

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2006 issue of our newsletter. As usual we have all the details of forthcoming events, a review of the past very busy twelve months, a progress report on the Heritage of Rutland Water project, two book reviews, details of the Society's new website, plus news of spectacular archaeological discoveries at Thistleton.

There is also the latest news on developments at Rutland County Museum. Last autumn, before work could start on the new museum store in the Riding School, we had to move everything from our office, pack our library into boxes and remove our stock of publications from the store above. Most of this is now tightly packed into a temporary office above the Colonel Noel Suite. However, we look forward to the next stage of the development programme which should see us in a new office with access to our library once again, but it is likely to be well into the summer before we achieve this happy state!

In this Newsletter I have also included the latest results of the Society's two award schemes; the Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize, which aims to encourage original historical research in Rutland, and the George Phillips Awards, which help to preserve the built environment in Rutland. These schemes are ongoing and members are encouraged to nominate for both. Details are available from the Secretary and on our website at www.rutlandhistory.org

Finally, and whilst on the subject of the George Phillips awards, the Society received the following email in May 2005 from Patrick Coyne, the grandson of George Phillips, who lives in South Africa, and whose original donation made the Awards possible:

Thank you for the notice of the AGM received yesterday. For once, I should like officially to tender my apologies (though they do seem faintly absurd because of the distance involved). But may I also wish you a very successful meeting and a fruitful year ahead?

Thank you for the Newsletter No 1/05 which was most welcome - a very well produced magazine. As you know, my special interest is the George Phillips Awards, and I should like, if I may, to offer my heartiest congratulations to last December's winner, the restored barns at Manor Farmyard, Tinwell, and also to the Highly Commended and Commended projects. My grandfather, George Phillips, and my mother, Winifred Marie Coyne (nee Phillips) would, I am

sure, have been gratified by the continued enthusiasm shown by the Society and its Committee and members, and the Rutland County Council, for the so-worthwhile task of 'preserving the built environment' in Rutland.

With kindest regards,

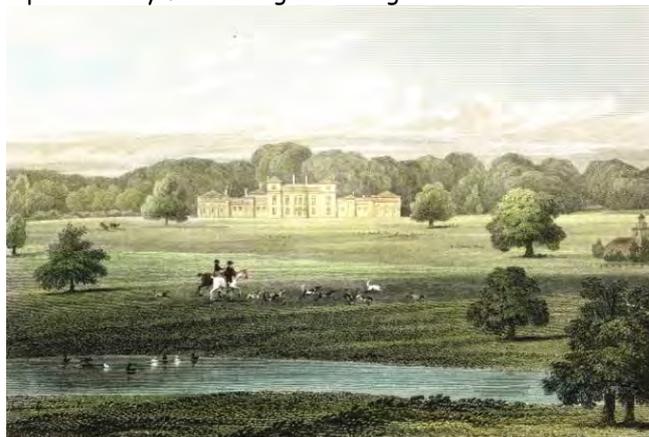
Yours sincerely

Patrick Coyne

Robert Ovens - email: rfovens@yahoo.co.uk

THE HERITAGE OF RUTLAND WATER

After nearly two years hard work the project is now in its final phase and a team of authors are busily writing their chapters ready for editing and design.



*Normanton Park in 1822
- now beneath Rutland Water*

A designer has been appointed and a quotation for printing and binding accepted. The book will be hard-bound with an attractive dust jacket, have 260 to 300 pages and will be in full colour. The following is a provisional outline of the chapters:

The Gwash Valley; before Rutland Water

Building the Reservoir; reasons, proposals, objections, legislation and naming, including a photographic record of the construction work.

What was Lost; villages, farms, homes, livelihoods and ways of life.

What was Found; geology and archaeology.

Great Houses; Normanton Hall, Church, Estate and Works, Burley on the Hill, Hambleton Hall, Barnsdale Hall, Edith Weston Hall and Catmose House.

Natural History; before, during and after the construction of Rutland Water, the birds of Rutland Water and the Osprey Project.

Communications; old and new roads, turnpikes and rights of way, railways, bridges, changing transport, boats and planes.

Farming the Valley; evidence of early farming, before and after enclosure, and now, field names and loss of agricultural land.

Stories and Scandals; legends, crime and mysteries.

Changing Communities; life, work, populations, traditions in the villages round Rutland Water.

The New Heritage; establishing the balance between the requirements of nature, recreation and water supply, and a photographic panorama of modern scenes and activities around Rutland Water.

