



**In this Newsletter . . .**

The Rutland Built Environment Awards 2014	1
Email contact and Membership Subscriptions	2
Dr Mike Tillbrook - Honorary Membership	2
The Society's Executive Committee	3
Joint Meetings Programme	4
The Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture	5
Book Reviews	5
New Society Publication	7
Oakham Castle Update	8
Rutland County Museum Website Catalogue	8
Ketton Village Visit	9
Robert Sterndale Bennett's Home Guard Notes	9
Major Robert Sterndale Bennett 1880-1963	10
Rutland Memorial Hospital	16
Rutland and the Great War	16

**RUTLAND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2014**

The annual Rutland Built Environment Awards are presented by the Society in conjunction with Rutland County Council in recognition of a significant contribution towards conserving or enhancing the built environment of Rutland.

The George Phillips Award is for a recent new or refurbished building or development. The Tony Traylen Award is for the renovation or conservation of an historic building.

Edward Baines, President of the Society, was master of ceremonies for the awards evening on 8th January at Oakham Castle and the plaques and certificates were presented by Tim Clough, the Society's Honorary Editor, and former curator of Rutland County Museum.



*Tim Clough presents the George Phillips Award to Caroline and Mike Hammond, owners of Chapter Farm, and Robert Weighton, Architect*

The 35th George Phillips Built Environment Award was presented to Mike and Caroline Hammond, owners of Chapter Farm, Braunston in Rutland.

Chapter Farm was owned by the major landowning families in Braunston through the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. In 1838, ownership passed to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, from which comes the name of Chapter Farm. Dating largely from the 17th century, the present house contains the fragmentary survival of a late 15th century hall house.



*The rear view of Chapter Farm, Braunston, which won the 2014 George Phillips Award.*

Two other buildings received Commendations. Redgate, London Road, Uppingham, a former Uppingham School boarding house, was Highly Commended in the George Phillips Awards for the sympathetic restoration of its east wing and second storey, both of which had been removed in 1962.



*Redgate, London Road, Uppingham*

The Old Manor House, Thorpe by Water, built in 1597, was also Commended in the George Phillips Awards for the restoration of its west and north wings.



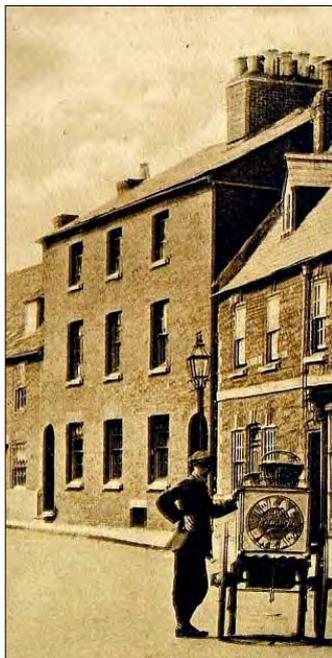
*The restored north wing of The Old Manor House, Thorpe by Water*

presentations were followed by a talk by Nick Hill on Preston Manor House, which won the George Phillips award in 2013.



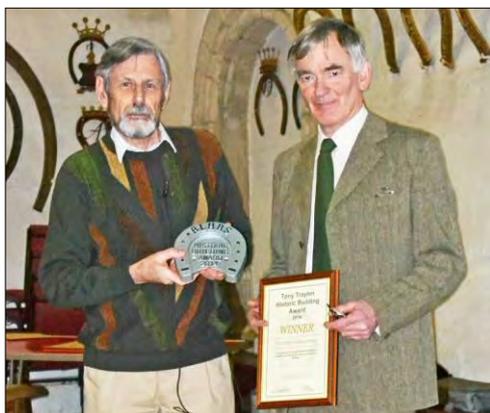
*Marylyn and Jim Strachan, owners of Preston Manor House, with Nick Hill*

Photographs are by Carole Bancroft-Turner and Robert Ovens



A three storey end of terrace house in Oakham, 27 Northgate, was the winner of the Tony Traylen Built Environment Award for the detailed internal restoration work carried out by owners Mike and Kate Woods. It was built in 1825 by John Cooke, a grocer, candle maker and tallow chandler.

*27 Northgate, Oakham, shown to the left in this photograph of c.1920 (Jack Hart Collection - Rutland County Museum)*



*Tim Clough presents the Tony Traylen Award to Mike Woods, owner of 27 Northgate, Oakham*

Redhill Farmhouse, Chapel Lane, Barrowden, a Grade II listed property of 18th century origin, was Commended in the Tony Traylen Awards for the major internal restoration work carried out by the owners.

The awards ceremony was organised by the Society, and judging was by the Society and Rutland County Council. The

### 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](mailto: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

Membership Subscriptions are due on 1st May 2015. The current rates are unchanged as follows:

Individual Membership £14

Family / Joint Membership £16

Institutional Membership £16

Overseas supplement (all grades of membership) £5

**If you pay by standing order, please ensure that it is up-to-date and that it reflects the 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](http://www.rutlandhistory.org), or visit [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

### DR MIKE TILLBROOK - HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Mike retired as Chairman of the Society at the AGM in May 2014. In recognition of his long service as Treasurer followed by Chairman, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to grant him Honorary Membership. This life-time award was announced at the Built Environment Awards in January 2015, with the following citation from our President:

*On behalf of the Executive Committee I am delighted to inform you that you have been granted Honorary Membership of the Society in recognition of your long and distinguished service as Honorary Treasurer and Chairman. May I be the first to congratulate you on this appointment and I hope that you will be able to be involved with and enjoy the Society's activities for many years to come.*

*Edward Baines  
President*



*Mike Tillbrook  
and  
Edward Baines*

#### THE SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

When one thinks 'History' and 'Archaeology' the words 'ancient, antiquated, dated and relic' often spring to mind, and not just the artefacts! At Rutland Local History and Record Society we break the stereotype; the volunteers who form the committee are a unique and dynamic collaboration of individuals.

Being part of the committee is a constant learning process because everyone has so much experience to share. The joy of being a volunteer for the Society is that you will be exploited in the best way possible, but if you only have a limited time to use your skills, that is welcome as well. The committee consists of Officers, who have specific responsibilities, and Elected Members. In this edition of the Newsletter we will introduce the Officers:

Our long standing **President** is the inimitable **Edward Baines** who lives in Braunston. Rutland born, bred and educated, he is a local County Councillor and English teacher. Edward was one of the founding members of the Society and has a life-long interest in books on Rutland. His collection of Rutland books is unrivalled, and with his late wife, Maureen, he set up The Rutland Bookshop in 1979 which continues to this day. He is a former Chairman of Rutland County Council and is currently chairman of the Development Control Committee (the Planning Committee). Edward can always be relied upon to be an excellent master of ceremonies at our important events.

In 2014 we elected **Debbie Frearson**, who hails from South Luffenham, as our new **Chairman and Convener of Archaeology**. Debbie had an administrative background before moving to Rutland, then, whilst living in and renovating a dilapidated cottage, she sought solace once a week away from the building by studying for a GCSE in Archaeology. She was inspired enough to take a BA in

Archaeology and Landscape History. This gradually, over the years, progressed to her current studies in a Masters in Archaeology. Because it was a late change of career a portfolio of experience was required. This is where the Rutland County Museum and Lorraine Cornwell, Elaine Jones (of the Archaeology Fieldwalking Group) and the late Kate Don stepped in, giving years of experience in mentoring and training in Museums, Archaeology and Local History. Debbie was gradually weaned onto the committee through her role as Minute and Programme Secretary, so there were no surprises as to what one of the roles of Chair would be!

Our **Vice-Chairman, Robert Ovens**, also Rutland born, bred and educated (he was at Oakham School with Edward Baines), lives in Lyddington and is currently turning his hand to historic building surveying with Nick Hill as part of the Lyddington Manor Project. Robert, a retired electrical engineer and clockmaker, is involved with every aspect of the Society from scanning valuable documents to organising the annual Built Environment Awards ceremony. He is compiler and editor of this Newsletter, indexer of *Rutland Record* and was organiser of 14 of the most recent Village Visits. He is also joint author / editor, with Sheila Sleath, of *Time in Rutland* and *The Heritage of Rutland Water*, and, with Elaine Jones, of *John Barber's Oakham Castle and its Archaeology*.

