



In this Newsletter . . .

2018 Rutland Built Environment Awards	1
Honorary Membership for Tim Clough	3
Making a Nomination for the Built Environment Awards	3
A New History of Rutland	3
The Parish Boundary Project	3
Email contact with Society Members	4
Membership Subscriptions and Renewal	4
Joint Meetings Programme	4
Obituary: The Reverend Brian Nicholls	5
Boule, Door Weight or Apotropaicos?	6
Four Rectors and a Patron	6

Alice That Was To Be	8
The British Newspaper Archive Online	9
Fire at Lyddington	11
Bryan Waites Donates his Library	12
Uppingham Fatstock Show	13
Cottesmore Village Visit	15
Book Launch - Australian Visitors	16
The 2018 Bryan Matthews Lecture	16
Books:	
Uppingham Methodist Church 1817-2017	14
Defending Leicestershire and Rutland	14
Leicestershire and Rutland Unusual and ...	14

2017 Rutland Built Environment Awards



The winners L to R with Tim Clough: Robin Lee and Graham McNorton (Wilds Lodge School), Alan MacDonald (Paul Testa Architecture), John Wright (Weston Allison Wright) Sally Wetherell and Ross Thain (Ross Thain Architects), Robert Clayton (Rutland County Council).

The presentation of the annual Built Environment Awards, in memory of George Phillips and Tony Traylen, two well-known local historians, took place on Thursday 11th January at Oakham Castle.

The George Phillips Award, introduced in 1980, is for a recent new or refurbished building or development. 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.

Eight projects were nominated for consideration by the judges for the 2017 Awards:

1. Haybarn Close, Barleythorpe: A development of seven new detached dwellings and a barn conversion.
2. Oakham Castle: Restoration and refurbishment work to the Hall and grounds.
3. 25 Stamford Road, Oakham: A new layout and upgrading for a 1930s house.
4. Oakham Library Extension: A single storey extension to provide a children's centre.
5. The Gate Inn, Bisbrooke: Conversion of the former public house to residential use.
6. 33 Weston Road, Edith Weston: The erection of a new dwelling on a site close to Rutland Water.
7. Wilds Lodge School, Empingham: A new theatre and assembly hall for the school.
8. 20 St Mary's Road, Manton: Refurbishment and extension of a listed property.

The awards ceremony at the Castle was attended by owners and their architects and builders, as well as Society members and other guests. The proceedings commenced with an introduction by Edward Baines, the Society's President, and a review of previous winners over the last 37 years. Tim Clough, the Society's Honorary Editor, gave details of the nominations visited by the judges and then went on to present the awards.



Tim Clough presents the George Phillips plaque and certificate to Sally Wetherell of Ross Thain Architects for Wilds Lodge theatre and assembly hall.

The 2017 George Phillips Built Environment Award plaque and certificate was presented to Sally Wetherell, a director of Ross Thain Architects, for the new theatre and assembly hall at Wilds Lodge School, Empingham, for its significant contribution towards enhancing the built environment of Rutland.



Wilds Lodge theatre and assembly hall.



Wilds Lodge theatre entrance foyer.

Wilds Lodge School is an independent specialist boarding and day school for boys aged between 5 and 18 with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Robin Lee, School Principal, and members of his staff were also present at the ceremony.

The refurbishment and reordering of the 1930s house at 25 Stamford Road, Oakham, was Highly Commended in the George Phillips Awards, and a certificate was presented to Alan MacDonald of Paul Testa Architects.



Robert Clayton of Rutland County Council and John Wright of Weston Allison Wright Architects receive the highly commended certificate for the refurbishment of Oakham Castle

The impressive refurbishment and upgrading of Oakham Castle and its grounds was Highly Commended in the 2017 Tony Traylen historic buildings category. The certificate was presented to Robert Clayton, Head of Culture and Recreation, Rutland County Council, and John Wright of Weston Allison Wright Architects. 20 St Mary's Road, Manton, was Commended in the Tony Traylen Awards for the restoration and extension of this listed eighteenth-century cottage. The certificate was presented by Tim Clough to Ross Thain of Ross Thain Architects

The awards ceremony was organised by the Society, and judging was undertaken jointly by the Society and Rutland County Council. Following the ceremony, Nick Hill, presented a talk on medieval cruck framed buildings in and around Rutland.



Sir Laurence Howard KCVO OBE Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, opens the new theatre at Wilds Lodge School.

Honorary Membership for Tim Clough

After the awards ceremony, Edward Baines presented Tim Clough with honorary life membership of the Society in recognition of his 20-year service as Honorary Editor.



Making a Nomination for the Built Environment Awards

Anyone can make a nomination for the Awards, 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 2018 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 Secretary, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW.

The Awards are now in their 38th year and all the winners since 1980 can be seen on the Society's website at rutlandhistory.org

A New History of Rutland

Members of the Rutland Local History and Record Society know that Rutland is a special place and so do the natives of our county and those from elsewhere who come to live here. One thing that we lack however, is an up to date history of the county. Over recent decades, books and pamphlets have been written that generally celebrate Rutland, and articles have appeared in Rutland Record which deal with a wide range of aspects of its history, but there is no modern, one-volume history for the general reader.

The Society's Executive Committee has agreed that this should be rectified. The proposal is that a book be produced, arranged by themes (for instance topography, buildings, transport, industry, farming, education, religion) rather than by the individual settlements. It would be a collaborative enterprise, with different people contributing different areas of research towards something that it is hoped would be as successful as *The Heritage of Rutland Water*. Contributors do not have to be people with history degrees, but they need to have an historical bent of mind, ready to weigh evidence and not accept unquestioningly past assertions about the county. A professional academic would offer advice.

As a first step towards co-ordinating efforts, it is suggested that those interested meet to discuss the proposal, bringing along for comparison any recent histories that they possess of counties, towns or areas. Michael Hinman (who is a history graduate, retired archivist, native of the county and Executive Committee member) has offered to convene such a group and take overall responsibility for the project; if you decide that you can help with this, please contact him by email on mjh62729@gmail.com.

The Parish Boundary Project

Council for British Archaeology - East Midlands Area

This project is designed to involve local groups in a regional exercise to map their local parish boundaries and identify features of archaeological and historic interest that mark them.

In this way, a large number of local groups can each make a small contribution to a large project. The result will be a unique online resource accessible to anyone with an interest in historic landscapes and will serve as an important record. At a local level the information recorded may act as a stimulus for further research into the history of the parish.

The database will be built up over time and it is hoped that eventually the whole of the East Midlands will be covered. In addition, there will be guidance on a geographic information system that will allow those involved to draw maps showing the different types of feature that mark the parish boundary.

The English countryside is a multi-layered patchwork on which each generation has left its mark. We are aiming to discover more about it by looking at the ancient boundaries that define it. These boundaries defined the landscape for centuries, some dating back into prehistory. Many continue to be important corridors and wildlife havens today.

Ancient boundaries are marked by a wide variety of walls, ditches, banks, hedges and trees, but currently there is no systematic record of the patterns of their individual elements. The recording involves starting with parish boundaries on historic maps and then going out and recording their form and condition - to create a 21st century 'domesday' record with linked drawings and photographs.

In a bid to raise the profile of the Society we have undertaken to join this project on behalf of Rutland. The eventual aim is to accurately map the current boundaries of every parish in Rutland and submit our findings to the CBA who will enter them on the project database (*see below*). The village of Langham has already started its own mapping survey under the watchful eye of Mike Frisby and the feedback has been very positive so far.



