottinghamshire

OCTOBER **Wednesday 22nd**

Adrian Gray
Historical highlights of Newark & Sherwood

NOVEMBER **Wednesday 26th**

Mike Newbold
My 'Extra Life' (TV life)

2026

JANUARY **Wednesday 28th**

Roger Blaney
*The Archbishops of York's Palace at Southwell
– a fresh look at its origins and importance*

FEBRUARY **Wednesday 25th**

Michael Hunting
Crimean War

MARCH **Wednesday 25th**

Chris Weir
Nottingham's Dark Side

APRIL **Wednesday 22nd**

Tom Andrews
*Murder, Violence and Knife Crime/Nottingham's
thin blue line*

MAY **Wednesday 27th**

Paul Mann
*Prince John and the Siege of Nottingham
Castle 1194*

JUNE **Wednesday 24th**

Bob Massey
Goose Fair by film

JULY **Wednesday 22nd**

Society visit
*Exhibition Gallery at Lakeside Arts
– Nottingham University*

Sutton on Trent History Society

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

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

Details here: [History Society - Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council - Sutton-on-Trent Parish Website, Newark \(suttonontrent.org.uk\)](#)

8th December. History of the Round Table and Christmas with David Pattinson followed by Christmas fun

2026

12th January Papplewick Pumping Station with Peter Nicholls

9th February Indian Army at Hampton Court with Liz Mckendrick

9th March RAF Ossington - the Airfield with Milan Petrovic

13th April The history of Sleaford Castle with Garry Titmass from the Civic Trust

Thoroton Society news

Saturday 13 December; 2:30 pm

Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street, NG1 4EZ

The Neville Hoskins Centenary Lecture

Clumber in Wales?: The 4th Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Hafod, 1832-46

Speaker: Dr Richard Gaunt, University of Nottingham

he 4th Duke of Newcastle (1785-1851) is usually remembered for his strong opposition to political and electoral change during the 'age of reform' and as the owner of the Clumber Park estate in Nottinghamshire. This lecture considers some of his wider interests, as reflected in his ownership of Hafod, a picturesque estate near Aberystwyth in Wales, from 1832-1846.

Dr Richard Gaunt has worked at the University of Nottingham since 2000. Amongst his many publications on the period, he has edited the Newcastle diaries in four volumes. A founder member of FONA and former board member of both Nottingham Civic Society and NLHA, he has been Chair of the Thoroton Society since 2020.

Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Awards

This is the last call for 2025.

The deadline for applications for the Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Awards has been extended to **31 December 2025**. They are open to individuals or groups undertaking research on the history and archaeology of Nottinghamshire. Awards can be used to support research including the acquisition of research resources or travel expenses. The conditions of the award and details of the application process can be found on the Thoroton Society website where there is also a list of previous successful awards.

<http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/bond-awards.htm>.

Mark Dorrington, Research Awards Administrator

Historic England Heritage at Risk Register 2025

The Heritage at Risk Register for 2025 was released by Historic England last month. The Register gives an annual snapshot of the health of England's valued historic buildings and places. According to HE 'it helps to ensure they can be protected and continue to be enjoyed in the future.'



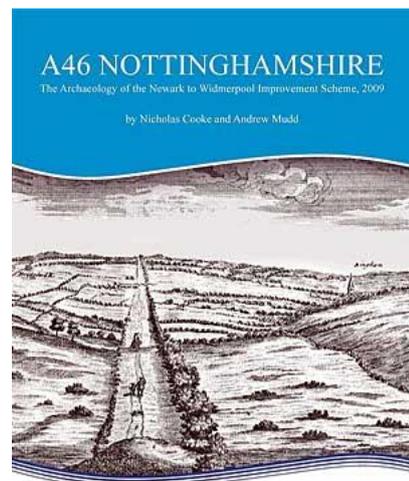
<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/heritage-at-risk-2025/>

Use the links below to view Heritage at Risk entries organised by local authority:

- [City of Nottingham](#)
- [Ashfield](#)
- [Bassetlaw](#)
- [Broxtowe](#)
- [Gedling](#)
- [Mansfield](#)
- [Newark and Sherwood](#)
- [Rushcliffe](#)

A46 Nottinghamshire: The Archaeology of the Newark to Widmerpool Improvement Scheme, 2009

I was delighted to see that a PDF version of this impressive 529-page archaeological report from 2014 detailing the archaeological work undertaken in 2009 in advance of the improvements to A46 south of Newark is available for downloading from the Wessex Archaeology Library website:



Cotswold Wessex

<https://wessexarchaeologylibrary.org/plugins/books/93/>

The book was reviewed in the Thoroton Society *Newsletter* by Dr David Knight who concluded that the 'discoveries provide significant insights into the

changing environment of Nottinghamshire and the character and extent of human activity from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to more recent times, and the volume is recommended for anyone with an interest in Nottinghamshire's past. ‘

Nottinghamshire heritage events in December 2025

The County Council's Heritage Team has compiled a useful list of heritage-themed events taking place in the county during

December: <https://her.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/whats-new>

We hope that you find these eBulletins useful and informative but, if at any time you wish to be removed from the mailing list, just use the 'Unsubscribe from this list' link below.

Andy Nicholson, eBulletin editor (admin@thorotonsociety.org.uk)

West Bridgford Local History Society

The society meets in the hall of The Methodist Chapel, Musters Road, West Bridgford on the first Monday of the month – October to April. The entrance is on Patrick Road and meetings start at 7.30. Visitors are asked for a small donation and are made very welcome

1 December 2025

“A history of Father Christmas and his wonderful goat”

Dave Mooney

Dave Mooney is an expert on long standing traditions of ordinary folk and here adds a twist to that most popular mythical figure of Yuletide.

5 January 2026

“Alms-houses in The East Midlands” – Robert Mee

Alms-houses are fast disappearing, although we do have one in West Bridgford, and Robert Mee has researched the many that have been lost and those that still existing in The East Midlands.

2 February 2026 “Nottingham caves: exploring underground histories” – Chris King

Dr.Chris King is an Associate Professor at Nottingham University and this talk is taken from the fascinating historical archive it holds, uncovering the multi-layered history of Nottingham’s famous caves.

2 March 2026 “The story of The Malt Cross Music Hall” – Trevor Lee

The Malt Cross on St. James’s Street was originally a Victorian Music Hall and no one knows more about it than music hall historian Trevor Lee, who has researched its past in great detail.

13 April 2026 “The trades, trials and tribulations of my grandfather” – Brian Binns

Society member Brian Binns tells the tale of his grandfather who lived in West Bridgford for 35 years and had many trials, literally, whilst living here, whilst compiling a very mixed array of occupations. Tribulations from running a nefarious business through to libel, theft and death threats!

Wollaton Historical & Conservation Society

Wollaton Historical & Conservation Society indoor meetings. 7.30pm St Leonards Community Centre, 4 Bramcote Lane, Wollaton, NG8 2ND (opposite Wollaton Library). Free to members, guests welcome for £3 payable on the door.

Wednesday 28th January 2026 - Sharon Bennett Connolly *Heroines of the Medieval World*. Turning the spotlight on amazing Medieval women with strong ties to Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire

Wednesday 25th February 2026 - Karen Slade (Company of Artisans) *Medieval tiles from Lenton Abbey*. Discovery, history and reconstruction

Wednesday 25 March 2026 - *Memories of Wollaton*. Stories and recollections gathered over the course of the 2025 exhibition at The Dovecote presented by WHaCS members

Wednesday 22 April 2026 - AGM & Anja Thompson-Rohde *Coins as the First Social Media*. How messages contained in the portraits and symbols on coins acted in the past to spread news and propaganda

For further details on each of the speakers and their topics please visit www.wollatonhistorical.com

