Rutland Local History & Record Society

No 2/02 December 2002

EDITORIAL
Welcome to our 'new look' newsletter, in which we aim to bring you up-to-date with everything that is happening in and around our Society.

Initially it will be published in August and December to coincide with the mailing of the autumn and spring programmes, with, perhaps, an additional issue in the spring to go out with the AGM mailer.

As well as including meeting reports, and information from the various sub-groups within the Society, we would also like to publish your letters. These might be, for example, to tell us what you would like to see in this newsletter or what you are researching. It could be an appeal for information, or you could send us an interesting (short!) local history story.

This newsletter also provides an opportunity to tell you about other Rutland local history groups. There are a number of very active parish based societies and if you are also a member of one of these, why not tell us what you are doing? Write to the Newsletter Editor, c/o Rutland County Museum. Alternatively, you can telephone or email me.

Robert Ovens rovens@compuserve.com

PRINCE YURI GALITZINE
As this newsletter was about to be printed we were saddened to learn of the death of the Society’s President, Prince Yuri Galitzine, on 28th November 2002.

Tim Clough, the Society's Editor, and a founder member of Rutland Record Society, has prepared the following obituary for the Newsletter:

One day in 1978 a small group of conspirators – and I think we can be called that – met at Bisbrooke Hall at the invitation of George Boyle. They included Bryan Matthews and Prince Yuri. The result of that meeting was the foundation of the Rutland Record Society. Bryan was to become its first Honorary Secretary, George Boyle its President, and Prince Yuri the Chairman of its Council; all were confirmed in office at the first AGM in May 1979. The Chairman’s enthusiasm for Rutland and its local history was infectious, and straightaway - with the benefit of hindsight perhaps too quickly - the Society launched into its publication programme, not just with the Rutland Record but also with Tudor Rutland.

Prince Yuri’s personal support for the Society in these early years when it found itself for a while in financial difficulties was crucial to its early success, but his contribution was much greater than that. He undertook extensive local research and contributed articles on the history of his then house, Quaintree Hall at Braunston, and on Anthony Jenkinson and his Russian travels to Rutland Record as well as the (now out of print) Occasional Publication Domesday Book in Rutland: the dramatis personae (1986). He found time to lead meetings of the Council despite a busy schedule, and supported its events and activities in person. Eventually, the Society merged with the Rutland Local History Society and then with the Field Research Group, with Prince Yuri continuing in office as Chairman of the new Executive Committee.

In 1998, Prince Yuri was elected President, and despite ailing health since that time continued to attend meetings when he could. He invited the Society to Holywell Hall near Stamford – he regretted it was not quite in Rutland – where he took pride in renovating the house and its gardens: just as he had done at Braunston. More recently, he donated all his working notes on local history and genealogy and a portion of his library to the Society. He would have been pleased to know that these will form part of the Society’s archive in what we hope will shortly become its own accommodation at the Rutland County Museum, something which I know he would have welcomed.

It may seems strange to some that a scion of a Russian aristocratic family should have taken such an interest in England’s smallest county, but societies such as ours often owe much to people like Prince Yuri who find the time in their own busy lives to support and encourage them. He was proud of his Russian ancestry, and glad to have been able to visit that country in recent years. He was also proud of his association with his adoptive county, and we remember what he did for us and his support of the Society – and of the Rutland County Museum – with gratitude. The Society’s condolences have been expressed to his family.

Tim Clough

MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT
Two recent and significant events at Rutland County Museum, the successful bid for Lottery funding in support of the museum redevelopment and the retirement of the curator, Tim Clough, are resulting in some fundamental changes.

In order to establish the latest situation, I visited Phil Rayner at the museum.

He explained that his new title is Collections Manager, and that Sue Curtis is now in charge of museum administration. A new senior post of Services Manager is to be created, with the overall responsibility of running the museum, although this is still to be ratified by the Cabinet of Rutland
County Council. It is hoped that this post will be filled by spring 2003.

