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**THE GEORGE PHILLIPS AND TONY TRAYLEN BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2010**

The 2010 George Phillips and Tony Traylen Built Environment Awards, given in recognition of significant contributions towards conserving and enhancing the built environment of Rutland, were presented at Oakham Castle on December 8th by Tim Clough, on behalf of the Society in conjunction with Rutland County Council.

This event was the thirtieth anniversary of the George Phillips Awards and this was marked by a display of photographs and details of all the winners since 1980.



Edward Baines, President of the Society, opening the Awards ceremony

Edward Baines proposed the vote of thanks to members of both the County Council and the Society for all their

hard work in selecting, viewing and judging the nominated buildings and for organising the presentation ceremony.

This was followed by an illustrated talk by Robert Howard of Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory on *Dendrochronology as an Aid to Dating Historic Buildings* and the evening concluded with festive refreshments.

The George Phillips Award 2010 was presented to Hugh and Miranda Palmer, owners of Cheney Wood, Edith Weston, a new house built in an 'Arts and Crafts Style' on a prominent site overlooking Rutland Water.



Cheney Wood, Edith Weston



Left to right: Robert Weighton, John Finemore, Ivor Crowson of Stamford Stone, Miranda Palmer, Hugh Palmer (owners of Cheney Wood), Tim Clough presenting the Award, Andrew Griffith and Andrew Barnard of Griffiths Woodworking and Colin Humphries of Maffit Construction

The judges congratulated the owners on their meticulous research of the period and their careful attention to detail. The design of the house was based on plans prepared by Robert Weighton, Architects, of Stamford.

A small residential development in a former builder's yard and orchard in Main Street, Lyddington was 'Highly Commended' by the judges. Built by Matthew Gadsby of Gadsby Estates Ltd to a design by Staniforth Architects, this was a small infill development of houses and barn conversion in a sensitive location within the Lyddington Conservation area. The scale, design and choice of materials were recognised as important factors in assimilating the development with surrounding listed buildings.



Residential development at Lyddington



Left to right: Lee Staniforth and Ian Palmer, architects, Helen and Matthew Gadsby, with Tim Clough presenting the Highly Commended certificate for the development at Lyddington

Chris Gunby, owner of Crème Hair & Beauty, received a 'Commended' certificate for the conversion and renovation of a redundant church in Mill Street, Oakham.



Crème Hair & Beauty, Mill Street, Oakham



Left to right: Mark Lamming of Forge Construction, Hazel Gunby, Karen Mellor of McCombie Smith Architects, Tim Clough and Chris Gunby of Crème

Mr A Weafer and Mr N Weafer of Sandhurst Builders, Billesdon, Leicestershire and MWS Design Architects also received a 'Commended' for their conversion and extension of a disused former Baptist Chapel in Belton in Rutland for residential use.



Former Baptist Chapel at Belton in Rutland



Left to right: J Organ, owner of Belton Chapel, and Adam Weafer of Sandhurst Builders and Tim Clough

The Tony Traylen Award 2010 was presented to Simon Armitage of Bisbrooke PCC, the project manager of Bisbrooke Church renovation. The refurbishment of the church, designed by John Eaton & Co, Architects, provides toilet and kitchen facilities, together with under floor heating from a ground source heat pump. This makeover has enabled a wider community use for the building in a village which lacks a village hall, whilst maintaining the listed building as a place of worship.





Bisbrooke Church



Left to right: John Eaton, Simon Armitage (Bisbrooke PCC), Tim Clough presenting the Tony Traylen Award certificate and John Gregory of Gregory Builders

#### **Email contact with Society members**

We are well aware that an ever-increasing number of members are able to communicate by email and we would like to use this method where possible to keep in touch with you. It is quick and easy, and helps the Society to keep costs to a minimum.

Email addresses will only be used by the Society to distribute information on Society matters, particularly details of events. They will not be used for any other purpose, or passed on to any other individual or organisation.

If you agree to this way, please send an email to [allow@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:allow@rutlandhistory.org) giving your name and first line of your address in the subject line, as shown in the following example:

From	Hotmail
To	<a href="mailto:Allow@RutlandHistory.org">Allow@RutlandHistory.org</a>
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	John and Jane Brownlow - 5 Pinfold Lane - Ashwell

#### **JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME**

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

**Note:** Open meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, but there are exceptions so it is wise to check the programme for dates and venues.

The remainder of the Spring/Summer programme:

**Wednesday 18th May - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum  
Rutland Local History & Record Society AGM**

Followed by:

**Medieval Pilgrimage in Leicestershire and Rutland**  
Peter Liddle

Over the last 30 years an increasing number of medieval pilgrim souvenirs have come to light. The talk will show what light can be shed on where local pilgrims went and delve into the background of pilgrimage locally, nationally and internationally.

#### **ADDITIONAL EVENT:**

**Saturday 4th June**

**Guided Historical Walk - Normanton, Edith Weston and Rutland Water**

Part of **Rutland Walking Festival 2011**

Start at 2.00pm. Meet at The Crazy Fox Café, Normanton 'pay-and-display' Car Park, South Shore, Rutland Water

Leaders: Sheila Sleath & Robert Ovens

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

Terrain: Public footpaths across fields, tarmac roads and footpaths, some stiles, mainly flat, may be muddy in places.

Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Note that booking is not required and that the walk will take place regardless of weather conditions.

**Wednesday 15th June - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum  
Colonel Thomas Waite, Parliamentarian Governor of Rutland during the Civil War**

Dr Andrew Hopper ([www.le.ac.uk/hi/people/ajh69.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/hi/people/ajh69.html))

Andrew's talk will examine Waite's position within the infighting that beset the parliamentarian coalition and his role in the trial and execution of Charles I. Drawing from contemporary newsbooks and tracts, He will also discuss Waite's reputation among contemporaries, as well as



royalist reactions to his military rule and role in the regicide.

Thomas Waite

Saturday 6th August - 7.30 pm - Oakham Castle  
(Please note the new date for this event)

#### **The Tennants Lecture**

##### **Arts and Crafts Style**

Diane Sinnott - Tennants' Decorative Arts Department

Diane's talk will cover some exponents of the Arts and Crafts movement and will include William Morris, Alfred and Louise Powell, Gimson and the Barnsleys. Tennants recently sold eight pieces of furniture by Sidney Barnsley which had been made for Percy Dearmer and his wife at Oakridge Lynch. The family also owned Morris fabric, a Hugh Baillie Scott 'Manxman' piano and metal ware designed by Gimson.

Diane started her working life in salerooms at sixteen as a porter at Christie's, South Kensington. She has subsequently worked for a number of different national and regional auctioneers, firstly as a porter then as a trainee valuer, before joining Tennants in 2002. She graduated from Southampton Institute of Higher Education with BA Honours in Fine Arts Valuation in 1996 and went on to qualify as a Chartered Surveyor in Chattels in 2000. Her main interests are Arts and Crafts furniture and design of the 20th Century. Diane is a member of the Decorative Arts Society. She writes and lectures regularly on all aspects of the Decorative Arts.

There will be a charge for this meeting and booking will be essential.

#### **RLHRS and FRCMOC 2011/2012 programme**

The 2011/2012 programme is currently being prepared and will be sent to all paid-up members in August. It will also be included under 'Events Programme' on the Society website at [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)

Details of the first event in this new programme are now available:

Saturday 10th September

#### **Guided Historical Walk - Braunston in Rutland towards Withcote, Leighfield and Brooke**

Start at 2.00 pm. Meet at All Saints Church, Braunston

Leaders: Sheila Sleath & Robert Ovens

Terrain: Roads, footpaths with stiles, and fields which may be muddy in places. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

A six mile guided historical walk exploring this historic area once covered by the Forest of Rutland. It includes part of the route taken by Mary Queen of Scots as a prisoner on her last journey alive from Withcote in Leicestershire, through Rutland to Fotheringhay in Northamptonshire in 1586. We will also be walking along the banks of the River Gwash and there will be an opportunity to inspect the wall paintings at Braunston Church.

