

In this Newsletter . . .

The Rutland Built Environment Awards 2012	1
Email contact with Society members	2
Membership Subscriptions	3
Joint Meetings Programme	3
Book Reviews	3
Cold War Heritage in Rutland	6
Obituary - Professor John S Wachter	6
Thelma Clarke's visit to Rutland	7
Time Team at Oakham Castle	7
The Westmorland of Apethorpe Archive	8
Binding Rutland Record	8
The Lyddington Parish Bull	8
Rutland and the Great War	12
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee	12
Langham Village History Group	12

THE RUTLAND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2012

A packed audience at Oakham Castle on 17th January witnessed the presentation of the George Phillips and Tony Traylen Built Environment Awards for 2012 which are presented annually by the Society in conjunction with Rutland County Council.

Both Awards are given in recognition of a significant contribution towards conserving or enhancing the built environment of Rutland

The George Phillips Award, introduced in 1980, is for a recent new or refurbished building or development. The Tony Traylen Award, introduced in 2007 and formerly known as The Rutland Historic Building Award, is for the renovation or conservation of an historic building.

Edward Baines, President of the Society, County Councillor and Vice Chair of The Development Control Committee of Rutland County Council, was master of ceremonies for the evening and the awards were presented by Tim Clough, the Society's Hon Editor, and former curator of Rutland County Museum.

The George Phillips Award went jointly to The Old Rectory, Great Casterton and Parkfield House, Nether Street, Belton in Rutland. Both were restoration projects involving listed buildings where great attention was paid to retaining original features.

The Old Rectory at Great Casterton is a mid-18th-century Georgian building located immediately adjacent to the west end of the Church. The restoration was carried

out for owners Scott and Rachel Nicholas, and the architects were Ross Thain & Co of Stamford.



The Old Rectory, Great Casterton.

Note the graduated windows to the front elevation. All 17 original sash windows in this property were carefully restored.

The work at Parkfield House, Belton in Rutland, was carried out for owners Jeremy and Alicia Leaf, and the architects were Fowkes McIntyre of Nottingham.

The house has a long range facing Nether Street, parts of which appear to date from the early 17th century, and a later angled 2 storey south-facing range of 3 bays in the Regency Style which was probably built between 1800 and 1829. This wing has large 16-pane sash windows and retains many original features.



Parkfield House, Nether Street, Belton in Rutland, joint winner of the 2012 George Phillips Award.



Tim Clough presents the 2012 George Phillips Award to the joint winners: (Above) Scott and Rachel Nicholas, owners of The Old Rectory, Great Casterton. (Below) Jeremy Leaf, owner of Parkfield House, Belton in Rutland, and architect Alex McIntyre.



The 2012 Tony Traylen Award was presented to Lyddington Village Hall which began life as Lyddington National School in 1870. It closed in 1971. Refurbishment of the building included new floors, wall tanking and complete internal decoration plus a new kitchen and new toilets. The work, which was completed in August 2012, was paid for by local fund-raising and grants from various foundations.



Lyddington Village Hall, winner of the 2012 Tony Traylen Award for the renovation of an historic building.



James Horton (Chair of the Lyddington Village Hall Trustees) receives the Tony Traylen Award, together with Committee Members Ruth Archer, Christine Westwood, Ros Crane and Teresa Edwards.



The Award winners were presented with a horseshoe plaque and a certificate.

The Awards Ceremony was followed by a talk on *The Rutland Strategic Stone Study* presented by archaeologists Carole Bancroft-Turner and Debbie Frearson, of Historic Investigations, Rutland.

English Heritage and the British Geological Survey commissioned a nationwide Strategic Stone study in order to identify the most significant building stones used in the past, map where they came from and suggest potential alternative sources. The Rutland element of the Strategic Stone Study was carried out by the presenters who discussed the aims, procedures and results of the project.



MC Edward Baines with Carole Bancroft-Turner and Debbie Frearson

EMAIL CONTACT WITH SOCIETY MEMBERS

An ever-increasing number of members are able to communicate by email and we would like to use this method 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. They will not be used for any other purpose, or passed on to any other individual or organisation.

If you agree to this, please send an email to allow@rutlandhistory.org giving your name and brief address in the subject line. Also, if you have changed your email address recently, please let us know the new address by the same method.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWAL

At the last Annual General Meeting it was agreed that Membership Subscriptions should be increased as from 1st May 2013. The new rates are:

Individual Membership £14

Family Membership £16

Institutional Membership £16

Overseas Supplement (all grades of membership) £5

If you pay by standing order, please ensure that it is changed as soon as possible to reflect the new rate relevant to you.

Debit and credit cards can now be used for on-line membership renewal. See 'Membership Application & Renewal' on the Society's website at www.rutlandhistory.org, or visit www.genfair.co.uk.

JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME

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

Please note:

- Open meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at Rutland County Museum or Oakham Castle, but there are exceptions so it is wise to check the programme for dates and venues.
- The programme year is now from January to December.
- Any changes to the advertised programme and additional information on specific events will be given in the 'Events' section of the Society's website.

The remainder of the 2013 programme:

Wednesday April 17th 7.30 pm - Museum

George Finch, 9th Earl of Winchilsea and 4th Earl of Nottingham

Paul Reeve

Key phases in the life of George Finch (1752-1826), the last earl to live at Burley on the Hill.

Wednesday May 15th 7.30 pm - Oakham Castle

RLHRS AGM. Followed by:

Hall and Chambers: Recent Research at Oakham Castle

Nick Hill

Wednesday June 19th 7.30 pm - Museum

The Secret Lives of Seventeenth Century Farmers

Hilary Crowden

Treason, torture, faith, fame, fortune, regicide, suicide, mysteries and strange goings on at Seaton.