Woodborough

For info contact Mike Chapman: chapman481@btinternet.com

Date	Speaker	Title
December 11th	Graham Hayes	AGM

NLHA LIST OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPEAKERS

Our list (which is of speakers we are aware of, not 'approved' speakers) 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)
- “September 1947” – a single month in history, as seen through the pages of local newspapers
- “Almshouses: past, present and local” – a history of the almshouse as an institution, with examples in and around Nottinghamshire
- “The Village Lockup” – a study of these fascinating but little known structures and their history, including some in Notts
- “Bradshaw’s and an Early Railway Tour” – the famous railway timetable, and a mystery tour
- “History along the Erewash Valley Trail” – a 30 mile cycle route on both sides of the Nottinghamshire / Derbyshire border

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.

NEW: *Romance and Disaster – Marriage Disasters of the Sherwood Aristocracy*: focusing mainly on the period after 1800, this looks at some of the disastrous marriages made by lords, dukes and earls who formed the supposed elite of Dukeries society. No wonder several of them went bankrupt or needed rich Americans to bail them out....

NEW: *'General' William Booth – from Nottingham to the World*: a man who perhaps needs no introduction, but what do you really know about how Booth's impact spread from the backstreets of Nottingham to over a hundred countries worldwide? An extraordinary story of one of the county's best-known figures.

NEW: *Strange Tales of the Nottinghamshire Clergy*

Nottinghamshire has been 'blessed' with more than its fair share of weird, wonderful, eccentric or downright corrupt parish clergy and diocesan officials. Here we meet a cast of unforgettable characters from Mansfield, Southwell, Newark and Nottingham – all of whom made their mark on history for the wrong reasons. Some great 'human interest' stories to entertain you!

NEW: *From Nottinghamshire to the World*

Some amazing stories of men and women from Nottinghamshire who travelled the globe to spread their faith, encountering many enthralling adventures. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, unexplored areas of Africa...and we also hear about the famous Dr Livingstone and why he came to Newstead. Covers aspects of the county's history often overlooked here – but celebrated in far-off corners of the Globe!

***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.

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

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

Dr Rowena Edlin-White: A professional author, researcher and speaker for over twenty-five years, specialising in local history, women's history and the region's forgotten authors. Currently taking only daytime bookings. Contact ro.edlin-white@ntlworld.com 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 MASSEY provides talks at various venues including in pubs.

www.bobmassey.info

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
- * Clumber's Walled Garden

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

Chris Weir is an author, local historian and archivist. Chris offers a wide variety of talks and will also lead historical walking tours around Nottingham city centre and inner suburbs. His website gives more details and images relating to his talks.

Contact: heritagetalks@outlook.com or Telephone: 07922 496682

- Lace, Slums & The Occasional Riot! The Making of Victorian Nottingham
- The Story of Boots (Jesse Boot, Florence and the Company).
- A Woman's Lot. Women's History in Nottinghamshire, 1550-1950.
- The People's War in Nottinghamshire (The Home Front WW2).
- The Nottinghamshire Heritage (Landscapes, Buildings and Communities).
- Rambling Into History (The History of Walking, Footpaths and Landscapes).
- Secrets, Mysteries & Curiosities of Nottinghamshire
- Mud, Munitions & Memorials. (Nottinghamshire & WW1)
- Nottinghamshire's Dark Side
- The Cattle Market, Nottinghamshire
- From Green Fields to an Inner Suburb, The Growth of Forest Fields.

Graham Woodward: contact via gwoodward@clara.co.uk

I am a board member of Nottingham Civic Society and a 'local historian' living in Wollaton. I have been photographing Nottingham since the late 1970s and have over 10,000 images of the city past and present.

- Canals around Nottm – how and when they were built and how they work.
- Cinemas of Nottm – a detailed look at Nottm's 57 cinemas.
- Picture Wollaton – Wollaton Village in postcards with a short history of postcards in Britain
- Wollaton Park Housing Estate – a history of the development of the first Garden Suburb estate in the city by T.C. Howitt
- Hyson Green – the Shoppingham of the East Midlands
- Radford – an industrial heartland
- Old Nottingham – a look at the small number (45) of pre-1700 buildings in the city
- Post Office Letter Boxes – the history of their development
- And coming soon – coal mining in Trowell, Cossall and Wollaton.