Note that booking is not required and that the walk will take place regardless of weather conditions.

#### **OTHER RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP EVENTS**

##### **LANGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP**

Website - <http://www.LanghaminRutland.org.uk>

Saturday 21st May - 7.30pm

##### **An Evening in Langham Church**

Admission £5 to include a glass of wine. No charge for children. (Proceeds in aid of Langham Church fabric)

Join Langham Village History Group for an evening which will include a digital presentation about Langham Church and its history, the Comper stained glass, the memorials and some of the people who influenced church life in the village over the past 700 years. There will also be readings from a variety of archive sources and the opportunity to take part in a quiz.

The church will be open prior to the presentations for visitors to see the display boards, talk to members of the Group and to provide an opportunity to look around the lovely church of St Peter and St Paul, the third largest in Rutland.

##### **LYDDINGTON MANOR HISTORY SOCIETY (LMHS)**

Website - [www.lyddingtonhistory.co.uk](http://www.lyddingtonhistory.co.uk)

Meetings and other events are held at Lyddington Village Hall, Main Street, Lyddington LE15 9LR, unless shown otherwise. Meetings are open to all.

Wednesday 4th May - 7.30pm

##### **Living Under the Rule of a Bishop**

Christopher Dyer

From his extensive experience in the study of various episcopal estates, Professor Dyer will be able to compare everyday life in medieval Lyddington with that in places belonging to other dioceses.

Saturday 14th May - Lyddington Village Fete

**Lyddington Manor Exhibition and Lyddington Manor Then and Now** rolling presentation.

Wednesday, 1st June - 7.30pm

##### **Fieldwalking**

Peter Liddle, Community Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council

Many will have seen Peter with Michael Woods in the recently televised BBC programmes on the history of Kibworth.

Saturday 2nd July - Caldecott Village Fete

**Lyddington Manor Exhibition and Lyddington Manor Then and Now** rolling presentation.

16th to 31st July - Festival of Archaeology

This Festival showcases the very best of British archaeology, by presenting hundreds of special events across the UK.

Festival of Archaeology events organised by LMHS:

**Saturday, 23rd July - 2.30pm**, Caldecott Village Hall,  
Church Lane, Caldecott LE16 8RW  
**Caldecott Guided Historical Walk**

**Saturday, 30th July - 2.30pm**, Lyddington Village Hall  
**Lyddington Guided Historical Walk**

Drawing on current research, the guides for both of these walks will discuss the history of the buildings and the development of the villages, which both belonged to the Bishops of Lincoln and subsequently to the Cecil family of Burghley House.

**Wednesday, 7th September - 7.30pm**

**Projects of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Group**  
Adam Longcroft

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## BOOK REVIEWS

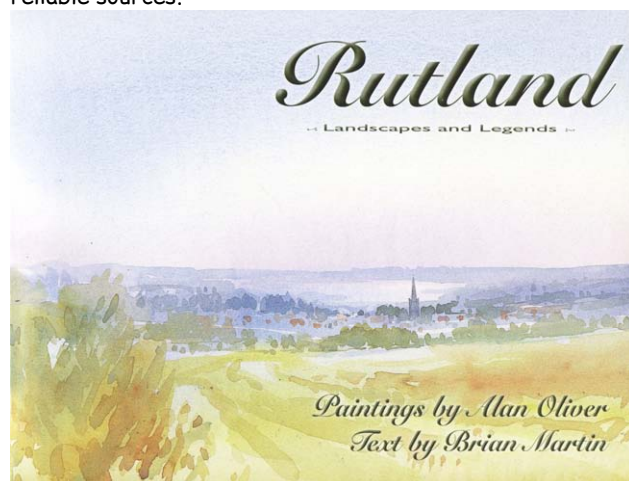
### **Rutland Landscapes and Legends**

Paintings by Alan Oliver

Text by Brian Martin

Cottage Publications, Donaghadee, Northern Ireland. 2008  
ISBN: 978 1 900935 70 8

It is difficult to define a clear market for this volume. It is one of a series of what twenty years ago we would have called 'coffee table' books, produced by the publisher presumably in the expectation of steady sales. The text, by Brian Martin, is written in a chirpy affectionate idiosyncratic style and, which is unusual for this kind of book, remains largely accurate, being based on a number of reliable sources.



The text is however just an embellishment of a series of paintings by noted Rutland artist Alan Oliver. The paintings depicted are more recent ones, demonstrating Oliver's changing style of landscape painting in the last few years. I think the term is watercolour wash, with a more impressionistic feel. Some are particularly effective such as the Buttercross or Martinsthorpe, some are less so: Ashwell or the hunt on Cutt's Close. The book has a utility

in showing Oliver's changing style, and may appeal to the artists amongst us, but I struggle to discern a wider audience unfortunately. Its glossy padded cover, which stylistically reeks of 1980's remainder, does not do justice to quality of the art within.

HJC

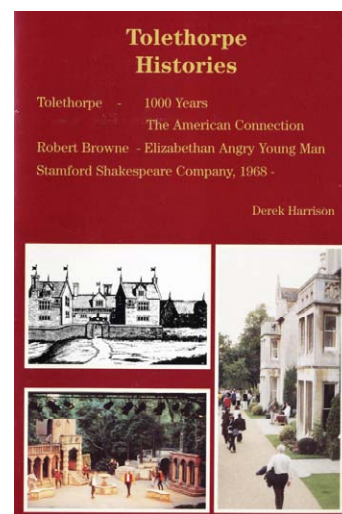
### **Tolethorpe Histories**

By Derek Harrison

Stamford Shakespeare Company. 2007

ISBN: 978-0-9554934-0-9

Derek Harrison has researched the history of Tolethorpe Hall from 800 up to the present day. This is now the home of the Stamford Shakespeare Company. In the booklet we discover that the house was occupied for two hundred years by the Burtons who represented Rutland in Parliament, followed by the Brownes, a very important family in Stamford history who lived there for the next three hundred years. In the nineteenth century the house was owned by the Eatons who were part of the Stamford Banking business Eaton and Caley. The Eaton family sold the house and for a short time it was owned by a Cambridgeshire farmer before the purchase in 1977 by Stamford Shakespeare Company.



The author relates the excitement when, with little money in the bank, the Company were able to buy the nearly derelict hall with the help of a local businessman Tim Clancy. Members acted as guarantors and the story of them overcoming the difficulties and giving their time and commitment is an inspiration. The house has now been renovated

and improvements at the theatre have resulted in better facilities for actors and visitors.

The booklet is well illustrated and is a valuable insight into the history of the house and of the Stamford Shakespeare Company.

Jean Orpin

### **Exploring a Productive Landscape.**

From a long history to a sustainable future in the Eye Brook catchment

By Chris Stoaite

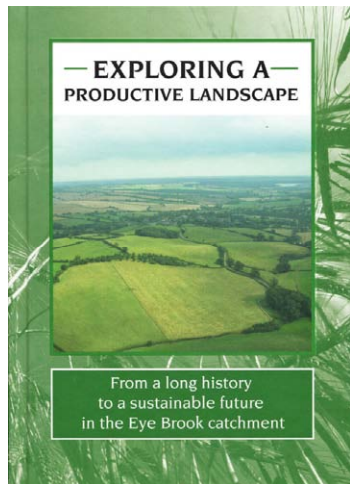
The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. 2010

ISBN: 978 1 901369 12 0

This attractive and informative book was produced last year to little local fanfare (in Rutland at least) and deserves to be better known. It is the culmination of the



work of the Eye Brook Community Project carried out over four years and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is an environmental study of the borderlands between Leicestershire and Rutland from Tilton to Caldecott. It combines both an historical and an ecological perspective to its analysis of how the landscape and rural culture has developed over the years. It is particularly good on twentieth century life in an agricultural community, drawing on the memories of local residents. Anyone remotely interested in environmental and agricultural issues, should read the well edited chapters at the end of the book, outlining the issues the Eye Brook environment faces. As such, it is a model environmental survey and history which could be adapted to any local area with similar characteristics.