Wednesday July 17th 7.30 pm - Museum

Lyddington Manor Local History Project

Rosemary Canadine

Details and progress on this HLF community project.

Saturday August 10th 7.30 pm - Oakham Castle

The Tennants Lecture: On the Coat Tales of Lord Elgin - Collecting the Grand Tour

Marc Allum

The history of the Grand Tour, its influence on fashion and architecture in Britain and the world of collecting Grand Tour souvenirs.

There will be a charge for this meeting. Further details will be available later.

Saturday September 7th 2.00 pm - Preston Village Hall

Village Visit to Preston

Talks, exhibition and a guided historical walk.

There will be a charge for this meeting and it will be necessary to book places. Further details will be available later.

Wednesday September 18th 7.30 pm - Oakham Castle

Recent Landscape Studies

Stewart Ainsworth

Stewart was formerly with English Heritage and is well known as the landscape archaeologist with Channel 4's Time Team.

Wednesday October 16th 7.30 pm - Museum

Bypassing History

Philippa Massey

Transport in and through the local area over the ages.

Wednesday November 20th 7.30 pm - Museum

Landscape History and the Unmaking of the English Landscape

Dr Richard Jones, Senior Lecturer in Landscape History at the University of Leicester

BOOK REVIEWS

Noble Merchant: William Browne (c1410-1489) and Stamford in the Fifteenth Century

Alan Rogers

Abramis Publishing 2012:

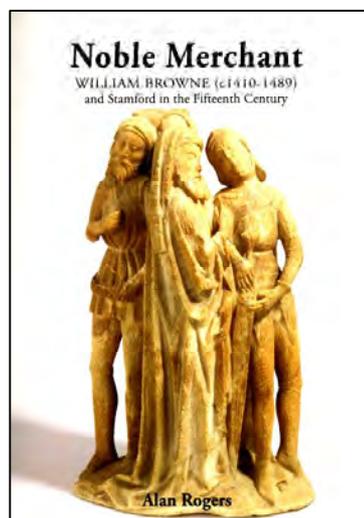
ISBN 9781845485503

360pp, £19.95

This work is the culmination of the author's long association with the study of the history of Stamford. Despite its title, it is not a biography of William Browne. The sources do not permit that. Rather it is a distillation of the key developments of the history of the town focused around the activities of its most prominent resident, known to us through his foundation of Browne's Hospital.

The task which Professor Rogers set himself was not easy. Unfortunately, little remains of the town's official records from the period, and the author has been

painstaking in tracking down relevant material from a considerable number of archives. From this he has produced what is likely to prove a definitive reconstruction of the political, social and economic history of fifteenth-century Stamford. By this time the town had declined somewhat from its economic position in the earlier middle ages. However, it remained an important settlement during much of the period under consideration not least because of its links to the Yorkist dynasty, one of whose power bases was at nearby Fotheringhay.



Matters came to a head in 1450 and 1452 when, prior to the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses, there were disturbances in the town in favour of the Duke of York and against King Henry VI. Browne managed to distance himself from this discontent, though he was shrewd enough to ensure that he kept clear of trouble through the insurance policy of taking out a pardon.

Browne himself prospered as a result of a successful business career. Beginning as a draper, his subsequent position as a significant wool exporter was embodied in his membership of the Calais Staple, an organisation of some 250-300 merchants, whose position was pivotal both to the economic wellbeing of the country and to the royal finances. The Company funded military expeditions to France and in 1466 it took over responsibility for paying directly for the Crown's garrison at Calais, then still in English hands. Browne clearly took great pride in both his Stamford connections and in his membership of and status within the Company, being described invariably in official documents as either 'merchant of Stamford' or 'merchant of the Calais Staple'. Through exporting, property rentals and money lending Browne clearly became a person of considerable influence, not only in Stamford but much further afield.

In fact, Browne had sought to restrict his local office holding. He had secured an exemption from public office holding in 1439, presumably to enable him to prioritise his business interests. Nevertheless, he did serve in an impressive range of offices, not only in the town but also in the wider community: alderman of the town, sheriff of both Lincolnshire and Rutland, a Rutland JP, and a lay subsidy assessor. Moreover, he was adroit enough to have held office through all of the monarchical regimes in the troubled 1480s. However, it is as a public benefactor that he is still remembered in Stamford, through the foundation and endowment of Browne's Hospital, in reality an almshouse. In addition, he contributed to the rebuilding of All Saints church and paid for the hall of the Gild of St

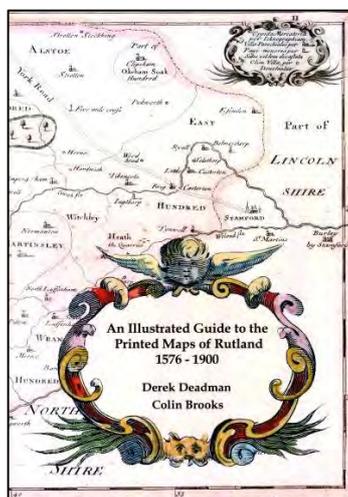
Katherine.

Professor Rogers details these matters with great skill and erudition, interweaving the institutional with the personal wherever the sources permit. He is particularly effective in reconstructing Browne's familial relations, especially his long and apparently happy marriage to Margaret. However, the main significance of this book will be its significant contribution to the economic and social history of England in the fifteenth century as a result of the detailed examination of a wide range of often intractable sources. Historians, both local and national, will be in his debt.

