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RUTLAND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Normally this Newsletter would carry a report on the previous year's George Phillips and Tony Traylen Awards. Unfortunately, there were insufficient nominations in 2015 to enable a viable awards ceremony. However, we fully expect that we will be able to reinstate the competition for 2016, with an awards ceremony at Oakham Castle in January 2017.

Just as a reminder, 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, introduced in 1980, is for a recent new or refurbished building or development in Rutland.



The Tony Traylen Award, formerly known as the Rutland Historic Building Award was introduced in 2007 for the renovation or conservation of an historic building in Rutland.

Anyone can make a nomination, so please think about any recent and relevant developments that you are aware of in Rutland. It might even be your own home. For a nomination, all we need is an address and a simple statement as to why you are nominating. Send it by email to secretary@rutlandhistory.org or by post (or by hand) to The Correspondence Secretary, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW.

The Awards are now in their 36th year and all the winners since 1980 can be seen on the Society's website at rutlandhistory.org

RYHALL VILLAGE VISIT

Saturday 19th September 2015

Based at Ryhall village hall, the former village school, this event, open to members and local people, was organised by Debbie Frearson and Carole Bancroft-Turner, and introduced by Edward Baines. The first part of the afternoon was a PowerPoint presentation highlighting interesting aspects of Ryhall's local history, using old photographs and documents provided by Rutland County Museum and Anne Virgin, a local resident.

A talk by Peter Hill on 'Witches in Local History' followed. In his talk, Peter defused some of the many myths that have been associated with this subject in the past, using contemporary documents, trial records, illustrations and other sources. He demonstrated the differences in beliefs, attitudes and responses in the minds and lives of our ancestors in Britain as well as in other communities abroad.

Finally, members and guests were able to follow a leaflet guided historical walk round the village, prepared by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, which included a visit to

see inside Ryhall Hall at the invitation of the owners, Mr and Mrs Juggins.



Debbie Frearson, Peter Hill and Edward Baines at Ryhall Village Visit. (RO)



Ryhall Hall. (RO)

THE SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - PART 2

To some a 'committee' means a set of elite academics. In the Society's Executive Committee, we have a wide range of volunteers, some academic, others professionals in specific areas such as conservation, but quite a few have an enthusiastic interest in local history with no background in academia nor specialised heritage professions. In the last Newsletter I profiled the Officers of the Executive Committee. Now, it's the turn of the other elected members who do not hold specific offices: they collectively offer over 200 years of experience of Rutland and its history. Each give their advice freely, raising concerns whether it be in relation to planning matters, changes to funding, or simple introductions to new areas of research, resulting in a dynamic collaboration of individuals on the Committee.

A valuable member of the committee is **Robert Clayton** currently Rutland County Council's Head of Culture and Registration, a role which includes the management of Rutland County Museum, Oakham Castle, and the county's

public libraries. Robert is a Chartered Librarian, and has worked on and off at Oakham Library since 1994, when Leicestershire County Council operated the service. Robert joined Rutland County Council in 2000 to manage the library service, and has been a member of the RLHRS Executive Committee since 2005. His principal focus at present is the restoration work to Oakham Castle, a £2.4m project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Rutland County Council, and the Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle.

A longstanding committee member is Oakham based **David Carlin**, whose career was in aircraft maintenance. David's extensive knowledge of the area and his thirty-year contribution to the archives of the Society are second to none. He acted as our Historic Environment Convener for many years, advising on planning applications and recommending projects for the Society's environmental awards.

After spending many years lecturing on landscape history and historic buildings, **Elizabeth Bryan** joined the historic buildings department of Leicestershire County Council, later becoming the Conservation Officer for Rutland from 1997 to 2006. She now works as an historic buildings consultant and is a regular judge for the Society's Environmental Awards.

A native of Seaton, although now in exile in Uppingham, **Hilary Crowden** has been working on Rutland's local history for the past 30 years. In 2004 he gained his Masters in English Local History from the University of Leicester, and is at present completing his PhD, focusing on the development of Rutland as a county community in the modern age.

Audrey Buxton has enjoyed a long and varied administrative and political career both in and outside the County. As Feature Editor for the *Rutland Times* for a number of years and County Councillor for many more she offers a varied perspective on the work of the committee. Contacts made throughout her time in Rutland, and her later career as a genealogist, have proved an invaluable resource for members. Audrey keeps trying to retire from the committee following her move to Market Harborough, but she is such an important member we asked her to stay with us!

Our newest Honorary Member, **Dr Mike Tillbrook**, was Treasurer then Chairman of the Society for many years. Mike offers invaluable academic advice and measured diplomacy, and is a regular Newsletter book reviewer.

Finally, **Paul Reeve**, an Oxford graduate, is using his professional skills from a sales and marketing career to reduce the considerable stock of publications held by the Society.

All of the committee work towards delivering the main aim of the Society, which is the advancement of the education of the public in all aspects of the history of Rutland and its immediate area. There are vacancies on the committee and we welcome anyone who feels they can contribute.

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

Membership Subscriptions are due on 1st May 2016. 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, 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 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 Society's website.

The remainder of the 2015 programme:

Thursday 21st April at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The Hallaton Treasure

Ken Wallace and Vicki Score

Ken discovered the hoard and Vicki carried out the excavations.

Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

RLH&RS AGM followed by

The 58th Rutland Regiment in the Boer War

Anthony Martin

Anthony Martin will focus on the 58th Rutland Regiment's involvement in the Zulu War of 1879, and the little known 1st Boer War of 1881. During the latter the 58th were all but annihilated, hence the title of the talk. Shortly after its conclusion, what remained of the Regiment was amalgamated with the Northamptonshire Regiment as part of the Army reforms, and the Rutland Regiment ceased to exist.

Thursday 9th June at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

Ironstone Quarrying in Rutland

Speaker from *Rocks by Rail*

Thursday 14th July at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The Romans in Rutland

Peter Liddle, former County Archaeologist for Leicestershire

Thursday 25th August at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The Melton and Oakham Canal

Paul Dadford

September (Date to be confirmed) at 7.30 pm

Venue: Oakham Castle

The Tennants Lecture

Marc Allum of the *Antiques Road Show*

There will be a charge for this event. Please book in advance at Rutland County Museum

Saturday 17th September

Venue: Morcott Village Hall and Church

Village Visit to Morcott

Tony Martin and Tricia Williams

There will be a charge for this event. An invitation will be sent to all members

Thursday 1st November at 7.30pm

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The Role of Museums in the USA - can we learn from them?

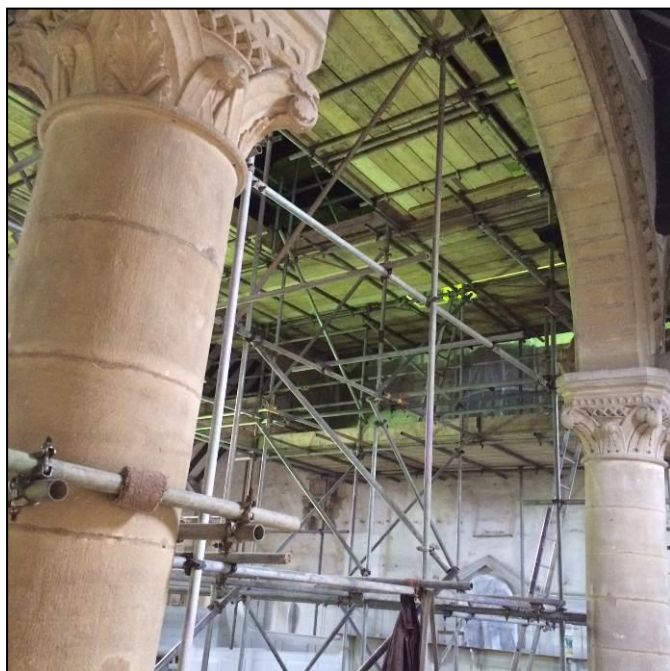
Dr Katy Bunning, Research Associate, Museum Studies Department, University of Leicester

OAKHAM CASTLE PROJECT PROGRESS

Robert Woodhead Limited commenced on site on the 12th October 2015. The New Build Extension works are well underway, with the demolition of the boiler house and infilling of the basement completed, following archaeological supervision. The new toilet block / boiler room walls and floor slabs have been installed, as has the external ashlar stonework, which is now at full height. Work is currently underway on the roofing.