This is a major undertaking and will undoubtedly take a number of years to complete, but we are hoping to recruit some willing volunteers to help us out along the way. We will advertise the project in each new parish beforehand, in the hope that we can foster some interest amongst the people who live there and get them to join in. No experience is necessary, and any training needed can be given on the day. Think of it as a walk in the country with purpose!

The village chosen to kickstart the project is South Luffenham, and we will be advertising the proposed date of the first perambulation soon. If you feel that you would like to take part, please contact one of the project organisers:

Tony Martin: email - steelback58@gmail.com
telephone - 01572 821099

Debbie Frearson:
email - DebbieFrearson@hotmail.co.uk

They will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the project.

The CBA East Midlands project database can be found [online at: http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbaem](http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbaem)

Membership Matters:

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 Renewals

Membership Subscriptions are due on 1st May 2018. The current rates are unchanged as follows:

Individual Membership: £14

Family / Joint Membership: £16

Institutional Membership: £16

Overseas supplement (all grades of membership): £5

The New General Data Protection Regulations, which come into force on 25 May 2018, require the Society to obtain consent from each member for their information to be stored by the Society.

Please read, complete and return the accompanying Subscription Renewal form.

If you pay by standing order, please ensure that it reflects the current rate relevant to you.

Joint Meetings Programme

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

Please note that any changes to the advertised programme will be given on the Society's website.

The remainder of the 2018 programme:

Thursday 10th May at 7.30 pm (RLHRS)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

Rutland Local History and Record Society AGM

followed by:

Richard Westbrook Baker

A presentation by Dr Vanessa Doe

Thursday 14th June at 7.30 pm (FRCMOC)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

My Experience running Derby Art Gallery and Museums

A presentation by Tony Butler

Thursday 12th July at 7.30 pm (RLHRS)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The History of the Music Hall

A presentation by Colin Ray

Saturday 1st September at 7.30pm (FRCMOC)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

The Hanson Lecture

A presentation by Charles Hanson of BBC Antiques Road Trip

Entrance by ticket only - please book at Rutland County Museum

Saturday 15th September (RLHRS)

Venue: Market Overton Village Hall

RLHRS Village Visit to Market Overton

Advance bookings only

An invitation with further details will be included on the Society's website and sent by post to members in August

Thursday 20th September at 7.30 pm (FRCMOC)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

From Desert to Drawing Room - the story of the Persian Carpet

A presentation by Janice Tattersall

Thursday 11th October at 7.30 pm (RLHRS)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

Buildings Burials and Bones - the lost chapel of St Morrell

A presentation by Vicki Score, Community Archaeologist of the Year

Thursday 8th November 7.30 pm (FRCMOC)

Venue: Rutland County Museum

Jeffrey Hudson, the Queen's Dwarf

A presentation by Lawrence Fenelon

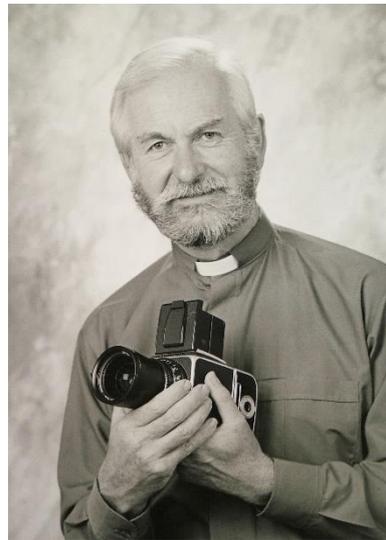
There is no meeting scheduled for December 2018.

Obituary: The Reverend Brian Nicholls (1939-2017)

The Reverend Brian Nicholls was a good friend to the Society during our Heritage of Rutland Water project and we were sad to learn of his death on 17th November 2017.

Following his education at Kenilworth Secondary Modern School, Brian Nicholls became a trainee photographer at Armstrong Siddeley Motors before joining the RAF as a photographer. On leaving the Service after 5 years, he had two photographic jobs: school photography and general practice. In April 1964, he founded, with his wife Liz, *Brian & Elizabeth Nicholls Photography*, their photographic practice in Oakham. This was very successful for over 30 years and during this time they were appointed by the Anglian Water Authority, later Anglian Water, as official photographers for the construction of Rutland Water.

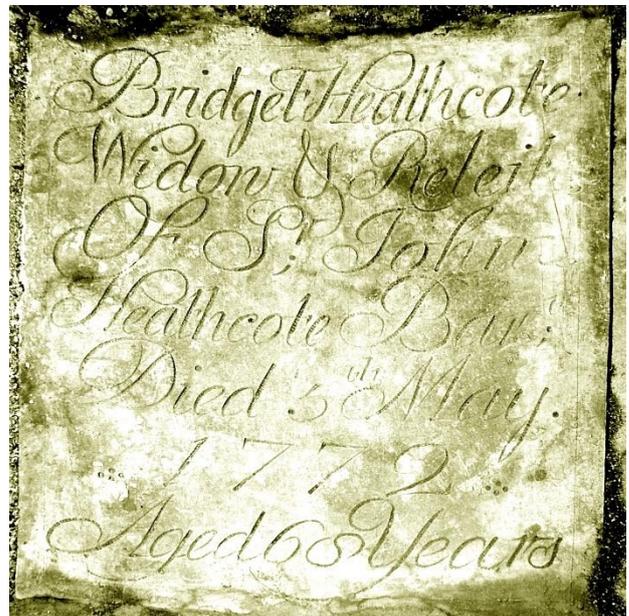
Brian was very interested in our Heritage of Rutland Water project and in 2005 he gave us free access to the many hundreds of photographs he and Liz took between 1970 and 1976 recording the construction of the Empingham Reservoir as it was then known. Many of these photographs are included in 'The Heritage of Rutland Water' which was first published by the Society in 2007.



He had fond memories of the Empingham Reservoir project, and one 'very interesting experience' stands out. Following the de-consecration of Normanton Church, the Heathcote family vault under the church was opened in September 1972 to remove the coffins. This presented an opportunity to examine the only known fully documented coffin by

Chippendale, and Brian was asked to take the photographs.

'Liz didn't come down with me, but they took up one flagstone from the floor of the church and put a ladder down where we discovered there were two crypts. The one facing the west end was more modern and the Ancaster coffins were on wooden shelves. On going into the main crypt, it was absolutely full of coffins. But before I was allowed in they had to put down powdered disinfectant. The curator of Temple Newsam House in Leeds who had found Chippendale's account for a burial at Normanton came down with me. We found the particular coffin he was interested in [of Dowager Lady Bridget Heathcote who died in 1772].



It was good for me as he was able to hold the torch while I focused on the coffin plate with the name and then gave him the flash instead of the torch and I took the photograph. This was totally secret because being nobility they thought that there'd be the possibility of people coming to try and break in, in case there was any valuable jewellery. In the event there were only wedding rings and, with the permission of the Ancaster family, the remains were then put into common wood coffins and taken off to the crematorium.'



Miners at the end of the Tinwell to Empingham tunnel during the construction of Rutland Water (Brian and Elizabeth Nicholls Photography).



One of the Terex motor scrapers carrying clay for building the dam wall during the construction of Rutland Water (Brian and Elizabeth Nicholls Photography)

Between 1990 and 1993, Brian trained as an Anglican Priest at Queen's College, Birmingham. Following his ordination in 1993, he served as a Non-Stipendiary assistant priest at All Saints in Oakham, but within 18 months he was in charge of four parishes around Rutland Water, later increased to six. These are now part of the Rutland Water Benefice. On retirement, he continued as Officiating Chaplain to the Military as well as filling in for parish pastoral services when required.

