

# Rutland Record 26

*Journal of the Rutland Local History & Record Society*



# Rutland Local History & Record Society

The Society is formed from the union in June 1991 of the Rutland Local History Society, founded in the 1930s, and the Rutland Record Society, founded in 1979. In May 1993, the Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology & History, founded in 1971, also amalgamated with the Society.

The Society is a Registered Charity, and its aim is the advancement of the education of the public in all aspects of the history of the ancient County of Rutland and its immediate area.

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The Society welcomes new members, and hopes to encourage them to participate in the Society's activities at all levels, and to submit the results of their researches, where appropriate, for publication by the Society.

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No 26 (for 2006)

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*Front cover illustration: Figures of Lord John and Lady Anne Harrington  
on the Kelway tomb in Exton Church (photograph: Sue Howlett)*

*Back cover illustration: Uppingham from the south c1851  
(Uppingham School Archives)*

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Contributions and editorial correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Editor,  
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## **Editorial: By-passed, or passed by?**

Oakham, Rutland's historic county town, now has its long-awaited by-pass. Even in the early twentieth century, as the motor age got under way, there were calls for the level crossing at the town's west end to be replaced by a bridge to avoid lengthy delays of the kind rumoured to have held up the local fire brigades on their way to major conflagrations. Calls such as these were repeated at regular intervals but never answered until now. Oakham's answer to traffic congestion in the 1920s was to take down the northernmost bay of one of the town's best medieval buildings, the late fifteenth century Flore's House at Bargate, because it narrowed the road to the width of a single vehicle at this point.

Opened ahead of schedule, if one can view it as such in the light of this history, in January 2007, the by-pass has at a stroke changed the character of the High Street. Drivers who have no need to stop in the town now take advantage of the new route, leaving one to cross the road if not without a care then certainly much more freely than before: though still no doubt not quite as easily as in the 1920s.

This, though, is perhaps a dangerous moment. Has so much traffic been taken from the town that many who would have stopped on impulse to shop, to eat, to rest, or to visit its historic attractions will no longer do so? Businesses and attractions can benefit greatly from such chance custom: is their viability at risk if existing levels of clientele cannot be sustained?

The attractions of the town need to be promoted to bring in visitors and their wallets. We know, as local people, that Oakham boasts not only good accommodation, a market, shops and places to eat but also a Norman castle hall and site of national importance and a museum whose collections are of at least regional interest, not to mention a fine church and an historic school. We also know that these attractions are not solely there for the benefit of Rutlanders even though some – the museum and the castle – are maintained at public expense and illustrate Rutland's history; they are part of the wider national heritage. There may be those who hold a different view or do not value them very highly. If so, we should remind them that, supported by the Friends of the Museum and by this Society as well as other organisations and individuals, Rutland County Council has devoted substantial resources to the development of the museum service, a process initiated by a Heritage Lottery Fund project. It is also on the brink of designing an equally important project to safeguard and improve Oakham Castle and its vulnerable site. At a time when many heritage attractions are threatened by diminishing resources – unfortunately nothing new in the context of local authorities – it is all the more important to bring them to the notice of as wide a public as possible.

However, some will say that Rutland has a history of ambivalence when it comes to promoting its attractions. It knows their value, but never seems to be sure how best to benefit from them. It has closed its tourist information centre in Oakham, instead relying on that at Rutland Water and on visitor information cheerfully dispensed at the Rutland County Museum. More to the point in this context, to date it has neglected, it seems, to install any promotional signposting of any kind along the by-pass, not even the standard pictograms of beds, petrol pumps and knives and forks one expects to see in such circumstances, let alone those for castles and museums. One wonders whether they have simply been forgotten, or whether there is a misguided view that they are not needed or are too expensive or cannot be installed?

The membership of this Society is not alone in valuing the historic character of Rutland's towns and villages and landscapes. We, and all who believe that these characteristics need to be sustained, must continually urge those who have the authority and power to do so to allocate sufficient resources to ensuring that our Rutland heritage is maintained at a level that meets not just national standards of excellence but also the expectations of the county's many visitors. That way, they in their turn will dispense their goodwill and open their wallets: but they won't if they don't know where to come.

### **Notes on Contributors**

**Audrey Buxton** has been a member of the Society of Genealogists since 1977 and is currently a committee member of the Rutland Local History and Record Society.

**Tim Clough** was Curator of the Rutland County Museum from 1974 to 2002. He is the Society's Honorary Editor, and has written and edited many works on local history, archaeology and numismatics.

**Sue Howlett** was the Society's Honorary Secretary and a part-time lecturer in English Literature and Local History for the WEA in the East Midlands until moving to Essex in 2006.

**Nigel Richardson** taught history at Uppingham School from 1971-89. He has been Headmaster of the Perse School, Cambridge since 1994, and is Chairman of HMC (the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) in 2007. He began work on these events at the time of the Borth Centenary in 1976, and returned to them after being invited to give the Bryan Matthews memorial lecture in 2002. He was awarded a PhD by University College London in October 2006 for his thesis on the Uppingham typhoid epidemic.

The contents of *Rutland Record* reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Society or its Editor.

# Rutland and the Gunpowder Plot

SUE HOWLETT

*Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason? For if it prosper, none dare call it treason*  
(Sir John Harington of Kelston, 1561-1612)

*Most of us have heard the couplet quoted above, but few know that it originated with the cousin of a Rutland nobleman, one of the key players in the tumultuous events of the autumn of 1605. We may also have heard the traditions which link Rutland doubly with the dramatis personae of the Gunpowder Plot. Exton Park briefly provided a home for the princess whose capture, and enthronement as a puppet queen,*

In November 2005, a series of events marked the four hundredth anniversary of the infamous Gunpowder Plot. This deadly plan had been hatched by 'home grown' religious fanatics to blow up the Palace of Westminster with the assembled King, Lords and Commons, attending the opening of Parliament. Had it proved successful, the impact might have born comparison with recent atrocities such as the London bombing of July 2005. Four centuries ago, the potential horror of the 'Powder Treason' struck fear into English Protestants and demonized the perceived Catholic threat. Even today, the fifth of November resounds in popular imagination. But four hundred years have transformed the nightmare into an occasion for fireworks, revelry and guy- (or, in Lewes, pope-) burning.

Just as the proprietors of many great houses boast a bed where Queen Elizabeth slept, several buildings lay claim to a room where the Gunpowder Plot was allegedly hatched. Such a tradition, now sadly discredited, attaches to Stoke Dry in Rutland, with its sixteenth century parvis, or priest's chamber,

*might have changed the course of English history, while the dastardly plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament might conceivably have been planned in the upper chamber of Stoke Dry Church. The reality is more complex, but equally fascinating for the light it casts on the fate and fortunes of two great Rutland families.*

above the north porch of St Andrew's Church (fig. 1). Since the Lord of the Manor in 1605 was one of the Gunpowder conspirators, Sir Everard Digby, this might well have been the place where plans were laid. However, the key figures happened to be elsewhere at the relevant time.