The book will be well illustrated with a great deal of new material. Fortunately, a number of collections of excellent quality photographs, slides and negatives which record scenes before, during and after the construction of the reservoir, many of which have never been published before, have been donated to the project. Photographers include Richard Adams, Tim Appleton, Jim Eaton, Jim Levison ARPS, and Brian and Elizabeth Nicholls.

The launch date for the book has not yet been set as this will depend on authors' progress, designer's progress and printer's schedules, but it is expected to be in the autumn. This will be quite appropriate as it will be the 30th anniversary of the official opening of Rutland Water by Dennis Howells at what is now known as Howells' Point, near Normanton Church.

Another task to be completed before the end of the project is to design and prepare a pictorial display based on the research carried out. This will be launched at the Empingham Village Visit on 23rd September, and it will then be exhibited at Rutland County Museum until December.

Finally, we still need a little help, particularly with writing short articles on the village history of Egleton, Edith Weston and Whitwell. If you feel that you could help, please contact Robert Ovens (email: rfovens@yahoo.co.uk) or Sue Howlett (email: sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible.

AND SO TO THE FUTURE...

Friends, Romans, and Rutlanders, lend us your aid!

Over the past few years, Rutland Local History & Record Society (or Rutland History Society for convenience!) has gained many new members and held some extremely popular meetings, such as the recent Bryan Matthews Memorial Lectures at Uppingham School and the Village Visit to North Luffenham, all of which attracted over 110 members and guests. Many people have commented on how much is going on, and how much is continuing to happen with the forthcoming publication of the Local Heritage Initiative project book, 'The Heritage of Rutland Water', and the preparation of the Society's new Reference

Library for use by members, both due for completion later this year.

However, as we all know, such activities need people to organise them and volunteers to help with the many necessary tasks. We have been fortunate in having some very enthusiastic members and officers who have come up with the ideas and then given up their time to carry them out. At present, the Rutland Water project is taking up an average of more than 100 volunteer hours per week, but on top of that, we need people to help organise the programme, help with publicity, press reports, writing minutes, compiling and editing this Newsletter, generating pages for the website, and so on.

As you may know, the current Secretary is stepping down at the AGM after six years in the post, and a replacement is urgently needed. The job is much less demanding now than it was in the past, since responsibilities are now shared out among different people. It might also be possible for the retiring Secretary and the new Secretary to work together for a few weeks/months to help with an easy transition.

Please think about whether you might be able to take on this role, or at least offer help with any of the other tasks which need to be carried on, to operate a successful society. We occasionally hear complaints that people have to wait too long before their enquiries are answered, or suggestions that members would like more choice of activities. However, if no-one comes forward to help or take over from the present team, the Society will not be able to continue or build on its present successes.

If you are not able to take on any tasks, please continue to support the Society by renewing your subscription and coming to meetings. But if you can give up even the smallest amount of time, you will help to ensure a successful Rutland History Society for the future. To discuss this further, please contact Sue Howlett by email: sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk

SOCIETY WEBSITE

The new Society website is now on line and can be found at www.rutlandhistory.org (Be aware that the very similar www.rutlandhistory.com is the website of Rutland Historical Society based in Vermont, USA - and this site is worth a visit as well. The Rutland Historical Society was founded in 1969 to serve the original town of Rutland which includes the present towns of Proctor, Rutland Town, West Rutland and the City of Rutland. It has nearly 600 members, compared to our 280 or so, and produces a monthly television series 'Historically Speaking' for Channel 15. It will be a few years before we catch up!).

Thanks to Mike Frisby, our very able 'webmaster', we now have a professional website which is expanding rapidly. At the last count, the site was being visited by 10,000 people per month - 10,000 hits per month in internet speak! - and the most popular days to visit appear to be Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

Members are encouraged to visit the site and make suggestion for new pages and relevant links to other sites.

In fact we are willing to add any pages relating to the history of Rutland which have a well researched content.

Mike will be giving a short presentation on the website at the AGM on 18th May.

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM & OAKHAM CASTLE EXHIBITION PROGRAMME for 2006

At Rutland County Museum:

2006

March 31st - May 28th

Mainly Miniatures

The art of miniatures and other paintings by Derek Perkins.

June 2nd - July 23rd

Moods of Rutland Water

A collection of atmospheric photographic prints of Rutland Water by Chris Hartnell.