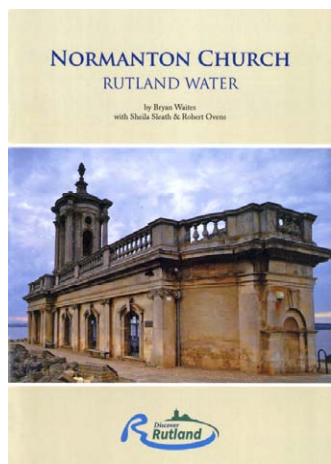


Chris Stoate and his team deserve congratulation for producing such a readable and concise volume. One quibble, which comes to mind every time I pick this attractively produced slim hardback up, is that the many wonderful photographs and illustrations are not large enough in the text. I would gladly

have paid a few extra pounds to see the photographs, maps and pictures more clearly. This is not a conventional history book, but has content for anyone interested in rural life in the past present or future.

### Normanton Church - Rutland Water

By Bryan Waites with Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath  
Discover Rutland and Multum in Parvo Publishing, 2009  
24 pages £3.25



This little booklet was originally published in landscape format by Bryan Waites for Anglian Water in 1984 as *Normanton Tower - Rutland Water*.

The new version has revised words and many new images, being based on the Normanton chapter in the *The Heritage of Rutland Water*. At the time of writing, it is being used by Anglian Water as

the design basis for new display panels at Normanton Church Museum.

### Know Your Place

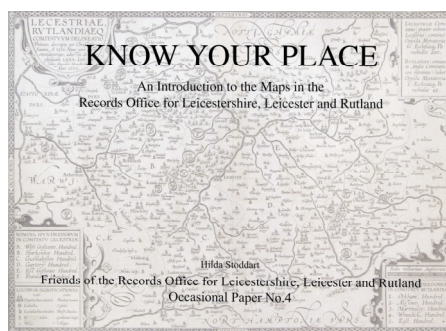
An Introduction to the maps in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

By Hilda Stoddart

Friends of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland. 2009

Occasional Paper No 4

If you have an interest in maps or an interest in local history, do read this book. In relatively few pages, it covers a large spectrum of map-making; not just descriptions but details about publishers, surveyors, patrons, reliability and legislation. As Hilda Stoddart says at the beginning of the book, whatever touches your interest 'there is almost certainly a map to illustrate or educate'. Many are included in this volume from tithe, enclosure, military and transport maps to geology, sewage



and field names. There are county maps, town maps, village maps and estate maps; some covering an extensive area and some just a field or

two. Most unusual are those illustrating our mapping of foreign lands and foreigners mapping of our country.

The text is clear and succinct and the reproduction of the maps - 68 of them - is superb. These factors give the book general interest but for those of us living in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland there is the added bonus that nearly all the map examples are of this area. (More than a quarter of them are from Rutland.)

Sad to say, the book has one major flaw. When you want to refer back to a particular point or a particular person, you will be frustrated because there is no index, no list of contents (and indeed not even page numbers). This is a shame because it reduces its value as a reference book. Fortunately, however, it is to some extent offset by the referencing within the text which is very clear - each map described is identified by its number in bold type and maps are titled with their date and Record Office reference. The production of the book with a spiral binding also makes it easy to handle and flick from text to map as you read.

The book not only achieves its intention of providing an introduction to the wide variety of maps available in the Record Office but also puts them into their historical context and encourages exploration of the many not included. Thanks are due to Hilda Stoddart and the Friends of the Records Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland for ensuring that the 2006 exhibition 'Know Your Place' was not just put back in the archives.

RFO

Sue Lee

## Oakham Bowling Club 1910-2010

Researched by Rick Tarleton & John Hornsby

51pp. Paperback

Contact: oakhambowlingclub.co.uk for further details.



Oakham Bowling Club published this booklet as part of their programme to celebrate the centenary of the club's formation in May 1910.

Its chapters include the early years of the club's formation, how it has developed over the years, the history of The Vale, home of the club, the trials of achieving a good green and details of matches played and social activities undertaken. Also included are appendices which list club officers and competition winners. The text is interspersed throughout with photographs and cartoons. Considering the lack of archival material the researchers have produced an interesting history and it is hoped that researchers of the club's history in 2110 will have more records to consult!

May present and future members of the Oakham Bowling Club continue to enjoy their bowling for many years to come.

Sheila Sleath

## The Autobiography of the Rev John Jenkinson, Baptist Minister of Kettering and Oakham

Edited by R L Greenall.

NRS Victor Hatley Memorial Series, Volume 3. 2010.

ISBN 978 0 901275 68 4

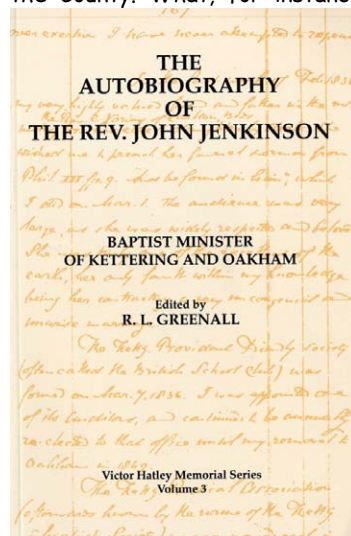
We are indebted, again, to the Northamptonshire Record Society (NRS) for this fascinating study of the life of John Jenkinson, Baptist Minister who from 1849 to 1864 was Minister at Oakham.

Here his influence reached across the county, even beyond and to judge from his preaching engagements continued after his return to Kettering. From his wide knowledge of Kettering's past, the author Ron Greenall has edited Jenkinson's manuscript *My Life* bringing form and conciseness to what in other hands might have been a tedious diary of a worthy life. Instead, by using Jenkinson's own words his charisma and leadership is revealed, his energy, conviction and a dogmatic knowledge

of what was right in a true Christian; uncomfortably so for those who dared disagree with him.

Descended from Baptist Ministers, his impoverished childhood and lack of formal education spurred instead of prevented his becoming a Minister. Here, Jenkinson's career is uncannily similar to many such later found in the Third World. In the 1940s Bishop Sundkler pointed to the numerous African Churches (also not unknown in the southern USA) founded by ambitious but poorly educated members of the Christian mostly Protestant Missions, as the only way to achieve leadership. Cross-study between the two movements could be illuminating for both 19th century English non-conformism and 20th century African Missions.

For us, it is Jenkinson's ministry at Oakham that most interests. His pastoral duties took him to every village and non-conformist chapel in Rutland, often on foot, preaching and lecturing sometimes two or three times in a day. We see in *My Life* the influential part he played in public affairs - the new (now old) Oakham cemetery and its Board membership, the Literary Institute and other reform issues. Placing education outside control of the established church was his constant battle, as also supporting temperance. There is opportunity here for a closer look at his contributions to local issues in Rutland as also to what extent his views shaped the direction of non-conformity in the County. What, for instance, do Barrowden's Baptist



Minute Books (in the archives at the local Record Office) have to say about him. In 1851 the Religious Census reveals the General Baptists as the largest dissenting congregation at Uppingham, yet a decade later they are gone; so utterly that we do not even know where they met. Jenkinson was a Particular Baptist, frequently preaching at Uppingham in the Congregational

Ebenezer Chapel and (it is assumed) the Bethesda Chapel. Could it have been his Calvinist beliefs and charisma that eroded support for the Arminianists?