**Ian Ryder**, our **Treasurer**, is responsible for keeping the Society's finances in good order. A scientist by training, he also has an MA in local history. His recent article on the state of education in early Victorian Rutland, in *Rutland Record* 31, won an accolade in the 2013 British Association for Local History's annual awards. He is also author of *Common Right and Private Interest* (Occasional Publication 8) and organised the recent Whissendine and Ketton Village Visits.

**Lin Ryder**, Ian's wife, as **Membership Secretary**, makes sure our membership system and database runs smoothly.

Our **Editor, Tim Clough**, an Old Uppinghamian, collates and edits *Rutland Record* and our other publications. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and has a particular interest in numismatics and prehistory. As many members know, he is the former Curator of Rutland County Museum and his experience of living and working in Rutland is invaluable. Tim is author of several publications external to the Society as well as articles in *Rutland Record* and other journals. He is also responsible for *Who Owned Rutland in 1873* and the forthcoming *Oakham Lordshold in 1787*, both of which are Society Occasional Publications. He lives in Oakham in the winter and in Meilly-sur-Rouvres, which is in the Burgundy region of east-central France, for the rest of the year.

**Jill Kimber**, our **Correspondence Secretary**, is the hub of the Society; making sure all enquiries and other correspondence is dealt with efficiently. Jill, who has recently retired, now hopes to expand her other long-time interests in Art and Lord Byron. She lives in Oakham and is also the new **Editorial Assistant**, dealing with book sales for the Editor.

**Carole Bancroft-Turner** hails from Oundle. She is on the management team of Oundle Museum and co-ordinator of the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum. She was actively encouraged to join the committee by our Chairman when they both took the BA together as mature students. Carole is the **Historic Environment Convener**, checking the latest planning applications for any implications which would impact the historic environment of Rutland as well as looking for hidden gems which could be suitable candidates for the Society's annual Built Environment Awards.

In the technological-bound 21st century the Society is fortunate to have the expertise of **Mike Frisby**, our **Webmaster**, whose skill in creating and maintaining a current web resource for the Society is invaluable. Mike, an IBM retiree helps to define and implement the information technology needs of the society and provides assistance and support to other local groups when required. Mike lives in Langham and is an active member of Langham Village History Group.

A very recent addition is **Michael Hinman** who joins us as our **Minute Secretary**, taking the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings.

The joy of the committee is that the members are defensive about the heritage of Rutland and try their utmost to expand the horizons of the members. It is a valuable resource which is recognised by the Society's growing membership. There are vacancies on the Committee and anyone with something to offer will always be welcome. It is efficient, vibrant and friendly - just as a Society Executive Committee should be.

Debbie Frearson

---

## JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME

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

### Please note:

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

### The remainder of the 2015 programme:

**Thursday May 14th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**RLHRS Annual General Meeting**

Followed by:

***The Secrets of the Stones***

Presented by Dr Peter Hill

The Rutland area has a surprising number of interesting carvings, graffiti and symbols carved into the stonework (and wood) of its buildings, some barely recognisable and virtually ignored. However many have interesting meanings

and are worth seeking out. Dr Peter Hill will give an interpretation of some of these and reveal their whereabouts in the hope it will whet the appetite of members to go out and find more.

**Thursday June 18th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

***Corby and its Steelworks***

Presented by Tony Rothery

This meeting will also include a showing of the 1965 Stewarts and Lloyds film *Double Harvest*.

**Thursday July 9th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**Discovering Lost Ways**

Presented by George Keeping

Using archival evidence to help to record and protect our forgotten highways and footpaths.

**August**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**The Tennants Lecture**

Date and speaker to be announced - see the Society website.

There will be a charge for this meeting. Book in advance at Rutland County Museum.

**Thursday September 10th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**Museums and Wellbeing**

Presented by Dr Ceri Jones - Leicester University

Full details will be available later - see the Society website.

**Saturday September 19th**

Venue: Ryhall Village Hall

**Village Visit to Ryhall**

Full details will be available later - see the Society website.

An invitation will be sent to Society members.

**Thursday October 8th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**Field Walking**

Presented by Elaine Jones and Debbie Frearson

The Society has an active archaeological fieldwalking group. In conjunction with Elaine Jones, the recent results of the fieldwork will be illustrated, along with a display of finds. The lecture will include the methods used for fieldwork in Rutland.

**Thursday November 12th at 7.30 pm**

Venue: Rutland County Museum

**Edward Thring, Headmaster and Creator of the Modern Uppingham School**

Presented by Dr Nigel Richardson

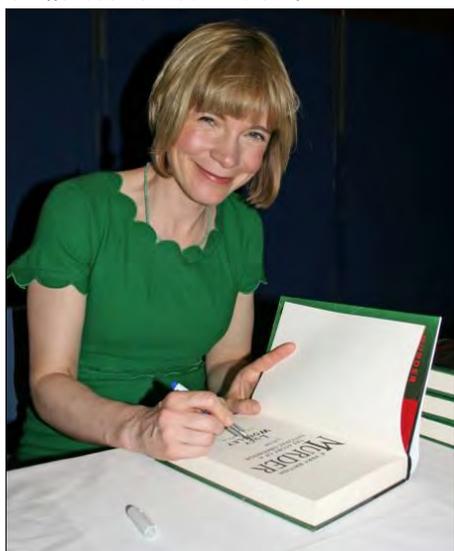
Full details will be available later - see the Society website.

## THE BRYAN MATTHEWS MEMORIAL LECTURE

The 2014 Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture was on 11th April in The Old School Room at Uppingham School when Lucy Worsley presented *A Very British Murder* to a capacity audience of 150 members and guests.

Dr Lucy Worsley is a historian and Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces, including the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace. She has also presented numerous television programmes.

In her lecture, Lucy talked about the dark story of our fascination with murder. Murder is a very British obsession. We've had a long fascination with violent death and the more gruesome the details, the better we like it. She explored this phenomenon in forensic detail, examining not only the crimes themselves but also how murder became a form of middle class entertainment through novels, plays, paintings, and the press. From a Regency serial killer to Agatha Christie, this was the story of how crime was turned into art.



*After her lecture Lucy signed copies of her book, A Very British Murder, which was the subject of a recent BBC television series*

### Please note:

The Society's Programme Group has decided that the Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture will henceforth be presented every two years, next being in 2016. The link with Uppingham School will be maintained and it is hoped that the Society will be able to attract high-profile speakers for future lectures. Details of the next Bryan Matthews Lecture will be given in the 2016 programme card and on the 'Events' page of the Society's website.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Langham Remembers Them

By Brenda Burdett

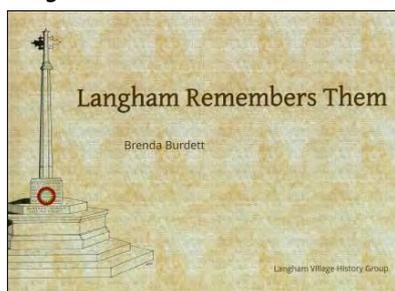
Published in 2014 by Langham Village History Group

ISBN 978190097041

Available from local book shops or via the Group's website at [www.langhaminrutland.org.uk](http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk)

The Langham book was created as part of an Arts Council England funded project to increase engagement with the museums and heritage of Rutland. In this it succeeds not

by just repeating the work of George Phillips in *Rutland and the Great War*, but by drawing upon folk memory within the village, and additional material, to give a more comprehensive record of those men from Langham who fought in the First World War.



Indeed, this is a much more complete and interesting record than ever Phillips attained. It gives a contextual background to the war itself before giving an illustrated biography of each soldier, including one not mentioned on the war Memorial. In the concluding pages of this small handsomely produced 54 page hardback, the story of the construction and dedication of the Langham war memorial is recorded together with a list of those who lost their lives in the Second World War. This surely is the next project for Rutland villages: to record the lives of service men and women from the local community who served in the Second World War and who don't have a book such as *Rutland and the Great War*, or indeed sometimes any village war Memorial to commemorate them.