July 28th - September 17th

Classic Oil and Watercolours

Paintings in the 'classic style' traditionally mounted and framed by Robert Goodwin.

September 22nd - December 3rd

The Heritage of Rutland Water

A major exhibition by Rutland Local History & Record Society displaying the results of their two year project to record the history and heritage of Rutland Water.

December 8th - January 29th (2007)

Landscapes

A photographic collection capturing patterns in nature by Oliver Hitchcox.

At Oakham Castle:

2006

June 22nd - July 2nd

Oakham Festival

Fair Trade theme for Exhibitions on display at Oakham Castle.

July 29th - September 4th

Art in the Castle

Open exhibition at Oakham Castle for members of the public to submit their artwork. For details contact Rutland County Museum.

NEWS FROM RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

Riding School open again

The first stage of the works in the Riding School is now over and most of the Riding School is open to the public again. We are expecting to see all of the construction work in the Riding School completed by the end of April, so that we can start moving into our new store in May.

The Farming Year exhibition to open in the Courtyard

The new canopy for the Courtyard is now in place and the Courtyard itself should be open for Easter Saturday. A new exhibition on the theme of the farming year will not be completely ready before Easter, but it will be finished before the end of the month.

Works in the Museum continue

The work in our store and office areas, which includes the Society's temporary office, will continue once we have been able to move all of the collections out of our old stores. A timetable for these works is not yet available, but the Society will be informed of the details as soon as we know them. The last piece of work will be to re-open the Poultry Hall, which will not happen until we are well into the summer.

Simon Davies - Museum Services Manager

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR PAST

On 21 April Dr John Wales presented the 2005 Brian Matthews Memorial Lecture at The Old School Room, Uppingham School. His subject was **Railways in Rutland**. John Wales, a retired consultant physician in respiratory diseases, has had a lifelong passion for railways. His lecture covered a brief history of the railways in Rutland, an outline of the various types of steam engine used in the county, a look at the cross-county services passing through Rutland, a basic outline of the principles and features of signalling, and examples of surviving line-side ornaments.



Dr John Wales with the name-plate from the locomotive named after Uppingham School

On display was a photograph of the 'Schools Class' steam locomotive named 'Uppingham' and the original name-plate from this engine, both now owned by Uppingham School. However, it never entered service under this name because of objections from the school.

On 3rd May 35 members of RLHRS and FRCMOC visited **Drayton House**, Lowick, Northamptonshire, a house that was started in 1328 and which has been modified and added-to since. During all this time the house has never been sold, with its inheritance taking some interesting twists and turns. Among the owners was Sir Henry Greene, portrayed as one of the villains in Shakespeare's Richard II. It is probably the finest house not open to the public in the East Midlands with the contents as fascinating as the architecture.

The visit was organised by committee member Alan Curtis who is currently organising more special visits for us to enjoy.



Drayton House, Lowick, Northamptonshire

The mid-May meeting was the **Society's AGM** at which Dr Mike Tillbrook was elected as the new Chairman, and Robert Ovens became the new Vice-Chairman. Alan Rogers stepped down from Vice-Chairman to become the Society's Academic Adviser.

The AGM was followed by **Rutland and the Medieval Wool Trade**, a talk by Margaret Bonney from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland. This talk has since been published as an article in Rutland Record.

The annual social event at Oakham Castle on 11th June included the presentation of the **Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize** for Students by Prince Gregory Galitzine and local children's author Lawrence Harris.

For the previous six months many of Rutland's primary school children had been involved in investigating and recording aspects of their local heritage. This was part of the Prince Yuri Galitzine Competition organized by Sue Howlett, Sheila Sleath, Paul Reeve and Edward Baines for the Society. Following a series of presentations at local schools by the organizers, more than 50 pupils worked on 32 projects ranging from 'The Lost Homes of Rutland Water' to 'Roads, Railways and Rivers' or the history of

their own village. Too young to remember what Rutland was like 'before the flood', children consulted press-cuttings of the 1970s, talked to elderly neighbours or compared 'then and now' photographs to build up a picture of what was lost and what was gained when the new reservoir flooded the Gwash Valley.

Prizes and certificates in memory of Prince Yuri Galitzine, a Russian aristocrat and lover of Rutland, were awarded at this special evening celebration in Oakham Castle. A surprise guest was Prince Yuri's son, Prince Gregory Galitzine, who awarded the first prize to Evie Smith of St Mary & St John Primary School, North Luffenham, for her imaginative project on 'Rutland Water, Then and Now'. She was also presented with a copy of 'Lake of Tears' by the author Lawrence Harris, whose special interest in Rutland Water led him to create for younger readers a fantasy world of life under the reservoir. Larry Harris then presented the remaining prizes and certificates.