Surprisingly for such a diminutive county, Rutland can claim links with both a plotter and a victim of this earlier terrorist conspiracy. Following the planned explosion at the very heart of government, the confused intention was for Catholic leaders to rule in the name of a puppet monarch, the eight-year-old Princess Elizabeth. Not far from Stoke Dry, in the grounds of Exton Park, The Queen of Bohemia's Ride takes its name from this daughter of King James I, who after her marriage became for a brief season the 'Winter Queen' of that country. A romantic,

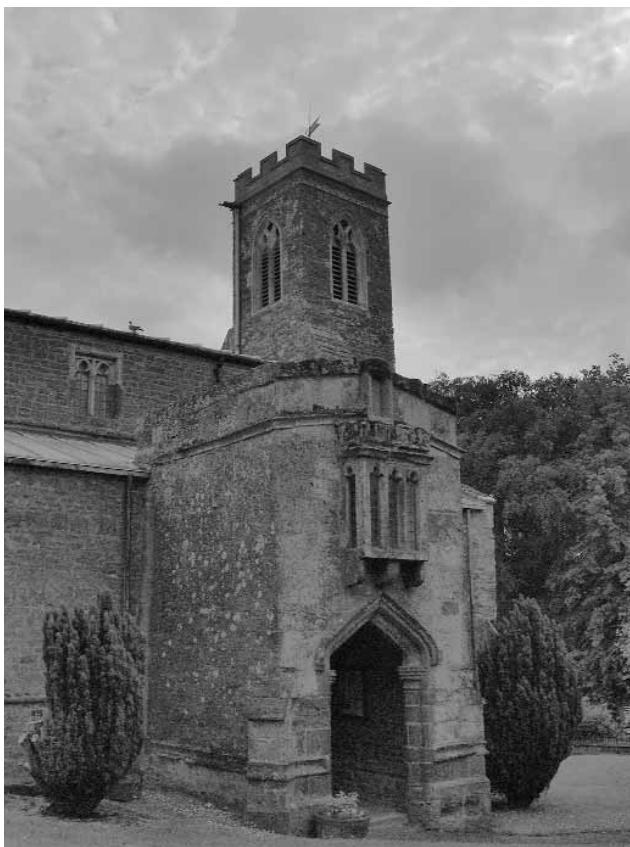


Fig. 1. The parvis above the porch of Stoke Dry Church (SH)

though unsubstantiated, tradition records her childhood hours spent here under the guardianship of Lord Harington of Exton, the princess's heroic protector from the evil devices of such as Sir Everard Digby.

### New era, new hopes

The death of Elizabeth I, in March 1603, brought to an end the tempestuous Tudor dynasty and ushered in new hopes of national security, religious unity and a secure succession. During the old Queen's final years, her 'merry poet' and godson, Sir John Harington of Kelston (Somerset), relayed regular gossip and court news to his country cousin, Sir John Harington of Exton, one of the wealthiest landowners in England. As well as the great Rutland houses of Exton (fig. 6) and Burley on the Hill, Sir John Harington also owned Coombe Abbey (fig. 4) in Warwickshire, through his marriage to the wealthy heiress, Anne Kelway. His vast estates, which included one third of the manors of Rutland, brought an annual income of between five and seven thousand pounds a year (Grimble 1957, 65).

A new royal dynasty meant a radical change in the fortunes of the Harringtons of Exton, who claimed kinship with the new Scottish king through their descent from Robert the Bruce. As soon as James VI of Scotland was named King James I of England, and embarked on his momentous journey to London, English nobles hastened north to pay their respects (and lay claim to lucrative appointments). A separate posse of noble ladies also travelled into Scotland to offer attendance on their new Queen, Anne of Denmark. Among these were Lady Anne Harington of Exton and her daughter, Lucy, Countess of Bedford, who quickly became the Queen's favourite Lady of the Bedchamber.

On his leisurely royal progress south through his new kingdom, King James stayed overnight at a succession of great houses, where many of his new subjects, offering gifts and demonstrations of

loyalty, were rewarded with knighthoods. On 22nd April 1603, the King reached Belvoir Castle, where Everard Digby of Stoke Dry was among the gentlemen receiving this accolade. The following night, King James was the guest of Sir John Harington at 'Burley-Harington' (Burley on the Hill). James indulged in his favourite sport of hunting in Exton Park, continuing the chase the following morning across Empingham Heath, *en route* to the Cecil family's Burghley House near Stamford (Nichols, 1828, i, 93-5).

The coronation of King James I took place on 11th July 1603, although ceremonies were muted due to the plague, raging in the City of London. Sir John Harington was created Baron, with the title Lord Harington of Exton. His daughter, Lucy, attended the Queen and performed leading roles in the court masques devised by Ben Jonson and Inigo Jones, while his young heir, John Harington, was soon to become companion and close friend to the new Prince of Wales, the ten-year-old Prince Henry. Most importantly, on 19th October 1603, an order under the privy seal gave Lord Harington and his wife charge of Princess Elizabeth, with an annual pension of £1,500. They were commanded:

'Not to attempt to make the princess a Latin or Greek scholar (as had been usual for women, especially those of high birth, in the preceding age), but to endeavour to make her truly wise by instructing her thoroughly in religion, and by giving her a general idea of history' (Rait 1908, 55-6).

Although often in Rutland, with homes both at Burley and Exton, Lord and Lady Harington (fig. 2) made their chief home at Coombe Abbey in Warwickshire. With the aid of stones from its demolished church, this former Cistercian abbey had



Fig. 2. Figures of Lord John and Lady Anne Harington on the Kelway Tomb in Exton Church (SH)

been transformed into a comfortable mansion which the Harringtons had further improved. This would provide a safe and tranquil home for the princess, whose life there was described, by one of her attendants, in the anonymous *Memoirs relating to the Queen of Bohemia*, now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Rait 1908, 162 note).

King James expected his daughter to be strictly brought up in the reformed Protestant religion. He took a deep interest in the religious affairs of his new kingdom, and in the first months of his reign encouraged hopes of a new toleration for Roman Catholics. However, although his wife was a recent convert to Roman Catholicism, James quickly became fearful of Catholic-led schemes (later named ‘the treason of the bye’ and ‘the treason of the main’) which demanded greater toleration for Catholics and even threatened to depose him in favour of Lady Arbella [sic] Stuart. Within a year, Catholic priests were once again banished and fines for recusancy (non-attendance at church) were reimposed. In 1604 James heeded Puritan demands for further church reform by summoning the Hampton Court Conference, the main outcome of which was the new translation known as the King James Bible.

### The Gunpowder Plot

The Catholic gentry of England, unofficially led by Sir Thomas Tresham of Rushton, Northamptonshire, believed that the new king had promised toleration of the religion of his mother, Mary Queen of Scots. However, they were quickly disillusioned, chafing under the harsher penalties now imposed by the chief minister, Robert Cecil (recently created Baron Cecil of Essendine, Rutland). Through his marriage to Muriel Throckmorton, Sir Thomas Tresham was related to a network of ardent Catholics including Robert and Thomas Wintour and the charismatic Robert (or Robin) Catesby. Catesby was the prime instigator of the Gunpowder Plot, and many discussions probably took place at his mother’s home of Ashby St Ledgers, Leicestershire, where the surviving gatehouse is more credibly associated with the plot.

The first details of the scheme seem to have been hatched at a meeting in an inn called the Duck and Drake, by the Strand in London. Here, Catesby reportedly met with Tom Wintour, Jack Wright and his brother-in-law, Thomas Percy, and Guido (or Guy) Fawkes, a mercenary soldier who had been at school in York with Jack Wright. In his subsequent confession, Thomas Wintour revealed that Catesby had told him: ‘the nature of the disease required so sharp a remedy’, namely ‘to blow up the Parliament House with gunpowder’ (Fraser 1996, 117).

