

**EDITORIAL**

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter in 2004. At the time of writing it seems very likely that this will be the first issue in full colour, thanks to our successful lottery bid and the technology that we are able to acquire as a result. I am looking forward to seeing it!

This issue includes full details of our events programme, right through to next June. Once again, we have been able to put together a varied and interesting schedule of topics and speakers, and where the venue is Rutland County Museum we will be using the super new Welcome to Rutland area.

Whilst on the subject of speakers and venues I would like to make an urgent (possibly desperate!) appeal on behalf of our over-worked secretary, whose role seems to be ever expanding. Sue would like a little help with the programme side of her activities – is there someone, or even two people, out there who could spare a few minutes each month to take over confirmation of arrangements with speakers and venues before each meeting? If you feel that you can help, please contact Sue Howlett on 01780 410533.

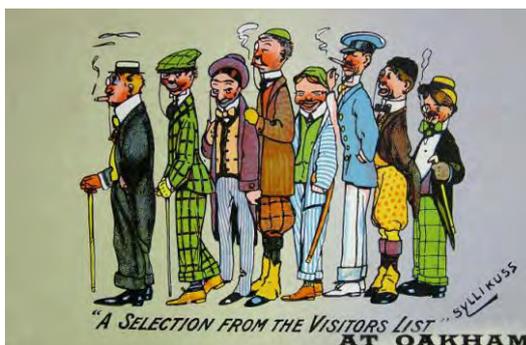
You will also find a report on the Heritage of Rutland Water project, meeting reports, an update on the museum development programme and a special feature on the activities of the Archaeological Group. We also have a code-breaking challenge!

*Robert Ovens*  
rovens@tesco.net

**JACK HART COLLECTION OF  
RUTLAND POSTCARDS**

This magnificent collection of some 2300 postcards was purchased by the museum with funding from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Friends of Rutland County Museum. Funds are also available to house the collection in conservation standard albums.

In order to make the collection more accessible and to reduce damage due to handling, the Society offered to copy and catalogue the whole collection. A small team consisting of Sheila Sleath, Peter Diplock and Robert Ovens started work on



Both sides of one of the Jack Hart postcards shown at the AGM presentation. As you can see, the message is in code. Can you break it? Member Jill Kimber did and her solution is on the last page. Hint – the first word is DEAR, as you might expect. Also, one of the symbols is missing a dot, and O is missing from one of the words. Happy code breaking!



this project in April and the photography is now almost complete. Both sides of each card have been photographed using the Society's new digital camera – over 4600 images in total. These are now being cropped, enhanced and saved to computer files in parish order. They can then be downloaded to CD roms for viewing. Work has also started on the catalogue, which is in the form of a computer spreadsheet so that particular topics can be searched for. A printed version will also be available eventually. Details recorded include accession number, parish, location within the parish, topic, photographer and date.

A selection of the postcards was shown at our AGM in May and there is an opportunity to see more after the presentation of the George Phillips Award at our December meeting.

**THE HERITAGE OF RUTLAND  
WATER**

By now I hope that the news of our successful bid for lottery funding to research the heritage of Rutland's most famous tourist attraction has reached all our members.

As a reminder, the project's aims are: to investigate, document and publicise the heritage of Rutland Water and its surroundings to involve the community widely in the project and thereby reinforce community identity to produce a well researched record which the public may consult, enjoy and build on

The total grant is £24,591, and this will cover the whole cost of the project

including equipment, materials, design and printing, promotional and training costs, and expenses. Over £7,000 is allocated to new equipment, including computers, printers, a scanner, a digital camera and a digital projector. £11,000 is to cover the costs of designing and publishing a book to record the researched aspects of the project.

We announced our success to the outside world towards the end of May via a press release which was sent to all the local newspapers and radio stations. All the papers included the details and Edward Baines was later interviewed on Rutland Radio and a Radio Leicester phone-in.



The project officially started on 4 June and the first action was to take a stand at the Rutland County Show two days later. We had a small display of photographs taken just before work commenced on Rutland Water, together with a map of the Gwash Valley before it was flooded. We also had a selection of Society publications for sale. There was a steady stream of visitors to the stand and the response from those who had memories of living and working in the valley and surrounding villages was most encouraging. We now have a healthy list of those who want to help with the project and those who are willing to record their memories.

The next event was Music at the Castle on 12 June. This was a celebration of our success and an opportunity to thank and talk to outside individuals and groups who had promised their support for the project.

On 12 July we held a widely advertised meeting at Rutland County Museum at which we showed the Anglia Water video of the construction of Rutland Water. We also had a slide show of postcards depicting early 20<sup>th</sup> century views of the villages round the Gwash valley. Again the response was very encouraging, including one family of 5 who had heard Edward Baines on Radio Leicester. They have all lived and worked in the valley for most of their lives and are more than eager to be recorded.