Judging the 32 entries had proved extremely difficult, but as well as the first prize awarded to Evie Smith, 'Highly Commended' prizes were awarded to Pascal Risi, Megan and Jeffrey Lamb, Ellie-Smith and Katie May Blake of North Luffenham School, and Grace Hodge, Lauren Read, Louise Haslem, Caitlin Thompson, Chantelle James, Rebecca Griffiths, Jadene Clegg and Catherine James of Edith Weston Primary School. Certificates were presented to all pupils who had entered the competition. Their projects were on display for the remainder of the evening, while guests enjoyed a summer evening of music, competitions and traditional games.



Larry Harris, Prince Gregory Galitzine and the prizewinners at Oakham Castle

The annual **Village Visit** meeting in September was to North Luffenham and it proved to be one of the most successful ever, with close to 130 members and guests attending. The venue was North Luffenham Community Centre, the large main hall of which was full to capacity. On offer was 'An Introduction to North Luffenham' by Janet Whittaker, 'The Civil War in North Luffenham: The Siege of Luffenham Hall' by Sue Howlett, C F A Voysey:

Arts and Crafts Architect, by Robert Ovens and 'RAF North Luffenham' by Peter Killips and the Rev Brian Nicholls. There was also a large display depicting various aspects of the history of the village and the airfield. The highlight of the leaflet-guided walk was a visit to the grounds of The Pastures, built by Voysey in 1901, by courtesy of Charles Conant and his family. The meeting was chaired by Audrey Buxton.

Phil Rudkin, of Rutland Natural History Society, presented **The Birds of Rutland Water** at the October meeting, a subject very relevant to our Local Heritage Initiative project. This very entertaining talk included a number of examples of Phil's own recordings of bird song.

Recollections of Rutland Farming was presented at the November meeting by brothers Andy and David Matthews, recently-retired farmers of Barrow. They traced their lives and experiences in running a Rutland farm over a period of more than 50 years, a period which saw dramatic changes in farming practices and farmers' fortunes. For added interest they brought along a number of hand tools, many of which are rarely used today.



Andy and David Matthews at Rutland County Museum

In December the **George Phillips Awards** were presented by Nick Hill of English Heritage. These awards are sponsored jointly by the Society and Rutland County Council. First place is awarded to the building considered by a panel of judges to be the most significant contribution towards preserving the built environment in Rutland.

The entries were:

- Conversion of former butcher's shop to a restaurant in Main Street, Whissendine.
- A terrace of new town houses in Ayston Road, Uppingham.
- Conversion of barns to holiday cottages at Wardley House, Wardley.
- Alterations and restoration work at Uppingham Parish Church.

The winner of the 2005 George Phillips Award was a new house at St Mary's Close, Edith Weston, on the site of the former Edith Weston Hall. The property, which has views over the south arm of Rutland Water, was built for Hugh Palmer and his family by Chris Foers to a design by Ross Thain & Co. The inspiration for the design was a listed property in Lyddington.

Details of the award and how to make a nomination are given later in this Newsletter.

After the ceremony, Nick Hill presented **Historic Houses of East Leicestershire** in which he demonstrated that you do not have to visit grand mansions to appreciate fine buildings. He showed that by looking at cottages and houses in our local towns and villages we can see how craftsmen have used the building materials and techniques available at that time to construct dwellings that are both attractive and serviceable. Mud and thatch, timber frame with wattle and daub, stone slates, building stones in shades ranging from pale creamy grey through golden honey to rusty brown, bricks and tiles; all have played their part. As a result we are now lucky enough to enjoy this rich heritage in our corner of the East Midlands.

In January 2006, Tim Clough presented **Oakham Lordshold in 1787: a map and survey of Lord Winchelsea's estate** as an introduction to the Society's forthcoming publication on this subject, and in February Johnathan Platt of Lincoln Museum presented **Creating the collection: Development of a new £12.5m Museum**. There is a follow-up visit to this talk on Saturday 24th June when a coach has been organised to see The Collection at Lincoln. A leaflet giving more details is enclosed with this newsletter. The March meeting was the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle AGM. This was followed by **Oakham Castle: Past, Present and Future** in which Simon Davies introduced the session and talked about the present, Elizabeth Bryan spoke about the past and Peter Jones talked about the future.