Brian's funeral was on 21st December at Oakham Parish Church. The Society extends its condolences to his wife and family.

Boule, Door Weight or Apotropaïos?

Can you identify this mysterious spherical object found over a lintel in a 17th century South Luffenham cottage? It appears to have been carefully placed at the centre of the lintel and at the middle of the inner and outer walls, rather than as part of the general in-fill rubble mixture. The stone looks more like a rough quartz rather than the local limestone and it is very different to the cannon shot found in this area. The opposite holes do not pass all the way through, suggesting, perhaps, that it was suspended

between pins, which would allow it to rotate. Three parallel lines are scored all the way round the circumference and there is a scored line, or wear mark, between the holes on one side but not matched on the opposite side. Theories to date include a boule, a door weight or an object to ward off evil spirits, known as an apotropaïos (Greek for turning away).

If you know or have an idea what this object might be, can you please let me know by post (or by hand) to The Secretary, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW, or by email to secretary@rutlandhistory.org



Debbie Frearson

Four Rectors and a Patron

By Paul Reeve

On the 28th of April 1830 Charles Porter wrote from the rectory house at Wing in Rutland to his friend William Henry Fox Talbot, later to be famous as a photographic inventor. He described his situation as a curate at Wing as follows: *'The stipend is £80 per annum: a small house, two sitting rooms, & seven bedrooms, some of them very small population 300, very well packed in a village: and one sermon, prayers twice on a Sunday.'*

On the 26th November 1830 their mutual friend, Thomas Kerchever Arnold, wrote to Fox Talbot from Eton College, Berkshire, in similar vein: *'I have been lately presented to the rectory of a village you must know well from its neighbourhood to Normanton, Lyndon in Rutland. The house has been lately put, I am told, into excellent repair; and its situation in the midst of my own friends makes me expect to find it a very agreeable residence. I wish that Porter was still the curate of Wing; but he has removed to Barnack on the other side of Stamford.'*

A statement of the revenues of the Established Church, dated 1835, was submitted to parliament. It gave the nett annual value of the following Rutland livings as, Lyndon £177, Wing £340, Little Casterton £254. Some Rutland livings had far higher valuations. For Arnold and Porter, even though they had been Fellows of their Cambridge colleges, this was a tough job market. Arnold was born in 1800 and was, give or take, 30, when he became a rector with security of employment. Porter was slightly older and was not

instituted as Vicar of St Martin, Stamford Baron, then in Northants., until 1833. Porter wrote to Fox Talbot in early 1833: 'The emolument is very small, under £100 a year: ... and we have an opportunity of inhabiting a very good house within my parish.' Financially, he was little better off than in his first curacy. Broadly speaking, an incumbent with house and annual income £80-£150 would manage. With £200-£300 he could manage well and with £400-£500 he could manage handsomely.

Consider now the position from the point of view of the patron of the living. The patron owned the advowson, the right to put forward a candidate for appointment to the living. Typically, the candidate would become rector or vicar subject to the approval of the diocesan bishop. In this way, the patron might direct the comparatively steady income of a living, somewhat akin to a fixed rate investment, to a relative or favoured candidate. Advowsons might be bought and sold and were naturally sought after. However, the price paid was not merely a function of the annual income of the parish and of the prevailing rate of interest.

Prospective buyers had to bear in mind that, if they bought an advowson with a young rector or vicar, they might have to wait a long time before he resigned the living or died. He could not be forced to resign. Equally, a buyer might buy a vacant living but have no candidate, of suitable age and qualification, to present for appointment. Other factors like the need to repair the rectory or vicarage house might need thinking about. So, the acquisition and management of advowsons could be complicated by many factors, not all spiritual. Such a case was described in an article by Tom Paradise in the *Stamford Mercury* of 2nd May 1862 about the church of Little Casterton in Rutland.



Little Casterton church in 1930 (Rutland County Museum - Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.0076).

Readers of the 2016 Newsletter may recall Richard Twopenny, Rector of All Saints church, Little Casterton. He served 60 years as Rector from appointment in 1783 to his death in 1843. In 1783, the advowson was held by the Browne family, as it had been for generations. Shortly after the death in 1839 of the Dowager Countess of Pomfret, *née* Mary Browne, the advowson passed to the Hon. Charles Compton Cavendish.

After Richard Twopenny died in 1843, the new patron presented Richard's grandson, Thomas Nowell Twopenny, to the living of Little Casterton. As the writer in the *Stamford*

Mercury explained, Rector Thomas N. Twopenny 'held the living until 1848, when, according to a previous arrangement, he resigned it and the Rev. C. W. Cavendish was his successor. The last-named gentleman's wife died in childbirth at the Rectory, and soon afterwards Mr Cavendish entered the Church of Rome.' Mr Cavendish was the patron's nephew.



Little Casterton church in 1930 (Rutland County Museum Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.0076).



The Reverend Thomas Nowell Twopenny (Wikipedia).

The Reverend Thomas Nowell Twopenny was then appointed Rector of Little Casterton a second time, until a further qualified relative of the patron might be available. His signature in the parish minute book as chairman in the years 1851 to 1858 is a guide to the years of his rectorship. But history repeated itself when he resigned in 1859 and was replaced by the Reverend F E C Byng. As the article

continued 'The loss of his youthful wife under circumstances similar to those that deprived Mrs Cavendish of life has induced Mr Byng to resign the living'.

The Honourable and Reverend Mr Byng's stepmother was the daughter of the patron, ennobled in 1858 as 1st Baron Chesham. The Reverend Byng became 5th Earl of Strafford in 1899 when his brother died. An element of class and privilege underlies this narrative.

The article gave surprising detail about Thomas



The Reverend Francis Edmund Byng, 5th Earl of Strafford (Vanity Fair 18th October 1879).

Twopenny's wish to be Rector of Little Casterton for a third time. "The Rev. T. N. Twopenny is now Rector of South Weston, Oxfordshire, but he would like to return to the parish where he had passed so many years of his life, and in the midst of his old associations and friends. Considering the very long period his grandfather had held the living, the money he had expended in the restoration of the church, the endowment of the school, the erection of the school and mistress' houses, and himself (Mr. T N T) holding the living twice

and resigning it according to the stipulations entered into with the patron, he thought if he made an application for the living on the present occasion it might be favourably entertained. He therefore applied to Lord Chesham. The answer was 'no' and the Reverend Twopenny left shortly afterwards for Australia.

A new rector was found by an exchange of livings. The Reverend Byng became Perpetual Curate of Holy Trinity church, Twickenham, Middlesex and the Reverend Jas. Twining moved from Twickenham to become Rector of Little Casterton. There was some financial parity in the exchange, as the gross annual value of Little Casterton was given as £254 with a house, that of Twickenham as £280 without a house. The Reverend Twining stayed a number of years at Little Casterton. Francis Edmund Cecil Byng had a successful career first at Twickenham, then from 1867 as Vicar of the church of St Peter, Cranley Gardens, Kensington. He also became Chaplain to Hampton Court Palace, to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and to Queen Victoria. But more than one source reported that he resigned his church positions in 1889 because of alleged gambling debts.

All of which demonstrated the law of unforeseen consequences. No one anticipated in 1843 that Thomas Nowell Twopenny would make three applications to be

Rector of Little Casterton but would become Archdeacon of Flinders, South Australia, dying in 1869; nor that the Reverend C W Cavendish and the Honourable and Reverend F E C Byng would both resign as ministers.

