

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter in 2005. This issue is slightly different in that we have several book reviews to catch-up on and a short, but very interesting item on the Parish Chest at Wardley Church. As usual we have all the details of forthcoming events and the latest news on the Heritage of Rutland Water project, plus all the results of the George Phillips Awards for those who missed them, and much more. Happy reading!

*Robert Owens*  
rovens@compuserve.com

## RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM EXHIBITION PROGRAMME for 2005

**April 8 - June 5**

**Rutland - First Impressions**

Scenes from Rutland and further a field  
Paintings by Ken Forrest

**April 30**

**Open Day at Rutland County Museum**

**May 6 - June 5**

**Museums and Galleries Month**

Founding collections exhibition

**June 10 - August 7**

**Figurative Landscapes**

Contemporary paintings & sculptures by Cecelia Gray-Smith

**June 23 - July 31**

**World in a Suitcase**

Sculptures & artefacts from around the world  
An Oakham Festival event

**July 1 - September 4**

**The Rutland Home Guard**

An exhibition by Rutland Local History and Records Society

**August 12 - October 2**

**Paintings by Doreen Owens & Rosemary Surfleet**

Members of Catmose Amateur Artists

**September 23 - October 30**

**North Luffenham Village Exhibition**

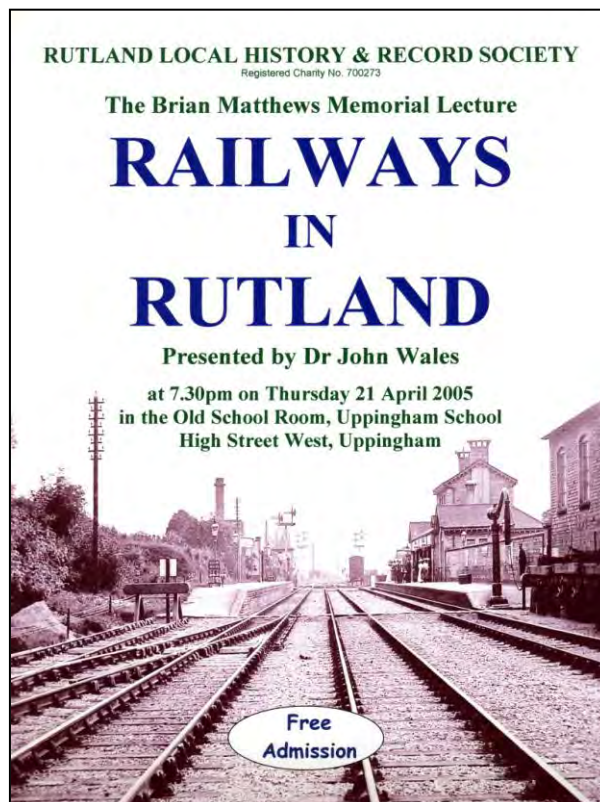
Rutland Local History and Records Society

**October 7 - December 18**

**Artist living in Rutland**

The landscapes and architectural paintings of Stuart Ball

## JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME



**Thursday 21 April, 7.30pm**

At The Old School Room, Uppingham School

Brian Matthews Memorial Lecture

**Railways in Rutland**

Dr John Wales

John Wales, a retired consultant physician in respiratory diseases, has had a lifelong passion for railways. His main interests are railway accidents and their impact on transport legislation, the development of steam engines, and the social impact of railways on the communities they serve. His lecture will include:

- a brief history of the railways crossing Rutland
- an outline of the various types of steam engine used in the county
- a look at the cross-county services passing through Rutland
- a basic outline of the principles and features of signalling
- examples of surviving line-side ornaments

### Thursday 19 May, 7.30 pm

At Rutland County Museum

#### Rutland Local History & Record Society

##### Annual General Meeting

- Minutes of the 2004 AGM
- Matters arising
- Chairman's Report
- Accounts and Balance Sheet
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Other Business (advance notice to be given to the Secretary in writing)

To be followed by:

##### Rutland and the Medieval Wool Trade

Margaret Bonney, ROLLR

### Saturday 11 June, 7.30 pm

At Oakham Castle

#### FRCM/RLHRS Joint Summer Social

Including presentation of the Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize for Students by Lawrence Harris

### Saturday 17 September, 1.00 pm

At North Luffenham Community Centre

#### Village Visit to North Luffenham

(Details to be announced)

#### SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS - PRICE REVIEW

At a recent Editorial Committee meeting it was decided to reduce the price of a number of Society publications. Details are given below. All prices exclude postage and packing. Member's prices are given in parenthesis.