Another aspect of the project is to involve local schools. The Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize, which has been introduced

in memory of our former President, will be used for the next two years to encourage participation. Members of the steering committee are currently discussing aspects of the competition with the teachers concerned.

On another front, the Society's website is being totally redesigned to create greater impact and to include pages covering the progress of the project. We are also preparing photographs and text to contribute to the Local Heritage Initiative website.

We hope to start talking to and recording those people who have already come forward by mid to late September, but a training session is required before then.

The steering committee is meeting every two to three weeks to co-ordinate the project, plan future actions and ensure that we meet with the detailed conditions of the award. We will always need more volunteers to help with this project, some to sit on the steering committee and others to train as oral history recorders in particular. If you would like to help please contact Sue Howlett on 01780 410533, or you can email her at: [sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk)

#### NEWS FROM RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

##### *Museum Development Programme*

The refurbished Museum has been well supported by visitors. Since the launch of our new entrance in April visitor figures have risen by 46% compared with the previous year. A significant proportion of these visitors seem to be local people who have come to see what has changed.

The new study area, which Rutland Local History and Record Society contributed to, is proving to be a very useful space. Two new computers with improved specifications are on order for this area and should arrive towards the end of August.

##### *Courtyard Development*

The Courtyard and Poultry Hall were closed in May while most of the collections were moved out in preparation for the Courtyard to be re-roofed. This was due to start early in June. Unfortunately trial excavations revealed that the poor foundations of the existing walls make them inadequate to bear the weight of the new roof. Alternative (and of course more expensive) designs have been produced to resolve this problem, but they leave us with

a funding gap that we need to bridge before work can start.

*Simon Davies*  
Museum Services Manager

#### RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2004

##### 9<sup>th</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> August

##### **The Art of Gill Boyle**

This exhibition includes textiles, paintings and collages with images of marine fish, abstract designs and landscapes.

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October

##### **Paintings by Kitty and Stephen Wigmore**

Traditional portraits and landscapes by Kitty Wigmore, who painted the Saxons in the museum reception area, contrast with surreal cityscapes painted by her son, Stephen.

##### 24<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October

##### **Langham Local History Group - Village Exhibition**

The history of a Rutland village told in documents and old photographs. Compiled by the Langham Local History Group and displayed in association with Rutland Local History and Record Society. An opportunity for those who cannot attend the Village Visit meeting to see part of the display. (see Society Meetings Programme below)

##### 29<sup>th</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> December

##### **Catmose Amateur Artists Exhibition**

An exhibition of recent works in watercolour, pastel and oil by members of Catmose Amateur Artists.

Please contact Rutland County Museum on 01572 758440 for further details of any of these events.

#### **Rutland Local History & Record Society &**

#### **Friends of Rutland County Museum**

#### **JOINT**

#### **MEETINGS PROGRAMME**

#### **September 2004 to June 2005**

**Please note that, unless otherwise stated, all meetings are at Rutland County Museum in the new Welcome to Rutland area. Members should use the new entrance in South Street car park.**

##### **Saturday 11 September**

Meet at 2.00pm, Lyddington Church

##### **Guided Historical Walk**

Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath

##### **Bonfires, Bombs and Bishops in Rutland**

This circular walk, in conjunction with the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council, starts at Lyddington

Church, taking in the Bishop's Palace, medieval fishponds and Snelston deserted medieval village. Also visiting the Eyebrook Reservoir, which was used for practice bombing runs by the 'Dambusters' during World War II, and Stoke Dry Church to see medieval wall paintings and the room said to be a meeting place of the Gunpowder Plotters.

The six mile walk is over roads, tracks and footpaths, with stiles and gentle gradients. Walking boots or strong shoes recommended. Booking not necessary – just turn up on the day! Children capable of walking the distance and dogs on leads welcome.

The first part of the walk is within Lyddington village and is suitable for those who only want a short walk of about a mile or so.

**Saturday 18 September, 1.00 to 5.20 pm**  
Langham Local History Group  
**Village Visit to Langham**

This year's Village Visit has been organised in conjunction with Langham Local History Group. The format includes talks on the history of the village, a leaflet guided walk, and exhibitions of old photographs and documents in the Baptist and Parish Churches, and in the Village Hall (in Church Street). Entry is £3.50 per person and this includes light refreshments, which will be available throughout the afternoon. These will be provided by Langham WI, who will also have more substantial refreshments for purchase. Apparently the WI has a reputation for a "certain standard" of catering and they don't like to think that visitors to Langham might go away hungry. You have been warned.