Orley Farm by Anthony Trollope was first published in instalments in 1861-1862, about the time of Tom Paradise's article. Trollope wrote about the fictional parish of Groby: 'Why the rector of Groby should be altogether absent, leaving the work in the hands of a curate, whom he paid by the lease of a cottage and garden and fifty-five pounds a year, - thereby behaving as he imagined with extensive liberality, - it is unnecessary here to inquire. Such was the case, and the Rev. Adolphus Green, with Mrs A. Green and the four children, managed to live with some difficulty on the produce of the garden and the allotted stipend; but could not probably have lived at all in that position had not Mrs. Adolphus Green been blessed with some small fortune.'

What the article and the novel both suggested, in different ways, was that the management of Church of England parishes, and of their incumbents, needed further reform.

Note: The letters cited in this article may be read in full in the *Correspondence of William Henry Fox Talbot* (foxtalbot.dmu.ac.uk). Charles Porter's letters are documents number 1993, 28th April 1830 and 2569, 14th January 1833. Thomas Kerchever Arnold's letter is document number 2078, 26th November 1830.

Alice That Was To Be...

In the last Newsletter (April 2017) we included an article by Graham Carlisle (*Alice That Wasn't To Be...*) on the designs by the studio of Thomas William Camm of Smethwick for stained glass windows at Oakham Memorial Hospital, inspired by the characters in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Since then, Dr John Wray, who is researching the work of the Camm Studio, has been in contact with further information.



The stained-glass window, designed and made by the Camm Studio, depicting a scene from *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party in the Rutland Ward day room at Rutland Memorial Hospital* (Emma Warren).

The designs, referred to as 'cartoons' by the Camm Studio and illustrated in the April 2017 Newsletter, were lot 194 in Townsend Auction Gallery's sale at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, on 14 December 2016. John noticed that two designs, numbers 13918 and 13919, were missing from the sequence, and suggested that there may have been others missing as well. This led him to consider the possibility that the Alice window in Rutland Memorial Hospital was actually based on one of the 'missing' designs.

Sandwell Community History & Archives Service holds the factory records of the Camm Studio, but John was able to establish from records at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery that the hospital window was in fact executed in 1934 by the Camm Studio under Order No. 4812 and Design No. 13910. Thank you for this update John.

The British Newspaper Archive (BNA) Online

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

Discover History as it Happened - Access hundreds of historic newspapers from all over Britain and Ireland.

These are the very encouraging words on the homepage of this amazing website. Newspapers are a rich resource for local historians, genealogists and anyone else interested in reading the news as it happened. Now they can be searched easily for names and events, and the results downloaded. Microfilm copies of old newspapers have been available since the 1950s, but this website does away with the eye-straining, neck-aching tedium of scrolling through microfilmed pages one at a time.

Home users will normally have to pay a subscription, but access is free in most libraries for anyone with a valid library card. The coverage is national with over 24 million pages currently available, and new pages are being added all the time.

Searches can be by newspaper title or UK region, then by keyword and date. The date can be narrowed down to a particular week or date of issue if required, and there is also an advanced search option. It is sometimes quite interesting to just search on a keyword to see how many results are found nationally and which newspapers include it. For example, searching on 'Uppingham' produces 190,000 results in all included newspapers throughout the UK, with 41,500 being in the *Stamford Mercury*. Restricting the search to this newspaper in October 1770, for instance, produces a more-manageable five results. This highlights the need to be aware that newspapers well outside the area of interest may carry reports on local events, but also the need to restrict searches for manageable results.

The local coverage for those researching Rutland items includes the following at present:

Grantham Journal 1854-1957
Leicester Chronicle 1813-1915
Leicester Herald 1827-1842
Leicester Journal 1810-1915
Leicester Mail 1865-1870

Leicestershire Mercury 1836-1864

Market Harborough Advertiser and Midland Mail 1892-1950
Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham and Uppingham News 1881-1915

Northampton Mercury 1770-1954

Nottingham Journal 1811-1953

Peterborough Advertiser 1873-1858

Rutland Echo and Leicestershire Advertiser 1877-1887

Stamford Mercury 1714-1910

The *Leicester Journal*, which was first published in 1753, becoming the *Leicester & Nottingham Journal* in 1755 until 1787 when it reverted to its original title, is a particularly useful resource, but at present it is only available on the BNA website from 1810. However, earlier editions can be searched on microfilm at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in Wigston.

The *Stamford Mercury* is perhaps the natural choice for Rutland researchers and the original archive can also be searched free of charge by appointment at the *Stamford Mercury Archive Trust*, Cherryholt House, Cherryholt Road Stamford (smarchive.org.uk) but as yet there is no full index. So, to find a particular item, it is often necessary to have a fairly accurate idea of its date. There is also a complete run of the paper on microfilm at Rutland County Museum and Stamford Library.

As with all newspapers on the BNA website, the digital version of the *Stamford Mercury* has been automatically indexed, but this is not perfect because optical character recognition (OCR) programs quite often struggle with older print. So, a manual search may sometimes be worthwhile.

When a keyword search has found matches, they are shown on screen in what the website decides is a descending order of relevance, each with the title and date of the newspaper, and a snippet of OCR text. Clicking on these in turn takes the researcher to a digital image of the newspaper page with the selected keyword or keywords highlighted. Using the zoom function, items can be enlarged to make easier reading.

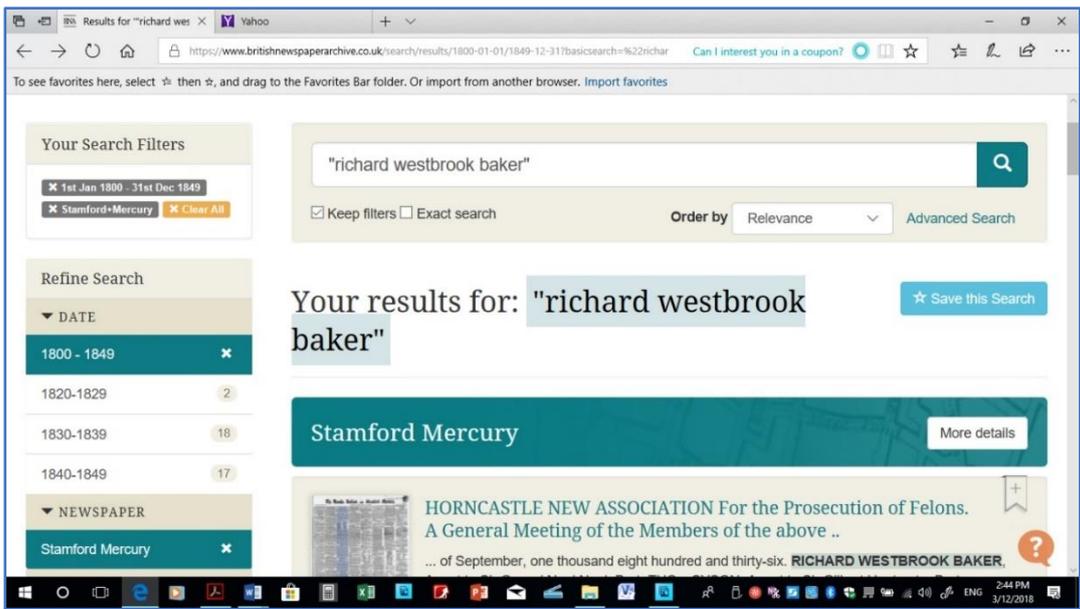
The page can then be downloaded and saved as a PDF. The OCR text of the item is also shown on screen, and this can be copied and pasted into a Word document, although this often needs quite a lot of editing, depending on the quality of the original newsprint. But it is usually a lot quicker than typing the whole item if this is what is required. There is also the facility to edit the text alongside the newspaper article before copying, a very useful addition indeed.