The last meeting of the year under review was the annual **Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture** for 2006, held again at The Old School Room, Uppingham School. **The British Library - a Resource for Rutland** was presented by Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library. The Library has one of the largest archives of rare books, documents, prints, maps and ephemera in the United Kingdom and Ms Brindley explained how it is accessed and what it has to offer Rutland historians. The meeting was chaired by Auriol Thomson and attended by nearly 100 members and guests. The vote of thanks was given by Edward Baines.

JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2006 - 2007

Rutland Local History & Record Society (RLHRS) and the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle (FRCMOC).

The remaining programme for the current year and the provisional programme for next year:

2006

Thursday 18th May, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum
RLHRS AGM

Rutland History Society Website

Mike Frisby

More Postcards from the Jack Hart Collection

Robert Ovens

Another dip into this amazing archive of old Rutland.

Saturday 3rd June, 7.30pm at Oakham Castle

RLHRS & FRCMOC Summer Social

A summer's evening of musical entertainment at Oakham Castle featuring Rutland Renaissance Dancers and Quodlibet, who will complement the historic setting of the Castle with 16th and 17th century dances and madrigals.

All places for this event must be pre-booked by advance payment. A leaflet with more details is enclosed with this Newsletter.

June

Visit to Nevill Holt

The Society has been given the opportunity to visit Nevill Holt near Medbourne by kind permission of David Ross. However, owing to a recent bereavement in the family, this visit has now been postponed until 2007.

Saturday 24th June

Visit to see The Collection at Lincoln Museum.

A leaflet giving more details is enclosed with this newsletter.

Saturday 9th September, 2.00pm Normanton car park, South Shore, Rutland Water

The Heritage of Rutland Water

A guided walk exploring Edith Weston and what remains of Normanton Hall, Park and Estate, the former seat of the Earls of Ancaster.

Leaders: Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath.

Meet near the Crazy Fox Café, Normanton pay-and-display car park (OS ref: SP 930 057). Advance booking not required - just turn up on the day!

Return: 5.30pm. Distance: approximately 5 miles.

Terrain: generally level footpaths, roads and fields.

Dogs on leads with responsible owners are allowed.

Saturday 23rd September, 1.00pm at Empingham Methodist Church

Village Visit to Empingham

Talks, Heritage of Rutland Water display and guided historical walk.

All places to be pre-booked by advance payment. A booking form with more details will be available by the end of August.

Thursday 12th October, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum
William Brown, Merchant Builder of Stamford and Sheriff of Rutland

Prof Alan Rogers

Professor Alan Rogers, formerly of Nottingham University, is currently Reviews Editor, International Journal of Educational Development, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia. With many publications to his credit, on Local History in general and the East Midlands in particular, he was actively involved with the Uppingham Local History Group and is now Academic Advisor to the Society.

See the review of *William Browne's Town: The Stamford Hall Book 1465-1492* in this Newsletter.

Thursday 9th November, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum

The Langham Brewery

Mike Frisby, Langham Village History Group.

Thursday 14th December, 7.00pm at Oakham Castle

George Phillips Awards

Presentation of Awards and talk by Michael Tebbutt, chairman of 'Men of Stones'.

'Men of the Stones' is a society dedicated to excellence in traditional building techniques. It is a national organisation with a few international members. Its support is particularly strong in the Stamford area as two of the founding fathers (some 60 years ago) were Stamford men. The subject of Michael Tebbutt's talk will be 'Historic Houses'.

2007

Thursday 11th January, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum

The Stamford Mercury Archive

Hugo Spiegl and John Smith

Thursday 8th February, 7.30pm at Oakham Castle

Masons and Sculptors in Medieval England - with reference to Oakham Castle

Dr Phillip Lindley, Reader in Art History, University of Leicester.

Thursday 8th March, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum

FRCMOC AGM

Bringing the Collection Alive

Staff of Rutland County Museum

Thursday 15th March, 7.30pm at Uppingham School

Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture - The Origins of Villages: New Light on an Old Problem

Professor Christopher Dyer, Professor of Regional and Local History, University of Leicester.

Rutland is part of a land of villages which stretches across the Midlands, and village origins have long been discussed by local historians and archaeologists. They were once thought to have been brought from Germany by the Anglo-Saxon immigrants in the 5th century, but current thinking dates them some centuries later. New research by the Whittlewood Project has provided more precise dating evidence, but there is still much room for debate about why villages formed.