Mike Tillbrook

An Illustrated Guide to the Printed Maps of Rutland 1576-1900

Derek Deadman and Colin Brooks
The Landseer Press 2012
ISBN 9788700008366
321pp £30



This book is a listing of the printed maps of Rutland from 1576 to 1900, strip maps from 1675 to 1826, and hunting maps from 1830 to 1900. It is intended as a guide to those collecting or wishing to identify Rutland maps. For each map there is an entry giving the date, the size of the map, the scale, the name of the mapmaker, the title, and details of the publication history. On the facing

page is an excellent photograph of the map. There are 194 illustrations in colour and black and white. Obviously a great deal of research has gone into the production of this book, as can be seen from the interesting Introduction by the authors.

As well as treating this volume as a listing one is tempted also to use it for map reading in connection with local history studies. In cases where a map is large, and therefore the reproduction has had to be much reduced to fit the page, reading of the map becomes difficult and in some cases it is not possible to use such maps to identify place names and topographical features. However, the quality of the reproduction is so good that the majority of the illustrations are readable. A few, particularly the older maps, contain engravings of stately homes and street maps of the major towns.

As Mike Goldmark says in his Preface, this book will no doubt inform and inspire a new generation of collectors of county maps. It will also be valuable to local historians who wish to trace changes in Rutland during the period covered by the guide.

Peter Tomalin

Belton at War

Belton History Society Journal, Volume 4, 2010
Compiled and edited by Audrey and Philip Walker
Published by the Society
96pp £9.50 Available from local bookshops.



Belton at War is a well produced and very comprehensive account of the village's involvement in war - from the Civil War, through the Boer War and the two World Wars to the Korean War. It includes many personal memories, not only of front line activities, but also of nursing, the Home Guard, the Women's Land Army, evacuees, and farming, and much more.

Of particular interest is the account of the bombing of Belton, thankfully a very rare incident in Rutland. On Whit Monday, 25th May 1942, a lone Dornier 217, being chased by British fighters, decided to drop four bombs on the centre of the village. Miraculously, no one was injured although there was some damage to property. Further research discovered that one of the chasing Spitfires was piloted by Flight Commander (later Air Vice-Marshal) Johnnie Johnson.

This book is a good read for anyone interested in this sort of thing, but I have to admit to being slightly biased - the war-time stories of both my father and grandfather, and several other relatives who lived in Belton are included.

Robert Ovens

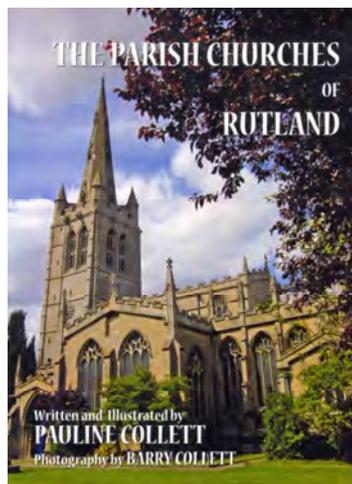
The Parish Churches of Rutland

Pauline Collett
Spiegl Press 2012
209pp. £9.99

This book is full of useful information, written in a very readable style. It has been written by local teacher and artist Pauline Collett, who has produced the excellent illustrations, and includes photographs taken by Barry Collett.

The introduction gives a review of the development of the design of churches in Rutland, including a reference to the types of stone used in construction, and also an indication of where in the county to see examples of the more important church features such as woodwork, stained glass, wall paintings and monuments.

The main part of the book contains an interesting description of the location and history of each church, a review of the architecture, and a panel summarising the



main features, such as the font, the pulpit, stained glass and items of furniture.

There are four appendices. One gives a brief biography of those Victorian architects who were notable for their work on churches, pointing out where their work can be seen in Rutland. Another notes the more important stained glass artists

whose windows are to be found in the county. The third is a valuable glossary of the terms used in describing the architecture of the buildings, and finally there is a bibliography of relevant publications.

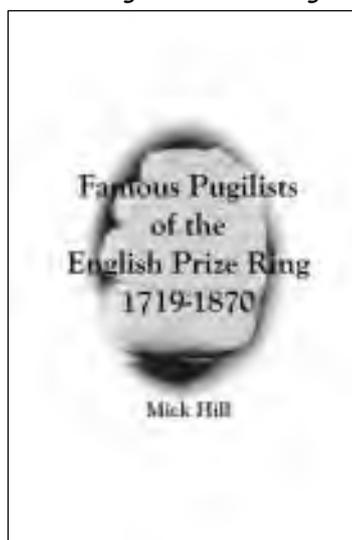
Simon Jenkins in his book *England's Thousand Best Churches* says the county 'has more good churches per square mile than any other'. Rutland is fortunate in having such an abundance of fine churches and many people are keen to visit these historical and architectural gems. No such visit is complete without reliable information about what there is to see, and so we must be grateful to Pauline Collett for having provided us with this comprehensive guide.

Peter Tomalin

Famous Pugilists of the English Prize Ring 1719-1870

Mick Hill
The Fast-Print Bookshop 2012
(www.fast-print.net/bookshop)
225pp £13.99 + £1.95 PP
Paperback ISBN: 9781780355054

Famous Pugilists of the English Prize Ring details the lives,



ring records and illustrations of nearly eighty well known fighters from the era of bare-knuckle prize-fighting from the Champions of England to the acclaimed champions and contenders of the lighter weights. This book is included here because it has details of the fight between Tom Cribb and Tom Molyneux at Thistleton Gap on the Rutland border in 1811.