Jenkinson's life challenges that we should pay more attention to the contribution of non-conformism to Rutland's development in the 19th century. Research by Ron Greenall and Alan Flowerday (shortly to be published) on Baptists and Margaret Stacey's work on Methodism are just a start. The contributions of other divines such as Rev John Green at Uppingham's Congregational Church are equally deserving of attention.

Peter Lane



## GUIDED HISTORICAL WALK 2010

Saturday 11th September coincided with yet another 'Indian Summer', so we had wonderful weather for our 6 mile walk round the Welland Valley.



Guided  
Historical  
Walk 2010:  
The River  
Welland and  
the Welland  
Viaduct



Inspecting  
the Welland  
Viaduct

We visited Seaton and Haringworth Churches and Seaton water mill, inspected and walked under the Welland Viaduct, saw lots of other railway architecture and archaeology, looked at the tomb of a famous local clockmaker, walked along the Jurassic Way and the banks of the River Welland and had many opportunities for spectacular views across and along the valley. A great afternoon enjoyed by everyone.

*Sheila Sleath and Robert Ovens*

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## BRADCROFT - A HIDDEN PLACE IN RUTLAND

Bradcroft is a hidden place in Rutland. Its name means 'broad croft', (Old English - 'croft' - an enclosed field) and it is known from at least the 1180s. It lies on the very edge of Stamford, at the point where the Roman road crossed the two branches of the Welland and the Meadows. It is represented today by a house of that name, but there was a substantial settlement there during the Middle Ages. There are many references to mills at Bradcroft, so that it stretched down to the river Welland; and there are frequent mentions of furna (which may be ovens or smiths' furnaces or kilns); these have led some historians like William Foster and Francis Peck to say these were bread ovens, and to give the name as Bredcroft. Some of the Rutland county sessions were held in Bradcroft (Leland seems to be the earliest to mention this), but it is not clear where these could have been held.

There is no known church but a chapel is mentioned, though doubtfully.

Much of the information seems to be contradictory. For example, it was royal demesne land and seems to have retained manorial rather than urban structures; a manorial court was held there. It paid its taxes with Stamford in Lincolnshire at a tenth (the urban rate) rather than a fifteenth (the rural rate), not in Rutland. In 1316, it was said to belong to the king; but it was a part of Stamford and thus belonged to the lords of Stamford. It paid an annual rent to the nuns of St Michael in Stamford, and a rent to Southwick priory, Hampshire, both by grant of the Humet family who owned Stamford in the twelfth century.

The king's interest probably originated in the estates of the queen Edith, so that the origin of Bradcroft probably lies with those of the county itself. It was said to be in Tinwell parish but also in St Peter's parish, Stamford, which included some parts of Rutland in it (St Peter's church was closely tied to Hambleton Church in Rutland).

The later history of this suburb of Stamford is unknown. Indeed, so far there is no account of this place; it is not even mentioned in VCH Rutland. A history of Bradcroft is needed. There is a lot of material for the medieval period so far untouched which can be made available, and I am sure that much about the post-medieval period can be found. All it needs is someone to take on the task.

*Alan Rogers*

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## A DANGEROUS STRANGER

### SAMUEL OATES IN ESSEX AND RUTLAND

By Sue Howlett



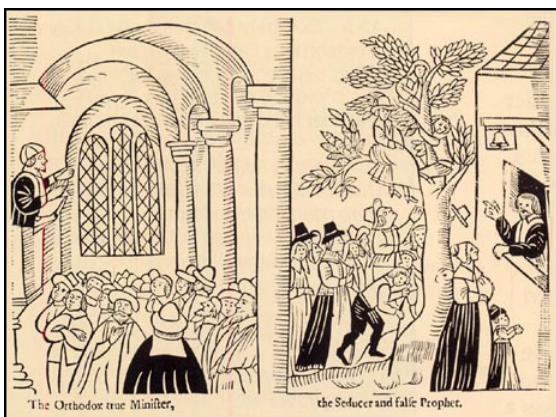
The Manor, Stretton

In October, 1647, Stretton's Lord of the Manor, Robert Horsman, had troublesome business to deal with. The brutal civil war, in which both his sons had fought as Parliamentary officers, had only recently come to an apparent end following the decisive battle of Naseby and the surrender of the royalist strongholds of Newark and Belvoir Castle. Now King Charles I was held prisoner by the army in his own palace of Hampton Court. Parliament was riven by political and religious disputes, while the king



sought secretly to play off his opponents against each other. Puritan clerics, including Stretton's Jeremiah Whitaker, debated a new presbyterian organisation for the Church of England. With unlicensed preachers roaming the country and Levellers demanding votes for all men, local gentry and officials began to fear 'a world turned upside down'. Even men who had fought against the king now tried to suppress such blatant threats to the normal bonds of deference and authority.

Robert Horsman was a former Sheriff of Rutland and Justice of the Peace. As a moderate puritan of presbyterian leanings, his desire was for a peaceful settlement in which each parish would quietly submit to the guidance of its approved elders. Suddenly he found his tenants and labourers excited by a new arrival in the village. Samuel Oates, a wandering General Baptist preacher, had taken up residence in a vacant cottage and was in no hurry to move on. Forbidden to preach in the village church, Oates quickly gathered a curious crowd in a nearby field. Careless of their landlord's disapproval, the villagers were thrilled and inspired by the newcomer's charismatic words. Oates, described as an 'anabaptist', promised hope and salvation to all who underwent adult rebaptism by total immersion (in contrast the Particular Baptists who believed that salvation was reserved for the 'Elect'). Those who succumbed to the preacher's persuasive power probably followed him to be 'dipped' in the nearby River Gwash, since Stretton's shallow brook was hardly adequate for such ceremonies.



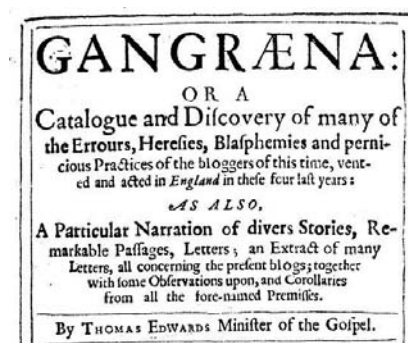
Licensed and unlicensed preachers, from a pamphlet of 1641

Where had this stranger come from? The previous year an Essex clergyman had written to a colleague in London, complaining about the dangerous influence of 'a base but bold' dissenting weaver named Oates who was defying parish constables and magistrates, 'sowing his Tares, Boolimong, and wild Oates in these parts these five weeks without any control'. Oates had been converted in 1642 by Thomas Lamb, a former soap-boiler and founder of London's largest Baptist congregation. Oates joined him as a fellow-preacher at his church in Bell Alley, off Coleman Street, before they set off together on a missionary tour, giving sermons at Guildford and Portsmouth. It was not long before Oates chose to go his own way and headed into

Essex, where he settled near Bocking. Here, according to the outraged minister, he 'vents a gallimaufry of strange opinions, and draws great flocks of people after him without all control'. When the parish constables confronted Oates and his followers, 'They used them despitefully, bade them get them to their steeple houses, to hear their Popish Priests, their Baals Priests.'

Ralph Josselin, the diary-writing minister of Earls Colne, Essex, recorded his futile attempts in June 1646 to persuade Oates that his preaching was contrary to scripture. Defiantly, Samuel Oates 'boldly continued in town' addressing the people for three days. However, conservative ministers and magistrates were even more outraged by the frequent consequence of such preaching. After five weeks in Bocking he had 'seduced hundreds, and dipped many in Bocking River and when that's done he hath a Feast in the night, and at the end of that the Lords Supper. All opera tenebrarum [works of darkness]'. Wealthy converts willingly paid a baptismal fee of 10 shillings, while the poorer paid 2 shillings and 6 pence. A supporter commented that Oates' labours were 'abundantly blessed', while a critic complained that 'he came very bare and mean into Essex, but before he had done his work, was well lined and grown pursie'. Scandal was even more rife when young women or barren wives suddenly became pregnant after 'dipping' by Oates.

