

EDITORS' NOTES

Work of the Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust in Nottinghamshire in 1995

The work undertaken in the last year has been wide ranging, and in Nottinghamshire has concentrated on field survey and excavation, though building recording has been conducted just over the border in Derbyshire. Post-medieval archaeological remains are again featuring strongly in archaeological programmes, for example, rail, canal and mining features were recorded close to the 17th century glasshouse at Awworth during a watching brief for road construction, and part of the buried 18th century garden at Clumber Park has been exposed so that the National Trust can reconstruct the formal gardens for enjoyment by the public.

Assessments of sites prior to development within Nottingham have included one at Bath Street, Sneinton, which identified the location of Viking burials with weapons discovered and reported in the mid 19th century. At The Island, the early post-medieval course of the River Leen has been plotted from map evidence, suggesting that a major bridge over the Leen, which formed the principal southern approach to the borough, may be located within or at the edge of the development site. This raises the possibility of discovering contemporary riverside structures and river silts preserving evidence for the early environment of Nottingham.

Over the past year there have been a number of opportunities to explore further the archaeology of Laxton, world famous as Britain's last Open Field village. The results of a small scale excavation on the site of the Old Infants' School are published in this volume and a survey of the archaeology and buildings of the village is underway. The second season of rapid survey of Nottinghamshire villages has been completed and over 300 new earthwork remains around the villages identified. The results from the completed survey due in 1996 will provide both a planning tool and a valuable source of information for the study of the form and development of Nottinghamshire villages.

Systematic fieldwalking surveys have continued on the rich cropmark landscape of the Trent Valley around South Muskham, and also on the proposed line of the Mansfield bypasses. The South Muskham survey has been conducted entirely with volunteers so far and has produced an interesting pattern of artefacts in relation to the cropmarks. At Tilm, near East Retford, fieldwalking, together with evaluation trenches, has focused on a wide Mesolithic flint-scatter sited on a sand-dune by the River Idle: at least one of the flint-working clusters survives *in situ* and is associated with contemporary pits. Excavations of this site, and a nearby burnt mound site, are planned for 1996.

Palaeoenvironmental analyses of deposits associated with the Brickwork Plan Field-systems in the Idle valley north of East Retford has shown that Romano-British farming methods were not very environmentally-friendly as they caused rapid soil erosion and were probably also responsible for the destruction of several prehistoric burnt mound sites; the destruction of archaeological sites is not only a phenomena of our modern times! The fields were inundated, and the increased waterlogging led to the preservation of organic remains which have provided an invaluable addition to our knowledge of the impact of Romano-British farming on the landscape.

One of the more spectacular discoveries of the year has been the recovery of a number of human skeletons and animal bones, some 4,000 years old, from an ancient channel of the River Trent. The animals include species now extinct. It is hoped that funds for further excavations in 1996 will be available to elucidate why the people were there - natural disaster, accident, a means of disposing of the dead, or some ritual sacrifice?

(Daryl Garton)

Stendhal and Lucy Hutchinson

Lucy Hutchinson's partisan biography of her husband Colonel John Hutchinson, Parliamentarian gov-

ernor of Nottingham Castle during the Civil War, was written in manuscript in c 1670 and first published in 1806. It is well known to Nottinghamshire historians, but less well known is that fact that it influenced the great French novelist Stendhal (a pseudonym for Henri Beyle, 1783-1842), and particularly his major novel *La Chartreuse de Parme* (1839) set in a small Italian court. This has been revealed by Richard Bolster's 'Stendhal et les Memoires de Lucy Hutchinson' in K. G. McWalters and C. W. Thompson, *Stendhal et L'Angleterre* (Liverpool University Press). A recent biography by Jonathan Keates, *Stendhal* (Sinclair Stevenson, 1994), makes reference to Stendhal's visit to England and includes the following passage:

Within these Richmond shades he sat reading the *Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson*, the biography written by Lucy Hutchinson in 1670 in vindication of her husband, a Parliamentarian soldier who had signed King Charles I's death warrant. Published for the first time in 1806, the work had easily established itself as a minor classic, distinguished by the grave beauty of its prose style and the noble singlemindedness with which its author, consciously working against the political grain of Restoration England, sought to justify her subject's life and aims. It has been pointed out that the *Memoirs*, which ten years later Stendhal could still speak of as 'one of my favourite books', had a pervasive influence on *La Chartreuse de Parme*, both in a general military and political context, and maybe also in the steadfastness, intelligence and energy of Lucy Hutchinson herself as one of the models for Gina Sanseverina. More personally, its appeal to Beyle himself must inevitably have lain in the sense of an unflinching integrity sharpened by being on the losing side, and in that ambiguous fascination which the sober vigour of puritan England so often exerted upon him.