See more details on the Whittlewood Project at www.le.ac.uk/elh/whittlewood/index.htm

Thursday 17th May, 7.30pm at Rutland County Museum

RLHRS AGM

Deserted Medieval Villages of Rutland

Fred Hartley

Fred Hartley has made a detailed study of the Medieval Earthworks of Rutland. He is now Site Manager of Leicestershire County Council Collections Resource Centre at Barrow Upon Soar.

Saturday 2nd June, 7.30pm at Oakham Castle

RLHRS & FRCMOC Summer Social Event

Details to be announced

BOOK REVIEWS

The 1712 Land Tax Assessments and the 1710 Poll Book for Rutland

Edited by T H McK Clough.

Published by Rutland History Society, Oakham, in 2005.

Introduction, commentary, transcripts and indexes.

Price £5.95

ISBN [978] 0 907464 34 3

This excellent and most useful publication contains two items in one, each related to the other: the 1712 Land Tax Assessments for Rutland, and the 1710 Poll Book for Rutland. Closely proximate in time, these transcriptions bear interesting comparison, and it is extremely helpful to have them published together in this form. It is very rare to see such early land tax returns, and this adds to the interest of this volume, covering as it does a period before subsequent shifts in land values made the land tax ever more problematical. The later land tax returns for Rutland between 1780 and 1832 were seemingly destroyed around 1940, with the exception of some for 1798 and very occasional parish survivals, although the source reappears after 1832. This augments the interest of this volume, which has been transcribed from the originals by the Village Studies Group for Rutland, ably co-ordinated by Alan Rogers.

The land tax assessments are very well introduced in a broad but concise way by Dennis Mills, making use of other assessments for Herefordshire and Lincolnshire.

Mills' introduction is then followed by a more detailed and Rutland-focused introduction and commentary by Tim Clough, dealing with these Rutland sources in their own right, discussing approaches to them and editorial conventions, and delving into them to show what they

illuminate about individual Rutland parishes, society, landownership, and economy during the very early 18th century. His discussion is excellent in its professionalism and attention to source detail. It also contains enlightening analysis of the sources, for example dealing with land-tax charges per acre by parish, and uncovering some fascinating differences within Rutland.

Alongside the charges for each individual, shown parish-by-parish, are the poll book transcripts for 1710, for the election of the two knights of the shire of Rutland. Tim Clough analyses this source in association with the land tax, making comparisons between the sources, and among other matters throws much interesting light upon the non-residence of voters.

The entire publication is a triumph of combined and well co-ordinated team work. It is most informative on the social, economic and parochial structure of Rutland, full of potential for comparison with yet other sources. It will prove fascinating reading for many local historians with interests in this county, or more generally for those studying these sources and their possible analytical linkages.

Reviewed by Prof Keith Snell, Leicester University,
for *Rural History*.

William Browne's Town: The Stamford Hall Book 1465-1492

Edited by Prof Alan Rogers.

Published in 2005 by Stamford Survey Group in association with Stamford Town Council and Stamford Civic Trust. 164pp, index.

ISBN 0-9502832-1-5

Available from Stamford Museum and local bookshops, price £10.

Stamford is fortunate to have a Hall Book, a record of the council minutes of the town. Until now it has remained in the town's archives only to be seen by historians with an appointment. With this transcript Alan Rogers has made the first part of the Hall Book accessible to all and we are given the opportunity to step back in time and discover what life was really like in the 15th century. Future volumes are planned which will continue the story of Stamford's town affairs.

The book gives a remarkable insight into the lives of townspeople in medieval England covering the years from 1465, shortly after the town's incorporation, until 1489 just after the death of William Browne. William Browne was a very rich and important Merchant of the Staple. He controlled the affairs of the town during this period, serving as Alderman on several occasions. His legacy to Stamford is All Saints' Church and Browne's Hospital. As today, rules and regulations governed the lives of townsfolk. The minutes record laws forbidding Sunday trading and fines for leaving horses tied up in the wrong places on market days - as the editor comments, 'There were parking penalties even in medieval Stamford'. We also find that there were designated places for dunghills and times when animals could be brought into town.

From this book we learn how law and order was enforced and the punishments meted out to wrongdoers. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the volume is the tremendous number of different trades pursued in the town. The wardens strictly controlled the craftsmen to ensure the quality of goods and there was a diversity of rules governing the guilds and the pageant of Corpus Christi.