Turning to the physical changes within the museum, Phil showed me the area which until recently was the Volunteer Soldier exhibition. This exhibition has now been dismantled to leave a surprisingly large empty room. This will become the "Welcome to Rutland Gallery" and will be the first area that visitors will see as they come in via the new entrance off the South Street car park. There will be a reception desk and rest area with a hot drinks machine here, as well as a number of mobile display cabinets. It will be possible to move these cabinets to one side to create a meeting room with the latest audio-visual equipment, and capable of seating up to 100 people.

The new entrance, which has been designed for easy disabled access, will replace the current entrance off Catmos Street.

The former meeting room is to be divided to provide a retail area and a study room. A treasury will be created near the study room entrance to display church silver, silver salvers and medals.

The displays on the balcony in the main hall are to be replaced using the cabinets and wall boards from the Volunteer Soldier exhibition, and a lift is to be installed to allow disabled access.

The Colonel Noel room is to remain as a gallery for special exhibitions, and also as a small meeting room. The kitchen will also remain for the foreseeable future.

New offices for the Services Manager and museum administration have already been created in the rooms above the Colonel Noel gallery. This move will result in an important development as far as the Society is concerned. Subject to a satisfactory outcome to current negotiations, the former Curator's office will become the Society office, and this should be available to us early in the New Year. In addition, the current reception and sales area outside this office may be made available to us for Society displays.

Building work in connection with the redevelopment is due to start in January and Phil anticipates that the formal opening ceremony will take place in late spring.

**AWARDS FOR ALL LOTTERY BID**

Our new office will come equipped with a desk and copious shelving (and a safe!). We already have a filing cabinet (and a promise of a second one).

However, other equipment is needed, particularly a computer for editorial work, membership records and internet access. It is possible that this can be funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant under the Awards for All scheme, and an application will be made early in 2003. The 'shopping list' will also include a digital camera, a 'PowerPoint' projector, and minidisc recorders for the Oral History Group.

Dr Ian Canadine has agreed to be an independent referee for the bid.

**SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

Members of the Society will be aware that publication of Rutland Record 21 has unfortunately been delayed due to pressure of work on the Honorary Editor, pending his retirement as Curator of the Rutland County Museum. Both he and the Society apologise for this delay, but wish to assure members that RR 21 is now in active preparation. It will include articles by Sue Howlett on the letters of Mary Barker, by Nigel Richardson on the Uppingham typhoid epidemic and the school’s excursion to Borth (the subject of his 2002 Bryan Matthews lecture), and Michaela Freeman on the musician Anton Kammel’s association with Rutland, as well as a selection of archaeological and historical summaries. Editorial work on all these is nearing completion.

The Society plans to publish an Index of Rutland Record 11-20, and this is also in active preparation. It will be issued free to members in 2003. It is also intended to catch up with the publication programme for RR so that future issues appear in the intended year. Several articles have been requested or offered, but any member who has a subject which might form the basis of an interesting article is invited to contact the Editor or any member of the Committee.

Time in Rutland, the Society’s major publication to date, has been extremely well received and is attracting favourable reviews. A thousand copies were printed and initial sales (including copies taken by retailers) have run to over 300 copies, which is very encouraging. The publication received a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which helped to keep the price down. Unfortunately, some copies were received from the printer in imperfect condition, but compensation has been agreed.

A number of Occasional Publications are waiting in the wings. The Editorial Committee is keen to make progress on these, and if new computer equipment and software can be obtained this will help to accelerate the publication programme. So, please watch this space.

Tim Clough, Editor

**TIME IN RUTLAND**

Many readers will remember the launch of Time in Rutland at the Museum back in June. Since then sales have moved forward at a very acceptable rate and it is now stocked by all the local bookshops.

At the time of writing, over 300 had been sold. The run up to Christmas (it is a very acceptable Christmas present!) and the fact that reviews are starting to appear in specialist magazines and journals, means that sales should continue at least at their present level.