Refurbishment works to the Great Hall are very advanced. The internal vestibule has been removed, and

the internal wall repair works have been completed, including re-plastering of significant areas, and painting with appropriate materials. First fix electrical works are complete, and a new lighting scheme installed, which has made the hall significantly brighter (lighting levels can be reduced as required). The court furniture has been sanded and primed, ready for the implementation of the approved paint scheme, which will reflect the original look of the furniture. Internal ramps have been installed. No 1 Court is presently being redecorated in advance of installation of interpretation materials.



The external refurbishment works to the Great Hall are virtually complete, with extensive repointing and repairs, renewal of the fascias, soffits and rainwater goods, and repair works to the windows (including a mesh guard to the high East Window which frequently suffers damage). The Collyweston slate roof on No 1 Court has been almost completely replaced on the east side as it was in very poor condition.

Archaeological supervision has been undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) including the evaluation of the areas previously covered by the paving slabs, the excavations to the new extension block and the evaluation to the test area of the curtain wall. The remaining ULAS attendance will be supervision of Woodhead's installations of site guiding.

The horseshoes were removed from the Great Hall, transported to Rutland County Museum and staff together with volunteers from the University of Lincoln have cleaned and undertaken minor repair works to the collection. The horseshoes have been photographed, weighed and measured, and the majority have now been re-installed in the Great Hall. Under the new lighting conditions, they look even more impressive than before.

Following the removal of the horseshoes, previously unrecorded wall decorations were discovered in the plasterwork above the judge's bench. Andrea Kirkham, a

decoration specialist, has attended site to analyse the decoration and has determined that the scheme is indeed Romanesque, and is contemporary with the construction of the Great Hall. This discovery is being recorded, and small sections have been left exposed to enable visitors to have some idea of how the scheme looked. The longer term most appropriate way to interpret the decoration is being discussed with Historic England, with options to be discussed with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The decoration will be included in the interpretation materials.

Following investigative archaeological works to the curtain wall, discussions are underway with Historic England and ULAS concerning the options for going forward. This is likely to shape the programme of community archaeology for the next 3 years. Undertaking the wide-scale revealing of the curtain walls as part of the construction phase of the current project is not possible, as this would require additional funding and would significantly delay re-opening. The works planned within the current project for the walls still above ground (largely covered in ivy) will be completed as planned. There is no impact on purposes, timetable or costs at present.



A plan for new external interpretation boards has been agreed with Historic England and the HLF, and the text of the panels has been finalised. Design work is now underway, as is the fabrication of the panel stands. The design of a physical 3D model of the Castle as we believe it looked c.1340 has been signed off by Historic England, and resin fabrication will begin shortly, as will watercolour illustrations based on the design. Internal interpretation panels, and displays for the No 1 Court are also in the design stage.

The new Activity Manager, Charlotte Widgery, joined the project in December and has begun to develop the activity programme, commencing with the development of the Official Launch Day, which will be on Bank Holiday Monday (30th May) 2016, and an outline programme for the rest of the year has been prepared. The first of the activity programme volunteers have been recruited. Interviews have been held for the Education Officer and Marketing Officer, and the appointees should be starting work with us shortly. An interactive guide to the

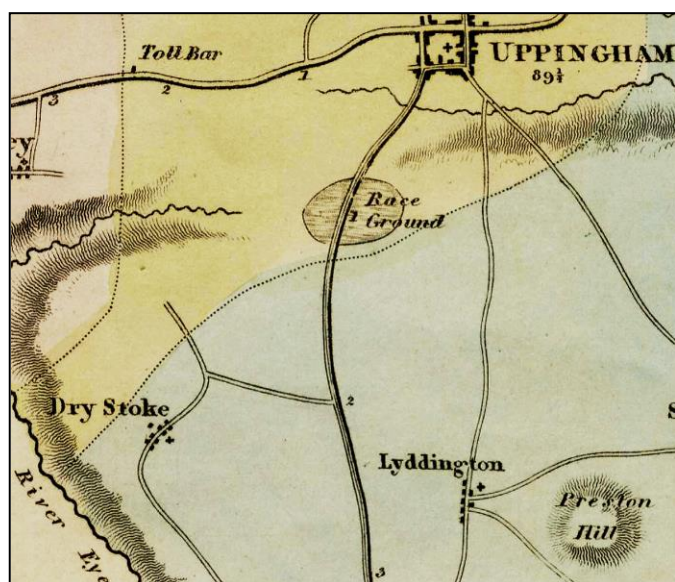
horseshoes is under development, as is a fun 'design your own horseshoe' IT app, which will be available on site.

Robert Clayton
Head of Culture & Registration
Rutland County Council

UPPINGHAM RACES

By Vanessa Doe

Uppingham race ground lay to the south of the town on an area of common grazing known as the Brand, near to the site of the present Community College, where the ground on the common levels out. The common was shared, among others, with Lyddington, Uppingham's nearest neighbour to the south. The oval shaped course is clearly shown on contemporary and later maps as it was crossed by the new turnpike road, built in the 1750s to carry traffic between Nottingham and Kettering.



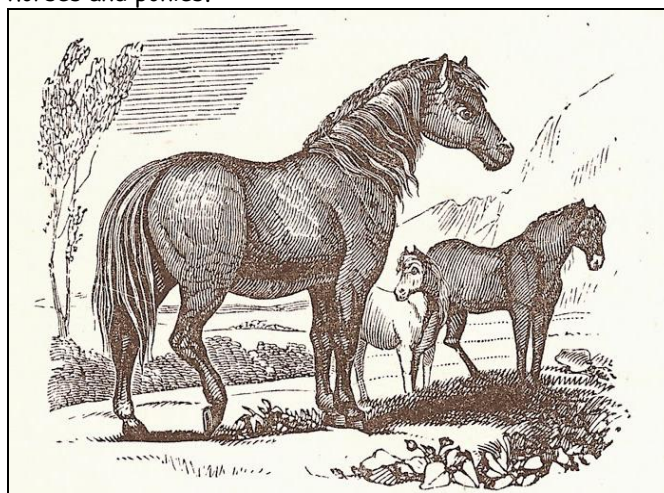
Uppingham Race Ground on Cary's map of 1805.

Racing on Uppingham Brand was first recorded in 1708 and continued for most of the eighteenth century. It was organised from Uppingham and the horses were stabled in the town, bringing business to the inns. Information supplied by the Curator of the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket, shows that the races on the Brand were well organised. John Weatherall was appointed as Clerk (or Steward) in the 1720s, to be replaced later by Ambrose How, and they took entries before each meeting at the Market Cross in Uppingham. By 1721 the prizes were said to be well up to the best on offer at race meetings at this time.

Until the practice was discontinued in the 1770s, most horse races in England were run in heats of up to four miles. For example, the Derby at Epsom was run in heats, the four miles starting at Banstead and ending at the winning post on the main course. Most of the races at Uppingham in the mid eighteenth century were run in four mile heats, possibly following part of the level ground which stretches across the Brand from the top of Wardley

Hill in the west towards Seaton in the east, but most likely using the Common towards Seaton. By 1735 the course was attracting leading owners like Sir Michael Newton, MP for Grantham, who took a £20 second prize with *Brisk*, a winner at Peterborough and other venues. He was beaten by *Partner* belonging to Mr Grisewood. *Partner* became a leading sire, having won 25 races, two of them at Uppingham. There were other entries by leading owners including Lord Gower, Mr Fleetwood and Mr Tuting. Lord Gower's horse, *Noname*, won the £40 prize in the heats for six year olds against the Duke of Ancaster's *Dainty*.

Eighteenth century newspaper reports of the racing on the Uppingham race ground show that they were a very different kind of event to that which would be expected by racegoers today. The Jockey Club was meeting regularly in Newmarket from about 1750 and members were in the process of putting together 'Rules' governing race meetings, but had not yet joined forces with Weatherby's to enforce the running only of horses registered as thoroughbreds in the General Stud Book. The Uppingham races were designed for both the gentry with their well-bred hunters and hacks and for the local people with their horses and ponies.



