

## EDITORS' NOTES

### Work of the Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust in Nottinghamshire in 1994

The Trust has continued its archaeological activities in a wide number of fields, including buildings research alongside the more traditional archaeological survey and excavations of sites of all periods from the Mesolithic to the present day. Much of this work continues to be funded by national and local government bodies (English Heritage, Nottinghamshire County Council, the respective District Councils and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments) but developer-funded projects are becoming a larger part of the Trust's work. This is principally an outcome of the introduction of Department of Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) which places the onus on developers to provide archaeological information with their planning applications.

The work undertaken over the last year is wide ranging. Buildings survey work has included a rapid survey of the industrial buildings of the historic town of Newark, detailed recording of a late 18th and 19th century farm complex, and recording and excavations in advance of building works at the Nottingham Shire Hall and County Gaol prior to its opening as the National Centre for Law Throughout The Ages.

The first synthesis of the archaeology and geomorphology of the valley of the River Trent has been compiled; this has allowed important research targets to be identified so that future work can be viewed within a valley-wide context (see Knight and Howard, this volume). There are proposals for many new developments along the valley, particularly gravel extraction, and, guided by this framework, future evaluations of individual development sites can now be structured to contribute to the wider issues of landscape archaeology. Such evaluations so far have identified an Iron Age and Romano-British field system that respects the edge of the valley floodplain at Kelham, the potential for buried archaeology, including burnt mounds, at Lound in North Nottinghamshire, (*cf. Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 97, 148-9), and the identification of Mesolithic to

Iron Age occupation on the Floodplain Terrace and river-side sand dunes at Collingham.

The medieval and post-medieval landscape is also becoming a prominent research focus. The Trust has started a programme of detailed survey of the nationally-important historic settlement and field-systems at Laxton, whilst also embarking on a rapid identification survey of earthworks around all of the villages of north Nottinghamshire. Many of the projects undertaken require extensive research using documentary and cartographic sources; as a result the Trust is building up a considerable consolidated archive of documentary evidence for past landscapes.

The continuation of the longer-term research projects is vital in providing a context for the often smaller-scale development work. By having some understanding of the wider picture we can recognise the significance of the results from the many small projects that have become such a feature of archaeological work over the last few years.

(Daryl Garton)

### The Thurgarton Cartulary

One of the most notable contributions to the medieval history of the county in recent years is the publication of *The Thurgarton Cartulary*, edited and with an introduction by Trevor Foulds (Paul Watkins, Stamford, 1944, £75.00). The original cartulary, now in Southwell Minster Library, is a register compiled in the 14th century of 1,117 land charters and administrative documents relating to property owned by the Augustinian Priory of Thurgarton, founded by Ralph Deyncourt in the 1130s. This edition is a monumental volume running to 813 pages containing full Latin transcripts, with English summary headings, of most of the documents. Dr Foulds proves extensive family histories of the Deyncourt and other families who were benefactors of the priory, and topographical summaries (with some maps) of the places where the monks held property. The principal places were Thurgarton (with Horspool), Fiskerton (with Rolleston, Morton and Averham), Hoveringham,

Granby (with Sutton and Barnstone) Hickling (with Westhorpe), Owthorpe, Cropwell (Cropwell Butler and Bishop, with Tithby and Wiverton). However there were small holdings in numerous other places within the county, including the mills on the Doverbeck near Lowdham and urban property in Nottingham, as well as extensive holdings in Lincolnshire. The cartulary is a major source of medieval topographical detail and field names, and also includes a valuable detailed survey of the priory's lands in 1328 listing the tenants and describing their rents and labour services.

### English County Histories

The *Victoria County History* was a major project founded at the end of the last century to write definitive histories of each county in England. Nottinghamshire was the subject of two volumes published in 1907 and 1910 respectively but regrettably never continued. Work is still progressing in some other counties, however, and the recent retirement of the general editor of the *VCH*, Christopher Elrington, has prompted a tribute in the form of a major new publication. *English County Histories*, edited by C.R.J. Currie and C.P. Lewis (Alan Sutton, 1994, £35.00), contains articles on the historiography of each English county, *i.e.* a history of Local History. The Nottinghamshire chapter, which begins with the great achievement of Dr Robert Thoroton published in 1677 and acknowledges the major contribution of the Thoroton Society to local historical studies, was written by Adrian Henstock, Principal Archivist at Nottinghamshire Archives.

### Local Biographies

Several recent publications have contained biographical information about little-known Nottinghamshire people who went on to achieve prominence elsewhere, often in very different fields. *Xanthus: Travels of Discovery in Turkey* (Rubicon Press, 1994, £17.95), by Enid Slatter tells the story of the travels in Asia Minor in the 1830s and 40s of Sir Charles Fellows (1799-1860). Fellows was the fifth son of John Fellows, a wealthy silk hosier and banker in Nottingham, and was born in the family home in High Pavement (the former County Archives Office). He was responsible for shipping the so-called 'Xanthian

Marbles' - Graeco-Persian sculptures of the 5th century BC - to the British Museum.