Alan Rogers has had close links with Stamford and readers will no doubt be familiar with his books *The Medieval Buildings of Stamford* (Nottingham 1970), *The Book of Stamford* (Buckingham 1983) and, with J S Hartley, *The Religious Foundations of Medieval Stamford* (Nottingham 1974). He has also been closely involved with local history in Rutland, most recently in Uppingham, inspiring and encouraging local historians to record aspects of the history of that town.

For this volume Professor Rogers has written an excellent introduction including the insight he has gained about the role of William Browne in making the transcript. He also adds useful comments throughout the volume and there is an excellent index. It is a shame that the Editorial Conventions are not at the front of the book and a glossary would have been useful for those less familiar with the legal terms of the medieval period. Do not however be deterred by the plain cover: inside it is a fascinating record not just for people in Stamford but for anyone interested in town life in the Middle Ages. It is a book to dip into, and read aloud it comes to life. It certainly merits a place on the bookshelf of anyone interested in history.

Reviewed by Jean Orpin for the RLHRS Newsletter.

ARCHAEOLOGY

First of all, congratulations to Kate Don, our Archaeological Convenor, and the Archaeological Warden for Market Overton, who has recently been accepted into the Institute of Field Archaeologists as Affiliate.

The IFA's aims are *to advance the practice of archaeology and allied disciplines by promoting professional standards and ethics for conserving, managing, understanding and promoting enjoyment of heritage*. Kate certainly fits the bill!

Thistleton Secrets Revealed

Rutland History Society's Archaeological Group has been fieldwalking an area near Thistleton for several years. It is known to have been the site of a Romano-British town, but most of it was thought to have been lost as a result of ironstone quarrying in the 1950s. However, the investigation revealed that the archaeology had survived and that the town extended to nearly 100 acres. This confirmed the need for the more intensive survey which followed. Jeremy Taylor of Leicester University, assisted by members of the group, then carried out a geophysical survey which revealed a number of interesting features including a magnificent temple, roads, ditches and iron smelting sites.

When a planning application was presented to open a new limestone quarry in the area a condition attached to the

permission stated that a haulage road had to be built in order to avoid disruption and noise to the village. The route chosen happened to go through the site of the Romano-British town. A known or suspected site of archaeological significance must be evaluated before work commences. In this case an extensive geophysical survey and trial trenching was carried out along the length of the proposed road by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

The results were spectacular. A section of exceptionally well preserved Roman road was exposed, the rut marks from wheels still clearly visible. In another trench an oven was found, the stones showing clear signs of burning and there was evidence of a possible flue structure. Several ditches were uncovered and collapsed masonry pointed to where walls had once stood. The skeleton of a child was perhaps the most remarkable find. It was a considerable distance from a cemetery which had been excavated by Ernest Greenfield in the late 1950s.

Before the arrival of Christianity, it was not uncommon for young children to be buried with little or no ceremony and in places that we would find very strange today, even under the floors of houses. One of several theories suggests that until a child could speak properly it was not considered to be fully human.

Geophysics and trial trenching were also undertaken on the site of the quarry itself. Whilst not quite so exciting as the finds along the haulage road there was nonetheless evidence of Romano-British rural activity together with an undated ring ditch. When work begins to open the quarry a watching brief will take place. This will involve archaeologists observing the topsoil as it is removed. It is highly likely that more archaeology will be found.

All the trenches were accurately recorded and photographed before back filling. None of the structures found were lifted, although pottery sherds were removed for dating purposes. The archaeology was protected for future generations by a special membrane, which acts as a shock absorber, and approximately 1.5 metres of earth.

Kate Don, Archaeological Convenor

SMALLPOX

Professor R A Shooter, smallpox archivist of the Jenner Trust, has recently requested our help. He writes:

I am seeking things related to smallpox, a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease eradicated by deliberate action so far.

The Jenner Trust is based at Jenner's house in Berkley, Gloucestershire, where he carried out his first vaccinations against smallpox. At times in the past smallpox has been only too common, although often records have been lost. I would be most grateful if you could spare the time to consult the records of your Society and let me know of any references to smallpox or to vaccinations that you discover.

Any member who has information, or who is able to carry out local research, can contact Professor Shooter at East Lea, Back Edge Lane, The Edge, Stroud, Gloucestershire. GL6 6PE. Telephone Bainswich 812408.