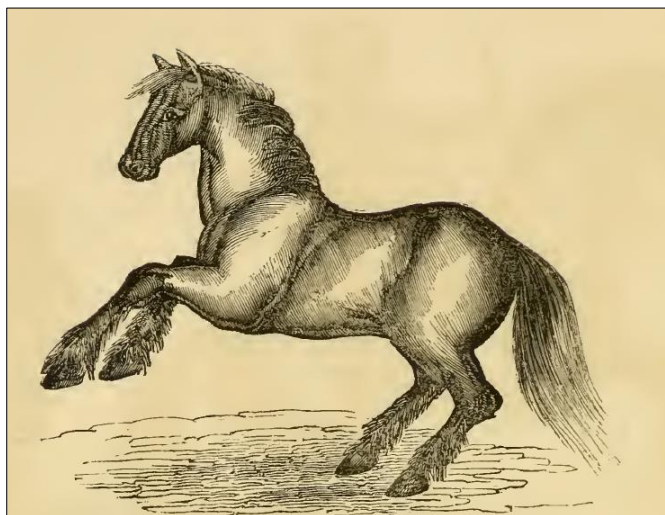
Galloway Ponies, originally from Ireland, were used as pack ponies to carry a variety of heavy loads on the pack horse trains, but they had been cross bred out of existence by 1820. (Wikipedia)

An account of the races in the *Stamford Mercury* in 1740 gives details of the programme and prizes on offer at the kind of meeting expected at this time. It took place on the course over the four days of 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st May. The meeting had a specific programme for each day. On the first day the purse, or prize, of 10 guineas was given to the winner of races for Galloway ponies up 14hh (hands high), carrying weight according to height, the largest to carry at least 9 stone. The entry fee was 15s. Galloway, or pony racing was popular on provincial courses but had gone from most areas by the beginning of the nineteenth century to make way for horses. Galloway ponies, originally from Ireland, were bred as pack ponies to carry a variety of heavy loads on the pack horse trains which ran throughout the country carrying, for example, salt from the salt mines in Cheshire, and lead, iron ore and

millstones from Derbyshire. They were generally bay with black points, a dual purpose breed favoured for fast active work, both ridden and in harness.

On the second and third days the races were run in heats of four miles for a purse of £40 with an entry fee of one and a half guineas. All types of horses under six years old, as certified by the breeder, were allowed to enter, some in classes with weight restrictions on the riders, and some according to age. These races were probably knockouts, leaving a single winner at the end of the day for the £40 purse. The winning horse, valued at 80 guineas, could be sold by the owner and claimed by a subscriber. All the horses entered had to be brought to Uppingham and shown at the Market Cross to Ambrose How, the Clerk of the Course, on the afternoon of 22nd May between 2pm and 5pm.

On the Saturday, the last day of the meeting in 1740, the Earl of Gainsborough gave two bucks (deer) as prizes. One buck was given to the winner of a race for hunters owned by gentlemen freeholders to carry ten stone. Local villagers who were Commoners on the Brand or Beaumont Chase could also enter their horses. These races were what would now be referred to as 'claiming races'. The winning horse was expected to be sold after racing for £10. Commoners could also enter their cart horses in their own race. The second buck was given as a prize to the winning cart horse owned by a local commoner. No one was to enter more than once in this class and the owner was to have been in possession of the horse for the last three months. Before racing, all the horses entered on the Saturday had to be paraded before the Clerk of the Course in Uppingham market place between 9am and 11am.



A cart horse of the type which took part in the Uppingham races. It was lighter than a modern Shire but capable of ploughing and carting work on local farms. (Whyte)

It is unlikely that the cart horses were the large heavy Shire breeds we see today. Powerful though they are, and excellent for farm work in heavy land, they would have been costly to keep. Local farmers would probably have used a lighter Irish vanner type of cart horse, more like the modern Irish draught, to pull their ploughs and carts.

With races specifically for Galloway ponies and cart horses the support of the local farming community on the racecourse will have been essential.

Match racing also took place on the Brand. This was usually a race set up between two or more individuals to settle claims regarding the superior prowess of their horses. In 1781 a race, reported in the *Stamford Mercury*, took place over three heats of two miles between a chestnut gelding belonging to John Freer Esq of Edith Weston and a grey gelding belonging to Dr Francis Armstrong of Uppingham, the winner taking 100 guineas. The outcome is not recorded.

On the same day there was a race for four year olds for a £10 purse, and another for novices, run in heats, for a purse of £50. All the entered horses had to be shown at the Falcon Inn in the evening of 21st July.

As in other rural areas there were often cock fights organised to take place at the same time as the racing as participation in both sports brought money into the inns and other venues in the area, as well as opportunities for betting. This was probably seen as an indoor alternative to racing if the weather was not suitable.

There was no racing at Uppingham from 1741 to 1760, and from 1776 to 1780, possibly due to the difficulty in raising the same level of prize money as in 1740, but more probably due to the frequent outbreaks of plague in the town at this time.

In 1782, the stewards were Francis Cheselden and Dr Armstrong, with Samuel Douglas acting as clerk, but racing on the Uppingham course was apparently abandoned soon after, the last recorded meeting being in July 1783. However, the sport evidently persisted in other ways at other local venues, until the 1790s. The 'Universal' Trade Directory of 1791 specifically mentions 'the Brand here is noted for horse races', but by then the site of the course would have been valued for inclusion in the early nineteenth century enclosure of the local open fields and commons, which included the whole area of the Brand.



The pillars marking the start and finish of races are said to have been moved to form the Ionic portico of No 42 High Street West, Uppingham. (RO)

It was also the case that in the 1760s and 70s the numbers of entries had probably begun to fall off, which, according to Whyte, was part of a noticeable decline in

provincial race meetings in the last half of the eighteenth century owing to the distractions of wars on the continent. Whyte records the closing of the course at Uppingham along with 48 others in the provinces by 1798. Peter Lane, in his unpublished account of the racecourse, notes that the pillars marking the start and finish of races are said to have been moved to form the Ionic portico of 42 High Street West, Uppingham. One of the eagles which topped the columns on the racecourse was for a time still in the garden of this house. The race ground track has vanished without trace, the whole area of the common grazing on the Brand having been enclosed and laid out in new allotments by 1804.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Peter Lane of Uppingham Local History Study Group for providing copies of his notes on Uppingham racecourse, and to Peter Tomalin for his research in conjunction with the National Horseracing Museum at Newmarket.

References:

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Morgan, William, *Uppingham Races*, unpublished draft article, 2014, provided by the Curator of the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket.

Munting, Roger, *Hedges and Hurdles, a Social and Economic History of National Hunt Racing*, London 1987.

Traylen, A R, *Uppingham in Rutland*, No 7 'In Rutland Series', Stamford 1982 (Includes extracts from the *Stamford Mercury* reporting the racing at Uppingham).

Whyte, James C, *History of the British Turf*, 2 vols, London 1840.

TWO RUTLAND RECTORS AND A YORKSHIREMAN

By Paul Reeve

The Reverend Richard Twopenny was rector of Little Casterton in Rutland from 1783 to his death in 1843. He was a former Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, and learned in his reading. In May 1819 Edward Drury, a Stamford bookseller, wrote that he had submitted for the Reverend Twopenny's appraisal poems by John Clare. Sadly, the rector did not think the poems worth publication. Clare was deeply hurt by this and penned the following lines reproduced from an article by Rodney Lines entitled 'John Clare's Rutland', originally published in *Rutland Record* 13 (1993), 104-07.

*Twopenny his wisdom is & Twopenny his fame is,
Twopenny his merit is & Twopenny his name is,
And as Twopence is a trifle I will do without him,
I'll sing in spite of Twopences
And not care Twopence about him.*

This is perhaps the most conspicuous memorial for the poor rector. However, even cursory research shows that Richard Twopenny was an active and public spirited man. What is now Rectory Cottage, Little Casterton, was built as a schoolroom in 1832 by the Countess Dowager of

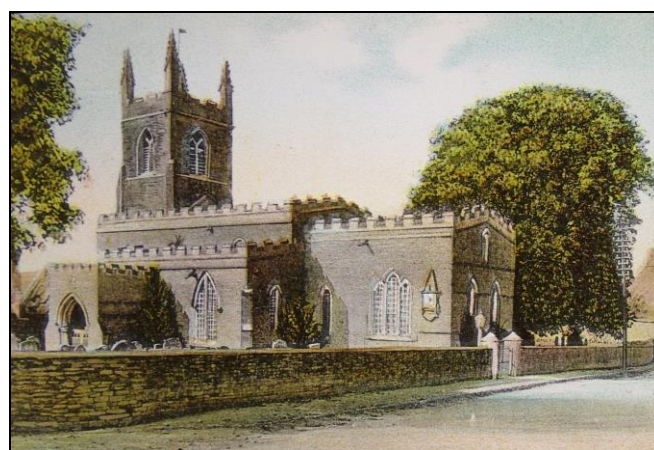
Pomfret and the rector. Before this he had worked as a private tutor or schoolmaster. Nathaniel Clayton, Byron's contemporary at Harrow School, was one of his pupils. Byron described him as 'another school monster of learning and talent and hope'. Nathaniel came from the north of England so the rector's reputation was not confined to Rutland.