Here are some edited highlights from reviews that we are aware of:

Tom Spittler is reviews editor of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC), an organisation that has over 38,000 members worldwide. He writes: "It is interesting that the best makers’ book written to date in England concerns England’s smallest historical county, Rutland. Before I go further, this comment is directed to all of you that are interested in church clocks, church bells, scratch dials and sundials. You must be aware of this book. It is without equal when compared with any other study of those subjects within a small area of any country .... Time in Rutland is beautifully produced ... I can not heap enough praise upon this major work ... It should serve as a model, probably unachievable, for anyone considering publishing a work on public clocks."

More locally, the book has also been reviewed in the Leicester Mercury: "You don’t have to be interested in clocks to enjoy this book - though it undoubtedly helps, writes Joan Stephens."
A handsome volume ... although it contains a lot of technical horological stuff, there is also plenty for the non-specialist to enjoy.

Time in Rutland is a rich source of interest - not a cheap book, but worth every penny."

The Ringing World, a weekly journal for Church Bell Ringers (12,000 subscribers), reviewed Time in Rutland on 15 November:

"... what a handsome book it is - a real beauty. One of the advantages of Rutland is that due to its small area ... it is manageable and ideal for the treatment it receives. Excellent treatment it is, too; every parish a treasure house of detail on anything and everything to do with Bells, Frames, Turret Clocks, Scratch Dials, Sundials and much more .... Time in Rutland broadens our traditional ringing experience and helps us realise the wonderful heritage which is ours. Thank you Rutland Local History and Record Society."

Alan Smith reviewed Time in Rutland in the December issue of Horological Journal:

"The detail of research and recording in this book ... is nothing short of remarkable, for which both authors are to be warmly congratulated... I cannot express sufficiently my admiration for this beautifully produced book, it painstaking authors, and the Rutland Local History and record Society."

ASHWELL VILLAGE VISIT

The Society's annual 'Village Visit' event on 21 September was at Ashwell. The meeting, which was based on the village hall, was attended by nearly 100 members and guests. We enjoyed talks, a guided historical walk, and a photographic display on the history of the village, as well as excellent refreshments provided by the Village Hall committee, all on a sunny September afternoon.

Our guest speaker was Caroline Aston, a long time resident of Ashwell, and whose mother was a teacher at the village school. Caroline’s ability to entertain an audience is well known, and members and guests were looking forward to a particularly interesting afternoon. In her first talk, she used as her basis the leaflet which had been produced for the guided historical walk which was to follow.

Taking an imaginary walk round the village, she was able to provide historical details, stories and anecdotes relating to many of the village buildings and areas. These included Ashwell Well, the cricket pitch, the old Rectory, two areas of medieval earthworks, the almshouses, the church, Old Hall and new Hall, the school, The Rise, William Butterfield designed cottages, Cottesmore Hunt Kennels, and even H M Prison which was the local base for American GIs in the Second World War. Most of these were included in the guided walk which was all the more interesting as a result of Caroline’s introduction.

In her second talk, she concentrated on some of the characters in Ashwell’s past. These included Beryl Markham, who was born Beryl Clutterbuck at what is now Ashwell Grange in 1902, and who went on to become the first person, in 1936, to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from London to Nova Scotia. Another important person was William Butterfield, the eminent Victorian architect. William Downay, the 7th Viscount Downe, was lord of the manor of Ashwell, as well as being a patron of Butterfield. As a result of this, there is much of William Butterfield’s work in Ashwell, most notably the former almshouses and seven estate cottages. He was also responsible for the restoration of the church in 1851, which not only included the structure, but also fixtures and fittings such as the pews, the pulpit, the reredos, and the font which has a unique counterbalanced cover. He also designed the floor tiles and the guttering! Other people mentioned included Sir William and Lady Bromley, Westley Richards, a wealthy gun manufacturer who purchased the whole of the Ashwell Estate in 1865, and who built Ashwell new Hall, and the Reverend James Adams who was the first Clerk in Holy Orders to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

The meeting was chaired by Audrey Buxton, and the vote of thanks was given by Edward Baines.