In 1646, Essex magistrates thought they had found the perfect opportunity to silence Oates. The Chelmsford coroner held an inquest on a young woman named Ann Martin, who had fallen under Samuel Oates' spell the previous March. Being 'dipped' in a very cold season, 'she presently fell sick and died within a short time'. Oates was charged with causing her death and committed to prison in Colchester Castle. Even here, his voice was not silenced, since 'there hath been a great and mightie resort to him in the prison, many have come down from London in Coaches to visit him'. A sympathetic jury soon acquitted Oates, and despite being bound over 'that he should neither preach nor dip', he immediately resumed preaching in Chelmsford. Finally, in desperation, it was left to the citizens of Dunmow to take the law into their own hands. Hearing of Oates' arrival in their town, and fearing the detrimental effect on their wives and daughters, a group seized the defiant preacher from his lodgings and threw him into the local river 'thoroughly dipping him'.



Part of the title page of 'Gangraena', by Thomas Edwards, published in 1646. Reports of Samuel Oates' activities in Essex are found in the Appendix to Part III

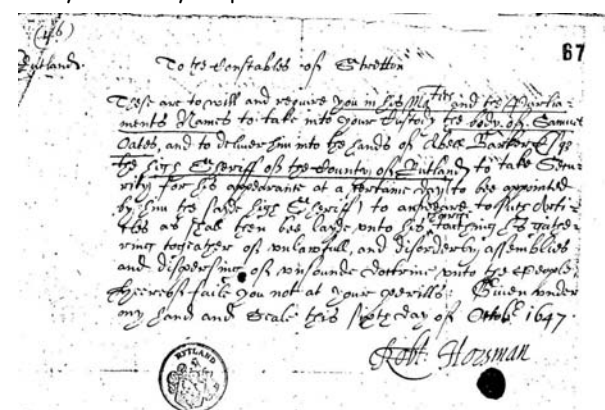
It seemed at last that Oates had got the message that he was not wanted, at least by the 'better sort' of Essex residents. Probably accompanied by his wife, Lucy, Samuel Oates headed up the Great North Road towards Stamford, where he was accused of distributing Leveller pamphlets and 'persuaded' to move on. By March 1647, he had reached Rutland. Here, his popular outdoor sermons, attacking the payment of tithes and restrictions on voting as well as the established doctrine of infant baptism, reinforced the scandalous reputation which had already preceded him. Sheriff Abel Barker was sufficiently concerned to urge Sir Thomas Hartopp at Leicester to issue an arrest warrant against Samuel Oates, 'who preacheth constantly in this country'. Despite this hostile welcome, Oates remained at liberty in Rutland throughout the summer, arriving in Stretton in early October, 1647.

On the 6th of October, Robert Horsman took up his pen in the peaceful manor house to write to Sheriff Abel Barker at Hambleton, urging him to take action. His vehement opening sets the tone:

*Sir,*

*Having been long grieved in my soul to see our poor country become so obnoxious to men of extravagant opinions and unbridled spirits and tongues, to vent them to the seducing of others; and too long forborne (as my conscience upbraids me) in performing that duty that every sound Christian professor (in this Kingdom) ought to look unto (by virtue of his solemn Covenant) for the discovering and bringing to just censure, such as take liberty (against lawful authority) to disperse heterodox doctrines unto the people ...*

At the same time, Robert Horsman used his powers as Justice of the Peace to issue a warrant for the constables of Stretton to 'take into your custody the body of Samuel Oates and to deliver him into the hands of Abell Barker Esq the High Sheriff of the County of Rutland'. The unwelcome intruder should then be brought 'to answer to such Articles as shall then bee layde unto his charge touching his gathering together of unlawfull, and disorderly assemblies and dispensing of unsounde doctrine unto the people.' The constables were urged: 'Herewith faile you not at your perille'.



Robert Horsman's warrant for the arrest of Samuel Oates  
(Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland: DE 730/1)

In the eyes of Robert Horsman, Samuel Oates was a 'dangerous Schismatick', 'Disturber of the Peace', 'Depraver of our Church' and 'Adversary to Magisterial Government'. In a second letter to Sheriff Barker, he urged secure imprisonment and strict treatment, since, 'Persons of his spirit cannot be suffered without bringing much Guilt and Divine Wrath upon a Church of State.'

Once again, Samuel Oates' detention proved short-lived. In December 1647, 19 Rutland ministers were driven to petition for his arrest, since he was travelling 'from town to town preaching and rebaptising very many and drawing a concourse of people after him'. In May 1648, a second petition was sent to the House of Lords urging that he be tried for blasphemy. He was also once again accused of spreading Leveller propaganda, namely 'that seditious paper Called the *Agreement of the People*, bringing or sending it to diverse places through the country, which he hath by himself or his agents brought or sent to several towns in the countie'.

Finally, in December 1648, the House of Lords ordered that Oates be arrested and brought before them. Elusive as ever, Oates escaped arrest and two further orders were sent out to the sheriffs of Rutland, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire. Even when he was rearrested and his case brought before the Rutland assizes, Oates was acquitted on a technicality. He continued preaching in and around Rutland, challenging the Quaker George Fox in Barrow-on-Soar, and provoking John Drew, rector of Barrowby in Lincolnshire, to issue a pamphlet against him. Following a public dispute with the rector of Ibstock, Leicestershire, in October 1649, Oates found himself once again imprisoned in a castle dungeon, this time at Leicester. But Oates appeared irrepressible. Not only was he set free, but was also offered a more respectable career opportunity as chaplain to the regiment of Colonel Thomas Pride. Presumably, Oates accompanied Pride's regiment as part of Cromwell's invasion of Scotland in July 1650. He may also have been at the decisive battle of Worcester, which saw an end to the hopes of the new king, Charles II, in 1653.

By the spring of 1649 Samuel Oates had found a home for his wife, Lucy, and son, Samuel, in Oakham. Some time during that year, Lucy gave birth to a second son, named after his grandfather, Titus Oates. In future years, that name was to become the most infamous in Rutland history. But as the child was growing up, his father continued to irritate the authorities. While continuing as chaplain to Colonel Pride's regiment, now based in Aberdeen, he circulated a letter in late 1654 to sympathisers in other regiments. Daringly, he questioned the commitment of the new Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, to grant the 'free and suckcessive parlements' that had been promised.

In January 1655, Samuel Oates was arrested for sedition. He seems to have been involved in the conspiracy of army officers in Scotland to restore the republican ideals of the Commonwealth, by installing Major-General Robert Overton as commander. Overton was also arrested and spent many years in prison before, coincidentally,



ending his days at Seaton in Rutland. Samuel Oates was more fortunate. Convicted by court-martial, Oates managed to talk himself out of prison, gaining a reprieve and an interview with Oliver Cromwell, 'who gave him only a sharp reproof for his folly, upon promise of his faithful deportment for the future'. Probably to the relief of many, Samuel Oates and his family left Rutland in around 1655.

They settled in London, attending the Baptist Meeting House in Virginia Street, Ratcliffe Highway, while young Titus possibly attended Westminster School. For the remaining years of the Protectorate, Samuel Oates managed to stay out of further trouble, until in 1660 the restoration of King Charles II brought a total change of the political, social and religious scene. The Church of England was restored, complete with bishops and prayer book. Puritan ministers were ejected and non-conformity discouraged, while many who had supported Parliament felt suddenly obliged to reconsider their allegiance.