**THIS SCHOOL WAS
BUILT BY THE
C^S DOW^R OF POMFRET
AND THE RECTOR
1832**

A facsimile of the Plaque at Rectory Cottage, Little Casterton.

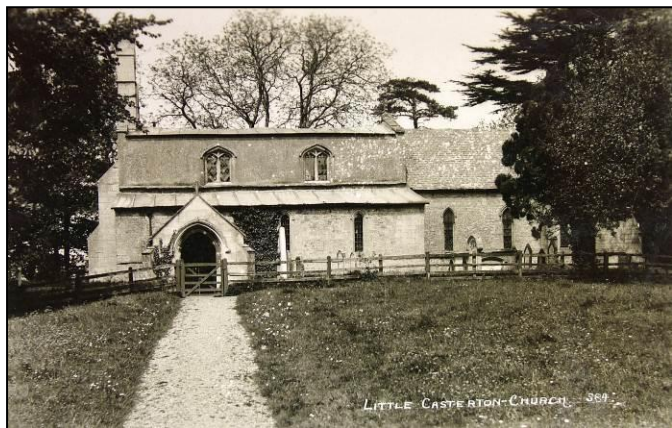
Under Richard Twopenny the chancel of All Saints Church was restored and the north aisle rebuilt around 1810-1811. A new porch was provided in 1837, paid for by Mary Countess of Pomfret. The *Victoria County History* for Rutland says further that the porch and the east end of the chancel were designed by William Twopenny. William was a barrister, an accomplished architectural draughtsman and a relative of the rector.

An article in *The British Critic* of 1826, a quarterly review, went so far as to state, 'In Rutlandshire, Great Casterton has a good church in very bad condition, while Little Casterton has an inferior church, but so well repaired by the Rev. E. Twopenny, that it is quite a model of what may be done even at a very small expense'. E Twopenny is presumably a mistake for R Twopenny.



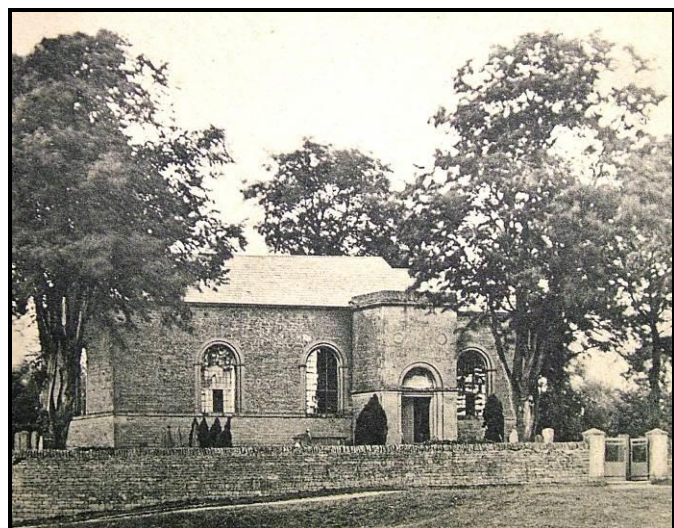
Great Casterton Church in 1906. (Jack Hart Collection, RCM)

At Great Casterton the rector was Richard Lucas. He was rector of Great Casterton with Pickworth until his death in 1827, as well as rector of Edith Weston in Rutland and Dean of Stamford, Lincolnshire.



Little Casterton Church in 1934. (Jack Hart Collection, RCM)

It was Richard Lucas who married John Clare and Martha Turner at St Peter and St Paul, Great Casterton, in 1820. If he was implicitly criticised in *The British Critic*, he was widely recorded elsewhere as having built at his own expense a new church at Pickworth. To cover the running costs of the new church, he had further provided a substantial endowment. The new All Saints Church at Pickworth was consecrated in 1824 but the *Stamford Mercury* of 26th October 1821 had earlier reported the opening of the church on 'Sunday last Feast Day'. Rightly praised for his generosity, Richard Lucas was ready to share the credit as the *Victoria County History* for Rutland explains, 'In the chancel is a marble tablet to Joseph Armitage, of Wakefield, Yorkshire (d 1820), gratefully placed by the Rev. Rd. Lucas, rector of Casterton Magna cum Pickworth, who, by property derived from him in the year 1822, was enabled to erect and endow this church.'



Pickworth Church in 1906. (Jack Hart Collection, RCM)

Joseph Armitage of The Lodge, Wakefield, (frequently spelt Armytage as recorded on his memorial inscription in what was then Wakefield parish church, now Wakefield Cathedral) died in 1820 aged 59. His estate passed to his sole surviving sister Elizabeth, wife of Richard Lucas. It

was this inheritance that helped Richard Lucas to build and endow the new church at Pickworth. In 1821 *The Athenaeum* gave a short account of Joseph Armytage/Armitage stating that, 'His whimsical and very extraordinary parsimony on some occasions, and his unbounded generosity on others, will not be forgotten; and if it was necessary to find a similar personage to fill the chasm made by the death of this extraordinary man, it would be a matter of no small difficulty.' In this and other accounts, it was invariably his eccentricity that was illustrated by example and quotation rather than his generosity. Credited with an income of around £5,000 per year, he nevertheless thought himself close to poverty.

The alleged shortcomings of these three discursively linked individuals seem amply compensated by their good deeds; they do not amount to evil and do not illustrate Shakespeare's lines from *Julius Caesar*:

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

More appropriate might be Hamlet's words to Polonius:

Use every man after his desert, and who should 'scape whipping?

BOOK REVIEWS

Stamford and Magna Carta: the start of the road to Runnymede

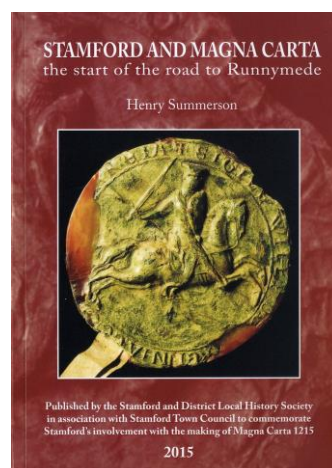
By Henry Summerson

For the Stamford and District Local History Society in association with Stamford Town Council

Published by Abramis Academic Publishing in 2015

Softbound - 60 pages - 150 x 210mm

Price £10 from local bookshops or via the Society website at stamfordlocalhistorysociety.org.uk



At Easter 1215 a group of nobles, angered by King John's taxation demands, assembled at Stamford and marched south to challenge the king, sparking off a process which culminated two months later on 15th June in the king's reluctant acceptance of the Magna Carta and the severe abridgement of royal rights which that represented. (The gathering of the

nobles is incorrectly dated on the back cover of the book).

That the sealing of Magna Carta was a matter of great historical significance cannot be doubted. Just how significant it might have been continues to be much debated, not least as a result of the major exhibition held recently at the British Library. This small but informative volume does not concern itself with the wider significance of Magna Carta. What it does do particularly well is to

sketch the nature of the borough of Stamford in the early years of the thirteenth century with a brief but clear exposition of its religious, cultural and commercial importance at the time. This will prove extremely informative to anyone interested in medieval Stamford and its hinterland, including Rutland.

Where the book is less successful is in establishing the links between the town and the nobles who gathered there. Why the nobles should have gathered at Stamford is treated speculatively. (It might, of course, be the case that the reason for the gathering at Stamford cannot be definitively established). We can infer, of course, that this is a reflection of Stamford's importance, and Dr Summerson does assert that Stamford was 'ideally placed for their assembly'. However, this doesn't explain why Stamford was chosen in preference to a number of other towns, especially as Stamford was a royal borough held under the stewardship of Earl Warenne who remained loyal to the king.