A booking form for this event accompanies this Newsletter.

**Thursday 7 October 7.30 pm**  
Captain Bob Allen  
Royal Tigers Association

**History of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and its forbears**

The Royal Tigers Association is currently appealing for funds to add to its award of £3 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new museum. This museum will celebrate the fine record of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and its part in the history of Leicestershire. The appeal is now more than half way to its target, helped by a donation from our Society, and it is hoped to open the new exhibition in the Autumn of 2005.

**Thursday 11 November 7.30 pm**  
Kate Don

**The Roman Site of Thistleton**

Kate is a member of our Society and joined the Society's Management Committee at the last Annual General Meeting as Convenor of the Society's Archaeology Group. Last year she won the annual Miss Linford Award for the best

amateur archaeological project in Leicestershire and Rutland, the second time it has been won by this group. The award was for her work in investigating the Roman site at Thistleton.

**Thursday 9 December 7.30 pm**  
**The George Phillips Award**

To be presented by Dr Laurence Howard,  
Lord Lieutenant of Rutland  
Followed by:

Robert Ovens

**Rutland Then and Now**

A light-hearted quiz based on Rutland County Museum's Jack Hart collection of old picture postcards. Just another excuse to look at more pictures from this magnificent collection, with a few „now“ photographs thrown in for added interest.

**(Date to be arranged)**

Possible Sunday Visit:

**Charge of the Light Brigade Exhibition**

The Carnegie Museum  
Melton Mowbray

Details to be announced later.

**Thursday 13 January 2005 7.30 pm**

Brian Taylor

**The Grand Tour of Europe: its history and repercussions**

Brian Taylor is currently lecturing for the WEA on the *Grand Tour of Europe* which took place over a period of about 300 years. It involved a cast of thousands, many of them young British aristocrats. They spent months or even years travelling on the continent, during which time they saw the sites, sold some wild oats, received a liberal education, and some even became arbiters of taste as well as collectors and connoisseurs of the arts.

As a result of the Grand Tour, several styles of classical architecture were introduced into Britain. Houses became repositories for large collections of paintings and sculptures purchased on the continent, and gardens were designed to represent the Italianate countryside. In short, the cultural impact of the Grand Tour on mainland Britain was substantive!

**Thursday 10 February 7.30 pm**

Derek Smeathers

**The Story of the Early Post**

Derek has been studying the postal history of Northamptonshire as a hobby since 1955. His collection of more than 5000 documents, including letters, postcards and other ephemera, illustrates aspects of the postal service from 1635 to 1960.

He is Chairman of the Midland Postal History Society and has contributed to a number of publications. These include the national index of British postmarks up to 1840 (the British County Catalogue), for which he was County Editor for Northamptonshire, and *Mileage Marks and Mailcoach Routes of the Midland Counties 1784-1845*. This latter publication presents

a great deal of new information about the era of mail coaches and their efforts to carry letters with greater speed and safety.

**Thursday 10 March 7.30 pm**  
**FRCM AGM**

Followed by:  
Cynthia Brown  
East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council  
**New Directions in Museums**

**Thursday 21 April 2005 7.30 pm**  
**At Uppingham School**  
**The 2005 Bryan Matthews Lecture**

Dr John Wales

**Railways in Rutland**

John has recently retired as a doctor from the National Health Service. This has given him more time to pursue his keen interest in railways and anything driven by steam. In fact, he is currently building a railway system in his own back garden! He also has a keen interest in the Titanic – another subject on which he gives talks.

**Thursday 19 May 2005 7.30 pm**  
**RLHRS AGM**

Followed by:

Margaret Bonney

**Rutland and the Medieval Wool Trade**

Margaret Bonney was formerly a lecturer at Leicester University and editor of the BALH Journal of Local History. Her teaching and research interests include English towns from mid thirteenth century to the Reformation. She now works at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

**Saturday 11 June 2005 7.30 pm**  
**FRCM/RLHRS**

**Joint Summer Social at Oakham Castle**

Details to be announced later.

**MEETING REPORTS**

**Thursday 12 February, 7.30 pm at RCM**  
**25 Years of Rutland Water**

Tim Appleton, MBE, Manager of the Wildlife Trust in Rutland, entertained nearly 60 members of the Rutland Local History and Records Society and Friends of Rutland County Museum at the February meeting. Tim outlined the creation of both Rutland Water and the nature reserves from the mid-1970s. His extensive collection of slides included the demolished village of Nether Hambleton and the original Burley Fish Ponds.