We hope that next year's Village Visit will be to Langham, where we will be the guests of the village local history group.

Robert Ovens

WALL PAINTINGS

At a joint meeting with the Friends of Rutland County Museum on 10 October, Dr Miriam Gill gave a most illuminating talk, with slides, on the interior wall paintings of medieval churches, dating from the 12th to the 15th century. She pointed out that the painted plaster on walls and columns would have made them ablaze with colour. The early decorative patterns were often replaced by elaborate depictions of bible stories, of lives of saints and martyrs and, over the chancel arch, typically of Christ presiding over The Last Judgement. These were the visual aids of their time for largely illiterate congregations. Dr Gill then turned to the paintings at Lyddington, Stoke Dry and Empingham. With the help of better preserved examples from elsewhere and from contemporary manuscripts, she helped us to trace their original form from the faint lines and colours that remain.
of his knowledge – but no free samples!

Auriol Thomson

RLHRS/FRCM SPRING PROGRAMME
(All meetings start at 7.30pm)
Thursday 9 January
(At Oakham Castle)
George Platt's Awards, followed by:
Kevin McElhone - Magical Musical Machines
Kevin is the secretary of the Music Box Society. He will talk about the history of mechanical music and demonstrate cylinder and disc musical boxes, table-top reed organs, an organette, a clockwork singing bird and other fascinating Musical Machines. Kevin has suggested that if anyone has a large cylinder music box, they might like to bring it to the meeting for description and demonstration.

Thursday 13 February
(At Rutland County Museum)
Harold Killingback - Coloured Stones
One of the penalties of serving on the Friends of the Museum Committee is that if you are rash enough to specialise in an interesting subject, you may be called upon to demonstrate your knowledge. Harold Killingback has recently qualified as a gemmologist and will be passing on some of his knowledge – but no free samples!

Thursday 6 March
(At Rutland County Museum)
Friends of Rutland County Museum Annual General Meeting, followed by:
Tim Hobbs - EMMIAC and the Museums
Following reorganisation at regional level of government bodies dealing with museums, libraries and archives, Tim Hobbs (formerly Leicester University's Librarian) has been appointed Chief Executive of the new East Midlands Museums, Libraries & Archives Council. This body replaces three separate organisations, one for each sector, and he will be describing how the world of museums fits into this new context, and the prospects for the future.

Thursday 20 March
(At The Old School Room, Uppingham School, NB - NOT Archdeacon Johnson's Schoolroom)
Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture:
Professor Alan Rogers - The Making of Uppingham
Vice Chairman of the Society, Professor of Local History, convenor of Uppingham Local History Study Group - it was inevitable that Alan Rogers would soon be asked to deliver the Bryan Matthews Lecture - our annual tribute to a man who spent a great deal of time researching and writing about Rutland history. Alan's lecture will trace the development of Uppingham, a town which became important because of its location.

Thursday 22 May
(At Rutland County Museum)
Rutland Local History & Record Society Annual General Meeting, followed by:
Elizabeth Bryan - Historic Buildings of Rutland
Her work as the Conservation Officer for Rutland County Council, together with her personal interest in buildings and architecture, almost certainly makes Elizabeth Bryan the most appropriate person to speak about the Historic Buildings of Rutland.

SITUATION VACANT - EVENTS SECRETARY
As well as our regular Winter and Spring Lecture Programme, organised jointly with Friends of Rutland County Museum, the Society has over the years organised other events ranging from the highly successful annual Village Visits to a summer barbecue or guided walk through historic woodlands.

However, many members have suggested that they would like more in the way of social meetings or outings, for example a Christmas dinner or trip to the new Visitors’ Centre at Sutton Hoo.

What are your views on this? And would you like to help organise such events?

The Society is greatly in need of an enthusiastic member to volunteer as 'Events Secretary' - helping to meet the needs of members by adding variety and spice to our programme. The workload can be as little or large as you have time for, with help and support from the committee and other members.