Neither does Dr Summerson discuss the debate about the identity of the barons who assembled at Stamford. He quotes the contemporary list given by Roger of Wendover, acknowledges its deficiencies, as demonstrated over fifty years ago by Sir James Holt, but doesn't attempt to correct the list. Moreover, he makes no attempt to incorporate the analysis of the rebel barons undertaken by Professor Matthew Strickland on behalf of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)*, which seems odd in view of Dr Summerson's own pivotal role in the production of the *ODNB's* medieval biographies. In the final analysis, therefore, this small work, erudite though it might be on the importance of Stamford in the early thirteenth century, is ultimately rather unsatisfying in linking the town to the epochal events of the late spring and early summer of 1215.

MT

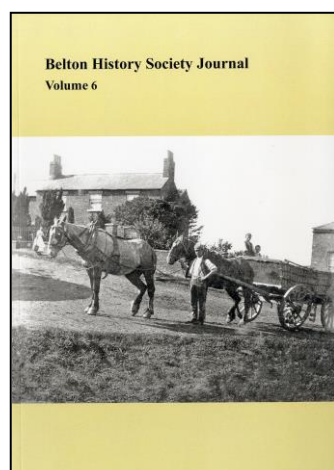
Belton History Society Journal Volume 6

Edited by Audrey and Philip Walker

Published in 2015 by the Society

Softbound - 56 pages - A4

Price £7 from local bookshops and Rutland County Museum, or contact the Society at info@beltonhistorysociety.org.uk



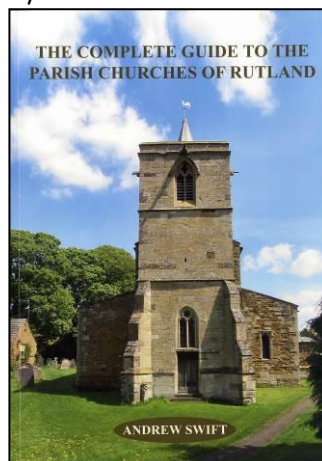
Belton History Society are to be congratulated on producing yet another Journal, launched at Belton Village Hall on Sunday 13th December 2015, which is full of interest and information, with articles that will surely appeal to many. Topics include Belton's Open Field System, The Great Air Race of 1911, using the censuses in local history research, updates

to the Society's Belton at War journal (vol 4), emigration from Belton, Littleworth, Wardley Hill, local archaeology, and the inns and alehouses in Belton and Allextun. Apart from being such an enjoyable read - I remember well the walk with my parents down to the 'Bridge Foot' at Allextun and the resulting red lips after drinking the Vimto, and searching for the blue salt packet in my crisps - it is an extremely useful resource for local historians. I look forward to the next publication in this series.

Sheila Sleath

The Complete Guide to the Parish Churches of Rutland

By Andrew Swift



Published in 2014 by Velox Books, Leicester

Softbound - 114 pages - A4

ISBN: 978-0-9575701-2-2

Price £15 plus £3 for

courier delivery

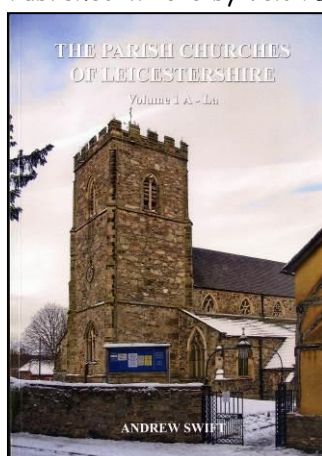
Available from local bookshops and Rutland County Museum or via

andrewswift.co.uk

The Parish Churches of Leicestershire

By Andrew Swift

Published in 2013 by Velox Books, Leicester



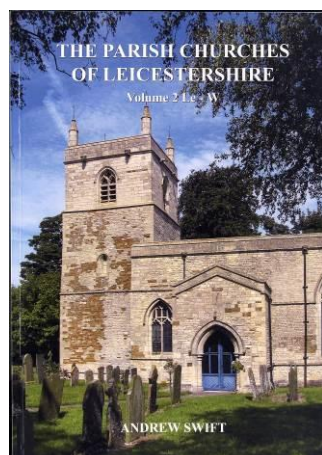
Volume 1: Ab Kettleby to Launde Abbey Chapel

Softbound - 286 pages - A4

ISBN: 978-0-9575701-0-8

Price £20 plus £3 for

courier delivery



Volume 2: Leicester's Medieval Churches to Wymondham

Softbound - 311 pages - A4

ISBN: 978-0-9575701-1-5

Price £20 plus £3 for

courier delivery

All three books are available via the author's website:

andrewswift.co.uk

Andrew Swift, a geologist with a passion for historic buildings, has published three books about the Anglican churches of Leicestershire and Rutland. Volume 1 of *The Parish Churches of Leicestershire* covers Ab Kettleby to Launde Abbey Chapel, and Volume 2 covers Leicester's Medieval Churches to Wymondham, a total of 316 churches in the two volumes. *The Complete Guide to the Parish Churches of Rutland* covers all 50 churches in the county, including Normanton.

The author, an honorary visiting fellow at the University of Leicester, is quoted as saying 'I'm interested in history and became fascinated with churches and their place in social evolution over time'.

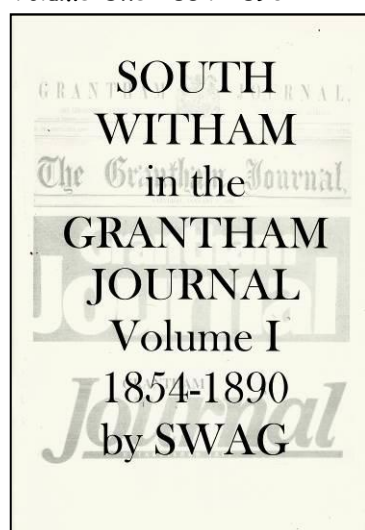
All three books follow the same format - a main photograph of the outside of the church, around 400 non-technical words on the history, features and general design of each building as well as anything else of interest, and a full page of up to 15 colour photographs to illustrate the text. Volume 1 of the Leicestershire books has a foreword by the Bishop of Leicester and volume 2 has a good bibliography. Likewise, the Rutland book has a foreword by the Bishop of Peterborough and a bibliography.

There are of course other books on the churches of Rutland - including the *Victoria County History* for Rutland, volume II, Canon John Prophet and Tony Traylen's *Churches of Rutland*, Gillian Dickenson's *Rutland Parish Churches Before Restoration*, Leonard Cantor's *The Parish Churches of Leicestershire and Rutland* and Pauline Collett's *The Parish Churches of Rutland* (reviewed in the April 2013 issue of this Newsletter). All bring something different to the reader and the new volume on Rutland churches is no different.

If, like me, you enjoy exploring the parish churches of Leicestershire and Rutland, you may want to buy all three of these excellent new publications.

RO

South Witham in the Grantham Journal Volume One 1854-1890



Published by South Witham Archaeological Group

Price £5 from local bookshops or eBay (plus £2.80 postage), or by contacting Peter Ball, 9 Wimberley Way, South Witham, Lincolnshire NG33 5PU

The South Witham Archaeological Group (SWAG) was formed in 1998, initially to study the Knights Templar

preceptory site north of the village. Its interests soon spread into the history of the village and the surrounding area and a number of publications were forthcoming

including the part Heritage Lottery funded *South Witham, Stone Age to Space Age. The History of a Lincolnshire Village.* (2004). Other publications include works on the Knights Templar at South Witham and a history of North Witham and Lobthorpe. Their latest publication, *South Witham in the Grantham Journal Volume 1 1854-1890* continues the high production values of its predecessors. Modestly priced it has much to commend it to Rutland readership, particularly those living in Thistleton and in the north of the county. The transcripts from the *Grantham Journal* portray a vibrant local community, a centre of religious and political nonconformity as well as a contentious and rather eccentric Anglican Rector in the Reverend Tollemache.