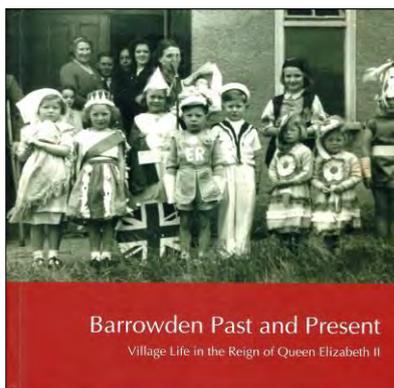
HJC

### Barrowden Past and Present. Village Life in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II

Limited edition

Privately published

Available at Barrowden Community Shop



This book started as a project undertaken by a committee of enthusiastic villagers in Barrowden to record the life and times of the village during the 60 years of the present Queen's reign. Over a period of two years the committee collected photographs and reminiscences and organised them into this publication.

The results of their endeavours are twofold, firstly it brought the village together, both old and new residents, to reminisce, recollect and record their memories and impressions of life in a Rutland village during the last half of the 20th century. Secondly, the success of this community endeavour can be witnessed in this book.

The book records all aspects of village life both past and current over the last 60 years. It is subdivided into a number of chapters with such prosaic titles as 'Development' and 'Amenities'. However within these chapters and others recording 'Clubs Societies and

Institutions', 'Events and Celebrations', 'Industry and Farming', 'Countryside' and 'Community' is a wealth of history recorded in written contributions by the villagers. It is as comprehensive as one could expect in a book of this length covering both the controversy over new building on one hand and the installation of the village defibrillator on the other.

It is as complete a work of village history as one could hope for in an affordable publication. One of its main strengths is that of the wonderful collection of photographs of people and places, past and present, most reproduced in full colour. Over 500 photographs were collected and many new photographs taken. 57 interviews and articles were submitted and incorporated into the finished book. The resulting publication is a handsome hardback, full of colour, both pictorial and metaphorical, and teeming with personalities and stories which illustrate how Barrowden has not only survived into the 21st-century but changed, developed and thrived.

Today Barrowden is one of Rutland's most vibrant communities. As Toby Carr, who grew up in the village in the 1980s puts it, 'Growing up in Barrowden gave me the chance to experience the true meaning of *community*'. It is difficult to find fault in this entirely commendable publication. My only misgiving would be that a lot of the wonderful illustrations are reproduced too small on the page to be fully appreciated. However given the limitations of publication, I can understand why this may be so. The Barrowden Book Committee, the book sponsors and all the contributors, indeed the whole community of Barrowden should be proud of their achievement. I can hardly praise this book too highly and would commend anybody with an interest in the village to beg steal or borrow a copy to see how a contemporary village history could be written and produced.

HJC

### A Country Chemist - Memoirs of a Rural Pharmacist

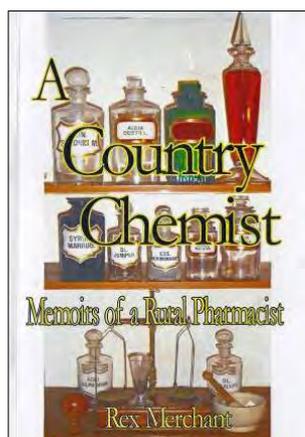
By Rex Merchant

Self published in 2015 by the author

normancottage@yahoo.co.uk

ISBN 9781902474304

Available from local bookshops. £9



Rex Merchant is well-known in Rutland as the pharmacist managing 'Boots' in Uppingham and then in Oakham before retiring in 1995. In this book he describes his career as it developed over 40 years, starting in the Fenland and ending in Oakham. He came to Uppingham in the early 1960s, moving to Oakham in the mid-1970s. Much of this short but enjoyable paperback concerns incidents in his career in both

towns. His reminiscences of the winter of 1963 and the haunting of the Uppingham 'Boots' shop are particularly interesting as indeed are his tales of being an amateur horologist and taxidermist in both towns. However, his best story must be of what happened when he discovered a canister of mustard gas at the back of the Uppingham shop!

All in all this is a commendable little autobiography which leaves the reader wanting more. I suppose that professional etiquette does not allow him to recount many of the stories he could tell but those he does are both intriguing and amusing. One only hopes that other people of his generation with interesting stories to tell commit some of them to paper before they are lost forever. This slim paperback is self published but still maintains a good standard of illustration and a sharp readable typeface. The author has written a number of novels, again all self published and some works on taxidermy. These are available through local bookshops and libraries or from [www.rexmerchant.co.uk](http://www.rexmerchant.co.uk). His success as a self published author should encourage others to put pen to paper. My only regret about this volume was that I wish it been longer with more stories and detail. That said I'd recommend it to anybody with an interest in Oakham and Uppingham in the last half of the 20th century.

HJC

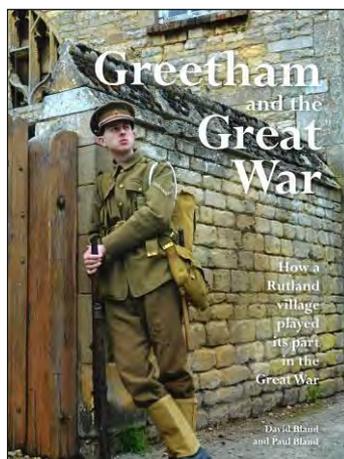
### Greetham and the Great War - How a Rutland village played its part in the Great War

By David and Paul Bland

Published in 2014 by Little School Publishing, Greetham, Rutland

[www.littleschoolpublishing.co.uk](http://www.littleschoolpublishing.co.uk)

ISBN 9780992602017



David Bland is known to many of us as an accomplished local historian with an abiding interest in his home village of Greetham and local military units. Together with his son Paul, he has brought these interests together in this sumptuous and fascinating record of Greetham during the First World

War. The stated aim of Little School Publishing, created by David and Paul is to 'bring local social history to life'. This is certainly achieved in this large scale fully illustrated paperback. It is illustrated throughout with colour and sepia illustrations which both enhance and enliven the text.

From their local knowledge and research the Blands have written a valuable chapter on the history of the village during the Great War before writing about each serviceman from the village, drawing, wherever possible,

from family memories and records. As a point of departure with most Great War village histories they then go on to describe and record the ancestors of current residents of Greetham who served in the war but who were not connected with the village. This gives the book a sense of perspective, and enhances the community feel of the project. Interspersed with these memories and reminiscences, contemporary illustrations, photographs, pictures of medals and portraits of the servicemen and their descendants are some valuable stories and records. The story of 'C' Company Rutland Volunteers and the local Zeppelin raid are most valuable within a more general Rutland context and should not be overlooked. The inclusion of photographs of modern re-enactors dressed in Great War service uniforms and photographed around the village adds a nice touch to a handsomely produced publication that will be of interest not only to those with knowledge and connection of Greetham but also of those who take an interest in Rutland and the Great War in general.

HJC

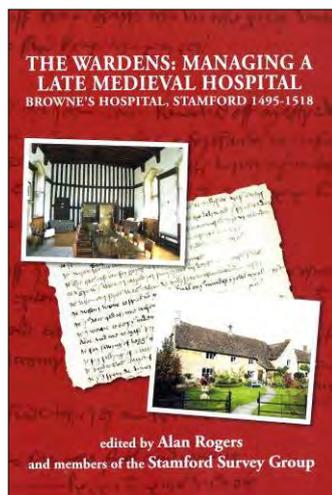
### **The Wardens: Managing a Late Medieval Hospital**

Edited by Professor Alan Rogers

Published by Abramis Academic Publishers for the Stamford Survey Group (Stamford and District Local History Society) with assistance from the Lincoln Record Society

Paperback: 368 pages

ISBN 9781845495992



This is the final volume in the series produced by Alan Rogers and the Stamford Survey Group on the history of late-medieval Stamford. Readers of this review will be familiar with Browne's Hospital as the finest medieval secular building remaining in Stamford. They might be less familiar with the problems associated with the administration of such buildings. These problems

have been brought painstakingly to life in this meticulously edited volume which comprises the hospital's account book covering the years from 1495 to 1518 along with a detailed introduction in which Professor Rogers analyses the workings of the hospital's estate. (Unfortunately, it can tell us little about the experience of the hospital's inmates).

