

EDITORIAL

I wrote the last editorial during a heat wave at the beginning of August 2003, with the temperature near 34 deg C. It is snowing as I write this editorial! Quite a contrast! However, as we move into our spring programme, and start to devise events and meetings for the summer and autumn I am reminded of more pleasant conditions. Several events have already been agreed and you will find advance information in this newsletter about a summer social, a visit to a country house, a guided historical walk in the south of the county and this year's village visit.

There are also items on the new look museum, our library, forthcoming Society publications, the Village Studies Group, Belton History Society, and more. I have also included reports on recent meetings and events for those who were not present, and/or do not see the local papers.

The Executive Committee agreed at its meeting in November to embark on a very exciting project – to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the costs of recording the heritage of Rutland Water. This is a project which will involve the wider community ... but I will let Sue Howlett tell you more in the first item.

Robert Ovens
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THE HERITAGE OF RUTLAND WATER

Members who attended the Society's December meeting were told for the first time about our Local Heritage Initiative Project. If our bid is successful, we could receive 100% funding for a project in which we work with the community in finding out more about the heritage of Rutland's most famous tourist attraction - Rutland Water. The Society has set up a steering group which includes Edward Baines, Robert Ovens, Sue Howlett, Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin, Audrey Buxton, Hilary Crowden, Paul Reeve and Carolyn Cartwright, but we hope that many more people will wish to become involved. 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

With the help of society members and other groups including young people, we hope to achieve the following objectives over the next 12 - 18 month

- An oral history project leading to an item on local radio

- An exhibition initially at Rutland County Museum, then touring different Rutland venues

- A website linked to the Local Heritage Initiative website, Rutnet and other local groups and topics

- A detailed map of the area as it existed before the coming of Rutland Water

- A Timeline of historic periods and more recent events which affected the area

- An illustrated publication and leaflets drawing attention to different aspects of the heritage of Rutland Water.

Much interesting information has already

been offered to help us understand the heritage of Rutland Water. Members of the Society's Oral History Group have identified people who farmed in the Gwash Valley before it was flooded, and photographs have been made available of the whole area before it changed for ever. But there is a great deal we still need to find out.

You may be able to help in many different ways, depending on your personal interests. These could include locating and copying old pictures, maps or descriptions of the area; talking to local people to find out how their communities were affected; or investigating the significant impact Rutland Water has had on the local environment, economy and sense of identity. You can become involved as much or as little as you wish, but anything you

can do will contribute towards an outcome which will be of long-lasting interest to all local people as well as Society members.

We hope that many of you will volunteer to be part of this exciting project which will help the Society to become more actively involved in Rutland's wider community. To find out more, please contact me or any other member of the Steering Group.

Sue Howlett

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NEWS FROM RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

Museum Development Programme

Most of the builders' work is now complete and it is expected that the new entrance off South Street car park will be open mid February. At the same time the present entrance from Catmose Street will be closed.

Officers and committee members of the Society and Friends of RCM were invited to a preview of the excellent new facilities on 30 December.



Simon Davies with part of the group who inspected the new facilities at the museum

We saw the new entrance, shop, study room and 'Welcome to Rutland' exhibition. The display units in this exhibition can be moved to the side to create a meeting room for up to 100 people. An Open Day, with entertainments, demonstrations and refreshments, will be held on 3rd April to celebrate the opening of this new area.

We hope that our first event in the new meeting area will be on 12th February when Tim Appleton will talk on '25 Years of Rutland Water', but this is subject to the work being completed on time. (Otherwise this meeting will be in the Colonel Noel Suite).

Other planned work at the museum in the next few months includes refurbishment of the roof and surface of the Courtyard and a lift to the mezzanine floor in the main part of the museum.

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2004

19th March - Lazy Days in Rutland. The programme includes the opportunity to play traditional games such as nine mens morris and bar skittles, demonstrations by local craft workers, oral history and storytelling.

20th March - Games and Crafts Day. A day of craft demonstrations and hands-on activities linked to Lazy Days in Rutland.

26th March to 9th May - Baskets and Beyond by Joni Bamford. Joni Bamford is well known locally for her baskets and other woven items made using a variety of techniques and materials.

3rd April - RCM Open Day. A day of entertainments, demonstrations and refreshments to celebrate the opening of the new entrance, Welcome to Rutland exhibition and Study Area at the Museum.

1st to 9th May - Oakham Market Town
As part of the Market Towns Week the Museum will host an exhibition charting the history and development of Oakham Market.