Increased persecution of Catholics during 1604, including the execution of priests, strengthened the resolve of the conspirators, whose initial hopes for Spanish support in restoring Catholicism to England proved insubstantial. The group was expanded with the recruitment of additional family members, Robert Wintour and Kit Wright, and Catesby’s servant, Thomas Bates. Meanwhile, hints of their violent intentions came to the ears of the Jesuit priests, Fathers Tesimond, Garnet and Gerard. On the fringes of the group were a number of pious female relations, particularly Anne and Eliza Vaux, who were instrumental in sheltering the priests from discovery by government agents. The precise details of who knew what, and when, will never be perfectly established, despite later forced confessions and a multiplicity of theories over the intervening centuries. However the King’s wily minister, Robert Cecil, now Earl of Salisbury, was certainly maintaining an efficient network of spies, eager to supply every scrap of available information regarding the activities of suspect Catholics.

As the summer of 1605 progressed, and Parliament’s recall was delayed because of the continuing plague, the group of conspirators was further expanded. The death of Sir Thomas Tresham left his unreliable son, Francis, heir to his father’s debt-laden estates as well as to a possible role among leading Catholics. He was persuaded to support the conspiracy by his cousin, Robert Catesby, but his likely role in the plot’s subsequent betrayal has become the subject of much speculative investigation.

Etched in English folk memory, the Gunpowder Plot conjures up immediate and ominous images of barrels secreted under the old Houses of Parliament. But although the main focus of the plot was to be the devastating blow struck at Westminster, it was essential that a scheme was in place to seize immediate power, filling the expected void at the heart of government. Various hare-brained possibilities were considered, but the least fantastic was the plan to seize Princess Elizabeth from Lord Harrington’s home and bring her to London as Queen. This required a strong leader to unite Catholic sympathisers in the Midlands, ready to march south with what troops they could muster. The man selected for this role was Sir Everard Digby of Stoke Dry, Rutland.

### Sir Everard Digby

Within Stoke Dry Church are monuments to several members of this branch of the Digby family. Among them are Everard’s grandparents, Kenelm Digby (died 1590) and Anne, whose death-date of 1602



Fig. 3. The tomb of Kenelm and Anne Digby, Stoke Dry Church (SH)

was left blank on their fine alabaster tomb (fig. 3). As a handsome, fatherless youth, Everard Digby was brought up by his mother, who arranged his marriage at the age of eighteen to the Protestant heiress, Mary Mulshoe of Gayhurst (formerly Gothurst), Buckinghamshire. It was here that the young couple began married life: their future looked bright with Sir Everard's knighthood and the birth of a son, Kenelm, in 1603. But the child's godfather was the Jesuit, Father John Gerard: both Mary and Everard had been secretly and separately converted to Roman Catholicism by the priest whose effective disguise was to appear in public like an elegant courtier. The priest became their close friend and welcome guest in the pious household where Sir Everard and Lady Digby now claimed their winnings at cards in Ave Marias rather than coins (Gerard, *Autobiography of a hunted priest*, quoted at [www.gunpowder-plot.org](http://www.gunpowder-plot.org)).

Despite the renewed restrictions placed upon Catholics, families of the Old Faith were allowed to continue those religious observances which offered no threat to the state. In September 1605 Sir Everard and Lady Digby joined a pilgrimage of Midland Catholics travelling to St Winifred's Well in Wales. The following month saw a celebration of the Feast of St Luke, following which Robert Catesby probably confided the details of the plot to Sir Everard Digby, assuring him that the priests were in tacit

agreement. Digby contributed £1,500 and agreed to rent Coughton Court in Warwickshire (fig. 5) from the Catholic Throckmorton family, to provide a base close to Coombe Abbey, home of Princess Elizabeth. While Fawkes's role was to set off the explosion, then escape to rally support in Europe, Percy would seize either of the princes should they survive the carnage at Westminster, and bring them to Warwickshire. Meanwhile, Digby would spearhead a Catholic rising in Midlands, rallying supporters on Dunchurch Heath under the guise of a hunting expedition, ready to seize Princess Elizabeth from Coombe Abbey.

### Events in Warwickshire

Far from the possible temptations of court, in her quiet refuge at Coombe Abbey, Princess Elizabeth occupied a suite of rooms overlooking the parterre, cascade, canal and river, served by her own retinue of servants. These included her nurse, Mistress Alison Hay, as well as footmen, bed-chamber women, a French lady's maid, grooms and other attendants. Elizabeth kept many pets, birds and rare animals on the miniature estate and farm where she played as Queen (Rait 1908, 55). Just as her father did, she passionately enjoyed hunting, having ample opportunity on her guardian's estates. She made visits in the neighbourhood and, on rare occasions,



Fig. 4. Coombe Abbey, Lord and Lady Harington's Warwickshire home (SH)



Fig. 5. Coughton Court, Warwickshire, the home of the Catholic Throckmorton family (SH)

to London. Although she probably also stayed at Exton, precise evidence of this is elusive.

While the plot to capture Princess Elizabeth was taking shape in the Midlands, the London end of the conspiracy had been betrayed. The notorious anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, Francis Tresham's brother-in-law, warning him not to attend Parlia-

ment, reached the hands of Robert Cecil on 26th October. However, for his own enigmatic reasons, the King's minister chose not to interrupt the King's hunting at Royston, and it was not until ten days later that the Westminster cellars were searched, Guy Fawkes captured and the Gunpowder Plot revealed.

Ignorant of what was to come, on 29th October Lady Mary Digby moved her household to Coughton Court, ostensibly to celebrate the coming Feast of All Saints with Father Tesimond, Father Garnet and other friends. Sir Everard remained in their home at Gayhurst, apparently preparing for his forthcoming hunting party. The next day, Monday 4th November, he went with seven servants to spend the night at the Red Lion in Dunchurch, poised for the momentous events of the following day.

### **The plot is foiled**

In London, tension increased for the conspirators, who had been warned of the anonymous letter. Francis Tresham urged them to abandon the desperate venture but Catesby was defiant, setting out to ride the eighty miles north, to join the Midland conspirators, late on 4th November. That night was the eve of the long postponed royal opening of Parliament, and Cecil finally gave orders for the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster to be searched. Fawkes was discovered and arrested. Search parties combed London for the other conspirators who, as each heard of the calamity during the early hours of 5th November, rode desperately out of the city, northward along Watling Street. As they approached the rendezvous, they were able to change to new horses, left at pre-arranged places by Everard Digby.

At Catesby's family home of Ashby St Ledgers, where the fleeing group took a brief respite, their worst fears were confirmed: 'Mr Fawkes was taken and the whole plot discovered' (Fraser 1996, 205). Despite the hopeless circumstances, Catesby determinedly urged them to press on to Dunchurch and continue with the Midland uprising. Apparently this still included the seizure of the Princess, since a servant later confessed that he had overheard some horsemen at Lady Catesby's say: 'They would not drink till they came to Lord Harington's' (*CSPD 1603-10*, 244).

After two years of relatively quiet responsibility, Lord Harington at nearby Coombe Abbey had become increasingly concerned at reports of the unexplained seizure of horses in his neighbourhood. Unaware of exactly what had occurred in London, but fearing some threat to his charge, he wrote anxiously on 6th November to seek instructions from Robert Cecil: 'It cannot be but some great rebellion is at hand' (*CSPD 1603-10*, 241). The next day, two hours before the rebels arrived, he left Coombe Abbey with Princess Elizabeth, placing her in safe-keeping in Coventry while he and Sir Fulke Greville led an army of retainers and local trained bands to put down the rising.

Digby's nervous wait for Catesby's arrival at Dunchurch ended with the disastrous news of the plot's discovery. Despite this, Catesby urged his young kinsman not to abandon the enterprise; they would ride through Warwick to the west, calling on loyal Catholics to flock to their cause. With the bleak acceptance, 'Now there is no remedy', Digby concurred, leading a few dozen die-hards to inevitable defeat. A similar shock met Lady Digby, waiting at Coughton Court with her infant sons, the Vaux sisters and the priests, when Catesby's servant, Bates, brought the news they most feared. Mary Digby would never again see her husband alive.