I also do walks:

- The Lace Market
- Nottingham Canal in the city
- Theatres and Music Halls
- Wollaton Village.

Talks are priced at £20 and walks at £3 per person. All proceeds go to local (Wollaton) charity projects. I can provide my own projector, screen and audio kit or use host facilities.

Lucy Brouwer

- email: watsonfothergillwalk@gmail.com
- mobile: 07909 526675

Lucy offers talks on the architecture of Nottingham

- Watson Fothergill: A virtual tour of Nottingham
- Watson Fothergill and his buildings in Mansfield
- Watson Fothergill in Nottingham's Park Estate
- On the trail of Thomas Chambers Hine
- TC Howitt's Council House
- The architecture of the Victorian Lace Market

Lucy is a tour guide and art history researcher who began leading walking tours focused on architecture in 2018. The popular Watson Fothergill Walk (<https://watsonfothergillwalk.com>) looks at the architect's buildings from the late Victorian period in Nottingham. This was followed by tours looking at Fothergill's domestic architecture, the city centre buildings of Thomas Chambers Hine and illustrated talks on the lives and works of other architects.

Lucy has presented illustrated talks to audiences at Nottinghamshire Archives and Inspire Libraries, Local History Societies in Farnsfield, Ilkeston and Mansfield, as well as to U3A groups in Mapperley and Wollaton, and online versions to Nottingham City Women's Institute and Bromley House Library.

Lucy is available to provide tours to groups in Nottingham and talk to groups in Nottinghamshire (and surrounding areas). She is based near Mansfield but can travel and has flexible availability. Talks can also be given on Zoom. Lucy also undertakes research projects looking at individual building histories, specialising in Victorian architecture.

Steve Wright

Telephone 0115 9323592

Mobile 0775 6507570

Email steve1001@virginmedia.com

Mining Memories: After a brief outline of the history of coal mining in Nottinghamshire, a resume of 32 years' experience in the industry describes mining techniques and life underground.

The Rise and Fall of Colwick Loco: Based on my father's life working in one of the largest yards in the Midlands, over 100 years of operation is described, together with the development of the adjacent town of Netherfield and its other industries. Many of the photos are from the 1960's and were taken by my father.

Trains, Trams & Trolley Buses: A history of public transport in Nottingham from 1838 to 1920.

Nottingham in the 1930s (Two talks): A study of the industries and the social aspects of life in the City between the two World Wars.

Nottingham in the 1960s: A study of the City in the "Swinging Sixties"

The Dover Beck: Follow the course of this twelve-mile-long mill stream from its source above Oxtun to its discharge into the River Trent, seeing some of the old mills and nature along the way.

Victoria Station and the Great Central Railway: The history of the last main line to be built in the country and its new station in Nottingham.

Streets of Nottingham: The changing shape of Nottingham's streets from 1600 to 1950

Towns and Villages of Southern Sherwood Forest in 1609: A look at the shape of local settlements in days gone by

Burton Joyce in the 1970s: Aspects of the village fifty years ago

Grant Cullen

07824628638; grantcullen@hotmail.com

William Henry Johnson.....Worksop`s World War One VC .

Full story of Bill`s life...from his pre-war work as a miner and also as a bellringer in Worksop Priory....his war history...then what happened to him post war.

Roger Blaney

Roger is head guide at Southwell Minster and offers:

- The Archbishops of York's Palace at Southwell: a fresh look at its origins, importance and history
- The Rise and Fall of the Medieval Chantry, not one of which has existed for 480 years
- The Chantries and Chantry Chapels of Southwell Minster: their history and significance
- A Guide's Eye View of Southwell Minster: what the casual visitor to this remarkable building rarely notices

Contact: 07711 693880 or rogerblaney@yahoo.co.uk

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