14th May to 4th July - Simply Horses by Lucy Deane. An exhibition of Lucy Deane's portraits of horses drawn in pastel.

9th July to 30th August - The Art of Gill Boyle. This exhibition includes textiles, paintings and collages with images of marine fish, abstract designs and landscapes.

3rd September to 17th October - Paintings by Kitty and Stephen Wigmore. Traditional portraits and landscapes by Kitty Wigmore and surreal cityscapes by her son Stephen.

24th September to 31st October - Langham 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 & Record Society.

29th October to 20th December - Catmose Amateur Artists Exhibition. An exhibition of recent works in watercolour, pastel and oil by members of this group.

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

RLHRS / FRCM MEETINGS SPRING PROGRAMME 2004

Please note that our meetings at the museum will now be in the new Welcome to Rutland area, and that members should use the new entrance off South Street car park. It may, however, be necessary to use the smaller Colonel Noel Suite for the first meeting.

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

Tim Appleton MBE, Reserve Manager, has had overall responsibility for the management of Rutland Water Nature Reserve since it was created. He will talk about the changes, the successes and challenges over the last 25 years.

Thursday 11 March, 7.30 pm at RCM Friends of Rutland County Museum AGM followed by: Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle: the next 10 years?

Simon Davies, Museum Services Manager, will share his thoughts about how the Museum and the Castle might change in the next 10 years, and hopefully how members of both societies might be able to help with these changes.

Thursday 18 March, 7.30 pm at Uppingham School (in The Old Schoolroom off High Street West)

RLHRS Bryan Matthews Lecture 2004 - The industrialisation of a rural county: industrial archaeology in Rutland

Marilyn Palmer, Professor of Industrial Archaeology at Leicester University, will talk about various aspects of the Industrial Archaeology of Rutland.

Thursday 20 May, 7.30 pm at RCM Rutland Local History & Record Society AGM followed by:

The Jack Hart Collection of Rutland Postcards

Robert Ovens will talk about his exploration of the Jack Hart Collection of Rutland Postcards – not just the pictures on the front, but also the words on the backs.

SUMMER / AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2004

The joint RLHRS/FRCM programme group is shortly to meet to plan the events and meetings up to mid 2005. However, some dates have been set and you might like to note the following in your diaries:

Saturday 12 June, 7.30 pm at Oakham Castle

RLHRS/FRCM Summer Evening Social

An informal social meeting with a buffet and background music provided by local wind quintet 'Easterly Winds'. More details later.

Date to be announced (probably June). Mid-week evening visit and guided tour of Drayton House, Oundle, Northants.

Organised by Alan Curtis. More details later.

Saturday 11 September Guided Historical Walk - Bonfires, Bombs and Bishops in Rutland

Meet at 2.00pm, Lyddington Church. Leaders Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath. This circular walk, in conjunction with the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community

Council, starts at Lyddington Church, taking in the Bishop's Palace, medieval fishponds, Snelston deserted medieval village, and the shores of the Eye Brooke Reservoir. Also visiting 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!

Saturday 18 September, 1.00 pm at RLHRS Village Visit to Langham

In conjunction with Langham Local History Group. The usual format including talks, a leaflet guided walk, and an exhibition of old photographs and documents. More details later.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Rutland Record 22 has now been published and your copy should accompany this newsletter. The indexing of *Rutland Record* 11-20 is now complete. It now has to be designed, and following printing it will be issued free to members.

Anyone who has a subject which might form the basis of an interesting article in *Rutland Record* is invited to contact Tim Clough, on 01572 722316 or at tim@annapurna2.freeserve.co.uk

Of the several Occasional Publications waiting in the wings, *Rutland Land Tax and Poll Tax of 1712* is nearest to publication. Layout work is virtually complete and it will soon be ready for indexing.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

The Society's Environment Group takes a particular interest in the preservation of our rich inheritance of historical sites and buildings, mainly by monitoring Planning Applications and making appropriate representations to Rutland County Council. The group is also involved in judging for the George Phillips Award.

If you notice any plan or unauthorized action which you think will adversely affect any aspect of Rutland's heritage, please contact me, or David Carlin on 01572 722698. Anyone prepared to join the group would be most welcome.

Auriol Thomson
d.thomson@which.net

SOCIETY OFFICE & LIBRARY

Since the last Newsletter, Peter Tomalin, David Carlin and Sue Howlett have been cataloguing the books, leaflets and notes in the Society library. This collection is located in the Prince Yuri Galitzine Room at Rutland County Museum.