The hospital was founded in 1475 by William and Margaret Browne, as both a gild hall for the gild of All Saints, of which William Browne was Alderman for life, and an almshouse for ten poor men and two women attendants.

Therein lay a problem. The foundation fudged the issue of ownership, which didn't matter when Browne and his grandson and successor as Alderman of the Gild and Patron of the Hospital, William Elmes, were alive, but which became an important issue after the latter's death in 1504.

The Aldermanship of the gild passed to Christopher Browne and the office of Patron of the Hospital passed to the vicar of All Saints, Henry Wykes. Readers of Professor Rogers's study of William Browne, Noble Merchant, will already be familiar with the awkward character of Christopher Browne. The latter had, indeed, instituted legal proceedings against some of the Hospital's tenants in 1502. After 1504, there was a long-running legal dispute between Christopher Browne and the Hospital. Underpinning this dispute was Christopher Browne's claim that ownership of the Hospital should be vested in the gild of All Saints, which the Patron and the Warden resisted. (As the Patron was the Vicar of All Saints and Browne was alderman of the parish's gild, this suggests that relationships within parochial administration must have been very strained, but this matter lies outside the scope of the Hospital's accounts). This legal dispute, which took place in both the Court of Chancery and the Court of Requests, as well as in the locally based court of the Queen Mother, Margaret Beaufort, ate considerably into the Hospital's assets and made it much more difficult for it to fulfil its charitable functions, so that the number of bedesmen declined. This also had an impact on day-to-day administration, much of which dealt with repairs to the estate, leading Professor Rogers to conclude that the warden's lives were very stressful. Indeed, the most successful warden, John Taylor, gave up the struggle and returned, doubtless gratefully, to pursue once again an academic career at Oxford.

As well as illuminating such issues, the accounts contain details of the Hospital's estate, some of which lay in Rutland and will also interest historians of the language, given the appearance of a number of obscure words of local dialect which appear in the book. We are once again in the debt of Professor Rogers and the Stamford Survey Group for their considerable efforts in bringing this substantial document, held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, to public attention.

Mike Tillbrook

### **NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION**

**John Barber's Oakham Castle and its Archaeology**

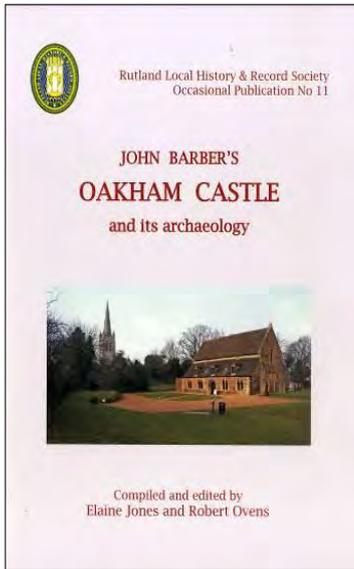
Compiled and edited by Elaine Jones & Robert Ovens

Published in 2014 by RLHRS

Occasional Publication No 11. 72pp, full colour

ISBN 9780907464518

Price £6.00 for members of the Society, £8.00 for non-members. UK Postage £1.50. Overseas members and others wishing to pay by debit or credit card can order via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk) (Note that the postage rate may be different).



In the 1950s, John Barber carried out excavations adjacent to the Great Hall of Oakham Castle with the assistance of boys from Oakham School, where he was a master. Circumstances conspired against his being able to produce a detailed excavation report at the time, but he subsequently wrote extensive notes about the Great Hall and the castle site. These had remained unpublished until now, but in view of

renewed interest in the history and archaeology of the Castle - one of England's most important Romanesque vernacular buildings - and in the context of plans to safeguard and develop the site with the aid of a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Rutland Local History & Record Society has decided to publish John Barber's notes in its Occasional Publications series.

The opportunity has also been taken to include an up-to-date assessment of the pottery from his excavations by Deborah Sawday, and to republish Peter Gathercole's rescue excavation report relating to the adjacent Oakham Post Office site and summary reports of John Barber's excavations which appeared at the time.

Although more recent research undertaken with the benefit of modern techniques has amplified our knowledge and understanding of the Castle, sometimes challenging John Barber's ideas in the process, his work is by no means diminished as a result, and these notes and reports remain important and informative background material for any study of Oakham Castle, Rutland's most important ancient monument. The Society gratefully acknowledges a contribution from the Friends of the Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle which has made it possible to print in full colour.

### OAKHAM CASTLE UPDATE

Oakham Castle is an exceptional historic site, comprising motte and bailey earthworks; curtain wall; 17th century pedimented gateway; and a unique aisled Great Hall, which was constructed around 1180-1190. The site is a scheduled ancient monument, and the Great Hall is Grade 1 listed.

The site has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of £2.165m, which together with a contribution from Rutland County Council of £215,000, and £10,000 from the Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle, will enable a major project to be undertaken to restore, conserve and enhance the site.

The physical aspects of the project will include:

- Consolidation of the Castle Walls to ensure their conservation, and to restore its visual impact in the town centre
- Conservation of the Great Hall to provide a safe environment for the historic horseshoe collection
- Improved access to the site, and construction of new toilet facilities

In order to make the most of the beautiful site, the physical works will be supplemented with:

- Greater promotion of the history and heritage of Oakham castle and Rutland
- Increased community events both in the Great Hall and grounds
- Enhanced exhibitions, interpretation, education sessions, tour guiding and signage to the Castle
- Promotion of Oakham as a tourist destination to the benefit of the County

The site will be closed to the public from 31st August 2015, with the Great Hall re-opening for Easter 2016, with work ongoing on the Curtain Walls till later that summer. We hope to have a grand opening in the summer of 2016.

Robert Clayton

### RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM WEBSITE CATALOGUE

Rutland County Museum has launched a new website giving access to details of the huge range of artefacts that are currently in the reserve collection. Although there are hundreds of items on show in the galleries and open areas at the museum, many more are out of sight in storage.

The Museum was established in 1967 by bringing together the rural life collection of E G Bolton of Casterton Secondary School and the mainly archaeological collection from Oakham School. Since then the collection has expanded to over 11,000 objects from around Rutland. The website, at [www.rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk](http://www.rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk), is still under development, but it has details and photographs of more than 1,000 of these objects. This online catalogue will be expanded with help from volunteers including members of the Oakham Decorative and Fine Arts Society. The project has been made possible thanks to grants from the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), Arts Council England, and the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle.

Of particular interest is a gold Roman ring found at Whitwell in October 1991, the only piece of jewellery in a large hoard of Roman coins. It has the image of a male and female facing each other, suggesting that it may have been a betrothal or wedding ring. *Rutland Record* 14, pages 151-157, has full details of this hoard.



*The betrothal ring found at Whitwell (Rutland County Museum - Acc No 1993.13)*

Also featured is a selection of the very large hoard of Roman coins found by metal detectorists at Tinwell in 1999. The hoard was purchased for the museum in 2001 thanks to grants from the Purchase Grant Fund run by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Friends of Rutland County Museum. Full details of this hoard are in *Rutland Record* 23, pages 99-104.

### KETTON VILLAGE VISIT

The Village Visit on 20th September 2014 was to Ketton, famous for the quality of its freestone, which has been a valued building material since Roman times. For the first time in recent years, the Village Visit was split between two venues. The Congregational Hall hosted the exhibition of old photographs and historical documents relating to Ketton and provided a base for refreshments. Of particular interest to the villagers who attended was a digital slide show of photographs of the whole village, taken in 1966. This was a time when the economic ravages of two world wars and agricultural depression were still evident in the state of some buildings.



The nearby impressive Church was used as the venue for the two talks. The first one was by Hilary Crowden on the development of the village from a subsistence farming community to the present one of cement factories and commuters. The geology of Ketton came to its aid, with the presence of good quality clay adjacent to limestone, both essential for cement manufacture, at a time when agriculture was in decline.

In the second talk, Steve Parry provided the audience with a glimpse of the rich archaeology that has arisen from Ketton. Steve is the archaeologist who has overseen the recent expansion of the cement quarries, from which much of the archaeology has been obtained.