As the remaining conspirators headed west, most of their followers discreetly disappeared, including Everard Digby's uncle Sir Robert Digby. Digby and Catesby wrote to Father Garnett, still with Lady Digby but, horrified at the turn of events, he refused to help. Their troop, now numbering only 36, found even Catholic doors closed in their faces, and no one foolhardy enough to join their cause. On 7th November they reached the home of one of their group, Holbeach in Staffordshire, where Catesby resolved to make a stand.

Travelling though the rain, Catesby's followers had brought a cartload of gunpowder, which was now laid out to dry by the fire. In the most ironic of all outcomes, the ensuing gunpowder explosion caused terrible injuries to several of the plotters. The next morning, the Sheriff of Worcestershire attacked the house with two hundred men. Robin Catesby and Thomas Percy were mortally wounded by the same shot; Catesby died clutching a picture of the Virgin Mary. Jack and Kit Wright were among those killed, with the remaining defenders captured. The surviving plotters, Ambrose Rookwood and Thomas Wintour, would join Guido Fawkes for agonizing interrogation in the Tower of London.

Rounding up the surviving rebels at Holbeach, the government troops found no sign of Sir Everard Digby. He had left the house the previous day and dismissed his servants, intending to surrender himself to Sir Fulke Greville at Warwick. He was pursued, discovered, hiding 'in a dry pit', and taken to imprisonment in London with his faithful page Ellis, who later became a Jesuit lay brother.

### **The aftermath**

The crushing of the conspiracy, though successful, took its toll on Lord Harington. Two months later, on 6th January 1606, he wrote to his cousin Sir John Harington:

'I am not yet recovered of the fever occasioned by these disturbances. I went with Sir Fulke Greville to alarm the neighbourhood and surprize the villains,

who came to Holbach; was out five days in peril of death, in fear for the great charge I left at home. Wynter hath confessed their design to surprize the Princess at my house, if their wickedness had taken place at London. Some of them say, she would have been proclaimed Queen. Her Highness doth often say, ‘What a Queen should I have been by this means? I had rather been with my Royal father in the Parliament-house, than wear his Crown on such condition.’ This poor Lady hath not yet recovered the surprize, and is very ill and troubled’ (Nichols 1824, i, 590-2).

While Princess Elizabeth returned to the sober and secluded protection of Lord and Lady Harington, the royal court, according to Sir John Harington, soon returned to such indulgent excesses, ‘that the gunpowder fright is got out of all our heads’ (Harington 1779, ii, 130). Meanwhile Sir Everard Digby, still aged only 24, faced strenuous interrogation in the Tower of London. His wife found herself destitute, following the ransacking of Gayhurst by the local Sheriff, who reported proudly to Robert Cecil: ‘All goods are carried away, even to the very floor of the great parlour’ (Fraser 1996, 241). Digby seems to have avoided the worst tortures, confessing fully and preparing to plead guilty. He gave four reasons for his involvement in the plot: his Catholic faith; friendship for Robert Catesby; fear of harsher laws against the Catholics; and the King’s broken promises of toleration. He was able to send his wife secret letters, written in lemon juice, which were discovered among his son’s papers in 1675. In one letter he expressed confidence in the conspirators’ plans, and his naive hopes for

popular acceptance:

‘For if the design had taken place, there could have been no doubt of other success: for that night, before any other could have brought the news, we should have known it by Mr. Catesby, who would have proclaimed the Heir Apparent at Charing Cross, as he came out of Town; to which purpose there was a Proclamation drawn; if the Duke [Prince Charles, Duke of York] had not been in the House, then there was a certain way laid for possessing him; but in regard of the assurance, they should have been there, therefore the greatest of our business stood in the possessing the Lady Elizabeth, who lying within eight miles of Dunchurch, we would have easily surprised before knowledge of any doubt: this was the cause of my being there. If she had been in Rutland, then Stoake [Stoke Dry] was near, and in either place we had taken sufficient order to have been possessed of her; there was also courses taken for the satisfying the people if the first had taken effect, as the speedy notice of liberty and freedom from all manner of slavery, as the ceasing of Wardship and all Monopolies, which with change would have been more plausible to the people, if the first had been than it is now...’ (*Sir Everard Digby’s Letters from the Tower*, transcribed by Jennifer O’Brien for The Gunpowder Plot Society, [www.gunpowder-plot.org](http://www.gunpowder-plot.org)).

Digby’s trial, separate from the other plotters, took place in Westminster Hall on 27th January 1606. There was no doubt as to the verdict: his request for beheading was disregarded and on 30th January he, along with fellow conspirators, Robert Wintour, Bates and Grant, was drawn on a hurdle to



*Fig. 6. The ruins of Exton Old Hall, the Rutland home of Lord John Harington (SH)*

be hanged, drawn and quartered in Saint Paul's Churchyard. Antonia Fraser reports the moving story: 'of one little Digby boy calling out, "Tata, Tata", at the moment when his father was being drawn by on his hurdle, his face low down so that, in [Attorney General, Sir Edward] Coke's words, he should not pollute the common air' (Fraser 1996, 278). Digby's death was the first, and most courageous. Permitted to make a final speech, he reiterated his firm conviction, that 'nothing [was] too much to suffer for those respects which had moved him to that enterprise.' He denied the involvement of the priests, begged God's and the King's forgiveness, and said a brave farewell to his friends.

To some in the watching crowd, Digby died a martyr for his faith. To many at the time and in later generations, it seemed hard to reconcile Digby's crime with his Christian fortitude. Denied the mercy of a speedy death, he was cut down while still alive to be disembowelled. The historian Anthony à Wood was informed by an eye witness, Francis Bacon, that when the executioner held up Digby's heart with the words, 'Here is the heart of a traitor,' Digby gasped the words, 'Thou liest.' His close friend Father Gerard provided a fitting epitaph: 'He was so much and so generally lamented, and is so much esteemed and praised by all sorts in England, both Catholics and others, although neither side do or can approve this last outrageous and exorbitant attempt' (quoted at [www.gunpowder-plot.org](http://www.gunpowder-plot.org)).

Although key players on both sides of the Gunpowder Plot were major landowners in Rutland, this tiny shire remained distant from and largely untroubled by the traumatic events taking place in London and the West Midlands. But neither its date nor the name of the unfortunate Guido Fawkes would ever be forgotten, nor would Catholics be forgiven for at least two centuries. When Parliament reassembled in January 1606, Sir Edward Montague, MP for Northamptonshire, introduced a bill for an annual public thanksgiving every 5th November. Generations in Rutland and beyond joined in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, until its revision in the twentieth century, thanking God for the miraculous delivery of the King, Lords and

Commons 'then assembled in Parliament, by Popish treachery appointed as sheep to the slaughter, in a most barbarous and savage manner, beyond the example of former ages'. Fires which burned in the streets of London that November, to celebrate the King's escape from death, became an inseparable feature of the annual commemoration.

And what of the two Rutland families so closely involved in these events? Dying for his religion, Sir Everard Digby suffered the inhuman death of a traitor. His estates should have been confiscated, but had wisely been transferred before his death to his elder infant son, later Sir Kenelm Digby. Eighty years later, the Rutland historian, James Wright, paid tribute to this colourful, controversial figure:

'Of latter time this Town [Stoke Dry] hath been the habitation of a right antient Race of the Digbys; which Digbys of Dry-Stoke tho formerly blemisht by Sir Everard Digby, drawn in (sayes Cambden) to the powder Treason, yet I may add it hath since been rendred famous through the Christian World, by the singularly Learned Sir Kenelm Digby ...' (Wright 1684, 114).