The construction of Rutland Water itself and the first nature reserve at Lyndon were described in detail. He also included the Rutland Water Sailing Club which was established in 1976. The nature reserves, including the lagoons were constructed between 1977 and 1979 as water was being pumped into the valley from the River Welland. Labour to construct the reserves

was provided by local volunteers, including pupils of Uppingham School, who helped to plant over 30,000 trees. Assistant wardens joined Tim and the training programme was formalised with the awarding of an NVQ in Countryside Management.

In 1987 the first Birdwatchers Convention was held and it proved so successful that it has become an annual event. It is now attended by birdwatchers drawn from all corners of the globe. Proceeds from the fair are used to finance conservation work overseas.

By 1992, Rutland's nature reserves were designated as special protection areas for birds and wildlife species, and Tim was able to display his extensive knowledge of the varied habitats required by specific bird species, and animals such as the water vole. The continued expansion of the reserves and the success of the self-funding Eggleton Visitor Centre are due in part to the successful reintroduction of ospreys at Rutland Water, after a 200-year absence in England. He concluded his presentation by praising his team of colleagues and volunteers and by urging members of the society to visit the reserves.

Sue Howlett gave the vote of thanks and reminded members that the Rutland Local History and Record Society was bidding for funding from the Heritage Lottery Grant to document and record the history of Rutland Water. It was hoped to complete the project in 2006 in time for the 30th anniversary of Rutland Water.

*Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin*

#### **Thursday 18 March**

The Old Schoolroom, Uppingham School

##### **Bryan Matthews Lecture:**

##### **The industrialisation of a rural county: industrial archaeology in Rutland**

Marilyn Palmer, Professor of Industrial Archaeology at Leicester University

The magnificent Old School Room of Uppingham School was the setting on 18th March for the Rutland History Society's annual Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture. An audience of over 80 gathered to hear a fascinating talk by the first and so far only Professor of Industrial Archaeology in the world, Marilyn Palmer.

Professor Palmer, Head of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester University, is Vice President of the Association for Industrial Archaeology, and serves on committees concerned with industrial archaeology for English Heritage and The National Trust. Her work over the past 30 years has greatly contributed to the acceptance of industrial archaeology as an academic discipline. With the help of many vivid slides, Professor Palmer revealed that despite its deceptively tranquil rural landscape, Rutland has a long and vital industrial heritage. The Romans smelted iron in several parts of the county, where large quantities of slag deposits can still be

found. At the time of Domesday, Rutland could boast 42 water mills. Several survive to this day, retaining impressive equipment such as the third-storey roofed loading door, internal breast-shot wheel and external drive pulley at Tickencote Mill. Water power was later supplemented by wind and, in the 19th century, steam power.

A rare group of three differently powered corn mills survives at South Luffenham: the water mill, which operated until 1948; a tower windmill, built in 1832; and a steam mill, opened in 1892. Meanwhile at Tolethorpe, the still surviving water mill was converted in the 19th century to generate electricity.

Unlike neighbouring Leicestershire, where the population trebled during the 19th century, Rutland's population remained static until the mid 20th century. Local landowners such as the Duke of Rutland opposed the development of framework knitting, coal-mining in the Vale of Belvoir or the hosiery, boot and shoe industries, for fear of increased demands on the Poor Rates. The county was thus spared the „dark satanic mills“ and slum housing of the Industrial Revolution, remaining a rural backwater dependent on farming.

Each village contained its local craftsmen such as wheelwrights and blacksmiths to supply the needs of the community. Some of these industrial premises survive, such as the famous Burley Forge, once used to illustrate an advertisement for Cherry Blossom Boot Polish. Around the county, maltings were built to convert barley into malt for brewing, such as the recently converted Maltings at Ketton. Several breweries also sprang up of which the most famous, the recently closed Ruddles Brewery at Langham, opened in 1858.

The coming of the railways brought the first major industrial development to Rutland. Prior to this, the extension of the Melton Mowbray Canal through Oakham allowed goods such as coal and corn to be transported via private wharves, such as that still surviving at Market Overton.

The main terminus warehouse in Oakham has now become Oakham School's Queen Elizabeth Theatre. However, the Oakham Canal was in operation for only 40 years, suffering from inadequate water supply. Although some stretches remain, most of the canal route was sold to the Midland Railway in 1846, forming the basis of much of the track of the Syston to Peterborough Railway. Many Rutland communities were served by the east-west routes of the Midland and later the London and North Western Railways. Manton still has its elaborate brick classical station, while Seaton retains its signal box, goods shed and attractive foot bridge. The most spectacular survival of the great Railway Age is the stupendous Welland Valley Viaduct, its 82 arches constructed by armies of navvies out of 15 million blue bricks.