Robert Ovens

COLD WAR HERITAGE IN RUTLAND



The remains of the Thor nuclear missile site at the former RAF North Luffenham (now St George's Barracks) have been listed at Grade II* status in recognition of their national architectural and historic significance by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, acting on the advice of English Heritage.



The announcement was on the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis (16th-28th October, 1962), the closest the world came to nuclear confrontation. During the crisis, the site was put on alert and the Thor nuclear missiles prepared for launch on the Soviet Union.

Many of the buildings and structures associated with the Cold War period have been demolished, abandoned or neglected. The listing of the Rutland site provides it with an additional layer of protection and is part of an on-going English Heritage project to safe-guard the best Cold War architecture.



The Thor missiles arrived at North Luffenham in 1960, along with a large contingent from Douglas Aircraft and the US Military. (David Carlin)



A Thor missile being prepared for a practice launch at North Luffenham.

OBITUARY - PROFESSOR JOHN S WACHER (1927-2012)

Professor John Stewart Wacher FSA, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at the University of Leicester, died on 26th February 2012, at the age of 85.

He was one of the foremost archaeologists of his generation, being particularly interested in the development of towns in Roman Britain on which subject he published a number of works, including *The Towns of Roman Britain* and *A Portrait of Roman Britain*.

He was born in Canterbury in 1927. From an early age he was encouraged in the joint interests of butterflies and archaeology, and he was soon taking part in excavations in Canterbury. On leaving school he completed his national service in the Royal Marines before taking a degree in chemistry. The next five years were spent as an industrial chemist, but he continued his interest in archaeology by digging as a volunteer at Canterbury and at Verulamium, near St Albans, later becoming a site supervisor.

His growing expertise led him to a crossroads: whether to continue working in industry, or to make the risky leap into full-time archaeology as a director of excavations.

Luckily for Romano-British studies, he chose the latter, and he began operating free-lance, garnering a wealth of expertise working on a variety of sites for the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage).



His work in Leicester concentrated on an extensive redevelopment scheme in the centre of the Roman town in what was then Blue Boar Lane. The excavations revealed a large public building overlying a town-house.

The destruction of its walls left large quantities of decorated wall plaster, and John Wacher reassembled much of this to form the impressive display now in the Jewry Wall Museum. Other large excavation projects followed, including the site of the proposed bypass for the A1 at Catterick village,

In 1960, the University of Leicester appointed John Wachter to an assistant lectureship in British Archaeology, with the tasks of teaching a course in Roman Britain. This employment allowed him to choose sites which really interested him, particularly at Cirencester, where he worked with the late Alan McWhirr.

Also in 1960, John Wachter came to Rutland to carry out an excavation on the site of the deserted medieval village at Martinsthorpe. His report was published in the Transactions of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (volume XXXIX) and can be seen online at <http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/downloads>.

By this time, he was fully established in his profession, and eventually his university created a separate department with a full degree in archaeology, John Wachter being appointed first to a Readership in 1970, and then to a Chair in 1982.

After a gruelling academic life, John Wachter took early retirement in 1987, and was rewarded by being appointed Professor Emeritus. He moved from Leicester to Cornwall, where he returned to his early interest in lepidopterology. (Based on an extensive obituary published by The Society of Antiquaries).

THELMA CLARKE'S VISIT TO RUTLAND

Thelma Selfe (née Clarke) was born at 'Clarke's and Charity's Cottages', Nether Hambleton in 1922, where she spent her childhood, attending school at Upper Hambleton. Later she emigrated to Rhodesia, eventually moving to South Africa where she now lives. Her son, Andy Selfe, who also lives in South Africa, contacted the Society when he found out that there was information about the Clarke family and their former home at Nether Hambleton in *The Heritage of Rutland Water*. This resulted in quite a lot of email correspondence between Andy and the Society, and he purchased a copy of the book, as well as *Time in Rutland*. He also sent a DVD of an extended interview with his mother.



Susan and Thelma Selfe at The Horse and Jockey, Manton.

Thelma returned to the UK in August 2012 for a holiday and Sheila Sleath and I took the opportunity to take her and her daughter-in-law (Susan Selfe) on a nostalgic drive

round Rutland Water, calling at most of the places she remembered from the 1920s and 30s. Thelma certainly enjoyed the visit which ended with a late lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Edith Weston.

Robert Ovens

TIME TEAM AT OAKHAM CASTLE



Channel 4's Time Team came to Oakham Castle in June 2012 for one of their three-day digs to try and find out and explain what is under the turf, particularly in the bailey area.

The film crews arrived on Monday 25th, and the dig and filming took place on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Although seven large pits were dug, everything was back to normal by the Saturday morning, ready for the wedding which took place at the Castle in the afternoon.

Planning for the dig started many months before the visit. Apart from planning and production meetings, researchers visited local Record Offices and Rutland County Museum. At the museum they inspected the finds, drawings and photographs from the Gathercole and Barber digs of the 1950s. The Society also provided a draft copy of the forthcoming *John Barber's Oakham Castle* which includes full details of John Barber's excavation, as well as an analysis of the finds.

English Heritage was involved throughout the planning and excavation stages because the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the Castle Hall is a Listed Building.

Among the items found by Time Team was a range of medieval pottery originating from local kilns, 13th Century glazed roof tiles, some with crested decoration, a 17th century token issued by Richard Munton, yeoman of Uppingham, and, very appropriately, a medieval horseshoe.



Richard Munton's 17th century token found at Oakham Castle.

Although the geophysics results were disappointing because of the unusual ground conditions, good sections of wall were exposed. It was suggested that these were the remains of high status chamber buildings, stables and other outbuildings which once stood in the bailey.