Defending the monarchy to which they were so closely linked, the Harringtons of Exton survived the event, but were financially ruined over the next decade by the burden of care for Princess Elizabeth. Over half a century later, in a postscript of dramatic irony, the same Princess, now the exiled Queen of Bohemia living in Restoration London, observed, in July 1661, the penalty for treason paid by Lord Harrington's great-nephew, Sir James Harrington of Ridlington. Having fought against the Princess's brother, King Charles I, he was now sentenced with others 'to be drawn upon hurdles with ropes about their necks to Tyburn and there to see their coats of arms torn and so departed, return in the same manner to perpetual prison' (Baker 1953, 46). At the same time the traitor's son, Sir Kenelm Digby, having astutely served both Oliver Cromwell and Queen Henrietta Maria, was now a popular courtier and founder member of the Royal Society. Just as England's civil and religious wars had brought down and then restored the Stuart monarchy, so the wheels of fortune and faith had also turned full circle for these two Rutland families.

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# Uppingham's 1875-77 typhoid outbreak: a re-assessment of the social context

NIGEL RICHARDSON

*Uppingham School suffered repeated typhoid outbreaks in 1875-77. Town and school authorities each blamed each other. Because the school's Headmaster, the Rev Edward Thring, was both a widely-known figure and a prolific writer, the school's concerns were extensively publicised, whereas the town's case has hitherto largely gone by default. However, further research reveals the extent of the difficulties which the town guardians faced in an age*

*when bacteriological discovery was just beginning, when the public's expectations about sanitation were rising spectacularly, and when local government was very poorly equipped to meet them. A fierce battle also developed between the school doctor and the local Medical Officer of Health, with the Local Government Board in London struggling to respond to the demands of all parties to the dispute.*

An earlier article (Richardson 2001) described the outbreak of typhoid in Uppingham School in the autumn of 1875, its transmission through several boarding houses resulting in the deaths of four pupils and the young son of one of the housemasters, and the recommendations of a number of sanitary experts to redress the situation. These measures were compiled against a background of growing recrimination between the school's headmaster, Edward Thring, and the two clergymen who were the leading figures in the local Rural Sanitary Authority (RSA), Barnard Smith (Rector of Glaston) (fig. 4) and William Wales (Rector of Uppingham) (fig. 5).

Thring (fig. 8) believed that the guardians had done too little to cater for the needs of the local community and the growing and successful school by failing to provide proper street drainage and water supply; Smith and Wales asserted that Thring was trying to divert the blame away from the school's own sanitary negligence, as its buildings increased in size and number, and that he had no feeling for the financial implications of his demands on the hard-pressed local ratepayers. Thring, together with the school doctor and local GP, Dr Thomas Bell, also clashed repeatedly with the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Dr Alfred Haviland of Northampton (fig. 6), who was messianic in promoting public health and who wrote a highly critical report on the state of the school's sanitary arrangements.

When typhoid broke out again in the school in the spring of 1876, despite the costly improvements which the school had made, Thring took the dramatic decision to remove his staff and pupils to Borth (on the Welsh coast, north of Aberystwyth). Initially he expected the move to be for just one term, but it turned out to be for an entire year. It was a feat of extra-ordinary improvisation – carried out against the wishes of the school's trustees – and was

designed to force the hand of the RSA by creating the conditions for a revolt of ratepayers and local trades-men, who would be greatly affected by the school's absence. Eventually, in April 1877, the school returned to a town which had a much-improved drainage system, together with a private company providing mains water – a venture in which Thring himself had also played a leading role.

The first article suggested (Richardson 2001, 35-6) that more work needed to be done on the economic relationships between town and school, together with an analysis of the power structures and networks surrounding them. Six years on, we have a much clearer picture of these aspects, and of the competing economic pressures which caused sanitary reform in Uppingham to be fitful and incomplete before 1876, but much more rapid thereafter.

**Town and School: their economic interdependence**  
How economically interdependent were town and school in 1875? The financial structure on which Thring's school was based has long been known. His arrival as headmaster of the small country grammar school in 1853 coincided with a time of great expansion in middle-class education as the Victorian industrial boom began. The school expanded too: within two decades he transformed it into a nationally recognised boarding institution (Matthews 1984, 73-116).

He and his housemasters had the means to commission their own architects and build their own houses. Unlike their modern counterparts, they had a direct financial stake in the Uppingham enterprise and a number appear to have taken out large mortgages; they would eventually sell these houses on to their successors. Meanwhile their investment would be at risk if the school were to fail – and in a small country town there might well be a shortage of



*Fig .1. Uppingham from the south c1851, showing the school as it was under Henry Holden and also the south face of the houses in Leamington Terrace (Uppingham School Archives)*

alternative uses for (and buyers of) large properties if things went badly. Not only that, but Thring (who was always in debt himself) and his staff had sunk large sums of money into the school's classrooms and other 'central' facilities such as the chapel. In the mid-1860s, over 90 per cent of the growing school's buildings, land and equipment had been financed by Thring and his staff, while the Trustees of the Archdeacon Johnson Charity had provided a mere 8.75 per cent.

Of all those involved, Thring himself had potentially the most to lose if the sanitary problem could not be solved: not only his livelihood and capital, but also the personal vision which his school represented. Its continuing prosperity was dependent on the town for reliable goods and services, and its demanding parent clientele might quickly transfer its sons to other schools if the town appeared unsafe. There was no shortage of alternative schools to apply to, in this age of prosperity.

It is now clear that the town was equally dependent on the school, however unpalatable the town's leading figures found this. Thring's 'new' school of over 300 pupils and over 100 adults (masters, their families and house servants) comprised nearly 15 per cent of the town's population, in term-time at least. Some of these houses were Uppingham's newest and largest properties.

Thanks to the work of the Uppingham Local History Study Group, and the wealth of records held by the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester &

Rutland and the school archive, we can reconstruct the character of 1870s Uppingham in some detail. The 1871 census lists 2,601 persons, and by 1875 the total figure is believed to have risen by about another 300 – a significant peak which would be followed by a gradual decline.

There were just under 450 inhabited dwellings, in an area of about 50 acres; its street plan had changed little in the previous two hundred years and is still very recognisable today. Local trade directories show that the area was overwhelmingly agricultural, and that most of its population drew their income from working on the land. The 1871 census, both in Uppingham and in its surrounding villages, reinforces this impression, showing a very large number of labourers, gardeners and farm-related trades – saddlers and crop-makers, shepherds and blacksmiths. It was also a community marked by continuity. Just over half (77 of 143) of the family names listed in Kelly's 1876 trade directory as members of businesses, trades and professions had also appeared in 1850. This stability is confirmed by the 1851 census: of the 2,065 persons listed, just over 50 per cent had been born in the town; of the remaining 938, half came from villages within twelve miles. Moreover, out of 151 married men who had been born in the town, over 60 per cent had chosen an Uppingham woman as their bride (ULHSG 2001, 7-8).