After the talks a thoroughly enjoyable historical self guided walk, of about an hour, around the village was taken up by a good proportion of attendees. The walk is now available as a free download from the Society website.

Thanks are due to the organisers and supplier of sustenance for the event, principally Ian Ryder, Hilary Crowden, Debbie Frearson and Carole Bancroft-Turner.

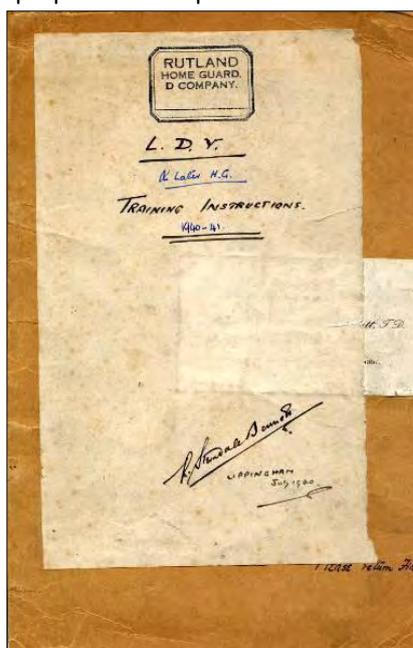
Ian Ryder

### ROBERT STERNDALE BENNETT'S HOME GUARD NOTES

Many local historians of Rutland will have had reason to be grateful for the work undertaken by Robert Sterndale Bennett to collate and map the field names of Rutland.

When the Local Defence Volunteers (sometimes referred to rather unkindly as 'Look, Duck and Vanish') were formed in May 1940, Major Robert Sterndale Bennett TD, Director of Music at Uppingham School and a member of a musical family, was appointed Platoon Commander, Uppingham and District, No. 4 Platoon, which transitioned into D Company of the Rutland Home Guard.

In October 1940, Sterndale Bennett resigned his Command of 'D' Company owing to pressure of work at Uppingham School. He remained a member of the Home Guard as a private until, in January 1942, he became Battalion Intelligence Officer and Chief Guide with the rank of Captain. It was in this role that he researched and prepared his map of field names.



Very recently, I was presented with a folder by a friend and neighbour the contents of which he thought would be of use to our local researches; imagine the surprise when this folder turned out to contain pages of notes in Sterndale Bennett's own hand.

The documents are presentation notes which RSB devised to be used in the training of its troops in the art of war and

particularly defence. The notes cover a wide range of topics which include identifying a German spy/parachutist, selecting the best field of fire, taking prisoners, identifying important structures to defend, and much more. Also included in the folder are the original government training documents, and subsequent updates, from which he developed his more locally targeted notes.

Robert Sterndale Bennett's training notes are now online at <http://www.rutlandhistory.org/rsb.htm>; his Rutland field name maps are available to see in Rutland County Museum (RCM) and the Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland Record Office. RCM also has Robert Sterndale Bennett's extensive collection of photographs of railway and river bridges, and Uppingham School Archives has another (but different) folder of his Home Guard documents.

Mike Frisby

## MAJOR ROBERT STERNDALE BENNETT 1880-1963

Director of Music at Uppingham School 1908-1945

By Robert Ovens

*Why was the Director of Music at Uppingham School talking to farmers about the names of their fields? This question is easy to answer as Robert Sterndale Bennett's field name map is well known among Rutland local historians, but otherwise, little is known of his life. This biography, which was inspired by the recent discovery of a file of his Home Guard notes, aims to correct the situation. Robert was a well-educated, intelligent, talented and articulate man, with an eye for detail and fun sense of humour. He used all these attributes to develop a career that would be the envy of many.*

In 1865, when Edward Thring wanted to appoint a new Master of Music at Uppingham School, he consulted Sir William Sterndale Bennett, the eminent musician, composer, conductor and music educator. As a result Paul David, son of the German virtuoso Ferdinand David, was appointed to the post. It was particularly fitting, therefore, that he should be succeeded by Sir William's grandson, Robert Sterndale Bennett. Like Paul David, he had a long career at Uppingham. Between them they cover 80 years of the School's history and in his 37 years there Robert added a great deal more to the School's reputation for music.

The adoption of the name 'Sterndale' goes back to Robert Bennett, Sir William Sterndale Bennett's father. He was organist at Sheffield parish church from 1811, a piano teacher, and the composer of a few published songs. For his *Six Melodies to Original Poetry*, published in 1815, the words were set by his friend William Handley Sterndale, the son of a Sheffield surgeon, after whom Robert Bennett named his son. Sir William Sterndale Bennett always treated the name 'Sterndale' as a given name rather than part of his surname. 'Sterndale' was adopted into a double-barrelled surname by his descendants, sometimes hyphenated and sometimes not.



*Sir William  
Sterndale Bennett*  
(Wikipedia)

Sir William Sterndale Bennett was born in Sheffield in 1816 and at the age of ten he was admitted to the Royal Academy of Music in London. He remained there for ten years and made a reputation as a

concert pianist and composer. Felix Mendelssohn was particularly impressed by William and he was invited to

Leipzig, Germany, where spent three years composing and performing. William also became friendly with Robert Schumann who shared Mendelssohn's enthusiasm for his compositions. He returned home in 1837 to teach at the Royal Academy of Music for the next twenty years. He also taught for a time at Queen's College, London. For most of the 1840s and 50s he concentrated on performing as a pianist and directing the Philharmonic Society. From 1856 he was professor of music at the University of Cambridge then, from 1866, principal of the Royal Academy of Music. He was knighted on 24th March 1871. Sir William died at the age of 58 on 1st February 1875 and he is buried in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey where there is a commemorative marble tombstone. A much more detailed account of the life of Sir William is given in the on-line version of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

James Robert, the younger son of Sir William, was born in 1847 at Russell Place, Fitzroy Square, London. He was educated at Kensington School and, like his father, was a student at St John's College, Cambridge, where he studied for a BA degree in mathematics. In 1871 he was appointed as a master at Sherborne School, Dorset, where he founded the school Musical Society. From 1880 to 1889 he was senior lecturer in mathematics at King's College, London. From then until his retirement in 1898, he was headmaster of Derby School where he made himself responsible for developing the musical side of the school's education. Whilst his degree was in mathematics, his first interest was always music and well into retirement he practised on the piano for several hours a day. He retired early in order to write his father's biography, *The Life of Sir William Sterndale Bennett*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 1907.

James Robert married Mabel Agnes Gaskell in 1876 and they had eight children, two daughters - Esther, who died in infancy, and Anne, and six sons - John, Robert, Thomas Case (known as 'TC'), Ernest, James, and Walter. Three of their sons, John, Robert and James, followed in the footsteps of their father and grandfather as students at St John's, Cambridge. Robert and TC graduated from the Royal College of Music, TC becoming a composer and entertainer. Ernest was a distinguished theatre director in Canada, whilst John, James and Walter followed military careers, Walter dying in action at Ypres in 1917 aged 24, having twice been awarded the DSO.

Robert Sterndale Bennett, the second son of James and Mabel, was born on 12th September 1880 in Southwold, Suffolk. By 1881 he had moved with his parents to North Grove House, Highgate, Middlesex. Robert was educated at Derby School where his father was headmaster, and it was at this school that he developed his interest in music, no doubt very much influenced by his father.

He left Derby School in 1897, the year before his father retired as headmaster, to study at the Royal College of Music in London, where he received his diploma qualification of ARCM (Associate of the RCM) in 1900. In 1906 he was awarded his ARCO (Associate of the Royal

College of Organists). Master-classes at the Royal College of Music to the memory of Robert, and TC (Thomas), his brother, were organised by Barry Sterndale-Bennett, Robert's grandson, in 2010 and 2011.