Another alternative is to copy the enlarged item on the screen to the clipboard using the 'print screen' (PrtSc) key on the keyboard. This will copy the screen image as a jpg image which can again be pasted into a Word document. Here it can be cropped and edited using the 'Format' command.

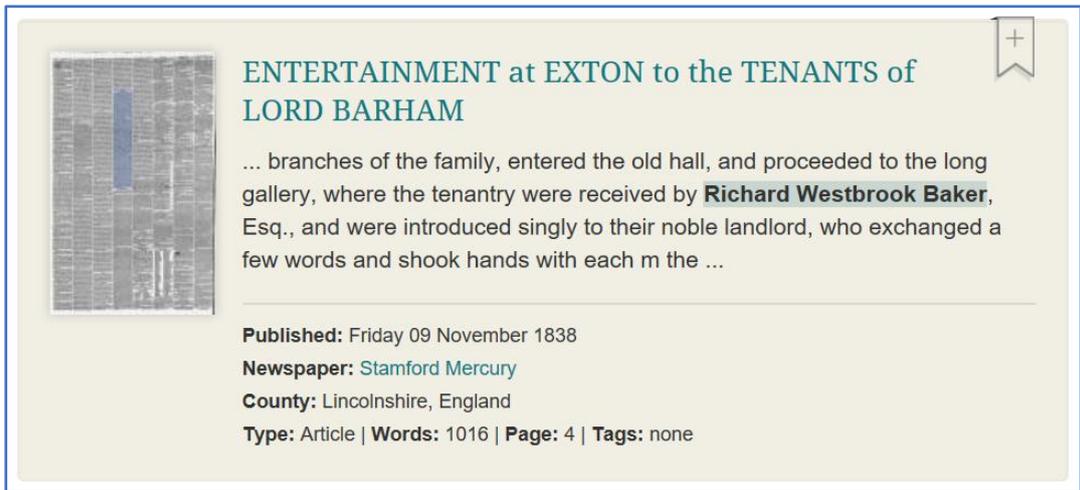
All this may seem somewhat tedious, but it soon becomes obvious and quite easy to do with a little practice, and there are very helpful guides on the website.

The following screen prints illustrate searching for "richard westbrook baker" in the *Stamford Mercury* between 1800 and 1849. As can be seen here, there were 37

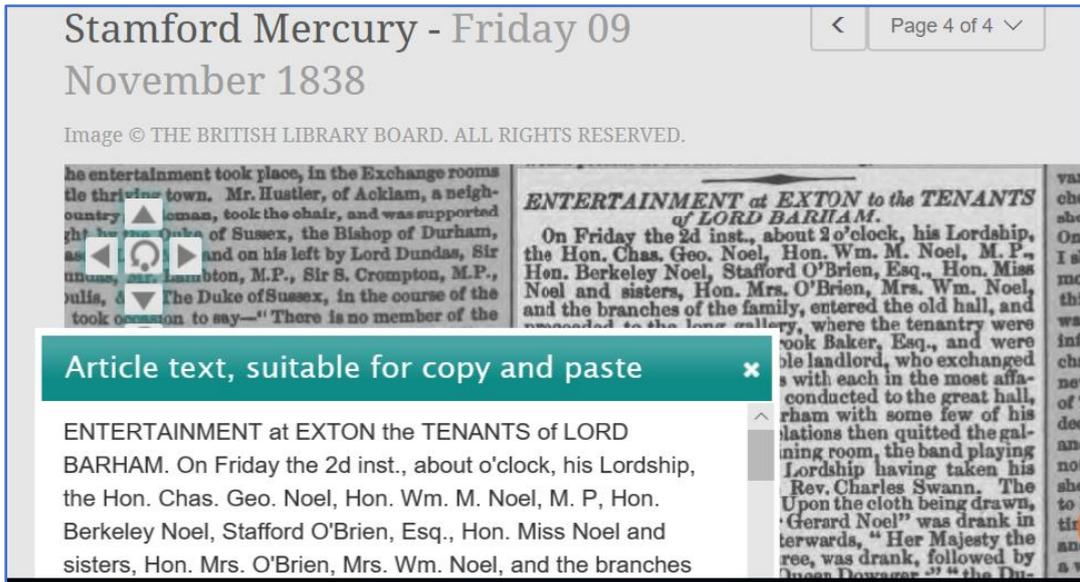
results, 2 for 1820 to 1829, 18 for 1830 to 1839 and 17 for 1840 to 1849:



The next screen shows the result of scrolling down and selecting the article on Lord Barham's 'Entertainment' at Exton Hall, which is reported in the 9th November 1838 issue of the Stamford Mercury:



Clicking on the small newspaper image and using the zoom tool enlarges the article for reading. As shown on the next screen, selecting 'Show article text' produces an OCR transcription which can be corrected if necessary and copied to a Word document:



The original text as a 'cutting' can be copied to the clipboard using the print screen (PrtSc) key and then pasted into a Word document where it can be cropped to size. It can also be copied, cropped and saved as a photographic image (.jpg for example) in Microsoft Paint or other photo editing software:

ENTERTAINMENT at EXTON to the TENANTS of LORD BARHAM.

On Friday the 2d inst., about 2 o'clock, his Lordship, the Hon. Chas. Geo. Noel, Hon. Wm. M. Noel, M. P., Hon. Berkeley Noel, Stafford O'Brien, Esq., Hon. Miss Noel and sisters, Hon. Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Wm. Noel, and the branches of the family, entered the old hall, and proceeded to the long gallery, where the tenantry were received by Richard Westbrook Baker, Esq., and were introduced singly to their noble landlord, who exchanged a few words and shook hands with each in the most affable manner: they were then conducted to the great hall, and to their seats.—Lord Barham with some few of his more intimate friends and relations then quitted the gallery, and proceeded to the dining room, the band playing "Oh the roast beef."—His Lordship having taken his

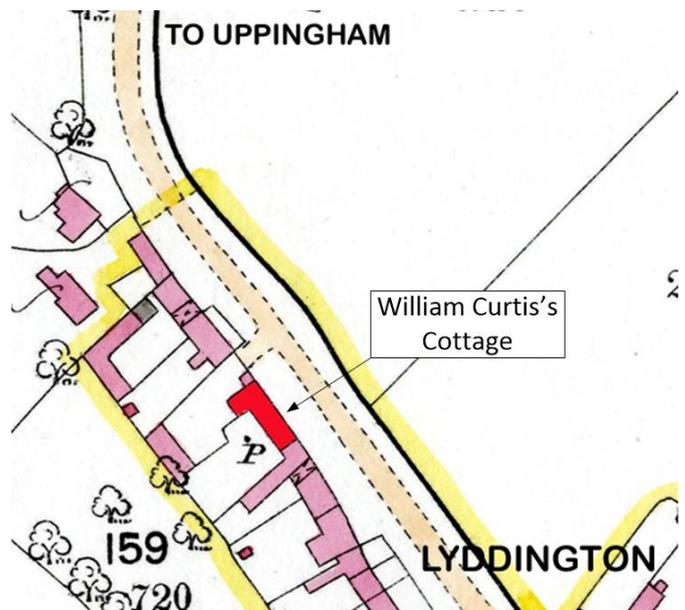
The *Grantham Journal* is particularly good for Rutland items during the 104 years from 1854 that it is currently available on the BNA website. This paper appears to have had local reporters in Rutland who were able to report in detail on particular stories. The following article from the *Grantham Journal* is a good example of this, and it has been possible to link it with a section of the OS 25" map of 1886, a photograph from the Jack Hart Collection of Postcards at Rutland County Museum and an extract from the 1911 census return.