Rutland's Jurassic limestone and Liassic ironstone have supplied building and other needs for many centuries. Clipsham and Ketton had famous quarries which continue to this day, although Ketton is now dominated by the vast Portland cement making plant which opened in 1928. Lime was burnt for agricultural use in many villages, including Pickworth, where the poet John Clare once worked. The Pickworth Lime Kiln was excavated by Professor Palmer's team and restored by Rutland Council in 1989, although its site on private land has now limited access and is sadly overgrown.

Rutland's major source of industrial output was its extractive industries. By the end of the 19th century, local ironstone became an important source of ore for steelmaking. The first large-scale iron ore workings were opened at Cottesmore in 1882, followed by quarries at Market Overton, Uppingham, Luffenham, Pilton, Wing, Burley, Barrowden and finally Exton in 1951. These quarries were linked to the main line railways in a network of small mineral lines, of which a few traces still remain. Vast areas of topsoil were removed from the fields, for the shallow ironstone beds to be quarried. The ironstone was at first loaded by hand into railway wagons, the track being moved sideways as the quarry face advanced. Later long Jib cranes and other machines were used to get and load the ironstone. In 1957 the giant electric dragline excavator, named „Sundew“, was brought into use in Exton Park. When the workings closed in 1974, „Sundew“ embarked on its famous 56-day „walk“ to its new home at Corby.

Rutland is fortunate in that the quarry companies were controlled by strict policies of land restoration. As each area of quarrying was completed, topsoil was returned and the land restored to cultivation. Today, it is hard to imagine how much of Rutland's farmland was once scarred by ironstone workings. The most noticeable evidence is the lowered levels of some fields, especially within Exton Park or beside the B668 near Burley.

As Rutland's extractive industries came to an end, the county found a new industrial significance in the mid 20th century, as a supplier of water to the surrounding region. Eyebrook Reservoir was built in the late 1930s to supply water for the new steel town at Corby. That scheme was dwarfed a generation later by the creation of a 3,500 acre storage lake of 27,300 million gallons at Rutland Water. In place of ironstone quarries Rutland now boasts a major addition to the landscape which brings major economic benefit to the region while enhancing the beauty and tranquillity of the landscape.

Professor Palmer concluded her lecture by pointing out that, although the latest edition of Pevsner's „Buildings of England“ asserted that no essay on industrial archaeology was required for Rutland,

Rutland could in fact boast a heritage of considerable industrial activity incorporated into its agricultural landscape.

After answering questions, Professor Palmer and her co-author, Peter Neaverson, signed copies of their book, „Industrial Landscapes of the East Midlands“.

*Sue Howlett*

#### **Thursday 20 May, 7.30 pm Rutland Local History & Record Society AGM**

Rutland County Museum was the setting for the Annual General Meeting of the Society which was attended by more than 50 members.

#### **Chairman's End of Year Report**

This time last year I was elected as a somewhat reluctant chairman, but I have to report that I have actually enjoyed my first year in this office. Much of this is due to a strong and committed team of officers and committee members. I thank them for their support.

Over the year I have seen significant developments in some areas, and steady progress in others.

The Society office – the Prince Yuri Galitzine Room – at the museum is now fully functional. We now have our own personal computer (thanks to a donation by Ian Ryder) and printer. Our membership database is now on this pc, and therefore under our control. At this point I must thank Sue Curtis for ably maintaining it on the museum's computer in the past.

Whilst in the office I must also mention our library. Thanks to significant donations of books by Prince Yuri Galitzine, Bryan Waites, Alan Rogers, Peter Lane and others, and some purchases, we now have an excellent local history reference library which is available for members to consult. If you have a local history collection, or even the odd book which you want to dispose of, please offer it to the Society.

Peter Tomalin and David Carlin have been sorting and organizing the library collection. New additional shelving has been installed, and we are now well on the way to completing a searchable database catalogue.

This time last year we were just beginning to think about implementing the recommendations of the Development Group Report which was produced under the leadership of Alan Rogers. I am pleased to be able to report that some progress has been made – we now have draft financial and editorial policy documents – and the recommendations regarding reaching out to the local community are about to be implemented in a big way. But more of that later.

As I am sure that you will have noticed, the publication of Rutland Record has accelerated to the extent that we have seen issues 21 and 22 in the last 18 months, and 23 is well advanced. The index of RR 11 to 20 is also nearly ready for layout design.

Two further projected publications - 1712 Land Tax and Rutland Enclosures – are both well on the way. There has also been some progress on the Winchelsea Oakham Survey. I can also report that steps are being taken to bring the long-overdue Hambleton Excavation Report to publication, thanks to an offer of help from Leicester University.

The other editorial matter I need to mention is the twice-yearly newsletter, which I edit. This, I hope is avidly read by all members because it is the only way we can keep all members fully up to date on Society activities. On average, only one fifth of the membership attends any one Society meeting. This means that, without the newsletter, the other 200 or so members are in the dark, so to speak. The newsletter also performs another important function of being a permanent historical record of the Society's activities.