In 1901, Robert started as a student at St John's College, Cambridge, with a John Stewart of Rannoch Scholarship for Sacred Music. During his time at the College he enjoyed a very active membership of the Music Society, as recorded in *The Eagle*, the college students' magazine. The programmes performed in the college concerts were readily attainable by the amateur musicians among the undergraduates and contained mostly well known pieces for instrumentalists and solo voice. The concerts were held in the College Hall and it was 'universally admitted' that the concerts at St John's were the best in the University. For a concert in 1903, 450 tickets were applied for. The piano played by Robert was always a very popular item in the programme. In 1903 he played one of Chopin's *Ballades* followed by a lively *Rondo* from a Mozart concerto for two pianos and orchestra. Later, with C B Rootham, he played *Andante and Variations* by Schumann, a duet for two pianos. The piano duets were apparently played with such skill that words failed the reporter to adequately describe them. It was also said that, 'If there were 'University Pairs' in music Mr Rootham and Mr Sterndale-Bennett would simply romp in'. In 1904 Robert played a selection from Schumann's *Carnival Suite* and he was said to be 'quite at his best and delighted the audience'. He also played the cello in the college orchestra and cello solos in the concerts.

Robert was awarded his BA in mathematics at St John's in 1904 and in the September of that year took up his first appointment as music master at St Andrew's School, Eastbourne. He was not at St Andrew's for long; in May 1905 he moved to Fettes College, Edinburgh. In 1908, at the age of 28, he was awarded his MA (Cantab) and made his final career move to Uppingham School where he was appointed by the headmaster, the Rev W H McKenzie, as Director of Music, Organist and Choirmaster, taking over from Paul David.



*Old Music School, Uppingham School*

On arrival at Uppingham, Robert took up residence at Tudor House in High Street West. At the time this building was also used for music tuition and practice, along with diverse rooms in other school buildings. One of his

first achievements was to persuade the headmaster to build a dedicated Music School with teaching and practice rooms, which doubled the capacity for music pupils. The building was begun in 1910 on a site in the headmaster's garden fronting onto Spring Back Way. Today it is still used for this purpose, but it is now known as Old Music School as it has been supplemented by newer and larger buildings.

Robert was also an accomplished organist and began to press for a new organ in the chapel soon after his arrival. An appeal was launched for an organ by Harrison and Harrison of Durham at a cost of £1,450. By 1913 enough had been collected and the new organ was installed in 1914.

When Reginald Owen was appointed as headmaster in 1915, Robert found him a staunch supporter of his ideas, and in particular of a new plan to integrate the music lessons into the normal teaching time-table. Previously music masters had had to give their lessons out of normal school periods, resulting in unsocial working hours compared to other teachers. At that time, too, they were on a much lower pay scale. By a complicated feat of time-tableing, Robert devised a system under which boys were given music lessons in school periods with minimal loss to other subjects.

On 20th April 1912, at the age of 32, Robert married Gwendolyn Dorothy Risch Miller (known as Dorothy) at St Mary Abbot's, Kensington, London. For most of their time at Uppingham, Robert and Dorothy lived at The Cottage, South View, Uppingham. They had three children here: Elizabeth in 1913, Robert (known as Robin) Dawson in 1914 and Winifred Anne (known as Anne) in 1918. Only Anne followed in her father's footsteps by studying for her ARCM, but she then followed a career as a medical doctor. Robin passed out of from the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and served in the Royal Navy until his retirement as a Commander in 1964. After retirement he developed his painting and became a well-known marine artist. He died in 2006.



*Robert and his family in 1921 on the occasion of his parent's 45th wedding anniversary. Robert (top left), Dorothy, his wife (middle left), James, Robert's father (middle right), Robert and Dorothy's children, Anne, Elizabeth and Robin (bottom row) (Family Archive)*

Robert joined the Territorial Army in or before 1910 and in 1911 it is recorded that he was a Lieutenant in 3 Infantry Company of the British Army Officers Training Corps Regiment, Territorial Force Battalion. On 1st November 1914 he became a Captain in the British Army Officers Training Corps Battalion, Uppingham School Quaternary Unit.



Robert at the Uppingham School Officers Training Corps Inspection in 1917 (Uppingham School Archives)

Robert Sterndale Bennett commanded the school Officers Training Corps (OTC) contingent from 1914 to 1919. During this time OTC activities were greatly increased, with two parades a week. Robert was also responsible for the design and installation of the miniature shooting range and the introduction of a system of under-officers in the OTC. At this time there was a much greater feeling of urgency in the training of boys, many of whom were to experience the full realities of fighting on the Western Front before they

were much older. In 1915 he was promoted to the temporary rank of Major and this was finally confirmed in 1919 when he was mentioned in dispatches and when he was presented with the Territorial Decoration (TD) long service medal at the young age of 39.

After the war, when Robert no longer had the responsibilities of Officer in Charge of the OTC, he was able to concentrate more on developing music at Uppingham School. He even found time to indulge in his taste for Gilbert & Sullivan and was one of the founders of the Uppingham Operatic Society. From 1922 to 1938 this society produced an annual opera, Robert himself taking some of the main parts in the early days.

In 1923, as President of the Music Masters' Association, Robert secured the admission of music as a School Certificate subject, whilst his work as examiner with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music resulted in a number of trips abroad. He went to Canada in 1925, and again in 1933 when, accompanied by Dorothy, he sailed

from Southampton for Montreal on 6th May, They returning on 14th July.

Robert had a tidy, cataloguing mind, and maintained a list of all the works he had conducted in the 150 or so concerts during his time at Uppingham. In his day, concerts were not only musical but also formal social events. There was an air of occasion in which the masters and senior boys wore dinner jackets. Of these, the most frequently performed was Grieg's *Recognition of Land*, which every boy from 1908 to 1945 must have heard at least once. Other favourites were Stanford's *The Revenge* and *The Last Post*, Parry's *The Pied Piper*, and Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* and *The Messiah*.



Robert as Don Alhambra Del Bolero, the Grand Inquisitor of Spain, in Uppingham Operatic Society's 1927 production of *The Gondoliers* (Author's Collection)

Robert's tastes were not rigidly classical and there is evidence that he shared with his brother, Thomas, (TC) Sterndale

Bennett, a music-hall performer, the facility to compose tuneful and catchy pieces. In 1937 and 1938 the pantomimes performed by the staff for the School at Christmas included some appropriate airs composed by Robert. He was also a great supporter of the 'School Songs' and most concerts included one or more in the programme. He gradually evolved his own interpretation of them, one example being the hissed 's' of 'Stitch it well, within, without' in order to portray the mysteriousness of the witches' incantation in the *Football Song*. He was also a regular radio broadcaster, often travelling to the BBC's Birmingham studios to take part in live broadcasts. These included many music programmes for children between 1938 and 1946. In 1937 he broadcast in *The Musician at the Gramophone* series. This coincided with the publication of his *A Music Lovers' Guide to Records*. In November 1938 he arranged and presented *Programme Music-2*, with the BBC Midland Orchestra. He was still involved in broadcasting well into retirement. In January 1961, the BBC Home Service broadcast *Who's Who in the Zoo* which consisted of seven songs to music by Robert, introduced and sung by Ian Wallace. One of these was chosen for *Pick of the Week*.

Robert also demonstrated his lighter side with the well-known *Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree* song, complete

with appropriate accompanying gestures. Uppingham School Archives includes Robert's music sheets and detailed instructions for performing this song with the comment 'If these instructions are followed and carried out it should go with a great swing with any type of audience, as I know from experience'. It was introduced to him at one of the 'Sing-Songs' of the Duke of York's Camp at New Romney, Kent, in August 1928.

During his time at Uppingham the school orchestra developed from a small string assembly into the much larger complement of the 1930s. In the last concert before the war in 1939 there were eleven boys playing string instruments, four on woodwind and six on brass and percussion. With these Robert was able to present excellent orchestral performances. In his time he conducted five of Beethoven's symphonies, and others by Mozart, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Schubert. His repertoire included seventeen different overtures and many pieces of chamber music, in some of which he played the piano himself with much skill.

By 1937 Robert was becoming aware that he was due to retire in three year's time, at the age of 60. He felt that he was not yet ready to finish his life's work and wanted more time to pursue the new musical interests evolving for the boys. He wrote to the headmaster asking if he could make an exception in his case to the normal leaving age, with a view to retiring in 1945 when he would be 65. On the grounds that his position on the School was different to other staff, that he would not be keeping another master in the school from succeeding to his post, and that his predecessor, Paul David, stayed on until the age of 67, he was granted his request. Little did he realise what the next eight years would bring!