Rutland Record 18 and Rutland Record 19

Now £2.00 (£1.50)

Rutland Record 20 and Rutland Record 21

Now £2.50 (£2.00)

Stained Glass in Rutland Churches

Now £7.50 (£5.00)

Time in Rutland

Now £20.00 (£15.00)

Several new Society publications are close to being launched. The next volume will be accompanied by a full price list and special offers.

#### RLHRS LIBRARY - DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS BOOKS

Below is a list of surplus books that are to be sold at the AGM (on 19 May) on a first come, first served basis. They have been inspected by Edward Baines who has set what he considers to be realistic prices. The proceeds are to be used for the benefit of the Society.

The books will be available for inspection and purchase from 7.10 to 7.30 pm (that is, immediately before the AGM) and again at the end of the evening for any that are unsold.

It will not be possible to reserve books, but if you are unable to attend, you may ask someone else to purchase on your behalf (Please contact the Secretary, Sue Howlett, for further details).

#### Books relating to Rutland

Rutland in Old Photographs, T Clough - £5

Excavations in Collyweston Great Wood, Northamptonshire - £3

Leicestershire and Rutland, Harvey and Crowther-Beynon - £5

Leicestershire and Rutland, Arthur Mee - £7.50

The Heritage of Leicestershire, W G Hoskins - £4.50

English Society in the Early Middle Ages, Stenton - £1

The Royal Desmesne in English History, Wolffe - £5

Making of the English Landscape, Hoskins, £10

English Landscapes, W G Hoskins - £6.50

One Man's England, W G Hoskins - £6.50

How to write the History of a Parish, J Charles Cox - £2

Maps for Local Historians, J B Harley - £2

Discovering Local History, D Iredale - £1

A Systematic Procedure for recording English Vernacular Architecture, R W Brunskill - £3

A History of Leicestershire and Rutland, Roy Millward - £10

List of Parishes in Boyd's Marriage Index, Robert Massey - £3

Early Military History of the Roman East Midlands, Alan McWhirr - £3

Essays in Leicestershire History, W G Hoskins - £25

Rutland Social Survey. Rutland 2000 - £3

Stones of Stamford, A S Ireson. (Signed copy) - £4

Village History in Records, Heather Broughton - £3

A Glossary for Local Population Studies, Leslie Bradley - £3

Family & Estate Records in the Leicestershire Record Office, Heather Broughton - £3

#### Books not relating to Rutland

Bedford and Huntingdon, Arthur Mee - £6.50

Buckinghamshire, Arthur Mee - £6.50

The Hanslope Park Tragedy, E. G. French [Bucks] - £5

Shell Guide to Oxfordshire, John Piper - £15

Map of Derbyshire. [1/4 inch to 1 mile] - £2

Explore Derbyshire by Car, J N Merrill - £1

Calke Abbey & Park, National Trust [Derbyshire] - 50p

Haddon Hall Guide [Derbyshire] - 50p

Chatsworth Guide [Derbyshire] - 50p

Melbourne Hall Guide [Derbyshire] - 50p

Coventry Cathedral Guide - 50p

Guide to the Roman Villa, West Park, Rockbourne [Hampshire] - 50p

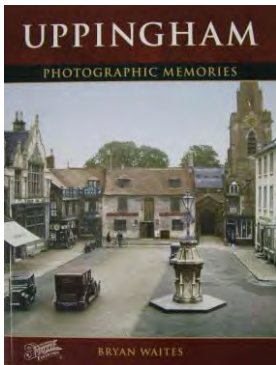
Ancient Woodland in Hampshire - £3.50

Old Devon, W G Hoskins - £2.50

Harriette Wilson's Memoirs, Lesley Blanch - £7.50

Illustrated Guide to Antique Collecting, Alan Ridgway - £5

## BOOK REVIEWS



**Francis Frith's Uppingham:  
Photographic Memories**  
by Bryan Waites  
Frith Book Company Ltd. 2003  
£9.99

As we have come to expect of Bryan Waites, a former Editor of the Society's 'Record', this is a delightful book, full of pictures of superior quality supported by interesting information and descriptions. In the guise of an

old friend, Bryan takes the reader on a walk around the town pointing out and explaining the buildings and scenes for us to see and understand them as they were, in many cases not that long ago.