All the regulars of Time Team were there, including Tony Robinson, Phil Harding and Stuart Ainsworth. On site with them were archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology who are responsible for producing a report of the dig. They will be cleaning and cataloguing the finds before they are sent

back to Rutland County Museum for storage and display in a special Time Team exhibition.



Part of a 13th Century glazed ridge tile with crested decoration which was found at Oakham Castle.

The programme was broadcast in February 2013, but no doubt it will be repeated on 'More4' and 'Yesterday' for those who missed it.

THE WESTMORLAND OF APETHORPE ARCHIVE

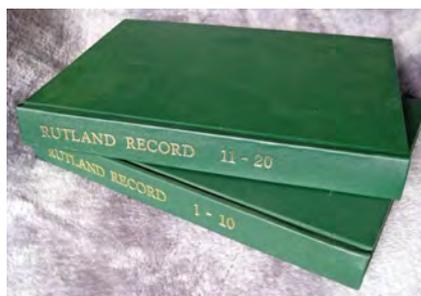
The National Heritage Memorial Fund has stepped in with a grant of £650,000 to enable Northamptonshire Record Office to purchase the Westmorland of Apethorpe archive, a rare collection of papers of outstanding historical importance that spans more than 600 years of local and national history. The grant fills the funding gap between the purchase price of £760,000 and the sum that had been raised from a fundraising campaign and grants from other organisations including the J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust.

The Archive, one of the most important family collections in the nation, was owned by a private trust but it has been lodged at the Record Office since 1950. It contains records dating from Medieval to the 20th century based around the Westmorland family whose main residence was Apethorpe Hall, near Oundle. Family members were active at court and in national politics, a good example being Sir Walter Mildmay, who was born in 1520. He served for Queen Elizabeth I, was Chancellor of the Exchequer and founded Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Consequently the collection includes many important documents, including letters signed by Elizabeth I and Oliver Cromwell. It also contains records relating to the management of the extensive estates owned by the family over hundreds of years.



An example document from the Westmoreland Archive.

BINDING RUTLAND RECORD



Nearly 20 years ago, following the launch of John Field's index to Rutland Record 1-10, some Society members took the opportunity to have their journals

bound into one volume. Now journals 11 to 20 and their index can be bound in the same style. Any member who is interested should contact Dave Marriot at Tudor Bookbinding, 3 Lyon Close, Wigston, Leicester LE18 2BJ, telephone 0116 288 3988. The cost for hard-binding in green Buckram with gold lettering to the spine is £50, but other options are available. Note that this normally involves the removal of the journal covers.

THE LYDDINGTON PARISH BULL

by Vanessa Doe

The interesting and very detailed Lyddington Churchwardens' and Overseers' Accounts (DE1881 - 40 to 42 and 44) were recently borrowed from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland for copying as part of the Lyddington Manor History Society Heritage Lottery Fund project. This very conveniently coincided with the arrival of a book scanner, purchased jointly by the Society and Rutland County Museum, and now located in the Study Room at the museum.

The Accounts cover the period 1625 to 1921 and Vanessa Doe has taken the opportunity to research the early volumes for this unique article. Until now, very little has been published on the subject of the Parish Bull. In fact an internet search only produces names of public houses and that 'Parish Bull' was sometimes used as a derogatory name for the parish incumbent!



The Lyddington parish bull makes his appearance in the accounts of the Churchwardens of the parish. He was purchased by, and managed by, the churchwardens on behalf of the villagers. He is mentioned in 1626 in the earliest of the surviving Churchwardens accounts. Bull purchases and

sales were noted in both books of receipt and expenditure and appeared in the accounts throughout the seventeenth century, the last relevant entry being in 1717. The account of these particular communal bulls, and how they were managed is important because it shows a much earlier than expected grasp of the principles of good practice in cattle breeding, particularly the effects of inbreeding if bulls were not renewed on a regular basis.

We do not know how long the parish of Lyddington had been providing a bull but it was said to be customary for the impropriator of the tithes in a village to provide a bull or bulls and a boar for communal use. This at least was the assumption in Empingham where the Prebend or his tenant was responsible for providing the communal bull. This duty

was only extinguished in the Enclosure Award of 1795 where 'the prebend or his lessee would be forever exonerated from providing and keeping a bull or a boar for the use of the inhabitants of Empingham'. The churchwarden's accounts there refer to the management of the bull, and as late as 1786 Mary Line was paid 2s 6d for 'looking after the bulls'.

Similarly Ketton, another large Rutland community, where part of the village along with the parish of Tixover was held by a Prebendal Canon of Lincoln cathedral, also provided bulls for communal use. In 1701 the bye laws relating to the organisation of communal farming stipulated that there should be no bye (outside) herds of cattle kept, restricting what communal pasture there was to cattle in the village herd and that 'noe person shall take the Town Bull or Brawne out of his Masters yard'. If so they must return them 'without abuse' and be fined 2s 6d. Again the obligation on the church authorities to provide a bull was only extinguished on enclosure in 1768 when the obligation was transferred to the new occupiers of the Prebendal lands.

It seems then that the provision of a bull may well have been part of the responsibilities of the parish or the manor from very early times. In the Tudor re-organisation of local government the village constable played an important role in local affairs, not only by maintaining law and order, but also in taking on many other duties as representative of the local Justices of the Peace.

Surprisingly, bull keeping became his responsibility in some parishes. For example, in the constable's accounts for Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire, there are details of the purchase of a bull for the parish in 1582. He cost 26s, probably at Louth market, and the expenses of the agent sent to buy him and bring him home were 1s 10d.