If you are interested, please contact:
Sue Howlett
Email: Sue@suehowlett.freeserve.co.uk
or
Robert Ovens
Email: rovens@compuserve.com

SITUATION VACANT - VISITORS' SECRETARY
About 18 months ago the Executive Committee set up a small working group - the Development Group - to look at the longer term goals and objectives of the Society and to come up with some proposals for the future development of your Society within the resources available.

The Group is chaired by Alan Rogers and includes Sue Howlett, Robert Ovens, and Ian Ryder. The Group has had meetings with many other individuals and groups, including Bryan Waite, Peter Lane, Betty Finch, the Archaeological Group, the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society, the Market Harborough Local History Society, and the Rutland Natural History Society. The Group hopes to be able to prepare a report so that the Executive Committee can consider any proposals in time for the AGM in May 2003. Among the ideas being discussed are ways of increasing membership, of meeting the needs of members, of promoting local history in the region, including among the young, of working with other organisations which share the same goals as our Society. If members have ideas which the Group should consider, please contact one of the above members so that we can take your views on board.

Alan Rogers

ORAL HISTORY GROUP
This small group met for the first time on 5 December at the home of Lin Ryder in Market Overton. Lin is the group leader and this initial meeting was a training session run by Cynthia Brown of the East Midlands Oral History Archive. Topics included planning a project, recording equipment, interviewing techniques, and copyright and ethics.

There are many people whose memories are a rich archive of how life used to be in Rutland. Using the correct interviewing techniques, members aim to record some of these memories in support of their own and group research projects.

For instance, one project is to record the experiences of Home Guards during the Second World War. Another project is to record memories triggered by old photographs.

It is hoped that minidisc recorders for the Oral History Group will be provided as a result of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (see above).

Anyone who would like more information about this group is invited to contact Lin Ryder on 01572 767666.
ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP
Kate Don recently became chairman of the Archaeology Group and she reports on their current activities as follows:

In July of this year, Kate Don and Wendy Walden staged an exhibition of finds from the Roman Town site at Thistleton as part of the feast weekend activities at Market Overton village hall. Samples of Romano-British colourcoat ware, Samian, Grey ware and other finds including flint, tile and mortaria were on display, together with an explanation of the fieldwalk. Visitors were encouraged to handle the finds and the response was very positive. New fieldwalkers were recruited, including the village beat officer! A great deal of interest was shown in the Society's new subscription leaflet, and it is hoped that this will result in new members.

Having been informed that the University of Leicester had secured funding to undertake a geophysical survey of the site, it has been disappointing that as yet no progress has been made. However, we live in hopes that the fieldwalking group will be asked to assist in this at a future date.

Elaine Jones is currently fieldwalking the Finch lands on the ridgeway between Astyon and Glaston. A scatter of pot sherds has confirmed a Romano-British farmstead suggested by aerial photography. A classic late neolithic/early bronze age barbed and tanged arrowhead was found by Sue Davidson, together with other flint implements including scrapers. Elaine plans to continue fieldwalking on this site up to the end of February, usually on Mondays. If you would like to join this team - no experience necessary - call Elaine on 01572 823421.

Kate Don

GIFT-AID
As the Society is a registered charity we can participate in a gift aid scheme. This means that for every £1 paid in subscriptions we can claim back 28 pence from the Inland Revenue. It applies to every Society member who pays income tax or capital gains tax in the UK. Please help your Society by taking part in this scheme. Gift Aid forms, which only require name, address and signature, are available from the Membership Secretary, c/o Rutland County Museum. Gift Aid does not cause you to pay any more income tax.