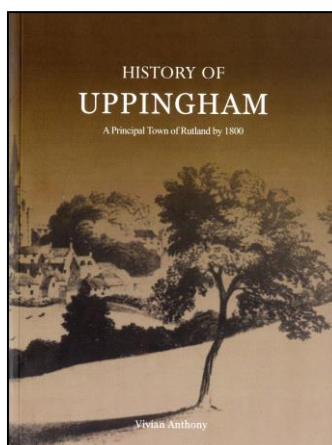
Hilary Crowden

History of Uppingham

By Vivian Anthony

Published in 2015 by Uppingham Local History Study Group
Softbound - 285 pages - 190 x 246mm

Price £20 from local bookshops and Rutland County Museum



The author has produced a comprehensive compilation of what is known about the history of Uppingham, and it is useful to have this material collected in a single volume. The author has assimilated the existing secondary material very effectively, but, as he himself acknowledges, there is little in this book which will be new or

unfamiliar. The local material is summarised accurately for the most part. The author does, however, sometimes struggle to relate his material to the wider historical context, and there is little attempt to differentiate between vital contextual material and detail which is undeniably superfluous to the tale which the author has to tell. There is some inaccuracy in this wider material. For example, the Venerable Bede, who died in 735, was hardly in a position to comment on the tenth-century restoration of monasticism under King Edgar and Archbishop Duncan, and Henry III reigned for 56 rather than 35 years. The author is on safer ground when discussing developments in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but the book as a whole would have been more useful to readers had it been subjected to more rigorous editing prior to publication.

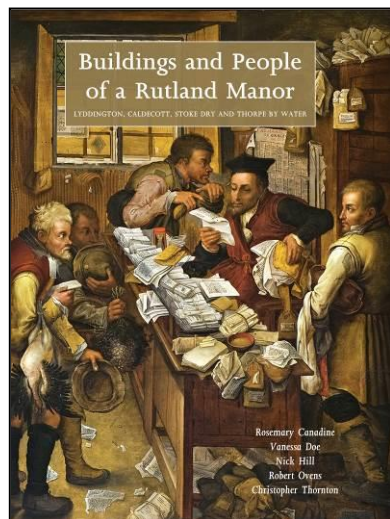
MT

Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor -

Lyddington, Caldecott, Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water

By Rosemary Canadine, Vanessa Doe, Nick Hill, Robert Ovens and Christopher Thornton

Published in February 2016 by Lyddington Manor History Society
 Hardbound - 368 pages - 180 x 250mm -
 ISBN: 978-0-9934821-0-6
 Price £15 from local bookshops and Rutland County Museum, or £20 by post. An order form can be downloaded from the Society's website at lyddingtonhistory.org.uk



This book owes its origins to two developments: the cataloguing of the vast trove of Lyddington manorial documents held at Burghley House and a proposal for dendrochronological research on buildings in Lyddington village. The idea of linking these two developments led to the foundation of the Lyddington Manor

History Society. Armed with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Society undertook a prodigious amount of research in a very short time, one of the outcomes of their efforts being the publication of this handsomely produced volume.

The book is a collaboration of five authors, two of whom are residents of Lyddington. Christopher Thornton has established succinctly the context of the manor's medieval development. However, the bulk of the volume concerns the period from the mid-sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries when the manor was in the hands of the Cecil family. The nature of the available sources has determined the parameters both of the project and of this volume. As a result, there is little about the religious and political history of the area. However, there is a substantial account of the manor's social and economic history written by Vanessa Doe, along with what seems likely to appeal to most readers of this volume, a discussion of vernacular building by Nick Hill and Robert Ovens and a series of individual house histories produced by Rosemary Canadine.

Vanessa Doe's account of the social and economic history of the manor is substantial and erudite. Her strongest section is that on farming. The detailed and subtle analysis of the agrarian history of the manor seems likely to remain definitive. A couple of opportunities for further comment on other aspects are not taken. Thus, the section on 'Poverty and the Poor in Lyddington Parish' is insufficiently linked to the legislative framework which defined poor relief, and Edward Watson's bequest of 1530 to pay for a priest to pray for the souls of the departed and to teach the children of the poor was not linked to the dissolution of the chantries, which presumably resulted in that endowment passing to the Crown.

Nick Hill and Robert Ovens discuss the development of what they consider to be 'the rich tradition of local vernacular architecture'. One of the outcomes of the dendrochronological research is that an additional seven buildings in Lyddington have been found to have fabric surviving from before the seventeenth century. The analysis in this section is detailed, convincing and supported thoroughly by dendrochronological data. The authors link the upsurge in vernacular building not only to the improvements in some agricultural incomes but also to the consciousness of status of many of Lyddington's residents. The material in this section is closely linked to Rosemary Canadine's detailed accounts of individual buildings within the manor. These hint at numerous family stories which might provide the basis future research. Why, for example, did Joseph Clarke, a substantial property owner, go to the USA in 1842, dying there in the following year?

There are one or two minor errors in the book. Robert Browne did not lead the Pilgrim Fathers to America and in 1620 few of their number would still have acknowledged him as the leader of their religious movement, and two dates of death are given for Bishop Magee of Peterborough. (1891 is the correct one). These do nothing, however, to detract from the quality of this book, which contains much ground-breaking research and is a worthy monument to the collective efforts of the Lyddington Manor History Group.

MT

LYDDINGTON MANOR HISTORY SOCIETY BOOK LAUNCH

Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor was launched by Andrew Brown, High Sheriff of Rutland, at a packed Lyddington Church on Saturday 27th February 2016.



Rosemary Canadine presents a copy of the book to Andrew Brown, High Sheriff of Rutland. (Jeremy Rider)

The book marks the culmination of a four-year Heritage Lottery funded project carried out by members of Lyddington Manor History Society.

Rosemary Canadine, chairman of Lyddington Manor History Society and archivist at Burghley House, explains that the Manor of Lyddington comprised the south Rutland villages of Lyddington, Caldecott, Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water, and that it was in the ownership of the Cecil family of Burghley House from the mid-sixteenth century for more than 300 years. In 2010 Lyddington Manor History Society was formed and it applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the cost of a community-based research project to study the people and buildings of the Manor, focusing especially on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when local vernacular architecture was at its height. Many stone-built houses of this period still survive, lining the village streets and giving the area much of its attractive character. Access for study purposes was given to the extensive range of documents, records and maps in the Burghley House archive to study the lives of the people, a wide range of vernacular buildings were surveyed, tree-ring dated and analysed in detail, and the social and economic history of the Manor was researched using documents and other records in local and national archives.

Also speaking at the launch was Professor David Stocker, Member of the East Midlands Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, who said that the project ranked among the best that he had had the privilege to witness, and Jon Culverhouse, Curator at Burghley House said that Lyddington Manor History Society was to be congratulated on its achievement. Dr Christopher Thornton, the project mentor, outlined his role in the project and thanked the authors of the book and the many others from the local community who had been involved throughout the project.

RO

EXHIBITION - LIFE IN LANGHAM 1914-1919

Langham Village History Group



Most of the research for our forthcoming exhibition at Rutland County Museum, 'Life in Langham 1914/1919', is now complete and the display boards are being produced. Our information has come from a variety of sources including school log books and managers meeting reports, Parish Council minute books, as well as our own archive. One very valuable resource has been the Grantham Journal for the period. The Langham village

correspondent at the time, Richard Westbrook (Dick) Baker, not only sent in detailed reports about village

activities but also kept a scrapbook of his contributions. The scrapbook served two purposes, as an historic record and a financial record of his submissions to the GJ at one ha'penny a line.

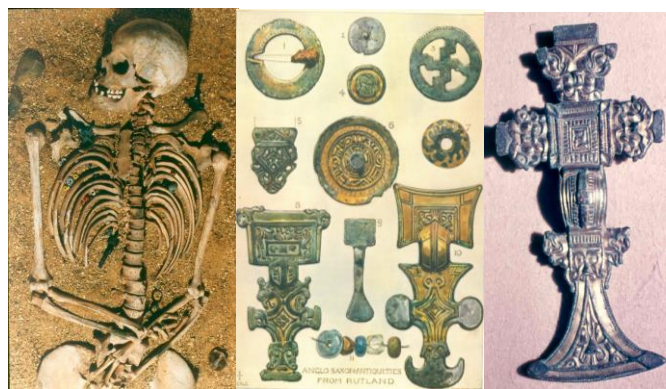
As well as information boards, we are fortunate in having items and artefacts to be displayed in cabinets. Some of the ladies have even been knitting to produce replica items of those sent from the village to troops at the Front.

As part of the Lord Lieutenant's Commemoration, 'Rutland Remembers', the exhibition will be officially opened on the evening of 6th May before opening to the public on Saturday 7th May and running until Saturday 11th June. Rutland County Museum is open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. There is no admission charge.