From the British Newspaper Archive website

The following extract describes a devastating fire at the home of William Curtis, Harness Maker, of Lyddington.

Grantham Journal - Saturday 24th March 1906, page 3:
'LYDDINGTON. DESTRUCTIVE FIRE. - HOUSE BURNT DOWN - On Saturday, a serious conflagration took place at Lyddington, making the third destructive fire in the county within the same week—an unusual occurrence for Rutland. Shortly before three o'clock in the afternoon, a fire at the rear of some premises at the Uppingham end of the village, on the west side the street, attracted notice, and a stack of stubble was discovered to have been ignited. It was at once apparent that the outbreak would be attended with disastrous consequences, and soon great excitement prevailed in the vicinity of the fire. The flames from the stack, which burned furiously, were driven into the cottage property contiguous, and the buildings were quickly ablaze. The block comprised five houses and a barn, which flanked the street, and some outbuildings, consisting of sheds and other places, erected in the rear and communicated with the cottages. With the exception of one tenement, the houses were thatched, and, but for a part of the continuous roof being slated, the long row would have been blazing from end to end. The progress of the fire was arrested when it reached the slated house, beyond which was another thatch-covered cottage, both of which were, fortunately, saved. The furniture in the slated tenement, owned and

occupied by Mr. T. Hill, was removed in case the fiery fiend gained the mastery. Only one of the other three houses was tenanted, and in this resided Mr. W. Curtis, a saddler and harness maker.



Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1886.



William Curtis's thatched cottage in 1905 (Rutland County Museum - Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.0123).

This house was locked up when the fire broke out, Mr. Curtis being away at Bisbrooke, while his daughter was meanwhile staying with a neighbour (Mrs. Hattersley), Miss Curtis informing our reporter that she was afraid to be in the house alone owing to the conduct of a deaf mute living near, who had hurled a stone through the window a few weeks previously, and she was aware of there having been trouble with the young man at his home that afternoon. An entrance was effected, nearly all the furniture and other contents of the house were removed, which was very lucky far the owner, who was uninsured, but some loss was experienced, as a number of articles and a quantity of wearing apparel remained in the burning building. A large newly-thatched house, occupied by Mr. T. Chambers, market

carrier, and owned by Mr. C. Naylor, of Cuckoo Lodge, Ketton, was in jeopardy, the gable being only separated from the burning pile by a gateway a few yards wide. Ladders were obtained, and the flames were fanned across the street away from this building, men were able to prevent the thatch igniting, water being poured down the roof. No houses stood on the opposite side of the street; had there been any there, they must have caught fire, and the conflagration would have become more alarming still. The Uppingham Fire Brigade was summoned, but on arrival the roof had practically fallen, and nothing could be done by the firemen (who were under Captain Kit. Sellars) except to remove the burning timber from the roof and make the adjoining houses secure. The entire of length of hose, two hundred and fifty yards, was utilized to obtain water from the brook to supply the engine, and the brigade stopped on the scene until after ten o'clock, arriving home at about eleven. Mr. Curtis's house bears the date 1773 and had quite an interesting stone doorway. The property belonged to Messrs. Wright, of Lyddington, and Mr. A. W. Clarke, of Uppingham, by whom it was purchased not long ago, and, we understand that the owners were not insured.



The scene after the fire (private collection).



Part of the front wall of William Curtis's cottage survives as a garden wall (Robert Ovens).

The police arrested a young man named Thomas Hill, who is deaf and dumb, and stated to be an imbecile, the accused living with his father, and he was taken to Uppingham Police-

Station. Some hundreds of people from Uppingham and local villages visited the ruins on Sunday. The walls and chimney stacks were all standing, and the fire was still smouldering in the basement. - It will be seen from our Uppingham police report that Hill was brought before E. Worrell, Esq., on Monday, charged with wilfully and maliciously setting fire to a quantity of stubble, and thus causing the conflagration and destruction of property. The prisoner was dealt with as a pauper lunatic and was sent to Leicester Asylum.'

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	William Curtis	Head 74		Widower		7	1		Harness Maker 805
2	Mary Alice Curtis	Daughter	48	Single					House Keeper
3	Joseph Webster	Boarder 52		Single					Wagoner on Farm 130
4									

The 1911 census return for Lyddington shows that William Curtis and his daughter were still living in the village, and he continued in his trade as a harness maker. They now occupied a private house in Church Lane

[This story was also reported in many other newspapers, including the Hull Daily Mail (Tuesday 20th March 1906, page 6) and the Sheffield Daily Telegraph (Tuesday 20th March 1906, page 5)]

Bryan Waites Donates his Library to Rutland County Museum

Bryan Waites, a well-known local author and historian, is an honorary member of our Society and has been a member since its formation in 1980. It was known then as Rutland Record Society but became Rutland Local History and Record Society when it joined forces with Rutland Local History Society. The first Rutland Record was also published in 1980 and Bryan was the honorary editor, a post which he held until 1991 when Cathy Firmin took over. During this time the Society also published Tudor Rutland (1980), Domesday Book in Rutland (1986), The Oakham Survey (1988), The Weather Journals of a Rutland Squire (1988) and The Rutland Hearth Tax 1665 (1991), all under the watchful eye of Bryan.

In a writing career spanning 60 years, Bryan's interests have included local history, geography, education, the environment, planning, conservation and much more. His main areas of study have been Yorkshire, Rutland, Africa and Australia.

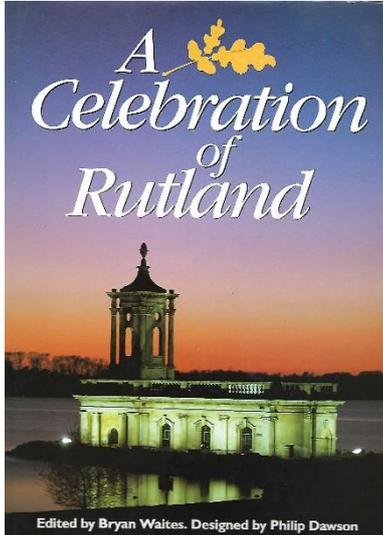
His local books include:

- A Celebration of Rutland*
- Children's Leicestershire*
- Exploring Rutland*
- Leicestershire and Rutland Rambles*
- Leicestershire and Rutland: A Portrait in Colour*
- Leicestershire Battles*
- Normanton Tower Rutland Water*
- Oakham: Photographic Memories*
- Pub Strolls in Leicestershire and Rutland*
- Remember Rutland*
- Rutland Alphabet*
- Rutland Water - a Visitors' Practical Guide*
- Uppingham: Photographic Memories*

Village Walks in Leicestershire and Rutland
Waterside Walks in Leicestershire and Rutland

Bryan has now donated his collection of publications and articles to Rutland County Museum. Known as *The Bryan Waites Collection*, it is available for reference in the Local Studies Room.