The 1876 directory lists over 200 enterprises and small businesses in the town itself, including nearly 30 builders, joiners, carpenters and plumbers. Of



*Fig. 2. Looking west along Uppingham High Street towards the Market Place in the early twentieth century, past shops and business premises in the commercial heart of the town (Rutland County Museum, Hart Collection)*

these, 28 can be classed as domestic and household services (including clock repairers and chimney sweeps). There were a dozen innkeepers or individuals otherwise linked to the licensed trade, and nearly 60 shopkeepers - including seven butchers and five bakeries. There were also seven grocers, a green-grocer, a florist, a photographic artist, and no fewer than fifteen dressmakers, tailors and milliners – along with three doctors and surgeons and one vet. Thus, there were plenty of people who relied on the school and its pupils as customers. Moreover, given that the pupils' parents could afford the school's fees, their sons' collective spending power must have been large when compared with that of most of Uppingham's townspeople.

Shops supplying the school included the bakeries, which sold Plum Shuttles (pronounced *shittles*), a type of bun especially popular with local children – and, no doubt, Thring's pupils, who particularly liked the hot rolls produced in the mornings by Loves and Baines. Henry Kirby, the grocer in the Market Place, sold ice creams and lemonade to boys during their free time in the afternoons, as well as strawberries and cakes; the editor of the *School Magazine* (1885) complained that the large amount of time that they whiled away in Kirby's establishment could have been better spent back in the school, writing articles for his publication. John Hawthorn (at the post office and bookshop) was

another shopkeeper well-known to the boys: they stocked up their supplies of stationery from his bookshop. He traded in the town for nearly half a century, and it was rumoured that he had been there for ever. Not surprisingly, he was one of the school's strongest supporters (*School Magazine* 1876, 1885 and 1899). The decentralised nature of the school further increased this dependence. Because of the dispersed houses, with pupils feeding in their own house dining rooms, each housemaster and wife made their own decisions about suppliers.

The school was also a large-scale employer. Its pupils and staff all had to be fed, accommodated, and provided for. The houses employed nearly a hundred living-in staff; the 1871 census showed that four of them had between seven and nine each – including various governesses, a few footmen, numerous cooks, nurses, parlourmaids and kitchenmaids, and one 'boots'.

To this would have been added a large army of people living in the town but working in the school by day – self-employed or on piecework. Houses had to be repaired and altered; some were still being built or developed. Furniture and equipment had to be ordered and maintained, and gardens tended. In an age when few parents visited the school, boys had to be clothed, and their clothes needed cleaning and repairing. Farm produce would have been purchased locally by the school. The food shops in particular

must have noticed a big drop in turnover when the holidays began.

There was physical interlinking, too. The interlocking social and economic relationships between town and school can be demonstrated by studying the 1871 census returns for the High Street. Within less than half a mile it included a number of boarding houses, including those of Edward Little (wife, one child and a sister-in-law, plus four domestic servants and fourteen boarders), Sam Haslam (wife, six servants and 30 boarders), the Rev Walter Earle (wife, five small children, eight domestic servants and 27 schoolboys), and William Campbell (wife, seven children, sister/governess, eight servants, four overnight visitors and 33 boarders). Across the road were the houses of Theophilus Rowe (wife, four servants and 31 boarders) and Bennett Hesketh Williams (wife, five children and two other relatives staying, six servants and 16 boarders). Their more well-to-do neighbours included professional people: John Guy (bank manager and also clerk to the school trustees), and Dr Thomas Bell himself.

But by no means all the school's High Street neighbours were prosperous. Sandwiched in between these professional men lived a network of small businessmen, traders and artisans – including a master bootmaker, a saddler, a shoemaker, an auctioneer-cum-estate agent, a master watchmaker, a chairmaker, a laundress, a grocer, two drapers, a hairdresser, and an innkeeper. Further up the street were a mason (married to a dressmaker), a railway agent, another draper, a tailor (with wife and four children), and a plumber and painter (with wife and five children) who lived cheek by jowl with one of the curates. With so many trades, goods and services represented amongst their neighbours, it seems likely that the housemasters' personal and business relationships would have overlapped to a sizeable degree.

Town and school were thus highly interdependent economically: the school would suffer in reputation and well-being if local businesses failed. For those businesses the presence and goodwill of the school was a key factor in their continuing prosperity and development. Both had a strong interest in smooth and harmonious relationships – and in good sanitation.

#### *Misunderstood guardians, drainage and water supply*

Thanks to Thring's vituperation, the Uppingham guardians (responsible for local services) have had a poor reputation for parsimony and lack of imagination. Is this reputation deserved, or is the reality more complex?

The Uppingham Union comprised thirty-five parishes, nineteen in Rutland, the rest in nearby parts

of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire (Kelly 1876, 527). The total rateable value of the parish was £9,484 2s 10d; the thirty-five parishes in the Uppingham Poor Law Union as a whole were valued at £99,897 (Wright 1880, 529). The Chairman, the Rev Barnard Smith, was conscientious and financially experienced, from his days as senior bursar at Peterhouse, Cambridge (Pattenden & Thomson 2005, 43-56).

The guardians oversaw a wide variety of local services costing between £3,000 and £4,000 annually. Their officials were numerous: clerk, overseer and collector of poor rates and taxes, inspector of nuisances, medical officer and public vaccinator, chaplain, workhouse master, matron and assistant, and schoolmistress. Their workhouse on the Leicester Road had been completed in 1837 at a cost of £3,128, initially for 140 inmates but later extended to 170 (ULHSG 2001, 32) (fig. 7).

The Union's minute book has survived (ROLLR DE1381/441). This suggests that the guardians strove to carry out their increasing responsibilities (since the 1872 Public Health Act) carefully and conscientiously. The local government taxation returns for 1874 show that the £2,300 raised in rates and loans was already way ahead of all but a handful of (RSAs) in the country. Of this, £1,866 was spent on sewer construction. The £2,000 loan which they had taken out was one of the highest fifteen or so in England and Wales by such a body (and it would take many years to pay off). They spent £639 on sanitary expenditure in 1874; Oakham (a union with a very similar rateable value) spent £172. Market Harborough, whose value was over 50 per cent above Uppingham's, spent £444; Melton Mowbray (only slightly smaller) spent £275. Stamford (a larger town, but very comparable in rateable value) spent £573 – followed by much smaller sums in subsequent years (Parliamentary Local Taxation returns 1874-1883).

The town also appears to have been no worse than its neighbours in terms of its sanitary state: possibly better. The East Midlands was not in the forefront of reform. Leicester relied until 1850 on cesspits, and even as late as 1875 only parts of a sewerage system were in place there: much of the waste still discharged into the river (Simmons 1971, 12-14). In Oakham there had been bitter complaints from residents in 1856 that drains could not cope with demand from the new water closets, and that users of them would have to revert to cesspool drainage. Twelve years later a civil engineer denounced the sewers in Oakham as 'generally of a most primitive construction [with] rubble stone side walls with slab bottoms and covers... neither the material of construction nor of subsoil can be water tight, and from their superficial nature [they] must



*Fig. 3. A stained glass window in the Old Schoolroom of Uppingham School commemorating the return of the school from Borth in 1877. On 8th May, four days after its return, addresses of welcome were exchanged between school and town. Here, John Hawthorn, bookseller, is shown reading the town's address to the Rev Edward Thring and the assembled housemasters. The window is one of a series designed by Charles Rossiter, the art master, depicting events in the history of the school, unveiled in 1884 during its tercentenary year.*

*As far as they can be identified, those depicted, most of whom went to Borth, are as follows:*

*back row, left to right: W C Perry, W H Mullins, S Haslam, the Rev E Thring, the Rev G Christian, the Rev W J Earle, C W Cobb, the Rev W Campbell, the Rev A J Tuck, H Candler, J H Skrine and W d'A Barnard; front row, left to right: unknown, ?Dr Thomas Bell, John Hawthorn*

always be liable to pollute the water in the surrounding wells' (Mr E S Stephens, CE: *Stamford Mercury* June 1868: quoted in Traylen, *Oakham*, 17–18). He recommended larger diameter pipes at greater depth, but (possibly fearing that an expensive scheme would be rejected out of hand) his suggestions were modest: the estimated cost was only £600. Unsurprisingly, three years later (1871) the local paper again reported 'an abominable stench' near the Oakham market place as cholera loomed in

the area (Traylen, *Oakham*, 19), resulting in a slightly more ambitious second scheme (£700); deep sewerage had to wait until 1878 when the town once again followed in Uppingham's wake.