The first of a projected three-volume biography of the unknown Newark-born artist William John Caparne (1855-1940) seeks to establish his reputation as a painter, mainly of flowers and gardens. Caparne spent most of his latter years in Guernsey, but Robin Fenner's *A Genius Undeclared: the Life, Works and Times of William John Caparne* (privately printed, 1994) describes his horticultural background in Newark and contains a brief history of the Caparne family in the town from the 16th century.

Many Nottinghamshire people lost their lives far beyond the county boundaries during the First and Second World Wars and earlier campaigns. Their names are often recorded on local town and village war memorials, or on individual memorials in local churches. These have stimulated research into their military careers and articles from time to time appears in print, mainly in specialist journals. One recent example is an article by Nottingham author Dr Louis Ackroyd: 'The Seizure of the German Cameroons in 1914-16', *Stand To!* (The Journal of the Western Front Association), 4 (Summer 1994), which deals with the occupation by combined British and French forces of the German West African colonies of Togoland and the Cameroons. As an appendix the article contains brief biographical notes on three local officers who died in this campaign and who are commemorated in local churches. They were Lieut. Kenneth Markham-Rose (East Markham), Sub-Lieut. Robert Elliott (Edwalton) and Lieut. William Huntriss (Mattersey).

### Other Recent Publications

Following the publication last year of reprints of well-known antiquarian histories of Southwell and Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire County Council's Leisure Services Dept. has this year produced two more similar volumes. These are John Piercy's *History of Retford* (first published 1828) and Joseph Rodgers' *The Scenery of Sherwood Forest* (1898). Also planned as a limited edition is a reprint of the monumental two-volume edition of Cornelius Brown's *History of Newark on Trent* (1904-7). The same Dept. has also produced a new edition of the late

Arthur Cossons' booklet on the turnpike roads of Nottinghamshire, which was first published in 1934 jointly by the Historical and the Geographical Associations as a model study of the subject in one county. The new edition, retitled *Coaching Days: The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire*, has a full-colour cover and contains illustrations for the first time. The launch of the reprint was attended by the author's son, Sir Neil Cossons, the Director of the Science Museum in London. All the titles are obtainable from the Heritage Shops in Nottingham (Angel Row), Mansfield and Sutton Libraries.

Newark & Sherwood District Council also have a commendable reputation for printing local historical publications, and one of their most recent is John Quarrell's *The Story of Hawton Church and its Mysterious Chancel* (1994). This deals with the medieval history of the church with especial reference to the extremely high-quality workmanship of the 14th century chancel, with its Easter Sepulchre and sedilia, which was described by Pevsner as 'one of the most exciting pieces of architecture in the country'. The author makes the valid point that work of such quality must have had the backing of wealthy and important patrons; however as there is little documentary evidence for such a patron at Hawton but there is at the nearby village of Sibthorpe some three miles away, he makes the not-entirely convincing claim that the Hawton chancel was built to serve the Collegiate College of priests established at Sibthorpe at this period.

Southwell Minster has a tradition of publishing useful short pamphlets on the history of the church and district which are not widely known outside the area. Most have been written by the former Honorary Librarian, R.M. Beaumont, and some of his recent contributions have included *The Builders of Southwell Minster and Their Marks*, and *Portraits in Stone: Some Medieval People in Southwell*. This year Mr. Beaumont has produced a revised version of his earlier publication, *The Chapter of Southwell Minster: a Story of 1000 Years*, which is a valuable layman's

guide to the often confusing history of the chapter, the prebendaries and the vicars choral. These made a major contribution, not only to the history of the Minster, but also to the architectural development of the houses which form the 'close' surrounding the church. The pamphlets are obtainable from the Minster shop.

### Archaeology at Nottingham University

Archaeology has been taught at the University of Nottingham up to now within the Department of Classical and Archaeological Studies, but the University has recently recognized the importance of the subject by creating a new Chair, and an independent Department of Archaeology is in the process of being set up. The new Professor of Archaeology is Roger Wilson, who took up his post on October 1st 1994. Professor Wilson is an Oxford graduate who, after an early career in publishing, has been teaching in the University of Dublin for the past twenty years: there he was Louis Claude Purser Associate Professor of Classical Archaeology and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. His research interests have concentrated mainly on the Roman archaeology of Sicily, but he has worked as well in Sardinia and north Africa; he is also an expert on Greek Sicily. His books include *A Guide to the Roman Remains in Britain* (3rd ed. 1988, 4th ed. forthcoming); *Piazza Armerina* (1983), a study of a spectacular villa site in Sicily; and a *magnum opus* on *Sicily under the Roman Empire* (1990). He is currently directing a field project west of Agrigento, investigating two Roman agricultural villages.

### Newark's Archaeological Resource

The volume referred to in Editors' Notes last year entitled *Newark's Industrial Archaeological Resource* (1993) was in fact the second such volume to be produced by the Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust and commissioned by Newark & Sherwood District Council. The first volume, which appeared in 1989, was entitled *Newark's Archaeological Resource*.