In World War II pupil numbers temporarily declined and minds were on other matters so opportunities for concerts were restricted. Nevertheless, during this time the School had unusual opportunities of hearing great music and Robert became the impresario of one of the most remarkable musical treats that Uppingham ever experienced. In the autumn of 1941 the entire London Philharmonic Orchestra gave a concert in the School Hall under its conductor Sir Malcolm Sargent. Over 800 people attended, and the stage itself overflowed with the performers. The main work was Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, and the impression this concert made on the audience in those difficult days in the middle of the war was 'uplifting and profound'.

World War II presented Robert with new interests and challenges which he was to tackle 'with the same skill and accuracy he showed in reading a Vaughan Williams score'. They also provided opportunities for him to apply experience from his earlier military involvement at the school.

In 1939 he became Chief Warden and Sub Controller of the local ARP (Air Raid Precautions). The ARP was mainly responsible for issuing gas masks, providing air raid shelters, the maintenance of the blackout and helping to rescue people after air raids. Robert's report as Head

Warden, dated 15th September 1939, now in Uppingham School Archives, makes interesting reading. The threat of air raids was obviously being taken very seriously and he reports that underground shelter for some 2,400 people had been provided by way of trenches and cellars. This included trenches for 200 at the Central School, 180 at the National School, 800 at Uppingham School and 650 dug by the Sector Wardens in the town. However, he was concerned that there were insufficient corrugated iron sheets to cover them. He also reports that a Reporting Centre had been set up in the Falcon Hotel cellar, that the First Aid Post had been protected by 4,000 sand bags, and that a 4 horse-power air raid warning siren had been ordered from Gents of Leicester. He also comments that the town's population was rapidly increasing. A girl's school of 300 pupils plus mistresses had recently been billeted in the town and a boy's school of 250 pupils from Bath was expected soon.

On 10th May, 1940, Germany invaded Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, having already overrun Norway and Denmark. France was on the verge of collapse and the position of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was becoming critical. This was the darkening background when, on 14th May 1940, Anthony Eden, the Secretary of State for War, broadcast a call for Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). Great numbers of men who had been waiting for such an opportunity volunteered. Many of these men had served in World War I and longed to do something useful in this one.

The LDV was raised on a County basis and in Rutland, Lord Ancaster, the Lord Lieutenant, chose Col Willoughby of Empingham to be the County Commandant. In turn he chose Major Robert Sterndale Bennett TD as his Platoon Commander for Uppingham and District, No 4 Platoon (later 'D' Company). The area to be covered by No 4 Platoon was Uppingham, Glaston, Bisbrooke, Wardley, Ridlington, Belton, Preston, Ayston, Lyddington, Caldecott, Wing, Morcott and Seaton.

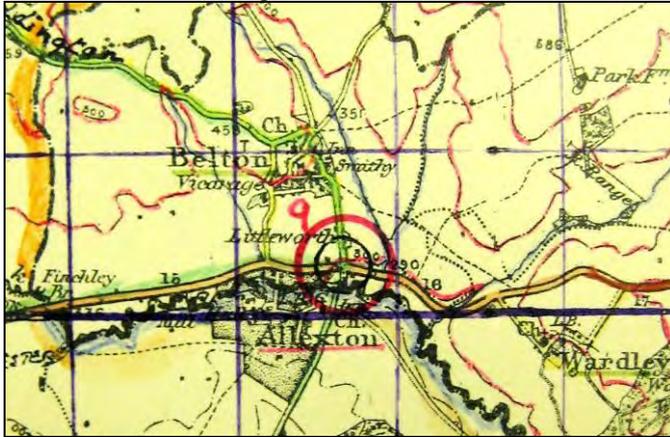
A note, dated 24th May 1940, in Uppingham School Archives states, 'Mr. Sterndale Bennett is much occupied just at present in work connected with the Local Defence Volunteers. Boys are to keep their engagements with him, unless otherwise instructed, but it may not be possible for him to be present for all his work'.

On 14th July the Prime Minister changed the name of the LDV to 'Home Guard', and this was generally thought to be a great improvement. Besides which, it avoided the somewhat unkind nick-name of 'Look, Duck and Vanish'.

In October 1940, Robert resigned his Command of 'D' Company. His work as Director of Music at Uppingham School and other commitments, combined with the Command of a large Home Guard Company were too burdensome. However, he remained a member of the Home Guard and regularly attended parades as a private. In January 1942, the Battalion was allowed an Intelligence Officer and Chief Guide in the rank of Captain. Robert took to this role quite naturally and it seems, from the notes that have recently come to light (see page 9), that

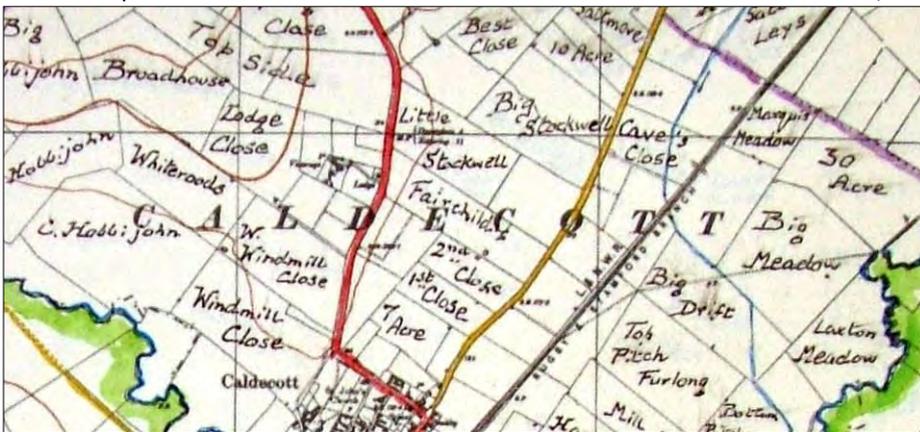
he was already performing some of the tasks unofficially. Guides were already functioning in Company areas and they now came under Robert's control and received further training.

The object of Guides was to facilitate the movement of troops, arranging meeting places with Guides from neighbouring Home Guard areas. It was essential that Guides should know their own countryside and be capable of the reading the maps that Robert prepared showing the meeting places. Some of these maps have survived and there are examples in both Uppingham School Archives and the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR) at Wigston.



An extract from one of Robert's meeting place maps showing the 'Rendezvous Point' for Home Guard Guides near Belton (Uppingham School Archives)

Robert amassed a mine of information of every kind, all of great potential value. He set himself one particularly exacting task in producing a map showing the name of every field in Rutland. Collecting these required a great deal of research amongst farmers, landlords, agents, tenants and workers. Robert's idea was that, in an agricultural district, the best, most accurate and quickest way of reporting the presence and location of the enemy would be by giving the names of the field, or fields, in which they had been seen.



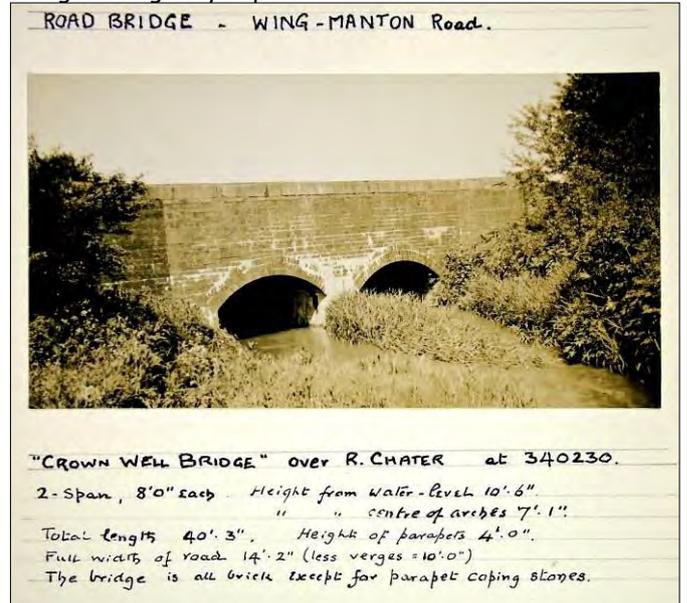
An extract from Robert's Rutland field name map (Rutland County Museum)

Robert's map remains as a monument to his infinite capacity for detail. The map, which has historical interest

through its record of field names in Rutland, was originally in the County Council Offices in Oakham, but is now in ROLLR (DE 1381/535). He also made a portable version for his own use. There is also an enlarged copy of the map at Rutland County Museum.