Also in the Local Studies Room, along with other publications previously donated by Brian, is a collection of *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, covering the last 40 years. As a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Bryan will continue to donate these annually.



'A Celebration of Rutland', edited by Bryan Waites, was published in 1994 to mark the return to independence of the county.

It is now the only event of its kind in the United Kingdom still held in temporary pens in a town market square. A regular weekly fatstock market was held here until 1954, when wartime controls ended, but the annual show has continued and remains one of the most prestigious events in the town's calendar. Here, local farmers can show off the best of their stock with the aim of encouraging people to buy British and support the industry. Taking place on a Wednesday morning, with the pens set up the day before where cars normally park, livestock starts arriving from 7am and judging commences at 10.00, with prize giving and the presentation of challenge cups at about 11.30. This is followed by a public auction of the pigs and sheep. A luncheon is held immediately after the show in the Falcon Hotel, on the northern side of the Market Place. Then the entire show will be cleared, pens removed and the Market Place cleaned by late afternoon - a logistical feat in its own right.



Uppingham Fatstock Show about 1920 (Rutland County Museum - Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.1823).

Uppingham Fatstock Show

Researching the history of an event that is now the only one of its kind.

The Uppingham Christmas Fatstock Show, with classes for cattle, sheep and pigs, takes place every year in Uppingham Market Place and has been held there since 1890 (see below*), apart from during the world wars and two national outbreaks of foot and mouth disease.



The 111th Uppingham Fatstock Show was held on Wednesday 2nd November 2017 (Sheila Sleath).

*The show held on Wednesday 2nd November 2017 was the 111th. Allowing for the fact that there was no show during the world wars and for two years when there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease suggested that the first show was about 1890. Searching the *Stamford Mercury* for 'fatstock show' in 1890 on the British Newspaper Archive website soon found a report on the first meeting:

Stamford Mercury Friday 12th December 1890 page 7:
'UPPINGHAM. Some months ago, a proposal was made to hold a Christmas fatstock show in connection with the Uppingham market, and this being favourably received a committee was elected as follows to carry out the project: - Messrs. W. Compton (chairman), M. Catlin, G.H.C. Beisiegel, W. Shelton, P. Fryer, B. Freer, C. Tiptaft, T. H. Odell, A. Beaton, S. Arnsby, J. Langley and H. H. Stephenson, with Mr. S. Foster as hon. sec. The appeal for subscriptions was heartily responded to, and prizes to the amount of £50 were offered for a competition to those residing within a radius of 10 miles of Uppingham Market-place. The show was held on Wednesday, and it was a thorough success. The

exhibits were very good, both as regards number and quality. The competition in several of the classes was very keen, and the judges had no easy task in several instances.'

There were classes for Fat Bullocks, Fat Cows and Best Beast in the show. For sheep, the classes were Three Fat Long-wooled Shearling Wethers, Three Fat Cross-bred or Down Shearling Wethers and Three Fat Ewes of any breed. The pig classes included Bacon Pigs, Bacon Pigs bred by cottagers and Porker Pigs bred by cottagers.

'The animals were afterwards submitted for sale by auction, when a good number changed hands, there being a large company present. At the market dinner, afterwards at the Falcon Hotel, about 60 sat down. Mr. G. H. Finch, M.P., presided.'

RECENT RUTLAND PUBLICATIONS

The Story of Uppingham Methodist Church 1817-2017

(Bicentennial edition updated and expanded)

by Margaret Stacey

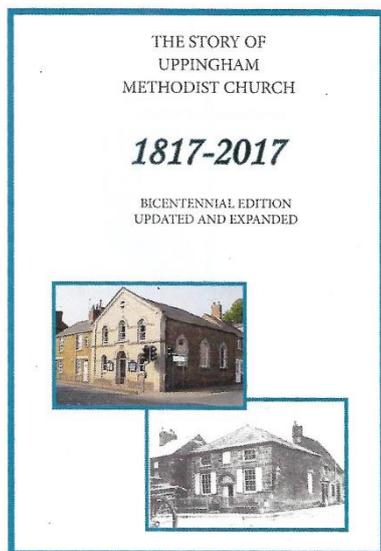
Uppingham Methodist Church Council (2017)

38 pages, staple bound, full colour, A5 format

£6 including postage and packing

Available from Uppingham Local History Studies Group

ulhsg@gmail.com or telephone 01572 821015



According to records, and the date stone on the front of the building, Uppingham Methodist Church, on the corner of Orange Street and North Street West, was built in 1819 at a cost of £486 13s 3d. Behind these historical facts however, lies a story of the early days of Methodism, and of great commitment, courage, and faith by a few farsighted and

thinking people of the town. These were not the 'gentry', or people with money and influence, but well-respected tradespeople, farmers, and ordinary families who were prepared to question the 'status quo' and then act upon it. The result of their labours is still with us today in a thriving outward looking fellowship, serving the town.

This interesting little book records the story of the Methodists in Uppingham, from the very beginning, probably in Vine House (now Toon's Yard) in High Street East, right through to the present day when it still occupies the church built in 1819, albeit completely refurbished in 1999 at a cost of £180,000, all raised by this small community in its 'Crossroads Project'.

Defending Leicestershire and Rutland

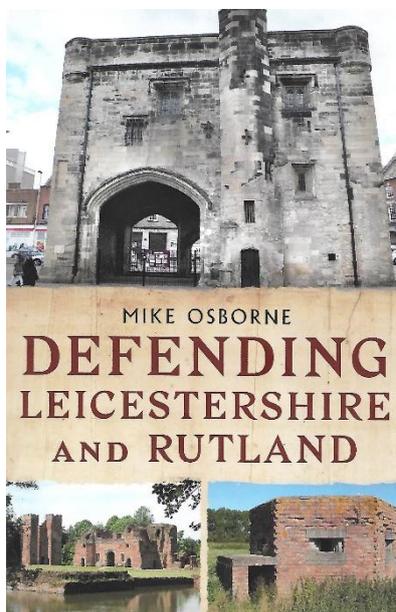
By Mike Osborne

Published by Fonthill Media 2017

ISBN 978-1-78155-578-1

208 pages, perfect bound, b and w images, 155 x 203mm

£16.99 Also available as an E-book online



Leicestershire and Rutland, occupying the area between the Great North Road and Watling Street, have seen the movement of armies from Roman times to the Civil War, with the decisive battles of Bosworth and Naseby fought within or close to their borders.

The Victorian era saw the development of both the Regular and Volunteer forces that would later fight in two world wars,

while the development of military flight in both defensive and offensive roles was a twentieth-century focus. Leicestershire and Rutland witnessed Zeppelin attacks in the First World War; jet engines and US airborne forces in the Second World War; and elements of Britain's nuclear deterrent during the Cold War. The eavesdroppers of the T Service at Beaumanor Hall provided much of the raw material for Bletchley Park's codebreakers during the Second World War. Evidence of this military activity is visible in the landscape: castles of earthwork, stone, or brick; barracks and volunteer drill halls; airfields, missile sites, and munitions factories; and pillboxes, observer corps posts, and bunkers. Defending Leicestershire and Rutland places defensive sites into their social, political, historical, and military contexts; this volume also examines the importance that figures such as William the Conqueror, Richard III, and Oliver Cromwell had on the counties.