The Frith Collection is one of the great records of this county as it was in the first half of the twentieth century. How fitting therefore that Bryan should be invited to present a selection so that we can share his knowledge and scholarship. He has selected a broad and representative range of scenes both in time and location, arranged easily and logically - the approach, Market Place, High Street, the School - to illustrate the town's different features. Of particular delight is the detail of the two nannies (page 16) walking at Red Hill. Surely those reading this book will wish to visit to see for themselves?

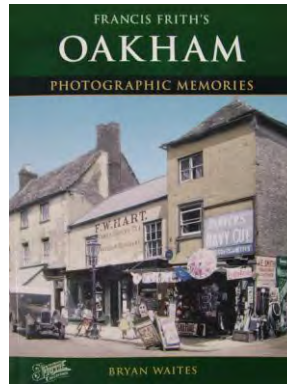
Of immense help to the local historian are the excellent explanations accompanying the illustrations and the fact that each is dated. These will form an authoritative reference point for anyone in the future needing to place a scene in its correct context.

There are of course gaps, for which neither Bryan nor the Frith organisation is to blame; after all they can work only with what material is available. What did Baines' corner look like before road widening, or Queen Street before the present Library, even High Street West before the Memorial Hall? Missing are the passages and back yards with their crowded tenements that nobody would think of photographing, now made such a pleasing feature of the town. And where are the inhabitants? These missing scenes emphasise the urgency for people to bring old photographs to the Society for copying before this record is lost for ever.

If one is to be critical, then perhaps it is to ask whether it was necessary to include material from surrounding villages, even of Oakham, the subject of a separate publication? Inclusion of an appendix listing all of Frith's material on Uppingham would have been welcome.

These are but minor issues. Overall, this is a valuable contribution to understanding the local history of Rutland's second town, and at the same time will appeal to the much wider audience of those who remember Uppingham as it was or who just take pleasure in scenes from an older England.

*Peter Lane*



**Francis Frith's Oakham:  
Photographic Memories**  
by Bryan Waites  
Frith Book Company Ltd. 2003  
£9.99

In this companion to his Uppingham volume, Bryan Waites brings his extensive knowledge of Rutland's local history to bear on the Oakham part of the Francis Frith photographic archive. Writing

in his usual clear and articulate style, he finds opportunities in the brief introductory sections and captions to summarise salient points in Oakham's history. He regrets those characterful scenes and ways of life that have disappeared since the photographs were taken and also warns us to be on our guard against further loss.

The Frith collection, at least in its Oakham and Uppingham content, has been well-known to users of the Rutland County Museum's photographic archive for over 30 years, for the museum possesses a number of Frith glass plate negatives of the 1930s which were dispersed from the company in the late 1960s. Less well known are those Rutland scenes of the 1950s which often compare interestingly with the earlier views.

Fascinating and valuable though these views are, the author is constrained by the fact that they are all drawn from these two short periods in this one archive. He recognises too that Frith's photographs are not, in general, romantic: the streets are largely empty; there are few of those carefully placed groups of local inhabitants found in scenes by, say, Henton or Dolby. There are certainly none of the day-to-day events and activities recorded by other photographers during the twentieth century.

Oakham being a small town, the range of views is necessarily limited. Frith didn't venture into the back streets, and so we find what some may regard as too much duplication of scenes of the Market Place or Oakham School chapel. Indeed, about a third of the book illustrates other places, including Uppingham and two non-Rutland villages.

The author has not always been well served by the publisher. One or two of the photographs appear to have been cropped after the captions were written, and there is an unfortunate duplication of 15 lines of text on pp62-3. The binding is so tight that where a view spans facing pages, part is usually trapped in the spine and cannot be seen. On page 80, the same view of Uppingham High Street appears twice.