The latest acquisition is a beautiful leather bound copy of the early Uppingham Churchwardens' Accounts. This was partly funded by the sale of a four-volume transcription of the registers of

Sedborough, Cumbria, which were amongst the collection donated by Prince Yuri Galitzine.

The Society would like to thank Peter Lane who is donating a complete set of the reports prepared by Uppingham Local History Group (not to be confused with the more recently formed Uppingham Local History Study Group). ULHG was formed in the mid-1970s when active members included Peter, Betty Finch, Mary and David Parkin, and others. The group's objective was to study the court rolls of the two Uppingham manors. The information uncovered provided material for the preparation of histories of a number of properties in the town. Over 20 reports have so far been prepared and the list of titles includes, for example, *Stocks of Uppingham*, *James Smith's Messuage*, *The Congregational Church and Manse*, *Stone Cottage*, *Seacy Villa*, *Peppers Mill*, and *Notes on the History of Uppingham (Canon Aldred & Rev E A Irons)*.

Access to the library is restricted to Society members and all publications are for reference only. The library continues to be open most Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm, when one of the committee members should be present. However, it is essential that you contact Sue Howlett at sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk before making a visit to establish the latest position.

Additional shelving has recently been acquired to accommodate the ever-increasing library, and Dr Ian Ryder has donated a secondhand Windows 98 computer. This is now used to maintain the Society's member database, print mailing labels and to produce the various mailers which are sent out to publicise events.

Until recently the member database was maintained by Sue Curtis on a Museum computer, and this seems a good opportunity to thank her for performing this duty for so many years.

RLHRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nick Pearce-Smith has recently been opted on to the Executive Committee as a Committee Member. Nick is working as Museum Assistant at RCM and he will provide the essential link between the Society and the museum which has been missing since Tim Clough's retirement. The full membership of the committee is now as follows:

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

MEETING REPORTS

Rutland Wall Paintings

Wall paintings at Tolethorpe Hall



On 15th October seven members, accompanied by Elizabeth Bryan, RCC Conservation Officer, visited two Rutland properties where wall paintings have been discovered as a result of building refurbishment. The first was at Tolethorpe Hall where an arch from the original medieval manor house was discovered behind a Victorian stud wall. Also revealed was a wall decorated in ochre with an arcaded design. It is evident that the arch had been filled in and plastered over before the wall painting had been applied.



Wall paintings at 3 Main Street, Preston

The second visit was to the 17th century cottage at 3 Main Street, Preston. Here, early wall paintings had been discovered in a bedroom. The Society paid for the preservation of these in 2001 on the understanding that they could be inspected on occasion by interested groups.

Further visits to these two sites by groups of six to eight people can be arranged. Please contact Sue Howlett at sbhowlett@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested.

Music at the Castle – 30 August 2003

The Society's Summer Social event on 30 August, in conjunction with the Friends of RCM, was an evening of historical music and song at Oakham Castle. The entertainment was provided by Terry and Florence Warrington, known as 'Chantrelle', who sang to the accompaniment of musical instruments dating from the 14th century to modern.

These included the plucked psaltery, hammered dulcimer, pipe and taber, crumhorne, cittern, hurdy gurdy, bowed psaltery, guitar and ukelele, all made by Terry. Music and songs included Chanson de Mai, When Cannons are Roaring, Calling Me, Little Stick of Blackpool Rock, and Proper Cup of Coffee.

The history and construction of each instrument was described by Terry before being played, and during the interval members and guests were encouraged to inspect the instruments and 'have a go'.

Royal Leighfield Forest – 6 September

Thirty members of the Society and guests assembled at Belton Church, to take part in a guided walk through what was once the Royal Leighfield Forest. Before setting off, leaders Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath outlined a little of the history of the Royal Forest, which up to the 12th century was the Leicestershire and Rutland Forest. It covered most of the southern half of the modern county along with a narrow strip of eastern Leicestershire.

The Royal Forest of Leighfield was created by Henry I who wanted it for the hunting, and strict laws, known as Forest Laws were applied. These were aimed at the preservation of wild life and the promotion of hunting. By this time the forest had shrunk considerably to an area between Braunston and Caldecott, and Launde and Lyddington. It consisted of both woodland and cultivated areas.