(Contributed by Marjorie Penn)

Restoration of the Orangery at Rufford Abbey

The latest stage in the on-going restoration of the surviving buildings of Rufford Abbey by Nottinghamshire County Council has just been completed. This is the restoration of the Orangery, a garden building which began life as a Bath House. It was originally built in 1729 for Sir George Savile, the 7th Baronet, to the designs of John Hallam, and drawings of several projected schemes are to be found amongst the Savile archives deposited in Nottinghamshire Archives. The design eventually adopted was for an

apsidal building with a classical portico flanked by two small brick towers. Adjacent to this was a walled swimming pool 85 feet long having both deep and shallow ends, a rare feature for the period. A bay window in the apsidal building overlooked an ornamental circular pond with a fountain, and in one of the towers was a staircase giving access to a balustraded flat roof.

This building served its original function as a bathing pavilion and summer house until 1889 when Sir John Savile (later the 1st Baron Savile) converted it into an 'orangery' or hothouse for exotic plants. He achieved this by flooring over the sunken pool and covering the whole with a glass roof. He had spent several years as the British Ambassador in Rome, during which time he had been able to excavate a classical archaeological site at the Temple of Diana at Nemi. He later gave his finds to Nottingham Castle Museum but had replicas made of some of the artefacts for use as garden ornaments at Rufford; the fountain outside the Orangery was replaced with a copy of a Roman lamp.

The restoration inevitably posed a dilemma to the architects, as it was impossible to restore the building completely to either its Bath House or Orangery phase, but the result is a tactful compromise which would have pleased this Society's late Vice-President Professor Maurice Barley, who had long campaigned for its restoration.

The Nottingham Centenary History Project

Work is well in hand for the production of the new history of Nottingham which will appear in 1997, the centenary of the borough's achievement of city status in 1897. A long scholarly work is to be published by Manchester University Press as well as a more popular highly-illustrated edition. Contributions for the scholarly history have been written by a team of local academics and historians, and these are being edited by Professor John Beckett, the editor-in-chief. The volume will cover the whole of Nottingham's history from earliest times to the present day, summarizing the latest archaeological and documentary research. In addition four local teachers have been seconded to compile an education resource pack based on aspects of Nottingham's history, for use in schools at all

levels. Sponsorship has been gained from the Boots Co., the National Westminster Bank and other sources.

A Nottinghamshire Bibliography

Proposals have been put forward for publication of a Nottinghamshire Bibliography, sponsored jointly by the Thoroton Society, the Nottingham Civic Society, the Nottingham Centenary History Project and assisted by the University of Nottingham Library. Much of the research has already been completed by Michael Brook as a card catalogue of books and articles mainly of historical and topographical interest, and it is hoped to publish this as a future volume of this Society's *Record Series*.

The Centenary of the Thoroton Society

A sub-committee of the Society's council is actively planning events to celebrate the centenary of the Society's foundation in 1997. A garden party is to be held at Flintham Hall, the home of the President, Mr Myles Thoroton Hildyard, and other events under discussion include a recreation of the Society's first excursion to Bingham and Car Colston which took place on 27th July 1897. A touring exhibition will also be prepared. The one hundredth volume of the *Transactions* will appear as a special centenary edition, and a detailed index to all the Society's publications of the past century will also be published. This is being prepared by Laurence Craik, who is extensively revising and extending the earlier version which he compiled in 1977. It will cover not only the *Transactions* but also the *Record Series* and the early *Reports* of the Society's now defunct Excavation Section.

Medieval Service Books

Manuscript service books providing the Latin wording and music of the various anthems and chants sung at church services must once have been commonplace during the Middle Ages, but they were subject to wholesale destruction during the Reformations in the 1540s for their 'popish' context. Stray parchment sheets from such books, often illuminated in colour, occasionally survive as bindings for post-Reformation archives, but complete volumes are rare. One exception is a 15th century 'gradual' now

in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (MS Lat. liturg.b.5) which from internal evidence appears to have originally been used in the church of East Drayton near Retford. A gradual was a chant sung as part of the mass (originally on the altar 'steps' - hence the name), and this is the only surviving example conforming to the liturgical use of York (as opposed to Sarum and other schools). East Drayton benefice was in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of York and it is reasonable to suppose that most of its clergy were drawn from the Minster. One priest who must have used this volume regularly was William Draper, vicar of East Drayton throughout the period from 1480 to 1526.

The gradual is a large folio volume of some 135 folios. Its history after the Reformation is not recorded until it came into the hands of the great Victorian collector, Sir Thomas Phillipps, before being purchased by the Nottingham antiquarian collector James Ward in 1896. Ward published a booklet in 1901 entitled *The Recent History of a York Gradual* which described its contents together with details of his acquisition of the manuscript and its subsequent sale in 1901 (at a handsome profit!) to the Bodleian. The gradual has now been published in full as a limited facsimile edition as No 20 in the series entitled *Publications of Medieval Musical Manuscripts* (1995) by the Institute of Medieval Music of Ottawa, (c/o 1270 Lampman Crescent, Ottawa, Canada, K2C 1P8) edited by David Hiley. A copy has been lodged in the Library at Southwell Minster.