Under the title of 'Rutland Field Names - Interesting results of an Interesting Enquiry', Robert wrote an article about Rutland field names for the *Stamford Mercury*. It was published on 27th March 1943. There was, of course, no mention of the military value of his research.

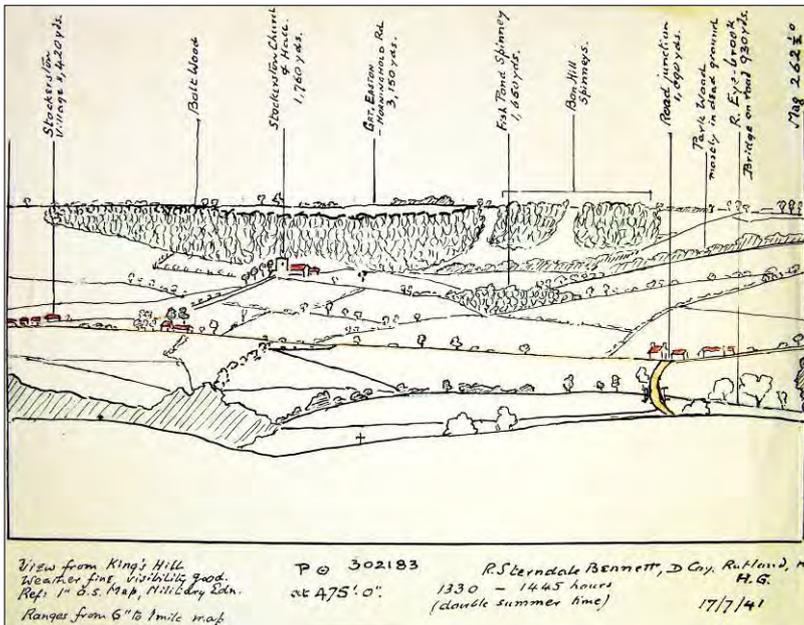
Another of Robert's research exercises was to photograph and record details of road and rail bridges in the county. As Intelligence Officer, he saw bridges as being strategically important in times of war.



Robert's record card for Crown Well Bridge, over the River Chater on the Wing to Manton road, indicating the type of detail he recorded. There is a separate card for each of the 45 bridges he surveyed and these are stored in a small canvas backed binder (Rutland County Museum - Acc No 1986.16)

Robert's Home Guard Notes (see page 9) include a page on panorama sketching with the comment, 'No need to be an artist in any sense, but faculty for neatness essential'.

He saw the military value of panoramas as being much quicker to draw than mapping, and able to show many extra features. They could also be used as pictorial range cards and taught Home Guards to be observant, giving them an eye for the countryside from a military standpoint. One of his panoramas has survived and is now in Rutland County Museum. It consists of four drawings on hinged cards and is of the view from Kings Hill, near Uppingham, looking south-west towards Stockerston, with Stoke Wood to the left on the first card and Wardley Wood to the right on the fourth card. The example below is of the second card and shows Stockerston village. It was drawn by Robert on 17th July 1941.



Westcott, Surrey. The primary reason for their move to Westcott was because of Robert's friendship with the well known composer Ralph Vaughan Williams who lived in nearby Dorking, Surrey. Ralph founded the Leith Hill Music Festival in 1905 and Robert became a committee member. However, Robert came out of retirement in 1953 to conduct his grandfather's overture *The Naiads* at Uppingham School Centenary Celebrations.

Retirement also allowed Robert time to contribute articles to many of the learned music journals, particularly on his specialist subjects of Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelssohn. He also enjoyed providing historical information to students and scholars from his grandfather's extensive library which included Mendelssohn. This collection is now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The second of Robert's four-card panorama of the view from Kings Hill, near Uppingham, looking south-west towards Stockerston (Rutland County Museum)



Robert and his family lived at The Cottage, 31 South View, Uppingham



Captain R Sterndale Bennett, Battalion Intelligence Officer and Chief Guide, Rutland Home Guard, in 1943 (Family Archive)

The Home Guard remained in being during the increasingly victorious phase of the war and, having completed its duty, finally stood down in December 1944, just six months before Robert was due to retire.

Robert retired from Uppingham School in 1945 after 37 years of service, and one of the first appointments Martin Lloyd had to make as new Headmaster was Robert's successor. His choice was Douglas Guest, a young Royal Artillery Major, who had landed on the Normandy beaches on D Day 1944. He succeeded to the post of Director of Music in September 1945, later becoming organist at Westminster Abbey.

For most of their time at Uppingham, Robert and Dorothy lived at The Cottage, 31 South View, Uppingham. They eventually left in 1948 to live in and around



This publicity photograph of Robert was taken for the BBC in 1951 when he was still involved in broadcasting (Family Archive)

Robert died at his home, Longacre, Westcott, Surrey, on 27th August 1963, at the age of 82. His funeral was at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. There is no memorial. His wife, Dorothy, survived him as a widow for more than 20 years. She died in a nursing home near Colchester, Essex, in 1985.

**Acknowledgements:**

I would like to thank the following for their help in preparing this article:

- Fiona Colbert of St John's College, Cambridge. Information from *The Eagle* and other documents is reproduced by kind permission of the Masters and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge
- Jerry Rudman of Uppingham School Archives
- Barry Sterndale-Bennett, Robert's grandson
- Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
- Rutland County Museum

Thanks also to Tim Clough and Sheila Sleath for editorial advice, and Vanessa Doe for checking the music content.

**RUTLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Rutland Memorial Hospital, in Cold Overton Road, Oakham opened in 1924. It was erected in memory of the men who gave their lives in World War I. A carved oak plaque recording this dedication has recently been discovered, hidden behind a fire door at the hospital. Oakham Town Councillor, John Nowell, who made the discovery, is hoping that the plaque can now be restored with a view to having it erected in the reception area of the hospital.



*The plaque which was recently discovered at the hospital - referred to here as Rutland County Hospital (John Nowell)*



*Rutland Memorial Hospital just after opening in 1924 (Jack Hart Collection - Rutland County Museum)*

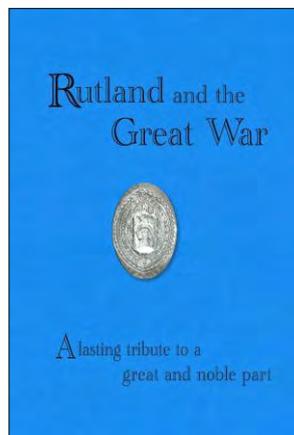


*Inside one of the wards at the hospital in 1924 (Jack Hart Collection - Rutland County Museum)*

**RUTLAND AND THE GREAT WAR**

Remembering Rutland's Fallen Heroes

This limited edition hardback book, a reprint of the original, has been produced to commemorate soldiers from Rutland who lost their lives in the First World War.



The original book, *Rutland and the Great War*, was published in 1920 as a tribute to those who left the county to fight in the conflict from 1914-1918 but did not return.

This book, the work of Rutland historian George Phillips, contains biographies and pictures of the fallen, Rolls of Honour from local villages and schools, a review

of the conflict and details of events on the Home Front.

George Phillips collected much of his information by visiting bereaved families, all of whom received a copy of the original book.

The intention behind the 2014 edition was not to make changes or updates but rather to produce a higher-quality publication with enhanced text and photographs.

This reprint of *Rutland and the Great War* was launched by the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Laurence Howard, at Rutland County Museum on 23rd October 2014 and recently featured in the BBC's *Inside Out* programme.

Only 1,100 copies of the limited edition hardback volume have been printed, and are available to purchase from Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle at a cover price of £20, with a standard edition available for £15.

All proceeds from the book will go to fund future First World War commemorations in the county.

Robert Clayton

Many thanks to all the contributors to this issue. 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](mailto:rfovens@yahoo.co.uk).

*Robert Ovens*