These reservations apart, local historians will find this a useful book. For example, the views of Oakham Castle and Cutts Close show the area before the growth of excessive vegetation, essential references for those now working on proposals to restore the castle's overgrown ramparts. It should certainly be on the shelves of those who value Rutland and its past.

*Tim Clough*

## John Strecche Canon of Kenilworth: The Life and Times of a Medieval Historian

by [Geoffrey Hilton](#)

Published by the author at Kenilworth, 2004

Though this agreeable little book is very much a product of Kenilworth, where the author is Secretary of the Local History and Archaeology Society, it is noteworthy that the only hard facts known about its subject place him firmly within medieval Rutland. As Geoffrey Hilton observes: 'we have only two manuscripts by John Strecche and we know only two dates in his later life'. These dates are of his appointment as Prior of Brooke in 1407 and his retirement as Prior in 1425.

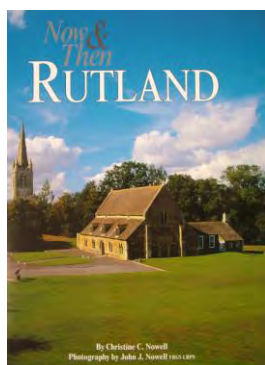
Despite this dearth of certainty, Geoffrey Hilton nevertheless manages to tell a convincing and detailed tale of Strecche's life as a chronicler and a canon of Kenilworth. Strecche's slim claim on posterity is his two volumes of history that now reside in the British Library. They seem to be the usual fare of medieval chroniclers; bizarre legends of Albion, of struggles with the giant Gogmagog and Britain's founding by Aeneas's great grandson Brutus. That one chronicler copied another is well known but Hilton uses this fact well to determine Strecche's sources and where he departs from the traditional narratives.

Strecche is at his best when his history reaches his own time - of course. This is especially so when 'history' comes to Kenilworth, as it did in the aftermath of the Battle of Shrewsbury when the wounded Prince Henry was brought for treatment to the Priory. The chronicle ends with the death of Henry V in 1422 but as Hilton concedes, this makes Strecche more a Rutland historian than a Warwickshire one - since it seems the bulk (if not all) of his work was done at Brooke.

This study is to be recommended. Hilton plays his few cards well and avoids the temptation to speculate too wildly. The physical writing of the chronicle, how Strecche would have prepared his parchment and ink, for example (which occupies much of chapter 6) is a good example of Hilton's relevant and interesting diversions. Work on the manuscripts continues - a copy is lodged at the record office in Warwick - so we may fairly expect more on Strecche, medieval Kenilworth and perhaps even the priory at Brooke.

*Robin Jenkins*

*Keeper of Archives, ROLLR*



### Now & Then: Rutland

[Christine & John Nowell](#)

Zodiac Publishing, Stamford, 2005

£26.00

It is John Nowell's well-printed photographs that make this book - a handsome, if expensive, large-format publication. Full-colour double-page spreads illustrate the Rutland of today, complemented by smaller inset photographs

taken either from the archives or, again, recently. Particularly telling are the many instances of then and now views, showing how much, or indeed how little, has changed. In general this arrangement works well, although it might have been nice to see more than just a couple of the historical views used as full spreads, and occasionally the insets detract a little from the main picture.

For its historical views, the book relies heavily on the well-known Henton collection in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland (not "Leicester Archives"). This is indeed an excellent source, but so too is the series of photographs by Dolby of Stamford in Rutland County Museum, which does not seem to have been used. Likewise, there is no reference to the Hart collection now also in RCM (though perhaps acquired too recently to have been available).

Each spread is accompanied by a short text, and often the views on a page relate to the same place or theme. However, the lack of specific captions makes it difficult to attribute all the photographs, and sometimes, certainly - and misleadingly, they may be of somewhere else (eg p35: the mowing scene is surely Hambleton, not South Luffenham).

The authors' flying background gives us the benefit of aerial views new to us earth-bound mortals, but there is only one small illustration of Rutland's extensive ironstone-quarrying past, and the subsequently restored landscapes are absent. They could perhaps have replaced some of the several scenes depicting restored farm machinery in action at Casterton.

The book would have benefited from a firmer editorial hand, at least as far as text and copy are concerned. It is always hard to summarise the past and pick out the salient points in a page or two, but here Rutland's archaeology and early history do not seem to have been well understood. Episodes from the past are selected somewhat at random, and the commentary is inclined to go off suddenly and disconcertingly at a tangent.