EXTERNAL GROUPS:
VILLAGE STUDIES GROUP
An informal group of local historians, all engaged on different aspects of studying the local history of towns and villages in and around Rutland meets from time to time to share information and ideas and to explore some relevant sources relating to the area. Meetings have been held at Glaston (village history, and roads in the Rutland area) and Stamford (the Joseph Phillips Collection in the Town Hall), Ketton quarries (building stones), Langham and Greeton (looking at the work of village groups); visitors have come to talk about material in the PRO (Dr David Crook) and the British Library (Carol Meads). The next four meetings will be at Stamford (Alan Rogers on his work on Stamford history); Belton (1901 census); Stretton (local history during the Reformation and Civil Wars periods) and on building in stone and brick (summer meeting in a local stonemason's workshop!). If you are interested in joining this very informal group, contact Alan Rogers at AlanRogersA@aol.com or 01572 821282.

Professor Alan Rogers

UPPINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP
The Uppingham Local History Study Group was formed in December 1999. It took as its first topic Uppingham in 1851 and decided to try to publish something by March 2001 to catch the 150th anniversary of the 1851 census. The work is centred on the 1851 census for Uppingham, but many other sources were used. The Group was fortunate in that a detailed map of the town existed for the year 1839 which enabled some 75% of the population to be put back into their houses. The group also found a collection of portrait photographs taken in the 1870s which included several persons who are named in the 1851 census - people of working class who cannot normally be identified in any detail. The researches threw up the fact that a large number of itinerants were in the town on the night of 30 March 1851, including a German band, probably on their way to Stamford Fair. On the basis of this material, a small book was produced by the Group and designed handsomely by Dr Rosemary Canadine of Lyddington: Uppingham in 1851: a night in the life of a thriving town.

The Group has now moved to study Uppingham in 1802 on the basis of a collection of newspapers (the Stamford Mercury) for that year. The aim was to collect what the papers said about Uppingham and the area. This led into a study of the parish registers and other documents, wills and probate inventories, insurance policies, and other records of the period. Again chance finds included a notebook of a local solicitor 1785-1807, a map of Uppingham dated 1804 drawn up by the enclosure commissioners (the town lands were being enclosed at this time), and several rate lists which go along the streets of Uppingham in sequence. This again has enabled the Group to put many families back into their houses.

The book, Uppingham in 1802: a Year to Remember? will be published in December 2002 to catch the two hundredth anniversary. It deals with the town during the Napoleonic Wars (the militia), local riots and enclosure, with trades, professions, education and the poor, crime and cruel sports and fashions and clothing of the period.

UPPINGHAM IN 1802
A YEAR TO REMEMBER?

The book, Uppingham in 1802: a Year to Remember? will be published on 17 December at the Old School Room, Uppingham School. The ceremony starts at 7.00pm and everyone is invited to attend.

Both booklets are handsomely designed and illustrated: Uppingham in 1851 is only £5 and Uppingham in 1802 will be about £8. The Group is continuing with activities such as oral history, recording the churchyard and date stones in the town, running a local history week etc, with the support of local bodies such as the Uppingham Millennium Trust, the Town Council and the parish church. It has also produced some other publications of Uppingham's history. Copies of these and details of joining the Group (new members very welcome) can be had from either Julia Culshaw (01572 823324) or Sue Westlake (01572 821939).

Professor Alan Rogers
RECORD OFFICE ACCESS
We have received the following from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland:

Forewarning of Restricted Access to Record Office Collections
Between January and June 2003 it will be necessary to undertake essential maintenance work to the strong rooms where the majority of the Record Office's archive and library holdings are held.
Unfortunately it will mean that large parts of the collections will not be available for research during this period.
In addition there may be further restrictions on access during December 2002 while collections are rearranged ahead of the building work.
If you are planning to use resources not on open access during any of this period please contact the Record Office:
telephone 0116 257 1080
e-mail recordoffice@leics.gov.uk
for the latest information on their accessibility.
Please note that the Record Office search rooms will continue to open as normal, and access to the books, microfilms, microfiches on open access, and to some Ordnance Survey maps, will not be affected.
However, enquiry services will be restricted insofar as they require access to those collections affected by the building works.
Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused by the interruption of our usual full services while these essential works are carried out.

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY
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We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year