The walk included Leigh Lodge and Ridlington, and took place in fine sunny weather, apart from a 20 minute thunder storm about half way round. The views were exceptional, especially along the Ridlington Ridge from where it was possible to see

both the Eye Brooke Reservoir and Rutland Water.

One point of interest was a bridge over the River Chater that had been built by German prisoners of war. They had carved their names on the side of a parapet and these are still visible.

The route back to Belton passed near to Park Farm, the site of the former Ridlington Park, an enclosed medieval hunting park belonging to the lord of the manor.

Glaston Village Visit – 20 September

The annual ‘Village Visit’ meeting was based on Glaston Village Hall where 90 members, guests and local residents enjoyed an afternoon of village history under the chairmanship of Audrey Buxton.

The first speaker was Auriol Thomson, who concentrated on the unique information contained within diary of church and village events started by Rev Christopher Wordsworth in 1889. She also discussed the location of Glaston at the crossroads of an ancient east / west ridgeway which became a turnpike, now the A47, and the main north / south route from Nottingham to London which passed through Oakham, Glaston, Haringworth and St Neots. This route became redundant when the turnpike through Uppingham to Oakham was constructed.



Grange House, Glaston

In the second talk Sue Lee talked about the history of Glaston House which was rebuilt by the widowed Lady Victoria Carbery in the 1890s, and which was her home until she died in 1932. Sue also spoke about her own home, Grange House, which was rebuilt in 1706. Although originally a farmhouse, it was at some time a public house known as the Swan, or White Swan. At one time it was owned by the Ancaster Estate.

During the interval, members and guests took part in a leaflet guided historical walk round the village, in which they were able to see most of the locations mentioned by the first two speakers. They were also able to view a ‘then and now’ exhibition of village photographs and documents. Many of the photographs were taken from postcards dated between 1900 and 1925.

John Thomas of ULAS directed the



archaeological excavations at Glaston. The model racing car was found amongst the 35,000 year-old bones

The final talk of the day was by John Thomas of University of Leicester Archaeological Services. He was director of the Glaston excavation in 2000 during which woolly rhinoceros, spotted hyena, reindeer, and wolverine bones were discovered. These were from a period 35,000 years ago when Glaston was a sandy desert. The excavation was the subject of many newspaper stories and over 600 people visited the site on the two public open days. John’s talk covered the story of the investigation which resulted in the discovery of these important finds.

The afternoon was rounded off by Edward Baines who thanked all those who had organised the event, and in particular the local residents who had provided refreshments.

The Building of the Kettering to Manton Railway - 9 October

Ann Paul is the author of the book *3000 Strangers: The Building of the Kettering to Manton Railway* which was launched at Gretton Village Hall on 20 July 2003. An audience of nearly 80 assembled in the Riding School at Rutland County Museum to hear talk about the research she carried out on the building of this railway and the lives and characters of the navvies who worked on it. They lived in huddled settlements along the line, the largest being near Seaton and known as ‘Cyprus’.

The line was built between 1875 and 1879 by the Midland Railway. In fewer than 16 miles it has high embankments and deep cuttings, four tunnels and five viaducts, including the Welland Viaduct, at 1,250 yards the longest on Britain’s railway system.

The book is available in local book shops or direct from Silverlink, the publishers.

A Taste of Melton - 13 November

In this talk, Jenny Dancey, Keeper of the Melton Carnegie Museum, gave an illustrated overview of two of Melton Mowbray’s famous culinary products — Stilton cheese and pork pies.

The Domesday Book records a market at Melton Mowbray with ‘food on the hoof’. Daniel Defoe in 1727 mistakenly attributed Stilton cheese to Stilton (Cambridgeshire), but the landlord of the Bell Inn had obtained the cheese from a farm near Melton Mowbray. No one knows the origins of the cheese which uses blue mould spores to form the blue veins. For over 450 years the Melton Town Estate promoted Melton’s foodstuffs until 1913 when the cheese market closed. The tradition of pork pies and stilton on Christmas morning was promoted by the Melton Hunt aristocracy. They encouraged the distribution of both commodities throughout the country.

By 1913, the farmhouse manufacture of Stilton cheese had been replaced with factory produced cheese. The Stilton Cheesemakers Association founded in 1936 insures the quality of the cheese which is produced only in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

Jenny linked Stilton cheese and pork pies by noting that 80% of the milk used to produce cheese becomes whey — a food source for pigs. Traditionally, pork pies were a transportable food source which were sold when there wasn’t an ‘R’ in the month. Traditional handmade pork pie are irregular in appearance because they are made without a supporting hoop. The pastry was made from pig’s lard and filled with seasoned loin of lean pork. There is only one traditional pork pie producer remaining in Melton Mowbray.