Our other means of communicating with the outside world – our website – has been dormant for the last 12 months, but this is about to change - as you will see.

The Environmental Group is concerned in particular with the built environment of Rutland. Its main task is to monitor planning applications for developments which might threaten our heritage, and to make the appropriate representations. A slight reorganization here now means that David Carlin is looking after the north of the county and Auriol Thomson the south. Each is building up a list of contacts who have detailed knowledge of particular parishes.

Another significant event has been the opening of the new Welcome to Rutland gallery, study room and shop at the museum. These are magnificent new facilities which I hope the Society can use and enjoy to the full. It is opportune at this point to thank Simon Davies and his team for their enthusiastic support and interest in our many activities. Our Society is well regarded in outside circles and I think some of this comes from our association with the museum.

We are approaching the end of what has been an excellent year of meetings and events. Reports on all of these have appeared in the Newsletter, and in the local press (thanks to Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin), so I do not want to go into specific detail here. I would, however, like to thank all the speakers and organizers for their efforts. The most successful events, if audience size is anything to go by, were the Village Visit to Glaston, Anne Paul's talk on the Manton to Kettering Railway, Tim Clough's guided tour of the horseshoes at Oakham Castle, Tim Appleton's talk on Rutland Water, and the Bryan Matthews Lecture on Industrial Archaeology at Uppingham School. This venue is becoming a regular for the BM lecture and we are particularly grateful to the School for providing it free of charge.

Next year's Bryan Matthews lecture, by the way, is Railways in Rutland – expect a very large audience for this one.

I have left the interesting news to the end. You will have read in the last Newsletter that a group of 8 of us, under the chairmanship of Edward Baines, have been working on an application for a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative. This would be used to cover the costs of involving the local community in a project to record the heritage of Rutland Water.

I am pleased to be able to report that our application has been successful. We have been offered a grant of £24,591, and this will cover the whole cost of the project – equipment, materials, design and printing, promotional costs etc. We have 2 years to complete it.

In closing I would like to thank everyone involved in this excellent society – I think we have a success on our hands.

*Robert Ovens*

#### **Executive Committee Elections**

As a result of the elections at the AGM the full membership of the committee is now as follows:

<b>President:</b>	Edward Baines
<b>Chairman:</b>	Robert Ovens
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Alan Rogers
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sue Howlett
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ian Ryder
<b>Editor:</b>	Tim Clough
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Enid Clinton
<b>Archivist:</b>	Carl Harrison
<b>Editorial Adviser:</b>	Robin Jenkins
<b>Committee:</b>	Audrey Buxton, Elizabeth Bryan, David Carlin, Hilary Crowden, Alan Curtis, Peter Diplock, Kate Don, Nick Pearce-Smith, Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin, Auriol Thomson, Mike Tillbrook.

#### **The Jack Hart Collection of Rutland Postcards**

The AGM was followed by an informative presentation on the Jack Hart Collection of early postcards of Rutland. The 2,300 postcards which chronicle aspects of Rutland history in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are being digitally copied and entered on a permanent database.

Almost half of the collection dates before 1918 when the cost of sending postcards increased from one half-penny to one penny.

Robert Ovens entertained the audience with highlights from the collection. These included village scenes, house fires, May Day and Empire Day processions, records of elections and infant school photographs.

He supplemented many original scenic postcards with modern photographs taken from the same viewpoint today. In some parishes the view was almost exactly the same, while in other parishes there have been significant alternations to the buildings or landscape. The collection also includes interior and exterior pictures of almost every church in Rutland. After

cataloguing, the postcards will be permanently housed in conservation-standard albums which are to be purchased by The Friends of Rutland County Museum.

*Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin*

### Music at the Castle



### SOCIETY LIBRARY

The material in the RLHRS library consists of books, magazines, reports, and notes, most of which have been donated by Prince Yuri Galitzine, but also including contributions from Bryan Waites, Alan Rogers, Peter Lane and Audrey Buxton. It is all housed in the Society's Prince Yuri Galitzine Room at the museum.

The books have been arranged on shelves according to subject. Firstly a group of topographical books covering Rutland, Leicestershire & Rutland, and Other Counties respectively, and then a group on history, divided into General History, Historical Topics, and Local History & Genealogy. There are a few miscellaneous books and a collection of books published by learned societies as a series, such as those of the Royal Historical Society.

Smaller books and pamphlets are in boxes in the relevant section. Special books of significant value are kept in a locked cupboard, but can be consulted on request.