However, what really matters is that the book fulfils its purpose in gloriously depicting a Rutland where it is always summer and it never rains (well, only once, as far as this reviewer can see!). It shows off a county of attractive villages and towns, with rolling landscapes of pasture and arable: clearly a place one ought to visit, even if lovers of other counties might raise their eyebrows at the dust-jacket claim that Rutland is "certainly the most beautifully formed" county in England.

*Tim Clough*

### THE HERITAGE OF RUTLAND WATER PROJECT

Local Author to award Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize for Students.

Autumn 2004 saw the launch of the Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize, in memory of the society's former president and co-founder. For the first year of the awards, prizes will be offered to children in Rutland's schools for the best contribution to our LHI project, 'The Heritage of Rutland Water'. To introduce pupils to the topic, several members

of the society visited primary schools in villages close to Rutland Water, as well as the Vale of Catmose College in Oakham. Students were shown a slide presentation of maps and photographs of the area taken before and during construction of Rutland Water. They were also able to see and handle fossils and pottery found on the shore when the reservoir was at a low level.

In each school we met pupils whose relatives who had been affected by the flooding of farmland, and some fascinating and relevant questions were asked. The drowned village of Nether Hambleton, and the marooned church at Normanton aroused enthusiastic interest. Thanks to the support and interest of all the teachers involved, many children are now working on individual and group projects for the competition, which closes on 30 April.

After the difficult task of judging the children's work, certificates and prizes will be presented in Oakham Castle at 7.30 pm on Saturday 11 June 2005, at the beginning of our annual Summer Social. The special guest presenter will be children's author Lawrence Harris, formerly a TV news reader, broadcaster and cartoonist. As well as writing popular, yet serious, novels for teenagers based on the Great War, his interest in Rutland Water has inspired an underwater fantasy for younger children: 'Lake of Tears'. Set in the mythical county of 'Tutland', it describes the stranded church of Saxonton and the nearby villages of Shedsdale and Gigglewel [Normanton, Barnsdale and Whitwell?]. Following the awards, the children's work will be on display and may be included in the exhibition and book to be produced on completion of the two-year LHI project.

#### **How You Can Help**

The project is led by a Steering Group of eight members who are co-ordinating oral history, visits to schools and community groups, website design, research and other activities. Many more volunteers, both members and non-members, have offered to share their memories of Rutland 'before the flood' or to help in other ways. However there are always more tasks than people to do them, and time is ticking away! Jobs we need help with include searching books and local documents for relevant information, or transcribing census returns and oral history recordings. If you can help, please contact Robert Ovens (telephone 01788 815970) or Sue Howlett, (telephone 01780 410533). Alternatively, you can e-mail [rutlandhistory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rutlandhistory@yahoo.co.uk), or leave a message at Rutland County Museum, especially if you have any information about Rutland Water which you would be willing to contribute to the project.

### **PRESERVING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

#### **The George Phillips Awards**

The first part of the Society's meeting on 11 December 2004 at Rutland County Museum 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 building considered by a panel of

judges to be the most significant contribution towards preserving the built environment in Rutland.

In this meeting, chaired by Edward Baines, Rob Toy outlined the merits of each of the nominated sites and Dr Lawrence Howard, Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, presented the awards.

The winner was the restored barns at Manor Farmyard, Crown Lane, Tinwell, which have been converted to create offices for the Inscom Group of Stamford. The architect was Pilling & Co of Lincoln.

Highly commended projects were the Manor House, High Street West, Uppingham, a new building for Uppingham School (architects - Charter Partnership, Bedford), and the extension and conversion of The Grange, Normanton Road, Edith Weston (architects - Martyn Jones & Associates).