Amongst manuscript jottings written on the gradual's end papers is the phrase 'iste liber constat ville de Estrdayton' and on the opposite page is a list of some 120 names, obviously of local people, dated 1528. A related but unpublished manuscript also in the Bodleian (b.6) contains a 'mortuary roll' - a list of the names of recently-deceased members of the Guild of St Mary of East Drayton for whose souls prayers were being offered. Both lists contain several well-known surnames in the parish such as Rayner, Coddington, Denby, Fairburn, Gabbitas, Minnett, Stapleford and West. A nice human touch is provided by a scribbling in Latin at the top of one page by one 'GB', probably a schoolboy. The tenor of his comment is that the schoolmaster has gone out and, if recorded in writing, tomorrow will be declared a

holiday!

Nottinghamshire of course also possesses another outstanding example of a pre-Reformation service book - the Wollaton Antiphonal - recording 'antiphonal' or alternate chants. This volume, ornamented with heraldry, belongs to Wollaton parish church and is deposited in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham Library. It was restored to the ownership of the church in 1924 by Lord Middleton, having been in his family's possession for generations. It bears a note stating that it was sold with the effects of William Husse, rector of Wollaton from 1448 to 1460, purchased for ten marks by his executors and given to the church at Wollaton. However the internal evidence of its heraldic decoration indicates that it was almost certainly compiled between 1412 and 1459 for Sir Thomas Chaworth of Wiverton Hall near Bingham. He was the wealthiest Nottinghamshire knight of his day and an influential local magnate. Full details can be found in an article by the Rev A Du Boulay Hill in the *Transactions*, volume 36, for 1932.

The Upton Constables' Accounts, 1640-1666

The latest volume of the Society's *Record Series* (volume 39) has just been published. Entitled *A Nottinghamshire Village in War and Peace: the Accounts of the Constables of Upton, 1640-1666*, it has been edited by Dr Martyn Bennett of Nottingham Trent University. The edition comprises a full transcript with index of a volume deposited in Nottinghamshire Archives listing the payments made by successive village constables of Upton during the Civil War, Commonwealth and Restoration periods. These accounts have been described as one of the two best examples of their type and period in the whole country, and they provide a vivid impression of the effects of the Civil War on a local community only a few miles from the heavily defended and frequently besieged Royalist garrison town of Newark. Amongst the burdens which the villagers had to bear were constant demands for taxation, the raiding of local produce, the presence of unruly troops (including the payment of a form of 'protection money' to encourage them to stay away) and the provision of lodgings for a stream of wounded soldiers, refugees, and other

travellers. The volume is free to subscribers to the *Record Series*, and is available to members of the main Society at a discount price of £9.95 (£11.50 post free). To non-members the price is £15 (£16.50 post free) obtainable from Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG.

Other Recent Publications

Following the appearance of recent attractive booklets dealing with Nottinghamshire Churches, Pinfolds, and a Tudor Trail, the Heritage Team of Nottinghamshire County Council's Department of Planning and Economic Development have published a further addition to the series. Tony Shaw's *Windmills in Nottinghamshire* (1995) describes thirty-three sites where the remains of mills can still be seen, including three working examples at Sneinton, North LeVERTON and Tuxford. The volume is well illustrated, including reproductions of the many paintings executed by the Lincolnshire artist Karl Wood in the 1930s. (Obtainable from the Heritage Team, Nottinghamshire County Council, 6 Wilford Lane, Nottingham NG2 7QX, price £4.)

An unusual theme is dealt with by the biography of an Elizabethan Catholic martyr. *In Search of Robert Widmerpool, Gentleman of Nottinghamshire and Martyr* by Mary Harding, looks at the life of a notable recusant of local origin who entered the service of the Earl of Northumberland but met his death at Canterbury in 1588. (Obtainable from the McGuinness Centre, Brooklyn Road, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 9ES, price £3.50 (£4.50 post free).

The year 1994 saw the centenary of the establishment of district and parish councils throughout the country. Several Nottinghamshire councils held celebrations, with major exhibitions at places such as Edwinstowe and Clayworth. Some councils published commemorative booklets, notable amongst these being *A Century of Service: Ruddington Parish Council, 1894-1994* compiled by Margaret Lawson. This deals with the history of the village seen through the eyes of the parish councillors, and is pleasantly illustrated with appropriate old photographs. (Obtainable from the Parish Council Office, St Peter's Rooms, Ruddington, NG11 6HA, price £3.95).