Most village constables, if they were appointed by the parish, had access to the funds which were raised by the churchwardens in the form of a levy or rate for the maintenance of the church and other parish expenses. In Lyddington though, the Constable was appointed by the Manor Court. His expenses were paid as and when needed by the Court but no levy was made as far as we know to provide for capital ventures such as purchasing bulls.

Lyddington, like Empingham and Ketton, had a part of its lands held as a Prebendal Preferment by a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral. In this case though, there is no evidence that the Prebend took any part in the management of agricultural practices in the village. That was wholly in the hands of the Manor Court. In Lyddington the parish vestry and its officers were often drawn from the same group of relatively wealthy residents who were also office holders in the Manor Court. It is perhaps surprising that it was the parish rather than the manor who took responsibility for providing the communal bull. They had, in the proceeds of the parish levy or rates, the money available to do so.

There were communal bulls in many other Rutland villages but if they were not purchased and managed by the parish they will not usually be included in the parish records. There was definitely a bull purchased and financed by the

Churchwardens in Preston, and a search of the Uppingham churchwardens accounts show there had certainly been a communal bull there. However, the lack of any record of sales or purchases between 1633 and 1679 may indicate that Uppingham had by that time given up on providing one. The bull closes, which varied in size from one to three acres, were being let by the parish from the 1630s. The bull close of one acre with a bull house was let to Lyon Faulkner in 1665 at rent of 2d a year. The fact that a bull house was still standing suggests that its occupant may only fairly recently have been made redundant.

The purpose of parish bull keeping

Dairy products - milk, butter and cheese - were vital components of the villagers' diet, both rich and poor, throughout northern Europe. Butter and cheese could of course be bought readily in local markets, but a household cow was a much prized asset of the poorer inhabitants. Its management was, however, problematical. A cow does not produce milk unless it has calved. In order to achieve the ideal of one calf and thus one lactation annually the services of a bull were needed, as well as sufficient grazing in summer months and hay or other fodder to maintain it through the winter. A lactation is the period after calving during which a cow continues to produce milk. Calves were typically born at the beginning of the year and milk for feeding the calf and human consumption was then available. The calf consumed a proportion of the cow's milk until it was old enough to graze and could be weaned. The cow continued to produce milk for several months thereafter and surplus milk was either sold or used to make butter and cheese. Cheese making provided a method of longer term preservation of milk.

Cowkeeping, as with most aspects of farming in pre-enclosure Lyddington, was most successfully managed on a communal basis and bye (outside) herds kept privately were listed in the 'paines' or fines of the Manor Court as being contrary to the Customs of the manor. In this way a smallholder was protected against more wealthy private individuals taking over the common pasture. There were areas of the village grassland set aside for cowkeeping as common pastures where the whole village herd would graze. Cottagers were entitled to a certain number of rights on the cowpastures expressed as the numbers of 'kine' (cows) allowed, for which they paid rent. There could also be, whether by copyhold or lease, an entitlement to an area of arable and a portion of meadow.

The purpose of the parish bull or bulls was to ensure a regular supply of calves from all the village cows and thus secure milk production. To avoid inbreeding the bulls, kept and managed by the parish for everyone's benefit, were usually replaced annually, although in years when the parish owned three or four bulls they may have been circulated around the different cowpastures.

There is no suggestion that the parish bull was intended to raise the quality of cattle in the village herd. However, it was known that inbreeding resulted in a loss in fertility and that it was necessary to change the bull each year. To distinguish one bull from another, their colour is often

given. Black, red, brindle, finch, and pied all occur in the records as one would expect, but there is no description referring to a bull's qualities in producing a type of offspring suitable for a particular market. It was not until the last decades of the eighteenth century that experiments began, both in Leicestershire and in the north east of England, to improve conformation in cattle and identify both cattle with a higher than normal milk production as well as the early maturing types of breeds. Bulls of a suitable type could then be used on cows whose progeny was either intended for increased milk production or for sale to butchers in the expanding market towns and industrial centres.



A brindle bull.



A black and white pied bull.



A finch bull, characterised by the white stripe along its back.

Buying, selling and renting bulls

The Parish Bulls were usually purchased in the spring at local markets and fairs and sold again in the autumn. The purchase price was typically between £2 and £3, although the price was falling from about 1690. Sometimes the parish was fortunate, or the summer grazing that year had been particularly good which resulted in the bulls being in improved condition. In which case, the resale of bulls in the autumn could make a small profit. In 1642 the parish received 9s 8d 'for bulls more than we set forth'. More usually there was a loss. Some bulls which, for various reasons, may have become unmarketable were sold to

butchers with the hide sold separately. This happened in 1641 when Edward Freeman was paid 3d for going to a butcher to negotiate the sale of the old bull. The hide could then be sold elsewhere. Clement Pretty, a village tanner, bought a hide for 15s 6d in 1660. In 1704, Anthony Freeman was paid 6d to take the bull hide and sold it for 8s.