There are broken runs of a number of magazines of interest to local historians. Recent copies of these and of archaeological magazines received by the Society are on display in the Galitzine Room for members to study.



*Easterly Winds*

**Music at the Castle** on Saturday 12 June was a celebration of our successful lottery bid and an opportunity to thank and talk to individuals and groups who had promised their support for the Rutland Water project. Background music provided by local quintet 'Easterly Winds', and Patricia Owens sang a selection of 'songs from the shows'

The Society holds a large collection of notes relating to the towns and villages of Rutland. Many of these are copies of sale notices collected over many years by Prince Yuri. These are filed in a cabinet.

Separate from the books and village notes are some special collections. These include notes on Braunston village and copies of various Rutland records made by Prince Yuri, reports of the Uppingham Local History Group prepared and presented by Peter Lane, and lecture notes written by the late Bryan Matthews and presented by his family.

Accession sheets are being completed for the books and the runs of magazines. These will be the basis for a catalogue, both on paper and as a computer programme, enabling readers to check whether material of interest to them is available in the library. The catalogue should be complete by the end of this year. In the meantime members may browse the shelves and consult books by arrangement with the Secretary.

*Peter Tomalin*

### ARCHAEOLOGY

The Archaeological Group has been active again on the site of the Romano-British Town at Thistleton. Fieldwalking in October 2003, and the subsequent mapping and report completes the work begun in 2001. A clear picture of the extent of the town, which covered 100 acres, has emerged. The intriguing dotted line left to us by Ernest Greenfield, a Government archaeologist who worked in advance of the ironstone quarrying in the 1950s & 60s, does indeed indicate the boundaries of the town. Of the 6000 plus sherds recovered from the site, just two have been identified as Iron Age. However small, this does add to the growing body of evidence that there was pre-Roman occupation. Reports and maps for both stages of fieldwalking are now lodged with the Sites & Monuments Record.

A geophysical survey covering *circa*.300 sq. metres of the town took place in September 2003 and has produced stunning images, particularly of the temple and the surrounding Temenos ditch. Leicester University, with assistance from the archaeology group, plan to carry out more surveying work when harvesting has taken place at end July/early August.

Anecdotal evidence from local people should not be dismissed lightly! A conversation with two former quarry workers in the Black Bull resulted in a visit to the offices of Corus (formerly Stewarts & Lloyds) in Corby to see a mosaic fragment in their reception area. What greeted Kate Don and Professor Roger Wilson of Nottingham University was a beautiful "fragment" measuring 5.5 metres square and patterned rather like a chessboard (typical of the East Midlands, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century AD). It was removed from the villa in the early 1960s and has been on

display in the offices since that time. Sadly, the rest of the villa was quarried away. The company has agreed to donate the mosaic to Rutland County Museum on completion of the sale of the building.

The same people also talked of seeing the “skellingtons” unearthed at Thistleton in 1956 and watching a stone coffin being loaded onto a van. They believed it was taken to Oakham School, then the museum for Rutland. They were right. The coffin sits outside the classics department and is bedecked with flowers and shrubs. Confirmation that it is the Thistleton coffin was made by comparing measurements and other characteristics with those noted by John Barber, a teacher at the School at the time. The wedge shaped coffin weighs 2 tons and was hewn from a single block of Clipsham stone. John Barber observed that the occupant was male, 5” 9” tall and of stout build. This was certainly a high status 4<sup>th</sup> century burial, possibly a local villa owner.

Elaine Jones continued fieldwalking the Ayston to Glaston ridge and the assemblage of finds is said by Heritage Services to be a splendid teaching tool, containing as it does material from the Paleolithic onwards. The team’s summer visit was a trek round East Anglia. Morning coffee was taken at the West Stow Anglo Saxon village, the picnic lunch at Grimes Graves Stone Age flint mines, afternoon tea at Holme Hale Hall to see the walled kitchen garden redesigned by the Chelsea award winner Arne Maynard. “Sundowners” were at the Denver Sluice where four fenland rivers and the sea converge in a network of waterways, some over 400 years old.

In April the group assisted Bob Sparham of Nottingham University to fieldwalk at Wymondham. The site lies adjacent to a 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century Romano-British villa excavated by the University over the past 2 summers. Evidence of further buildings was found, and the group will undertake excavation in July and August. Bob and his colleague Mark Cheeseman will provide tuition and supervision to we novices.

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group offers a training day designed to prepare new fieldwalkers with knowledge of techniques and identification. This year the date is 25<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-4pm at Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester. Half day in-field sessions follow on October 11th-15th, at Stonton Wyville. For more information and to reserve a place contact Peter Liddle on 0116 264 5810. The course is free to members of LMAFG.