Ever-ready to seize an opportunity, Samuel Oates declared his desire to be ordained in the established church. In 1668 he was appointed rector of All Saints' church in Hastings and his children, including Titus, were now officially baptised. This new-found conformity lasted five years, until in 1673 Samuel Oates returned to London, to rejoin the Baptists. Here, he lived long enough to witness the notoriety of his son, Titus, instigator of the infamous 'Popish Plot' which brought hysteria to the government and execution to 15 innocent men. Samuel Oates died on 6 February 1683, his name now largely forgotten even in Essex and Rutland. Only his surname lives on in the popular imagination, with Titus Oates nominated in 2005 as one of the 10 worst Britons of the last thousand years.



Titus Oates in the pillory

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Jane Lane *Titus Oates* (1949)

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Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland:  
DE 730/1

Essex Record Office: Quarter Sessions records and Calendar of Assizes.

## RICHARD WESTBROOK BAKER (1797 - 1861)

By Vanessa Doe

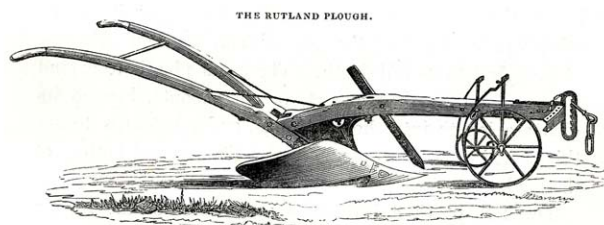
*The aim of this short article by Vanessa Doe is to provide an introduction to Richard Westbrook Baker, the distinguished 19th century Rutland agriculturalist. He was acknowledged in the local, national and farming press of his time, but there is no comprehensive account of his life and achievements. Vanessa is currently researching this great man and the resulting biography will be published by the Society. If you can help with this research in any way, please contact the Newsletter editor by email at [rfovens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rfovens@yahoo.co.uk), or by letter c/o Rutland County Museum. It is known that the replica silver plough presented to him in 1847 is in Australia, but hopefully someone will know of the whereabouts of other portraits of his prize-winning animals, or even of a portrait of the man himself. Any information will be most welcome.*

In the Exton Manuscripts now deposited in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland (DE 1342) there is much invaluable material relating to the history and management of the Rutland estate of the Noel family centred on Exton. Among the many interesting possibilities for research in this splendid collection are the letters and papers which must have accumulated over many years in the estate office in Cottesmore, shedding light on the life and times of probably the longest serving and the best known Agent or Steward to serve the Noel family in Rutland in the nineteenth century, Richard Westbrook Baker.

Richard Baker was born in Baldock in Hertfordshire in 1797. According to a short autobiographical note among his papers he came to Rutland to start work on the Exton Estate in November 1814 and being only 16 it seems likely that he came as an apprentice to the then agent. 1824 and 1826 marked the two next stages in his career when his 'services were further identified with the estate' and in spite of having been warned in a letter from his somewhat unpredictable employer, Sir Gerard Noel, that he was never to be promoted further 'to prevent you from having the least expectation of such a thing' on the retirement of the incumbent, a Mr Dollin, he was duly appointed Steward in 1828.

In the meantime he had set himself up in the Lodge at Market Overton, probably after his marriage to Ann Hind Brown, a Melton girl, in December 1820. From there he directed business correspondence on estate matters from the early 1820s. On his promotion in 1828 he moved to Cottesmore to a house and farm recently vacated by 'widow' Dain at the east end of the village, (possibly the present Cottesmore Lodge). In 1830 a plan was made of 'an intended new office adjoining Mr Bakers house in Cottesmore' This, when built, became the main estate office and continued to be so after his death in 1861. He had already taken land at what became Hall Farm, which lay on either side of the road between Cottesmore and Exton and adjoined the Dains farm to the south of

Cottesmore. The house at Hall Farm was built and the buildings modernised in the 1830s but Richard Baker continued to reside in Cottesmore village and with this as the centre of his own farming activities and parcels of land elsewhere in Cottesmore and Barrow he was farming directly 275 acres in 1851



\* This plough takes its name from the county, to which it was introduced by Richard Westbrook Baker, Esq., of Cottesmore, for whom it was in the first instance expressly made on a simple plan, suggested to the makers by that gentleman, and is now in general use.

(From J A Ransome, *The Implements of Agriculture*. 1843)



In the 1830s with falling prices for agricultural products after the Napoleonic wars and widespread poverty in the countryside, improvements in farming methods were widely seen as the best way to increase the income on landed estates. In this respect the Noels could hardly have appointed a better Agent. Richard Westbrook Baker, who clearly had some independent means, took on the challenge of agricultural and social reform on the Rutland estates with great enthusiasm and energy. His farm between Cottesmore and Exton with its level fields and good soils was an ideal place to demonstrate improved methods of farming to the tenants on the estate and like minded farmers from wider afield.

In 1827 he had already set up a ploughing competition on his land, the beginnings of an annual event held in the autumn, where he could show his guests new cultivations, the advantages of good drainage and other advances in arable farming and stock breeding. Richard Baker himself (or more likely his ploughman) entered the competitive ploughing matches and he was famous locally for developing the Rutland Plough, a new type of plough,

which had a mechanism allowing it to be adapted to serve on both light soils and heavy clay. This was manufactured by Ransomes of Ipswich and was demonstrated at the Royal Agricultural Society shows at Liverpool in 1841, where it won an inscribed silver tray, at Southampton in 1844 and at Lincoln ten years later. It was also used in demonstrations at Cottesmore, usually written up in the local press but in 1843 under 'Interesting Experiment at Cottesmore' the plough made it into the national press with an account of its prowess in the *Farmers Magazine*.

On the day of the event, usually held in early October, ploughing competitions began at 7.00am, followed by a dinner at mid-day held in his house to which all the guests were invited and which was usually attended by Sir Gerard Noel.

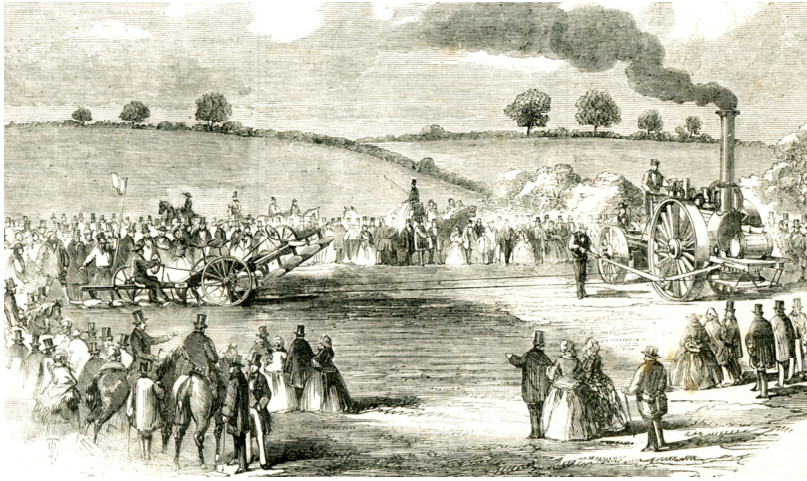
The prize giving came in the afternoon, and the event concluded with a sale of rams. The host's livestock, particularly his herd of Shorthorn cattle, but also 'improved' sheep, pigs and horses were on display. Prizes were given for all manner of farm work, shepherding, pig keeping, hedging, ditching, rick building, thatching and for crops, corn, potatoes and root crops. There was a prize for the best farm awarded to exemplary tenant farmers encouraging competition and rewarding farm improvement including the provision of work for farm labourers through the winter. He continued to host these meetings annually in Cottesmore until 1840 by which time the number of ploughs competing had risen from 9 at the beginning to 105. In 1847 the event was wound up and Baker was presented with a 'magnificent' silver replica of the Rutland Plough at the last meeting held in Oakham. However, ploughing meetings run by other societies carried on in Rutland and, indeed, are still held today.