Rural communities were also expensive to supply with water, and had limited funds with which to pay for installation. The 1872 Public Health Act obliged both urban and rural sanitary authorities to provide a supply, but in many cases it was a very rudimentary one, and outside the major cities and towns, progress



Fig. 4. A carte de visite depicting the Rev Barnard Smith  
(Glaston PCC)

was slow. Again the East Midlands was no leader: Leicester had no piped water at all until the 1850s (Simmons 1971, 12-14).

In Stamford there were severe outbreaks of typhoid in 1868 and 1869. A year later, a report bemoaned the fact that its underlying geology had been broken up by building, quarrying and natural forces. Only a few of the streets possessed sewers, and the river (as it passed through the town) was 'a most offensive cesspool' and still liable to frequent flooding. The Marquess of Exeter at nearby Burghley House supplied water to parts of the town by an Act of Parliament of 1837; others relied on fifteen pumps scattered around its streets. Parts of Stamford remained unpiped ten years later, and one of the original conduits remained in use until around 1900. The Council spent seven years between 1870 and 1877 debating how to improve things, and in the following year its MOH condemned the existing supply's impurities and offensive smell. Only in 1882 were improved arrangements made (Rogers 1983, 97).

In Oakham in 1868 there were 'hundreds of poor families who have to go two miles for fresh water' (*Stamford Mercury* July 1868, quoted in Traylen, *Oakham*, 18) and, when deep sewerage was installed

in 1878, many of the springs were diverted. This resulted in an acute water shortage at the east end of the town, which still relied on 252 wells and three public pumps in 1897. Pollution from the sewerage system got progressively worse; although the town acquired a flushing tank in 1880 and its first piped water supply in 1885, the latter was very small in scale and a decade later many wells were condemned as suitable only for washing. Attempts in the 1890s to find a new source foundered because the water proved to be so hard and the cost so high; it was 1900 before the Oakham water company came into being. Thus Uppingham was far from alone in relying on wells.

#### *Uppingham 1850-75*

People in 1860s Oakham had a strong (and valid) perception that the Uppingham guardians were more proactive (Traylen, *Oakham*, 17). This was despite the fact that over the two decades up to 1875, the latter struggled to balance a desire for improvement with a fear about its costs, and how much local opposition they might arouse if they promoted ambitious plans for reform. In Uppingham, improvements were certainly needed: the town suffered plague in 1840, 1848 and 1850, followed by a severe epidemic in 1853-4. On this occasion, the residents' concern for financial prudence prevailed over their concern about their sanitary state: they rejected the guardians' plan for a main drain at a depth of 10 feet, on the grounds that such a depth would drain the wells as well as the cellars (*Stamford Mercury*, August and December 1854: Traylen, *Uppingham*, 20). However, it was further local complaints in 1857 which led to the Nuisance Removal committee commissioning a survey of drainage options – and which resulted a year later in a main sewer being laid along parts of the northern side of the town at cost of £750. In 1865, the decision was taken to pave the streets with York slabs, at a cost of £1,101.

Much of the need for Uppingham's increased expenditure resulted from the growth of the school, which had greatly increased pressure on the town's essential services. The housemasters became more and more worried about the lack of a proper water supply, causing the school to force a further official investigation in 1871 (MH12/9815, February 1876). The inspector from the Local Government Board (LGB) responsible for overseeing local unions recommended further improvements and a new sewage farm, and estimated the total cost at about £6,000 plus any necessary land purchase.

The guardians called a meeting of ratepayers to consider it, but adopted a less ambitious scheme, and made an application for a further loan of £800, to be paid for by a rate increase. Messrs Whitaker and

Perrott were commissioned to produce a 10-page specification to the Sewer Authority for extensions to go along the south side of the town, linking up with sewer pipes from the rectory and the market square – deeper and larger in diameter than earlier works. Another LGB Inspector (Mr Morgan) reported favourably on the scheme in November 1871 – including the additional cost estimates (£820 for piping, and £320 for disposal costs: £1,140 in all) and loan arrangements (MH12/9814, August 1871 and March 1872).

Whitaker and Perrott drew up additional plans in March 1872. Despite the fact that there was smallpox in the town in June, followed by scarlet fever in November, action followed only slowly (*Stamford Mercury* reports: Traylen, *Uppingham*, 23). There was a prolonged correspondence with the London authorities, after which there was a further £400 loan application later in the year towards further sewage outfall works on the north-east side of Seaton Lane, which would now cost an additional £500. The estimates were to prove optimistic; the tenders came in markedly higher than anticipated (MH12/9814, March and September 1872).

By now the guardians were experiencing opposition from the ratepayers, both to the rate levels needed to repay the loan and to the prospect of increased domestic costs to abolish their own cesspits. They also had to contend with Sir Charles Adderley, who disputed the siting of an extension to the sewage farm – which added £120 to the cost (MH12/9814, March and May 1872).

As costs of these works rose, other loan applications followed: £400 in 1873; £400 again in 1874 (Rawlinson 1876, 7). The Public Works Loan Board was slow to process some of these, and unsympathetic to requests from the clerk to the guardians for a long payback period and low interest rate. Meanwhile the guardians had repeatedly asked for guidance about good practice, and about the extent of their powers under the new Public Health Acts. They wanted the status of Urban Sanitary Authority, which would have enabled them to tackle nuisances more effectively, and to levy a ‘general district rate’ on agricultural land (MH12/9814, August 1872).

As the town grew, and the responsibility of the guardians increased, it was proving increasingly difficult to reconcile rising public expectations about health provision with traditional aversion to the high rate levels needed to pay for them.

#### ***Guardians in general: ill-equipped to face a crisis***

Why did the Uppingham RSA respond slowly and reluctantly, even when typhoid struck three times in 1875-6? There were political factors inhibiting

reform everywhere, notably a prevailing attitude amongst all classes that the growing number of central government public health requirements was foreign to the national spirit. An Englishman’s home was his castle, and there was widespread suspicion of the new ethos of inspection and officialdom that MOHs represented, as the first appointments to such posts were made in rural locations.

There were also human constraints. The Public Health Acts of 1872 and 1875 put a huge new range of responsibilities onto local authorities. This was a period when government officials were also conducting a retrenchment ‘crusade’ ethos in Poor Law spending, so it was predictable that many guardians would decide to extend this mentality into issues of public health and sanitation. Guardians were unpaid volunteers, who often had little or no technical expertise in the issues which they would face; some would also have been daunted by the growing scale of the financial questions they had to deal with. Poor Law civil servants from the LGB, who feared being overwhelmed by demands from unions nationwide, encouraged guardians not to be too dependent on advice from London and to think of themselves as experts, even though many of these local worthies greatly feared making a legal or technical mistake (Hamlin 1988, 55-83).