Mike Frisby

THE ANGLO-SAXONS IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Rutland County Museum, April 14th - May 26th



Members are invited to attend series of 6 lectures by Peter Liddle MBE, former County Archaeologist for Leicestershire, on the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon period with an emphasis on East Leicestershire and Rutland.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm at Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW.

Programme:

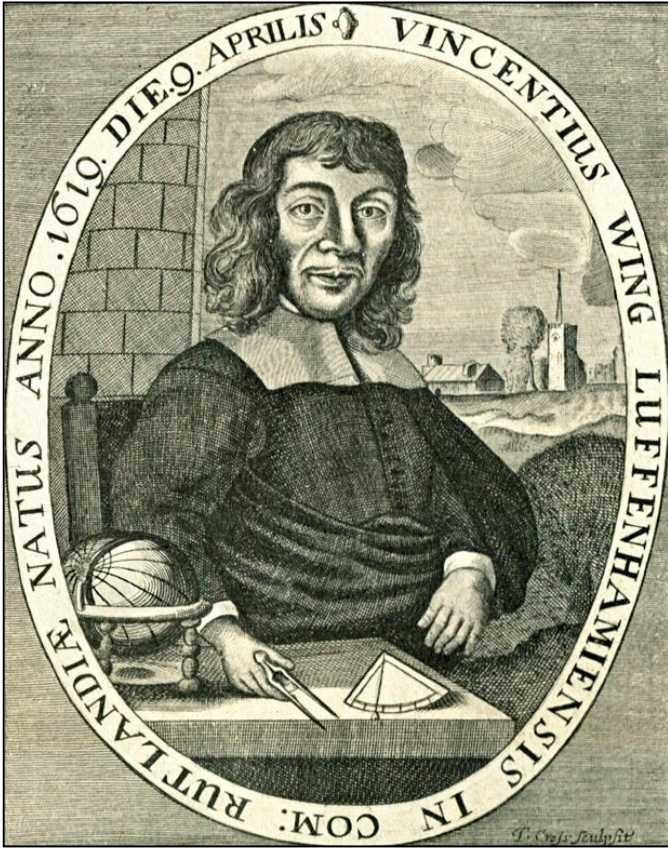
- April 14th: The Saxon Conquest
- April 21st: Early Anglo-Saxon settlements
- April 28th: Early Anglo-Saxon burial
- May 5th: No Lecture
- May 12th: The Mercian period - church and state
- May 19th: The Viking invasion and the Danelaw
- May 26th: Late Saxon Leicestershire and the Norman Conquest

Price: £30 for the series or £6 per lecture, tea / coffee and biscuits included. Attend the whole course or come to individual lectures. Prior booking is useful but not essential. To book your place phone (0116) 2214508 or 07842 120817 or Rutland County Museum on 01572 758439, or e-mail Peter at peter.liddle51@gmail.com

VINCENT WING (1619-68), LAND SURVEYOR

By Robert Ovens

The ancestors of the Wing family of North Luffenham originated from Wales and the grandfather of Vincent Wing settled in the village during the reign of Henry VIII. The first family entry in the parish registers is the father of Vincent, also named Vincent, who was baptised on 24th March, 1587. He was buried on 20th February, 1660.



Portrait of Vincent Wing from *Astronomia Britannica*, published in 1669.

Born in North Luffenham in 1619, Vincent Wing was the eldest of four sons. No doubt as a result of his father's interests, by 18 years of age he had mastered the art of making scientific sundials, and by the age of 20 he was a highly accomplished mathematician, land surveyor, almanac-maker and astrologer, and had an excellent command of Latin and Greek. He is now chiefly remembered as an astronomer and notable as a champion of the then new astronomical systems of Copernicus and Tycho Brahe.

Locally, we are reminded of Vincent Wing's involvement in astronomy in an article by Nick Hill and Vanessa Doe entitled 'Preston Manor House, Rutland' in *Rutland Record* 35. Here he is considered to be probably responsible for a diagram of a lunar eclipse recently found on the rear of a cupboard door.

However, it was mostly through his work as a surveyor, mapping estates, surveying buildings and teaching the use of instruments, that Vincent Wing made his living and, in 1664, he published *Geodætes Practicus: or the Art of Surveying*, 'a thorough exposition of the principles and practices of quantity surveying', in which he reviewed the

problems faced by the surveyor, including drawing a survey whilst working in the rain. John Wing, Vincent's nephew, also a mathematician, surveyor and astrologer, published an enlarged version of Vincent's *Art of Surveying* in 1700. Tycho Wing, Vincent's great nephew (the grandson of Moses Wing, the younger brother of Vincent) was also a surveyor and there are coloured map surveys by him in Lincolnshire Archives of Exton Park (1709) and Normanton Lordship (1726). This talent for surveying continued into the next generation which perpetuated the 'Vincent' name; there is a survey map of Stoke Dry in Burghley House Archives, dated 1756, which was 'Survey'd and Delineated' by 'Vincent Wing, Surveyor', for Thomas Powys Esq.

One of Vincent's surveys recently came to light as lot 393 in the Dominic Winter (South Cerney, Gloucestershire) auction of 'Printed Books & Maps' on 27th January 2016. It was described as:

A manuscript survey entitled 'An Exact and Perfect Survey of the Lordship of Brighthurst in the County of Leicester, being taken and admeasured by the Purch of 16. 1/2. foot, according to the Statute. De Terris mensurandis, by Vincent Wing Supervisor, Octob: 1658.'

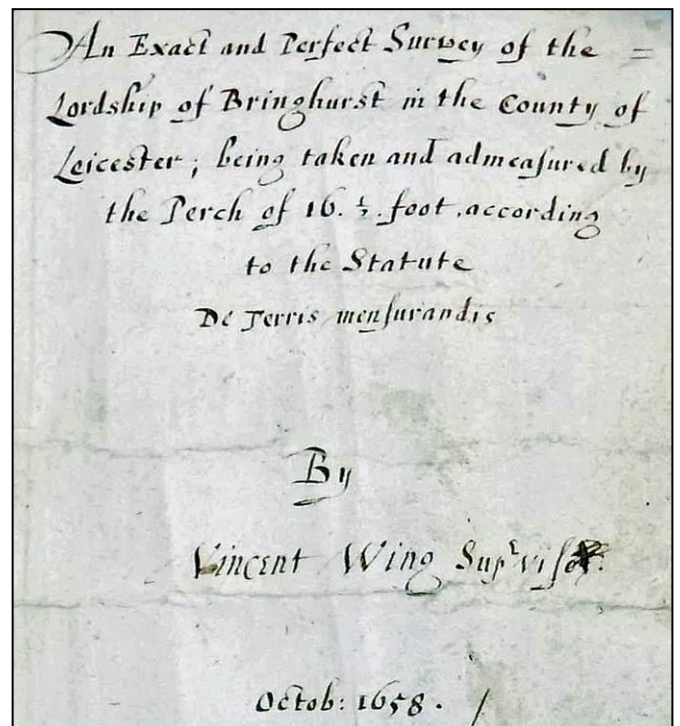
The estimated value was £500-800, but it did not reach its reserve in the auction and was therefore not sold.

The catalogue entry continues:

This manuscript survey gives a rare insight into his practices and presentation of his work. It refers to an open plan field system with the strips of land held by various tenants; a mixture of freehold and copyhold, as the land in Brighthurst was not enclosed until 1804.

And:

Although a few of his maps are known to have survived, no other of his land surveys have been located.



From the title page of Vincent Wing's survey of Brighthurst (Dominic Winter Auctions).

However, it is known that Vincent Wing made a survey of the whole of North Luffenham in 1660. George Philips, in *The Rutland Magazine and County Historical Record*, Volume II, 1905-6, records:

The late Mr. W. R. Morris, of that place, had in his possession a book of MS. written by Vincent Wing, which gave the measurement of all the land in the parish, with the names of the owners. The title page of the book read as follows:

'The survey of the fields of North Luffenham, wherein is contained a particular of all the lands, leyes, meadows, pastures, and enclosed grounds, according to an exact mensuration had and made of every man's ground there, by ye perch of 16½ ft. according to ye statute de terris mensurandis. By Vincent Wing. 1660.'

The present location of this survey book is unknown.