So, what’s next? We know that a Romano-British Town like Thistleton would have had more than one villa, and we will endeavour to find another! Fieldwalking on the Ayston-Glaston ridge will recommence in October. If you would like to join us, phone Elaine Jones on 01572 823421 or Kate Don on 01572 767701.

Kate Don



*Above: the mosaic floor removed from the Thistleton villa site in 1960 and now in the Corus offices in Corby. The black and white photograph shows the floor before it was removed*

*Left: the stone coffin re-discovered outside the classics department (rather appropriately) at Oakham School*

# Archaeological Group Summer Outing to East Anglia



## West Stow Anglo-Saxon Site

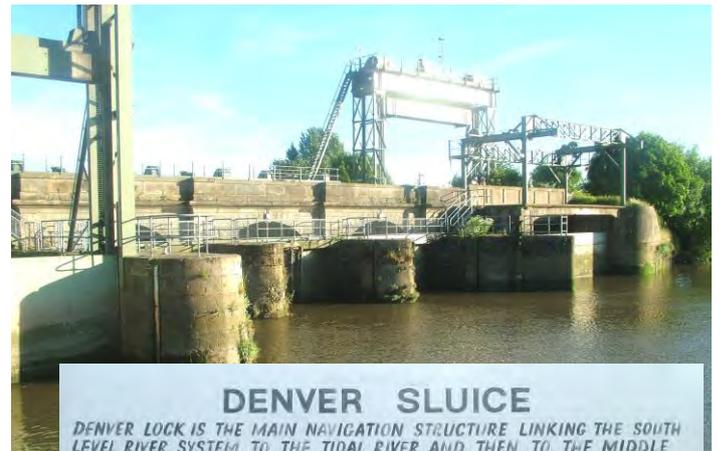
Clockwise:

Keeping cool on a hot day

Naturally dyed wool

Anglo Saxon house

Weaving loom



## DENVER SLUICE

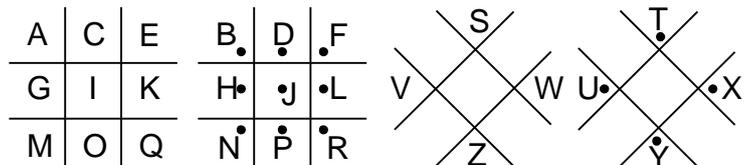
DENVER LOCK IS THE MAIN NAVIGATION STRUCTURE LINKING THE SOUTH LEVEL RIVER SYSTEM TO THE TIDAL RIVER AND THEN TO THE MIDDLE LEVEL OR THE SEA. THE FIRST SLUICE AT DENVER, CONSTRUCTED BY VERMUYDEN IN 1651, WOULD HAVE ALLOWED NAVIGATION ONLY WHEN WATER LEVELS EACH SIDE OF THE SLUICE WERE EQUAL.

THE FIRST NAVIGATION LOCK WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1730 BY LABELYE. ITS EFFECTIVE SIZE WAS 11 METRES LONG BY 4 METRES WIDE. IT WAS REPLACED IN 1834 BY THE EXISTING LOCK WHEN THE SLUICE WAS RECONSTRUCTED TO JOHN RENNIE'S DESIGN. THE LOCKS DIMENSIONS WERE INCREASED TO 23 METRES BY 5½ METRES WIDE. TWO PAIRS OF TIMBER VEE DOORS POINTING UPSTREAM AND TWO PAIRS POINTING DOWNSTREAM ALLOWED NAVIGATION WITH HIGH WATER EITHER SIDE OF THE LOCK.

RENNIE'S STRUCTURE (EXCLUDING DOORS) REMAIN INTACT TODAY. THE LATEST WORK HAS BEEN TO REPLACE THE FOUR PAIRS OF VEE DOORS WITH TWO STEEL VERTICAL LIFT GATES. THIS HAS MADE THE LOCK OPERATION MUCH SIMPLER AND HAS INCREASED THE LOCK'S EFFECTIVE LENGTH BY 7 METRES. THE CILL LEVELS HAVE BEEN RAISED TO GIVE A MINIMUM 2 METRE DRAFT AND TO ENABLE THE SIZE OF THE GATES TO BE REDUCED.

## Breaking the code

The code is a letter to symbol substitution, the symbols being sourced from these four diagrams which give 26 different shapes. Using logic and some guess work it is possible to generate these diagrams from the symbols on the card. The message therefore reads: DEAR FLOIE. MANY THANKS FOR THE PARCEL RECEIVED. WRITING TOMORROW. KIND REGARDS. T.E.D.



Note that the symbol for Y in MANY is missing its dot, and that O is missing from TOMORROW. Many thanks to Jill Kimber for this solution. Were Floie and Ted 'an item'? We hope they had happy lives.