Improvements in arable husbandry were matched by a strong move to improve livestock farming on the Noel estate in Rutland, another cause taken up with great skill and dedication by Richard Baker.



The portrait by W H Davis is of Baker's Shorthorn Heifer which won the Smithfield Gold Medal for 'best beast' in 1837 (Private collection)





Mr Fowler demonstrating his steam plough at the 1857 Rutland Ploughing Meeting. The demonstration was on Mr Wortley's land in Ridlington and Richard Westbrook Baker was in attendance (Illustrated London News)

Livestock improvement had begun to interest farmers in the last half of the eighteenth century but had stalled as the methods used (mainly inbreeding) were not sustainable. In the 1830s, stimulated by a growing demand for food from an increasing population in the towns, profits to be made from livestock led farmers to think again about the conformation and growth rates of their cattle sheep and pigs.

With the introduction of new fodder crops and other new types of animal feeds they could also develop better feeding regimes to bring well fleshed carcasses to the market as quickly as possible. Richard Baker's Shorthorn cattle were the pride of Rutland. They were widely seen at shows and demonstrations from the 1830s until his death in 1861 and his bulls, rams and boars were made available to be used on local farms, and to be hired out and sold on more widely. Competitive exhibitions of livestock at fatstock shows like the Smithfield Society show in London founded in 1798 were popular and similar events were taking place all over the country by the 1830s. The Rutland Show Society, was started in 1831 with Sir Gerard Noel as its first president and Richard Baker as Steward.

Originally this was a livestock show held in conjunction with a Christmas fatstock market in Oakham and was housed in the Riding School (now part of Rutland County Museum) at Catmos Lodge. Like the Smithfield Club show held in London the objective was to show, by means of information on a certificate provided by the exhibitors with their entry, how the prizewinning animals had been produced. The certificates contained information of the animals' breeding and feeding regimes, to show not only how selective breeding and the use of good bulls could improve conformation, but what the effect was of different feeding regimes on the speed of growth, and the size and quality of the carcase. Many of the winning animals at the Rutland Show went on to London to be shown at Smithfield where Baker himself had many notable successes, winning the Gold Medal in 1837 for the 'best beast in any class' with a Shorthorn Heifer. A portrait of

this animal, at one time hanging in the Falcon Hotel in Uppingham, was painted by W H Davis of Chelsea and an engraving was printed in the Farmers Magazine in March 1838.

Baker won the Gold Medal again in 1860 with a Shorthorn Ox and an engraving was again published the following spring, but the original portrait of this particular animal has not come to light.

Richard Baker's interests in agricultural improvement was successful in spreading the word locally in Rutland particularly after the establishment of the Rutland Farmers and Graziers Club, formed at his instigation in 1838 with a meeting room and library in a new Agricultural Hall (now the Victoria Hall) in Oakham.



Medals awarded to Richard Westbrook Baker by Rutland Agricultural Society, the Smithfield Club and William Leake Esq between 1825 and 1858 (Rutland County Museum)

His reputation and his wide circle of similar minded friends brought him into contact with agricultural reformers throughout the country so when, in 1839, the Royal Agricultural Society of England was established to take on the work of the old Board of Agriculture in promoting farming nationally he was invited to become a Council Member. The new Society, as part of its remit to educate and inform farmers in all parts of the country of

advances in agricultural improvement, set up annual shows of livestock and farm machinery, held each year in different parts of the country. Richard Baker served on the Council in 1841 after which he became a life Governor.



This George III gilt-lined lidded baluster tankard is engraved: *Presented by The Honble Gerard Noel MP to R. W. Baker Esq for the best cultivated 10 acres of Swedish Turnips in the County of Rutland*

Purchased in 1993 at Christies, London by the Friends of Rutland County Museum (Rutland County Museum)

To many farmers of his day the state of the rural poor was, if not exactly welcomed, to be tolerated as best providing a ready pool of eager workers needed at busy times of seasonal farming activity. A more philanthropic approach was adopted by Sir Gerard Noel on his estates, who, with his wife, gave ready support to his Steward when, conscious not only of the human distress of pauper families but the dangers of disaffection in the countryside, Richard Baker proposed to set up a system to provide means for poor labourers to support themselves and their families if paid employment was not available.

The provision of allotments, pieces of land up to three quarters of an acre in extent for which rent would be paid, was proposed in each village on the Noel's Rutland estate to be worked with a spade only and under strict rules set out in 1830. Labourers and their families were intended to have sufficient ground to grow their own wheat for bread, and potatoes as well as vegetables to provide against destitution. The land for these allotments was provided in many of the villages generating much favourable comment both locally and nationally and they were eventually set up on the Noel's Gloucestershire estates as well. The Friendly Society Richard Baker set up in Cottesmore in 1832, after taking advice widely from the founders of similar charitable institutions elsewhere, was also intended to offer support to poor labourers both male and female, aged between 10 and 50 years. Named the Rutland General Friendly Institution it opened an office in Cottesmore where an agent was present on certain days to take subscriptions and donations and pay benefits. It was subsequently extended to the rest of the county with an office in Uppingham to serve the southern area. For a small weekly subscription the poor could rely on some support in cases of illness or infirmity and a contribution to their funeral expenses. After four years the fund, established with subscriptions and charitable donations, stood at £432 12s 6d and the Society had a membership of 181.

Described by the Stamford Mercury in his obituary in 1861 as the 'foremost agriculturalist' of his day who 'did everything to promote the interests of all in his adopted county' he was honoured in June 1841 by a deputation at his house in Cottesmore to present him with a silver service of plate to the value of £400 the money for which had been raised by subscription from more than 1000 people, 'nobility, clergy, gentry, agriculturalists, tradesmen, artisans, and labourers of Rutland and other counties' and friends from as far afield as Russia.



George III reeded circular silver salver on 3 bracket feet, inscribed: *To R W Baker Breeder and Trader of the short horn ox. Class 1 First Prize Oakham Show Dec 1831*

Purchased in 1993 at Christies, London by the Friends of Rutland County Museum (Rutland County Museum)

It was particularly noted that the subscription lists included many tradesmen and labourers who had benefited from his benign influence locally, in particular the provision of allotments for the poor. This service consisted in a 'candelabra with seven lights, a soup tureen and ladle, four corner dishes with covers and a venison dish' all engraved with his coat of arms, and his crest, a greyhounds head, forming the handles to the covers. This was added to an already large collection of silver much of it prizes won by his livestock at shows in the region all listed in detail in the Stamford Mercury after his death and including a silver teapot, coffee pot, sugar basin, cream jug, a fish slice and two gravy spoons won by various shorthorn bulls, steers and heifers in the early years of the Rutland show, a silver castor stand awarded by the Bourne Agricultural Society in 1838, three gold medals and nine silver medals from Smithfield and other shows and, as mentioned in his will, a silver punch bowl and ladle 'on my sideboard'.



The silver medal presented to Richard Westbrook Baker as owner of the first prize plough in Class 3 at the Cottesmore Ploughing Meeting, September 1834 (Rutland County Museum)

All this silver plus 'my own and families portraits' and prints and paintings of cattle were left to his second son Edward George Baker of Langham (who also inherited the



brewery there) 'not to be disposed of or parted with but considered as heirlooms in the family'. It would be very interesting to know how much if any of this collection survives today and where it is. It would be particularly interesting to find his portrait, probably painted in oils, and the pictures of his livestock, particularly his stock sires, Gainsborough, a roan bull calved in 1828, his son Roderick Random, also roan, a prolific show winner in the 1830s and Gainsborough's grandson, Sheridan.