Remedial works at St Botolph's Church, Wardley received a commendation (architects - Gotch Pearson of Wellingborough). Another entrant was Farm Cottage, Orchard Close, Egleton that had been extended and refurbished

#### **ST BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH, WARDLEY**



The first vicar of Wardley was instituted in 1244. 756 years later, at the end of the second Millennium, the church was threatened with closure. The quinquennial inspection report of December 2000 revealed serious defects in the stonework of the tower, spire and porch and the estimated repair costs were massive for this small community. Undaunted, they set about raising funds and through grants, donations and local fundraising they were able to commission the work in 2003. The Dedication service, led by the Bishop of Peterborough, took place in June 2004, and the work received a 'Commended' certificate in the December 2004 George Phillips Awards. In the meantime, Rutland Decorative and Fine Arts Society visited the church to record the furnishings, and Ann Kanter, Churchwarden, now gives a flavour of what they found in the parish chest.

#### **THE PARISH CHEST**

The parish chest, a heavy cast-iron box, had sat at the back of the church under a pew for as long as anyone could

remember and the contents proved to be very interesting. The earliest document was dated 1743; the first of a series of Royal and Government Proclamations regarding Fast Days and Prayer Days for Royal Family Members. The last was dated 1809.



A faculty of 1804, noted that there were then 50 people in Wardley and that there was a ruined vicarage. Wardley and Belton were a 'a united living' and although Wardley was the mother church the vicarage was demolished and a new one built at Belton, which then had a population of 350. A census document of 1831 for Wardley, signed by John Goodwin, again records 50 inhabitants, and that they were living in 11 houses. Little has changed, because today there are 30 inhabitants and 13 houses.

Poor Law documents in the parish chest included a proclamation on the operation of the law in each parish, and an 1814 order for the Harrison family to be moved to Stibbington. The reason given being that Henry and his wife Elizabeth had not gained a legal settlement and could not produce 'a certificate owning'.

There were three indenture documents. On 7 August, 1809, fourteen-year-old John Smith of Wardley was indentured as a dyer and trimmer. The document was drawn up between William Rice, Churchwarden and John Goodwin, Overseer of the Poor. The same fate awaited George Smith on 7 May, 1810. In 1813 thirteen-year-old Mathew (son of Mathew Smith) was bound to Thomas Halford. The document was drawn up by George Fludyer Esq and the Reverend Will Baxter, both Justices of the Peace of the County of Rutland, and signed by the Overseer of the Poor. All three boys signed with a cross. There was also a receipt dated 19 September 1809 from George Godfrey Esq, for five pounds 'on account of an apprentice bound to me from the Parish of Wardley'. This apprentice was Sam Booth.

Four marriage certificates in the chest, dated 1816, 1820 and 1853, related to Mary Anne, Eleanor and Anne Ward. Mary Anne married William Sherman of Liddington [*sic*], Eleanor married John Satchell of Newberry [*sic*] and Anne married Joseph Newton of Wardley. The other certificate

was dated 1888 and referred to the marriage of Eliza Ann Potts to John William Nash of Great Yarmouth.

A coroner's inquest certificate sent to the churchwardens was dated 19 June 1822 and recorded the death of Matthew [surname not given] 'who was accidentally killed by the falling of his wagon upon his body ' and allows for 'lawful burial of the body.'

A very varied selection of invoices, receipts and insurance certificates in the chest revealed some interesting facts. For instance, lightning struck the church tower on 13 August 1911 and the damage was repaired by Messrs Blackburn, Starling & Co. Other receipts showed that in the early 1900s coal was supplied by a Mr Gray of East Norton Station, and that a key was cut by W Mear of Market Place, Uppingham in March 1910.

Music in the church was originally provided by a barrel organ which still survives,



although it is no longer used for services. One receipt shows that in June 1905 it had new reeds. These were installed by J Herbert Marshall dealer in grand and upright pianos, piano players and organs of Granby Street Leicester. It is interesting to note that a Mr Glover from Essex made a careful examination of the organ in 2002 and listed the tunes. He noted that there was a tune called Cranbrook that 'While Shepherds Watched' is sung to. This was the only approved Christmas carol at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mr Glover has also

produced a recording of the old organ being played.

A large bible was found at the bottom of the iron chest. It



was published by Thomas Kelly in 1834. The title page was printed in Roman and Gothic lettering 'the SELF INTERPRETING BIBLE with an evangelical commentary by the Rev'd JOHN BROWN Minister of the Gospel AT HADDINGTON, embellished with elegant engravings'.

This concludes my serendipitous look into life in Wardley from the 1800s. The documents from the iron chest have now been deposited at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

Ann Kanter  
Churchwarden