Following the presentation members enjoyed sampling varieties of Stilton cheese and traditional pork pies.

The George Phillips Award – 11 December

The first part of this meeting at Rutland County Museum, chaired by Edward Baines, was the presentation of the George Phillips Awards. These awards are sponsored jointly by the Society and Rutland County Council. First place is awarded to the property considered by a panel of judges to be the most significant contribution towards preserving the built environment in Rutland.



The Maltings, Ketton, winner of the George Phillips Awards

Rob Toye outlined the merits of each of the nominated sites and Richard Adams presented the awards.

The winner was The Maltings, Ketton, an innovative residential conversion by Stamford Homes. Highly commended were Jubilee Barn, Empingham (Mr T Ellison) and The Dovecote, The Grange, Geeston (Mr and Mrs Winter). The refurbishment of Former aircraft hangers at St George's Barracks, North Luffenham was a very different type of project and this was commended.



Richard Adams (left) with Bill Maynard of Stamford Homes

A brief reception, to acknowledge the achievements of the entrants, was hosted by Rutland County Council in the Colonel Noel Suite at the Museum. This was organized by Jo and Peter Diplock.

Work in Progress

The second part of the evening consisted of a series of short presentations by members of the Society and the Friends of RCM, each introducing some aspect of their recent research.

Thistleton Roman site

Kate Don talked about her archaeological work at the Thistleton Roman site. Fieldwalking, involving both experts and novices, has yielded over 4000 finds, and

she had brought along maps; pottery sherds, tiles, flints and clay pipes for examination by members.

A geophysical survey by University of Leicester Archaeological Services was also carried out on the site to identify remaining foundations and earthworks.

A particularly exciting development was the location of a 5 metres square mosaic which had been removed from the site in the 1960's. It is now in the Corus offices, Corby, and there is a possibility that it will be transferred to Rutland County Museum.

Kate and her team have recently won the Miss Linford Award for the best amateur archaeological project in the area.

King John

Alan Curtis' historical research has centered on the medieval period. In the late 1350's the Lord Mayor of London entertained four kings: Edward II of England; David of Scotland; John II of France and the King of Cyprus. John II spent several years of captivity in England whilst the French amassed the necessary ransom money. Rutland's connection to the four kings stems from King John's 'tour' of England in 1356.

Burley on the Hill

Anne Blandamer gave a summary of her research into the house rebuilt between 1620 and 1628 at Burley on the Hill by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. The purpose of the house was to entertain King James I and members of the court. The scale was lavish and records indicate that at one entertainment 900 guests were feed, with 200 of them seated in the hall itself. The gardens were focused on hunting and other sports and included a bowling green and water features. The Duke of Buckingham, who had married a daughter of the Earl of Rutland, was assassinated in 1628 and in the English Civil War the house was torched by the Parliamentarians.

Insanity in Rutland

As a clinical psychologist, Edward Miller is interested in 'Madness in Rutland' and his talk focused on the treatment of the

mentally ill during the late Georgian and Victorian periods. The Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum (now the administrative building of the University of Leicester) was built to house county paupers. Many of these came from the workhouses at Oakham and Uppingham. Edward pointed out that records show that Rutland had a higher rate of insanity than the industrial areas of the North and West of England – an interesting discrepancy!

Heritage of Rutland Water

Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin gave a brief introduction to the Society's proposed Local Heritage Initiative Lottery bid to fund a community heritage project. Further details about the project will be available at a public meeting on Friday 6th February at 6pm in Oakham Castle. See also the item on page 1.

Historic Horseshoes – 8 January

Oakham Castle was the venue for the January meeting. In *A Guide to the Historic Horseshoes* Tim Clough entertained a group of over 40 members with a detailed presentation and guided tour of the unique collection. He outlined the history of the tradition that any peer of the realm passing through Oakham should present a horseshoe to the Lord of the Manor.



Tim Clough in the dock at Oakham Castle. Doesn't seem too worried about it!

Today, these horseshoes are displayed in The Great Hall, a superb example of

Norman domestic architecture. The oldest horseshoe was erected by command of Edward IV in about 1470. Tim explained that lists provided by Speed (1610) and Wright (1684) have helped to identify misread, missing and lost horseshoes.