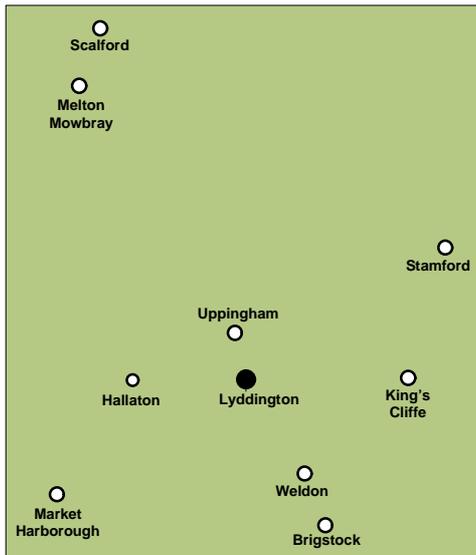
Some bulls were not acquired at market but were purchased locally from individual farmers. In 1626 a bull was bought from Mr Peake of Seaton for £2 11s 11d. Peter Woodcock of Caldecott was paid the substantial sum of £3 for a bull in 1650. In 1655 a bull was supplied, probably for hire at 8s 6d, by Edmund Sismey, and in the same year another bull was purchased from a 'neighbour in Brooke' for £1 5s 6d, the churchwardens 'Mr Neubon and Mr Sismey being then present'. In 1665 a bull came from Henry Newbon of Caldecott and in the following year a bull was purchased from Mr Marston of Belton. In 1690 a bull was purchased in Bisbrooke for £1 18s 6d and it cost 1s to get him home. By May 1703 the churchwardens may have decided to hire bulls to supplement those that they were able to buy. They paid 3s 1d to hire a bull from William Pretty which they returned in September, paying him £1 11s for his use during the summer. He then needed treatment for his foot which cost 4d. In 1704 Edmund Sismey lent the town a bull and charged 10s. In 1708 they hired a bull from a Mr Allin for 6s.

Occasionally a bull was sold on by the parish to a local farmer. In October 1700 a brindle bull was sold to a Mr Chapman. He had been bought at Hallaton Fair the previous spring for £2 0s 3d, but had proved difficult to manage and had strayed several times. The price the town obtained is not recorded, but in 1682 a Mr Hill, probably from Caldecott, bought one of the three town bulls for 18s.

The records of buying, selling and renting the parish bulls in Lyddington have the additional advantage of giving us a picture of the trading area within which Lyddington villagers bought and sold livestock in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The markets and fairs through which many of the village bulls were bought or sold extended from the nearest local fairs and livestock markets at Uppingham, Stamford and Hallaton, to more distant places ranging from Leicester, Market Harborough, Melton, and Scalford in Leicestershire to Brigstock, Kingscliffe, and Weldon in Northamptonshire. The further away the market the more costly it was. The larger markets charged a toll and the cost of taking the bull on foot with food and drink on the way over the greater distance also had to be accounted for. The bull purchased in Leicester on 1st May 1702 cost £1 13s for the bull and one shilling to bring him home.

In 1626 the parish seemed to think that the provision of one bull for the parish was enough but by the 1640s they had increased their investment to two, paying £2 7s for one and £2 13s 4d for 'another bull bought'. When they were sold in 1642 they received £4 for '2 towne bulls'. In 1645 they bought a bull privately from a Mr Wildbore for

£2 14s 4d and another one in the spring from Melton, bought by their agent Steven Cotterill for £3 0s 8d. He charged 8d for executing his commission and bringing the bull home.



The markets and fairs where Lyddington bulls were purchased. At least one bull also came from Leicester.

In 1658 the parish was providing three bulls for use by village cowkeepers at a cost that year of £7 2s 5d. The total raised by the parish levy or rate was about £12 a year so in order that the parish could fulfil its usual commitments the bull fund had to be increased by loans in 1658, 1659 and 1660. The money on loan was paid back the following year when bulls were sold.

In 1663 the business of buying and selling bulls seems to have been managed by Edmund Sismey, still using parish funds, but supplementing the bulls they could afford to purchase with bulls hired from within the village. Increasing the number of bulls must have reflected an increase in the village herd. So that all three bulls could be turned out to grass with their selection of cows, grazing for them must have been in at least three cowpastures.

The three areas in Lyddington parish regularly used for communal cattle grazing were in Upper Field, which became known as Hill Pasture, in Nether Field south of the village, and possibly the area known as Backside Pasture to the east of the village. The increase in the number of bulls and the greater number of cows in calf each year suggests a better economic return from dairying at this time. The bulls, most of them purchased at spring markets and fairs, must have been turned out with the cows early in May, resulting in calving in the late winter and the start of a new lactation. By the end of the autumn many cows would be dry, waiting to calve again in late winter.

Upkeep of the bull

The bull was presumably out at pasture most of the summer months with the Lyddington cows but on occasion he was kept separately. There seems to have been no bull close or area set aside particularly for him among the village pastures, so if he was not with cows in one of the cowpastures, in many cases this involved paying to have him 'joisted' or provided with grass keep, on some inclosed pasture in the village. In 1642 'joisting the bull with Shaw' for seven weeks cost 1s per week. In 1655 when the bull

had been ill, they paid Thomas Warren 8d for five days grass keep during his recuperation. In 1701, when the bull had escaped several times, bull joisting for 18 weeks cost 9s, after which Mr Buswell, farming the Prebendal estate, took him on, feeding him hay at 1s 2d per week for 11 weeks at a cost of 12s 10d.

If the bull needed treatment the churchwardens organised whatever was necessary. In 1654 Richard Sharpe was paid 1s and apparently cured a kidney problem with a drink of ale and milk costing 3d. In 1690, 4d was paid to cure the bull's foot. In 1704 George Sismey was paid 1s to make up a drink for the bull containing salt, honey, milk and ale costing 1s 4d and Walter Stocks was paid 2s 4d for the potentially dangerous job of getting him to take it, referred to as 'giving the bull a drink'. The following year George Sismey was paid 2s for curing the red bull. The actual problem is not recorded

There was a meadow in the village of Lyddington set aside to grow and harvest hay specifically for winter keep for the bull. In 1642 it cost 3s 4d, paid to John Seymor, for mowing and hay making in the bull meadow. If the bull or bulls had been sold the hay was also sold to the benefit of the parish accounts. It raised £1 6s 4d in 1652 and 14s in 1667. In 1674, 1s 2d was charged for mowing the bull meadow, and making the hay cost 3s 8d. Carrying the bull hay from field to barn cost 2s, a total of 6s 10d. In 1681 the churchwardens paid 9d to have the dyke or ditch round the bull meadow scoured (cleaned).