Another of his signed and dated surveys to survive is that of Woolfox in Greetham parish dating from 1664 (Lincolnshire Archives 5ANC5/B/7/4).

Vincent Wing resided in North Luffenham for the whole of his life, occasionally visiting London where he liked 'to frequent the Company of the most learned and excellent Men'. He contracted consumption and died on 28th September 1668 at the age of 49. He is buried in the village churchyard, but there is no memorial.

Bernard Capp's 'Vincent Wing and Political Astrology' in *Rutland Record* 30 provides a more detailed account of his life and work.

RESTORING THE RECORD - RUTLAND LOST WAYS RESEARCH

Rosemary Woods, one of our members, has contacted the Society requesting help to discover the lost rights of way in Rutland. She writes:

When the first Definitive Public Rights of Way Maps were drawn up in the 1950s many historic routes which rightfully should have been included weren't, or were partially missed off. Others were included, but at a lower status than they should have been. Part of the problem was due to the fact that the exercise was conducted on a parish basis with the result that what should have been a joined up network is not, because adjoining parishes had different ideas about what paths existed and what they were.

Historic routes not on the Definitive Map and not claimed for by 1st January 2026 will be legally extinguished on that date (under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act of 2000).

I am a member of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access

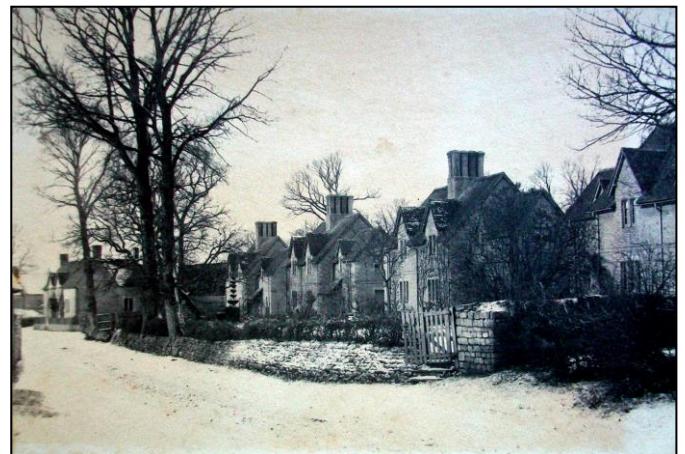
Forum (SL & R LAF). LAF's were set up as a result of the CROW Act to promote countryside access. They provide advice to local authorities and other public bodies. The SL & R LAF has formed a 'Lost Ways' sub-group with the aim of rescuing useful historic routes before the 2026 cut-off date. This Forum would like to co-opt people interested in doing the necessary research. It is a specialist area and the chairman of the sub-group, John Law, is presently organising a free training day which will be held at Leicestershire County Council offices, County Hall, Glenfield, during September or October.

Your help would be much appreciated. If you have a few hours to spare and are willing to help with this interesting project, please contact me by email on harrisrose@tiscali.co.uk

(Alternatively, contact Rosemary via the Society's Correspondence Secretary - see address in the next item).

HILARY CROWDEN'S PHOTOGRAPHIC QUERIES

Can you identify the location of any of these photographs? All are thought to be in Rutland. If so, please let us know, preferably by email to secretary@rutlandhistory.org or by post (or by hand) to The Correspondence Secretary, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW.

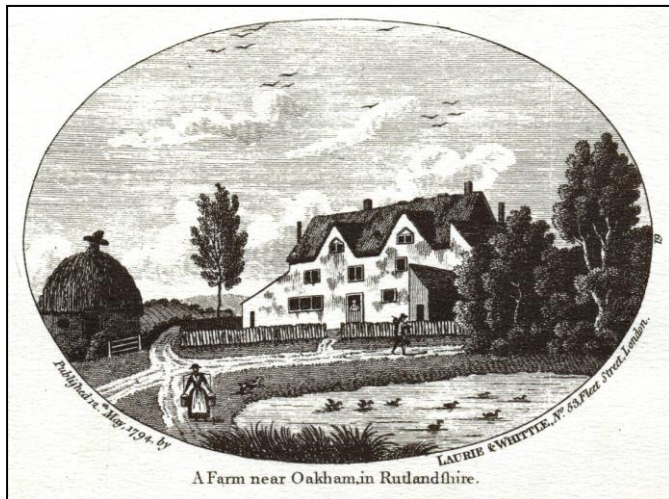


Unknown image 1.



Unknown image 2 - from Prince Yuri Galitzine's photographic collection.





Unknown image 3.



Unknown image 6 - another Rutland verge by Jim Levisohn.



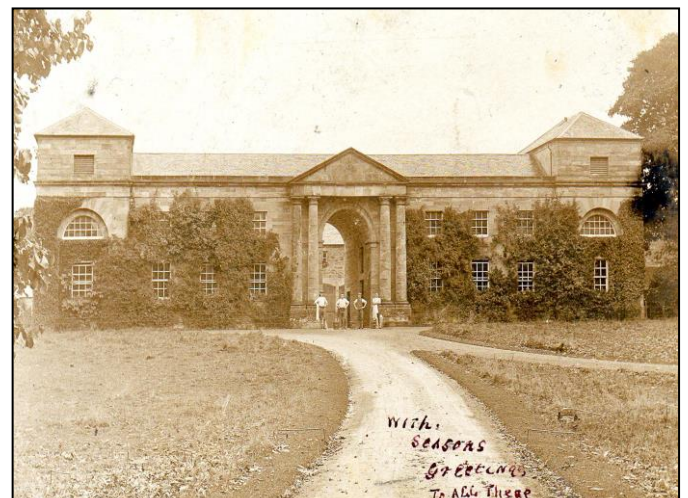
Unknown image 4 - 'A Rutland Village' painted by Stanley Harris about 1980.



Unknown image 7.



Unknown image 5 - a Rutland verge by Jim Levisohn.



Unknown image 8.



Unknown image 9 - 'Rutland Cottages' from a birthday card.

THE SOCIETY'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM

The active archaeological team is led by Elaine Jones, who has been conducting fieldwalking surveys every winter for the last 30 years, and several new members were welcomed and trained this season. Fieldwalking is the collection of artefacts from the surface of ploughed fields and until recently the work only reached a small local audience. It has the potential to provide information for almost every type of archaeological site and is just one small avenue used for archaeological research. It is reconnaissance archaeology having the advantage of being relatively non-invasive (there is no excavation) and it can be undertaken with little experience or financial outlay. The team walk from October to February when the arable fields are dormant and the plough soil surface is exposed.

The working title for the current survey area is 'Life before the Royal Forest' and takes place in the fields of Ridlington 'manor', with its 'outliers' of Ayston, Beaumont Chase and Uppingham. The team has found evidence of human occupation dating from before the Royal Forest of Rutland such as Stone Age flint, Roman iron smelting, and medieval pottery from early settlements. The results suggest that the restrictions of land use dictated by Forest Law unwittingly provided a 'blanket' which preserved the archaeology. This is in comparison to Oakham, where the team recovered copious medieval pottery.

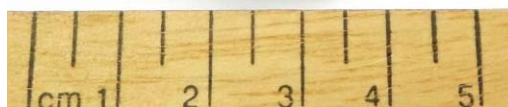
Of national importance are local sites at Glaston and Launde, where the fieldwalkers are discovering comparable rare Palaeolithic artefacts within the research area. They are also finding hand axes and choppers, tools which were deposited at the end of the Anglian Ice Age (480,000 to 30,000 years ago). Two fields, the Damme Field at Ayston and Castle Hill at Uppingham, have been prolific in finds. The quantity of Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints here suggest probable settlements.

Last October the team commenced walking in the fields south of Ridlington, known to many local people for the 1996 Wing to Whatborough water pipeline with its

archaeological discoveries. This field is crossed by the 'Red Way' - an old road even when it was recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Charter for Ayston in 1046 - before the Norman conquest.



Ridlington field overlooking Belton - last man standing! (Elaine Jones)



Early Neolithic knapped 'laurel leaf' flint tool found at Ridlington. (Elaine Jones)

The fieldwalkers were Carole Bancroft-Turner, Linda Dalby, Iain and Marion Drake, Debbie Frearson, Jane Greenhalgh, Jo Holroyd, Elaine Jones, Jasmine Knew, Andrew Mills and Liz Saunders.

Debbie Frearson

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.

Robert Ovens