The silver medal presented by the Smithfield Club to Richard Westbrook Baker as breeder of the Prize Cow in Class VI, Christmas 1837 (Rutland County Museum)

Richard Baker was High Sheriff of the county in 1842/3. Was he at the great dinner for 1000 held at Belvoir Castle in 1843 to celebrate the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert?

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#### Obituary - DR ALAN MCWHIRR (1937 - 2010)

Alan McWhirr, Honorary Fellow in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester and a Fellow of Society of Antiquaries of London, died on 14th April 2010. He will be greatly missed, particularly for his enormous contribution to the study and conservation of the historic environment in Leicestershire and Rutland. He was a great friend of the Society, always available to give advice. He presented his research on brick makers in Rutland to the Society some years ago, and more recently he presented the certificates and plaques at our 2009 George Phillips and Tony Traylen Built Environment Awards at Oakham Castle.

Alan was born in St Albans in 1937 and obtained his degree at the University of Leicester in 1957. He then taught maths and chemistry at the Gateway School, Leicester from 1960-1968. He was also involved in archaeology and was soon put in charge of one of the first student field courses on a Roman villa at Tixover. He retained his interest in Roman archaeology and went on to direct excavations in Cirencester from 1965 until the mid-1970s, much of it directly supported by what had then become the Department of Archaeology in the University of Leicester, a link established originally via John Wachter who is remembered locally for his excavations at Martinthorpe. This experience led to the publication of many books on Roman archaeology and he continued to contribute articles to both popular and learned journals throughout his life.

Alan taught Roman archaeology on the University of

Leicester's Certificate Course in Archaeology at Vaughan College, Leicester, in the early 1970s and gained a PhD for his work on the Roman brick and tile industry in Britain, also writing widely on this topic. He took on the task of setting up and developing distance learning courses in archaeology and heritage at the University in 1996 and as a result the School of Archaeology and Ancient History in the University of Leicester is the world leader in archaeology courses by distance learning.

Throughout his life as a lecturer in Leicester, Alan worked very hard in a voluntary capacity to promote public awareness of the historic environment in both the city and the county. He was involved with BBC Radio Leicester from its foundation, running a programme called 'Digging Up the Past', which involved on-site interviews with those involved in archaeology in the county. His other involvement with broadcasting was to do commentaries on Leicester Tigers matches on Saturdays, rugby being a lifelong interest.

Alan served on the Committee of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society from 1964, becoming Hon Secretary in 1980. He served in this capacity until his death. He oversaw the production of the Society's *Newsletter*, *Transactions* and later the *Leicestershire Historian*. More recently he had been heavily involved in efforts to re-start the Leicestershire volumes of the *Victoria County History*.

When the county archaeological unit was dissolved in 1995, he was instrumental in persuading the University of Leicester to take it on, helping to establish the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), which has played a major role in archaeological work in the Leicestershire and Rutland ever since. He was Chairman of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust from 1988 to 2006 and in the Diocese of Leicester Alan served for many years on the Diocesan Advisory Committee which deals with the fabric of churches in the diocese. He was appointed its chairman in 1996.

Alan will be sadly missed, not just because of his lifelong support of local history in its widest context, but also because he was a warm and supportive person.

Robert Ovens

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#### Obituary - PAMELA DRINKALL

Pam Drinkall died in February 2010 aged 74 years. She started collecting Egyptian antiquities as a teenager in the early 1950s and this was to be a big influence on the choice of her future career. At age 21 she became assistant curator at Scunthorpe Museum and went on to curate the Egyptian collection at New Walk Museum, Leicester. In the 1980s she lived in Desford, Leicestershire, and then moved to Exton before returning to Leicestershire in the late 1990s to make her home at Newbold Verdon. She worked closely with the Desford and District Local History Society as a researcher, writer, speaker, committee member and exhibition-co-ordinator, and was Chairman on several occasions, the last time in 2005, and was its Secretary for the three years preceding her death. Whilst

at Desford her particular interest was the Desford Seventeenth Century Research Group, which she started in 1987 and led with great enthusiasm, inspiring its members to learn to read ancient hand writing and to decipher and interpret early Desford wills and inventories.

Pam's day job was in the Leicestershire Museums Services, where she acquired a high level of professionalism and expertise, especially as a Museums Education Officer, a role which she brought to Rutland when she was based at the Rutland County Museum as a Teacher-Leader, helping to bring alive the rural life collections for innumerable school parties. She was a valued member of the Ancient Egypt Society in Leicester, created the Egyptology display at Leicester's New Walk Museum, and had visited Egypt a number of times. Another burning historical interest was Beaumanor and the Herrick family, and she was the author of *A Brief History of Beaumanor Hall*.

Whilst living at Exton during the 1990s Pam was a member of our Society and served on the executive committee from 1990 until 1998. She was responsible for the organisation of five village visits, the last one being to Lyddington in 1995. The other four were to Exton and Horn (1991), Ketton (1992), Ryhall (1993) and Market Overton (1994). She was particularly interested in statistical data derived from Census returns and, in particular, she worked with Trevor Bell on 'Employment in 19th Century Oakham: a study of the 1851 census' (*Rutland Record* 16 - 1996).

Robert Ovens

#### CORRECTIONS:

##### Sir Thomas Barker and the Order of Little Bedlam

In the April 2010 issue of the Newsletter we incorrectly ascribed *Sir Thomas Barker and the Order of Little Bedlam* to Tim Clough. In fact the author was Bryan Waites. Apologies to both.

##### Rutland Record 30 and Vincent Wing

Unfortunately the plan of 'Part of the Mannor of L. in the County of Rutland' by Vincent Wing which features on the front cover of *Rutland Record* 30 and as fig 3 on page 388 was misidentified as of North Luffenham, whereas in fact it is of the neighbouring parish of Lyndon as comparison with other maps will confirm. The plan was published by Wing in his *Geodætes Practicus* (1664), of which only a handful of copies are known to survive. Although this work is available on-line to those who have access to Early English Books Online (see RR30 for details), it was very difficult to find a physical copy which both contained this plan - it is missing from or incomplete in some copies - and was not so tightly bound that it could be copied. Eventually after a search extending to both sides of the Atlantic the Science Museum Library came up trumps; Doug Simpson there has kindly checked their copy again to see if the 'Mannor of L.' is referred to in the text, but it appears that although the plan is mentioned the identity of 'L' is not. The editorial assumption that Luffenham was meant,

because that is where Wing lived and also because details of his Luffenham survey field book do appear elsewhere in *Geodætes Practicus*, was therefore unfounded. We are grateful to our member Elizabeth Bryan for gently pointing out this error.

Tim Clough, Hon Editor

#### WHISSENDINE VILLAGE VISIT



(Clockwise)

Whissendine windmill

Sheila Sleath with  
miller Nigel Moon

Harold and Joan  
Killingback discuss  
aspects of flour milling  
(?) with Nigel's mother

Saturday 19th September was the date for the very successful 2010 Village Visit to Whissendine, organised by Ian Ryder. Over 90 members and guests heard Ian's talk on the history of the village and enjoyed his large exhibition of old photographs, maps and documents.

A guided historical walk round the village followed a most interesting and relevant talk on the work of the Ullesthorpe Windmill Preservation Trust. It was relevant because members and guests were also to have the opportunity to look round Whissendine windmill as part of the walk.

Whissendine windmill was built in 1809 by the Earl of Harborough. It continued working as a flour mill until damage from gale force winds forced it to close in 1922. Nigel Moon bought the windmill in 1995 and set about the task of returning it to a fully working flour mill.

Many thanks to all the contributors of this issue of our Newsletter. If you would like to make a contribution to, or suggest an idea for the next issue, please contact me by email at [rfovens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rfovens@yahoo.co.uk). I would particularly like to hear about new local history research projects and publications, and the activities of other Rutland local history groups.

Robert Ovens