Reigning monarchs, including Elizabeth II, have given horseshoes, and those from local families figure prominently. The Cecils, Marquises of Exeter, of Brughley House, Stamford and the Noels, Earls of Gainsborough have given the most. The horseshoes, which vary in style, materials and production methods, were cleaned, restored and rearranged in family groups in 1980 to celebrate the castle's 800th anniversary. The most recent horseshoe was donated by the Prince of Wales in 2003.

Tim urged members to visit the castle at their leisure to view the horseshoes in more detail. His two books, *The Horseshoes of Oakham Castle* and *Oakham Castle: A Guide and History*, both available at the castle and the museum, would be a very useful accompaniment on such a visit.

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY GROUPS

Rutland Village Studies Group

Members of this informal group, all engaged on studying different aspects of local history in and around Rutland, meet from time to time at the Falcon Hotel, Uppingham, to share information and ideas and to explore some relevant sources relating to the area.

The group is currently exploring the possibility of transcribing and publishing the notes made by Archdeacon Irons. He was Rector of North Luffenham from 1900 to 1923 and his 'Notes' record 16th and 17th century happenings and disputes in Rutland villages. Most of the notes are from Archdeacons' visitations and other diocesan records. They mention many individuals involved in allegations of moral misconduct, tithe disputes and other breaches of Church Law. Some of this information was used in VCH, Rutland (1932), but most has never been published.

The notes were donated to the University of Leicester library by Irons' daughter. Contact Hilary Crowden on 01572 823986 to join this informal group.

Belton in Rutland History Society

The Society was formed in March 2001 and currently has 27 members, including a number from outside the village.

One of the long-term aims of the Society is to create a comprehensive history of the village and parish of Belton in Rutland and neighbouring areas. To help achieve that aim the Society has formed two sub-groups: an Oral Group and a Research Group. Members can join in the activities of either or both groups, according to their particular interests.

The Oral Group has already recorded conversations with many older villagers on various aspects of village life such as:

memories of growing up in Belton and attending the village school from around 1915 onwards. Some of these conversations have been published in the Society's Journal and have revealed a fascinating side of village life over nearly a century.

The Research Group members have so far worked on projects as individuals rather than collectively. Nevertheless, articles in the two published journals have included subjects as diverse as the Belton Enclosure Award; Childhood in Belton; Discoveries in our Walls; the seventeenth century origins of College Farm, Leighfield; the bombing of Belton; The Tenants of College Farm; Memories of Belton School 1946-1952 and 'Nuisances in Belton' (the effect of The Sanitary Act of 1870).

The Society is building an archive of old village photographs which are being recorded and stored electronically. It has also produced calendars of early scenes and celebrations within the village.

In addition to its own meetings the Society regularly invites speakers to give talks on local history topics to which non-members are also warmly invited.

The Society welcomes new members of all ages who have an interest in Belton and its history.

Contact Ian Broughton, chairman, on 01572 717611 for details of the current programme, to obtain copies of the Society's journals, or to join the society.

ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Would you like to learn more about English History at the local level but feel you lack the necessary historical background and/or the skills to undertake research?

The M.A. course at Leicester will provide you with a thorough grounding in the history of the English regions (with relevant comparisons between cultures, societies and historical landscapes) from c.

410 A.D. to the present day, as well as an excellent training in research techniques.

The course lasts for one year full time or, with less pressure, two years part time. Teaching is by weekly classes (morning or evening as preferred) supplemented by occasional Saturday schools and a weeklong field course in the spring.

Several Society members have obtained or are working for the M.A. and would be happy to tell you more (For example, contact Auriol or David Thomson 01572 823339, or Peter Diplock on 01572 724629)

Brochures are available at Rutland County Museum, local libraries or contact: The Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR. Telephone 0116 2522762.

Email elhinfo@le.ac.uk

Website www.le.ac.uk/elh/

THE BATTLE OF QUATRE BRAS 16 JUNE 1815

The battle was between an Allied army under the command of the Duke of Wellington and the French army under Marshal Ney. This is the subject of Mike Robinson's book which is to be published later this year.

He is seeking sources of documentary material, photographs, paintings or other artefacts relating to people who served in the Waterloo campaign. Appeals such as this have been very successful in other areas of the country and now he is turning his attention to Rutland.

If you can help, please contact him by phone (01636 610918), email (robbo29@tinymworld.co.uk) or letter (30 Brewer's Wharf, Newark on Trent, Notts. NG24 1ET).