The bulls' wanderings

With probably little in the way of secure fencing around the various cowpastures, the bull was often inclined to escape and much time and effort was spent sending men to find him and bring him home. He was retrieved on an almost regular basis from Uppingham. He had obviously been seen vanishing in that direction in 1628 but had then disappeared and word had to be put out via the town crier. 'For crying the bull at Uppingham' cost the parish 2d. In 1650 a man from Uppingham was paid a small sum for bringing 'tithings' (tidings) of 'the town bull when he was strayed' which, with the efforts of a man 'seeking him' and bringing him home, cost the village 4d. In this incident the bull also caused damage in the village and the parish had to pay 1s 7d to William Sly 'for (the bull) trespassing in his closes'.

Walking a bull home from Aston (Ayston) and Preston cost 2s in 1653. The bull may have strayed as far as Ridlington in 1665, or on the other hand, Lyddington parish may have acquired a new bull from there. Getting him to Lyddington cost 7d. The bull strayed to Thorpe (by Water) in 1644 and Stephen Cotterill was paid 2d to bring him home.

In 1681 the Churchwardens paid 5d to fetch the bull five times from Stoke and in 1701 the bull went even further in a westerly direction and had to be brought back from Horninghold at a cost of 1s 6d. One of the brindle bulls in 1700 had to be brought home four times at a cost of 2s but where he had been is not recorded. After 1700 the churchwardens recorded in May, when they handed over

their accounts, the number of bulls that remained in the town. By that time there was just one, presumably still wandering off occasionally. The last two references to bulls in the Lyddington churchwardens accounts are in 1710 and 1717, when, on both occasions, 'putting a stick upon the bull's horns', cost the parish 6d. This possibly was evidence of a practice comparable to the use to this day of a wide wooden frame fixed behind the head of a sheep as a way of preventing an escape through a gap in the hedge.



How a substantial stick might be fixed across a bull's horns to try and prevent him from escaping through gaps.

However, the fact that there are no references to trading bulls between 1710 and 1717 means presumably the practice of supplying a common bull with all its attendant problems was becoming a thing of the past. This may possibly reflect a move away from dairying to farming store cattle for the butchers markets as happened elsewhere in the region.

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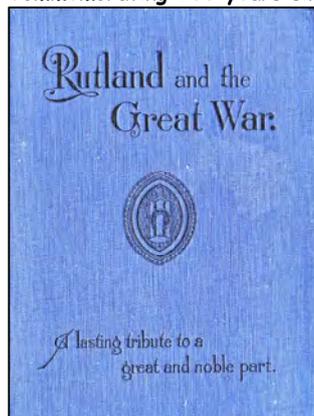
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RUTLAND AND THE GREAT WAR

Commemorating 100 years since the start of the Great War



A number of events are being planned for 2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, including a special exhibition at Rutland County Museum. In support of this, Mike Frisby, the Society's webmaster and IT adviser, is creating a searchable digital copy of George Phillips' *Rutland and the Great War - A lasting tribute to a great and noble part*. This book was first published in 1920 as a

memorial to the men from Rutland who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As well as including biographies and photographs of most of these men, it also includes details of those who served in the battlefields and on the home front.

The main objective is to make the digital copy available on line, possibly via the Society's website. A commemorative printed edition is also being considered.

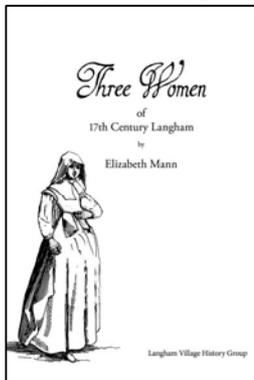
THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 13th June 2012 Her Majesty The Queen attended a garden party at Burghley House as part of the local Diamond Jubilee celebrations. To mark the occasion Edward Baines, our President, presented a leather-bound copy of *The Heritage of Rutland Water* to Her Majesty on behalf of the Society and the people of Rutland.



Edward Baines, accompanied by Dr Laurence Howard, the Lord Lieutenant for Rutland, presents a leather-bound copy of *The Heritage of Rutland Water* to HM The Queen.

LANGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP



The Group's latest publication entitled *Three Women of 17th century Langham* has been written by its youngest member, Elizabeth Mann. Liz has based her booklet on the researched facts about Eme Tomlinson, Grace Fracey and Luce Briscoe, each of a different social class, who lived in Langham in the 1600s. Around this she has woven a story of what their lives would have been like as daughters, wives, mothers and widows. The booklet,

which is illustrated by Brenda Witcomb, costs £2.50.

This and the following titles are available from the Group (<http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk>) and Rutland County Museum: *The Life and Families of 17th century Langham* (hardback). *Looking Back at Langham* - a compilation of facts and memories. *Langham in the Past*, by Don Mantle. *Some Memories of Langham*, by Dorothy Palmer. *Langham School Days* - with school log books extracts 1876-1945. *They Left Langham* - Langham emigrees, by Ann Grimmer; *Langham Lads* - boyhood stories by Fred Palmer and Bill Nourish.

Many thanks to the contributors. If you would like to make a contribution or suggest an idea for the next issue, please contact me by email at rfovens@yahoo.co.uk. *Robert Ovens*