Leicestershire and Rutland Unusual and Quirky

By Andrew Beardmore

Published by Halsgrove (2016)

ISBN-10: 0857042742

ISBN-13: 978-0857042743

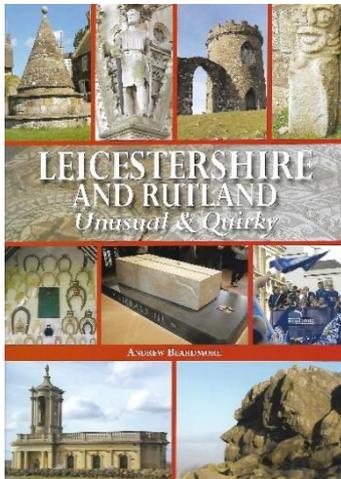
160 pages, hardbound, full colour, 219 x 306mm

£15.58 (Amazon)

Lurking just under the surface of Leicestershire and Rutland is a host of oddities and peculiarities that turn the apparently staid and conventional into something much more intriguing. Therefore even the 'Conventional' section sees its

County History interspersed with the book's idiosyncratic 'Quirk Alerts', such as anecdotes covering Roman latrine management, how Robin-a-Tiptoe Hill became so-named, and the meaning of bizarre Leicestershire terms such as 'Gongoozlers' and 'Yawny Box'!

Naturally, though, it is the 'Quirky' section where things turn very strange, and where a seemingly random almanac of 55 Leicestershire and Rutland places have their quirkiest



facts laid bare: like which village has a cow-milking organist, which had a beer-swilling fox, another a wig-detecting phantom, and yet another a parson who tied 58 bulldogs to 58 apple trees to prevent scrumping! Or what about which Leicestershire village was hit by a meteorite? Which one saw doves dictate the build of a church, and which one still fights annually over a hare pie? Alternatively, find out which Rutland village had a fourteenth-century rector involved in serious organised crime, which one is twinned with Paris, and which one is home to a truly mind-blowing historical revelation. If you think you know Leicestershire and Rutland, read this fascinating and profusely illustrated book and think again...

COTTESMORE VILLAGE VISIT

Our village visit on Saturday 16th September 2017 was to Cottesmore where we were the guests of Cottesmore History & Archaeology Group.

There has been a settlement in Cottesmore since the mid-11th century. Its name originates from 'Cott's Moor' and is correctly pronounced 'Cotts'more'.

It was a flourishing village at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. It is still a typical English village with the houses grouped around the 800 years old church of St Nicholas, but it is now one of Rutland's largest parish settlements.

Historically the area has been agricultural and part of the Exton Estate, the seat of the Earls of Gainsborough. Change came in the 1880s with the introduction of ironstone quarrying, a major source of employment for the next 80 years. The fields have now been restored to agricultural use, but signs of quarrying and the extensive rail system can still be seen.

War and the threat of war have been a strong influence on the development of the village. In 1938, RAF Cottesmore was established near the village and for over 70 years it was an important air base. During the cold war it was part of the nation's nuclear deterrent and Victor and Vulcan bombers were often seen (and heard) flying near the village. Latterly,



it was home to squadrons of Tornados and Harrier 'jump jets', but in 2012, it became an army base, known as Kendrew Barracks.



After the welcome and introduction by Edward Baines, the Village Visit started with an 'Images of Cottesmore' PowerPoint presentation which covered many aspects of village history based on old maps and photographs from the Jack Hart postcard collection in Rutland County Museum.

Ron Dane, Jane Greenhalgh & Val Drew of Cottesmore History & Archaeology Group then talked about their recently completed 'How Old Is Cottesmore' project, using their large display for illustration purposes.

In this project, supported by a grant of £13,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the group looked at eight of the older buildings in the village, considering their age and architecture, as well as the construction materials. An important component of this was dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) which enabled the group to establish an accurate date for the development of some of the buildings.

The group also researched the social and economic background of the people who lived in the properties. For this they used the parish registers and the census returns, as well as the Surveyor's Field Book of the village from the survey which followed the 1909 Lloyd George Finance Act (which required a survey and valuation of all land and property in the UK).

The book of the project is available to read on line, as is the dendrochronology report, using the link: www.thelivingvillage.co.uk/how-old-is-cottesmore.php

After the presentation, light refreshments were provided by Debbie Frearson, and Paul Reeve organised a Society bookstall. A leaflet guided historical walk was available to finish off the afternoon.

The 2018 Village Visit will be to Market Overton on Saturday 15th September (See the Joint Meetings Programme above).

BOOK LAUNCH

Richard Westbrook Baker (1797-1861) was the Exton Estate steward appointed by Sir Gerard Noel in 1828. Between then and his death in 1861 he gained an international reputation as an agriculturalist through his work to improve arable and livestock farming on estate farms. At the same time he worked hard to reduce the impact of agricultural improvement on rural poverty, particularly the effects of enclosures and the introduction of new machines on farms.

A new book on the life, work and achievements of Richard Westbrook Baker, researched and written by Dr Vanessa Doe and published by the Society, will be launched at Rutland County Museum on Thursday 10th May.

Australian Visitors

Richard Westbrook Baker's Descendants Visit Rutland

With what proved to be perfect timing, bearing in mind the forthcoming Society publication (*see above*), three of Richard Westbrook Baker's descendants from Australia visited Rutland last September. They were Ann Fraser (*née* Brain), his three times great grand-daughter, and two of her daughters, Fiona Olney-Fraser and Yvonne Brown.

Ann Fraser's grandmother was Annie Marshall Baker, the eldest daughter of Edward George Baker of Langham, Richard Westbrook Baker's youngest son, who together founded Langham Brewery. Annie Baker married the Rev Alfred Brain, a missionary, and they emigrated to Australia about 1895, taking with them many of Richard Baker's heirlooms.



The three visitors met Vanessa Doe, author of the new publication, at Rutland County Museum, where Lorraine Cornwell was able to show them Richard Baker's medals and some of his silverware, as well as chromolithographs of two of his prizewinning beasts and a Baker photograph album donated by another descendant.

Later they visited The Grange in Cottesmore, the Baker family home after he was appointed as steward to the Exton

Estate, as well as the Baker family grave in Cottesmore churchyard, and Exton Hall. They also visited Langham where they saw the site of the brewery, Langham Hall and Briggins Cottage, all of which have Baker connections.

THE 2018 BRYAN MATTHEWS LECTURE

Nearly 70 Society members and guests attended the Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture on 28th March 2018 in the Mark Glatman Lecture Theatre at Uppingham School's new Science Centre. Our guest speaker was Professor Marilyn Palmer, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Archaeology at the University of Leicester.



In her talk '*Technology in the Country House*', Marilyn spoke about the important role that technology played in enabling owners of country houses in the second half of the 19th century to achieve their ambitions of efficiently functioning comfortable houses. The innovations illustrated included improved water supplies, flushing water closets, boilers for central heating, communication by bells and telephones, and lighting by gas and electricity. She considered the background to these innovations, examined their impact and showed many examples of what has survived. Much of this technology can still be seen in houses that are open to the public.

An Example of Country House Technology in Rutland



Barleythorpe Hall (OS 25" 1886)

The gas works at the Earl of Lonsdale's Barleythorpe Hall were established in 1870 to provide town gas to the hall and the nearby stables. The clock overlooking the courtyard of the stables has a white glass dial which was originally illuminated

from behind by incandescent gas lighting during the hours of darkness. A valve operated by the clock automatically adjusted the on and off time of the dial illumination according to the time of year. The clock was made for the new stables by E Dent & Co, of London in 1871. They also made the Palace of Westminster clock (Big Ben) in 1858 and Oakham church clock in 1860.

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