Guardians relied heavily on their paid officials, and they frequently received conflicting advice from amongst them (and from within their own membership) as lawyers, surveyors and contractors differed in opinions about methods, equipment and rights of way. They often hesitated to pay for outside expertise. Even when they did commission improvements, there was no guarantee that these would have the desired effect. As a result, as late as 1900 a speaker at the Central Poor Law Conference lamented that guardians returned home ‘with a depressing sense of the impossibility of carrying out the different, admirable reforms they have heard so ably advocated’ (*Poor Law Conference Reports 1890-91*, 236).

In such circumstances, determined central government initiative was needed to direct them. But it would be another decade before county councils provided some of this direction, and the LGB was inadequate to the task. It suffered from huge problems of overwork, internal divisions between its leading staff (conservative administrators versus reforming medical experts), and an inspectorate which was still imbued with the ethos of the gentleman amateur rather than that of the technical specialist.

For all these reasons, local reform would proceed rapidly only if a local community wished it – and there were many people at all levels in 1870s

Uppingham who had a vested interest in *not* being expensively radical. It is no coincidence that the man sent down to Uppingham to report on the state of the town at the end of 1875 to the Local Government Board (LGB), sanitary engineer Robert Rawlinson, was also the official within it who had long argued most strongly for local autonomy.

#### **Rates, landownership and recession**

Sanitary reform implied higher local rates – and rates were inextricably linked to land and property ownership. Uppingham's typhoid, coinciding with a time of rural economic downturn, came after a century-long period in which landowners had faced steep rises in both county and local poor rates. While times were good, it had not been a major issue, but now there were declining rents and reduced rent returns for landlords, as well as demands for rent reduction and/or the handing-in of notice by tenants. The relationship between landlord and tenant became increasingly strained. Moreover because rents were assessed on rental value of land and buildings, those whose main income came from rents – as opposed to profits or fees – were those on whom rates fell especially hard. Uppingham had powerful large landowners.

Landownership was an important feature of both the decision-making groups caught up in this drama: the trustees (governors) of the school and the town guardians. John Bateman's *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland* (1971) records owners of land of more than 3,000 acres with a gross annual value of over £3,000. Of Rutland's total acreage, over 70 per cent (66,294 acres) was owned by one peer, five 'great landowners', and five squires. No fewer than four of this elite group of six were trustees (governors) of Thring's school: the Earl of Gainsborough (Exton Park), Sir John Fludyer (Ayston Hall), John Wingfield (Tickencote Hall) and George Finch MP (Burley-on-the-Hill). Finch was a keen huntsman, who entered parliament as Tory MP for Rutland in 1867, held the seat for 40 years and defeated the liberal candidate in the 1906 re-election with the slogan 'the agricultural candidate for an agricultural constituency'. The Hon W C Evans-Freke (Bisbrooke Hall) did not own quite enough to make Bateman's lists, but he was both a trustee and a local guardian. Edward Dawson would have been included in Bateman's list of Rutland landowners, but for the fact that Launde Abbey lay just across the Leicestershire border.

Bateman also identified sixteen significant owners of Rutland land whose main estates lay in other counties, but whose overall land holdings amounted to an area equivalent to nearly 40 per cent of the county itself. They included three other school

trustees, two of whom lived reasonably locally, Edward Conant (at Lyndon Hall) and George Watson (at Rockingham Castle, in Northamptonshire but within sight of Rutland across the Welland valley). The third was the Chairman of the Trustees, A C Johnson, whose lands were at Wytham-on-the-Hill (Lincolnshire). All these may be assumed to have had a strong vested interest in restricting local tax levels.

The trustees were men of conservative outlook and financial caution, with a strong vested interest in ensuring that prudent expenditure remained the order of the day. A group of well-meaning and worthy local gentry, they found Thring's ambitious plans hard to understand, and they were alarmed at their actual and potential expense. His ambition had already demanded spending beyond the levels at which they felt comfortable. It is likely that the guardians felt much the same way about him – and that they resented the way in which Uppingham's former grammar school had strayed so far from its local roots. Thus there were powerful individuals who had a keen interest in keeping rate levels under control. Even the school itself would face a significantly increased bill if rates were to rise, because its houses (as opposed to its educational buildings) were not exempt.

The dominance of property interests can also be seen when one looks at the membership of the Uppingham Poor Law Union. Their minute book shows that thirty-eight men were guardians at some point during 1875 and 1877, and most of them can be traced through census and other returns. The great majority (at least 22) were farmers in and around Uppingham. The landowners included many of the most regular attenders: analysis of the weekly Union meetings between April 1875 and early 1877 (87 in all) suggests that, apart from the chairman, a group of eight predominated. Charles Simkin, Union vice-chairman and a gentleman farmer from Wardley, rarely missed a meeting until his death in January 1876. John Woodcock, farmer and railway agent of High Street East, participated in no fewer than 77. Samuel Rooke, a farmer from Gretton, managed 53. George Foster, who lived on the Oakham Road and who farmed other lands at Brooke, attended 43. William Sheild, solicitor, who in addition to his manorial steward, legal and money-lending roles was Superintendent Registrar for Births, Marriages and Deaths as well as being the local coroner, attended 41. Edward Wortley of Ridlington and John Parker of Preston, both farmers, were not far behind, with 35 and 39 attendances respectively. Simkin, Forster, Rooke, Sheild, Woodcock and Wortley (from 1876) were also on its sanitary sub-committee responsible for public health matters. The eighth was the Rector, Chancellor William Wales.



Fig. 5. The Rev William Wales, Rector of Uppingham and Chancellor of the Diocese of Peterborough  
(Northamptonshire Record Office P3479)

The Uppingham Land Tax Assessment (LTA) for 1874/5 shows that 258 people were assessed, of whom three stand out far above the rest. One was Lord Gainsborough – a quintessential county landowner. Another was Sir Charles (C B) Adderley MP, who had put tenants into the Hall in High Street East, although he never lived in the town. The third was the Rector, William Wales, who was both a school trustee and a town guardian, as well as being chancellor of the Peterborough diocese. The *Return of Owners of Land 1873* (Vol II) shows that Wales' landownership yielded a gross estimated rent income of no less than £747 17s 0d. This was in his capacity as incumbent, and derived from the letting of his glebe land. As Lord of the Rectory Manor he would also have enjoyed manorial income from his copyhold tenants, together with their entry fines (that were arbitrary rather than fixed), pensions (in lieu of former tithes) amounting to £6 14s 4d per year, and the annual Easter Offering.

The 1873 return of owners of land in Uppingham itself shows that five men owned more than 100 acres each: Edward Conant, Sir John Fludyer, William Wales (all trustees), and two of the town guardians, John Parker and William Sheild. Of the other landowners, two guardians – George Foster (a

farmer, but also a property-owning solicitor) and Edmund Robinson (a dealer in corn, glassware and china) – were amongst the four people who owned between 50 and 100 acres. William Mould (farmer and maltster in the High Street) was one of five owning between 20 and 50 acres. Included with those holding less than 20 acres were William Satchell (a builder), along with the guardians' clerk (W H Brown), Thring and five of his staff. The guardians themselves, the school trustees and the churchwardens also appear as institutional owners.

Grouping the owners of houses and buildings listed in the LTA by the amounts of tax assessed, the list of owners of houses and buildings is also dominated by Gainsborough and Adderley – although guardian William Mould also appears in the highest category paying more than £1. Below them it is possible to identify three groups of people (apart from retired people or those with private means). One is the professionals – one surgeon, three solicitors and two bank managers. The second is the masters themselves – who, with the school itself, collectively contributed between a fifth and a sixth of the rates collected.

The third is the shopkeepers, of whom at least twenty appear in the top one-third of assessments. Most of the shopkeepers were owners, but not all. They cover a wide range of businesses, including draper, ironmonger, grocer, bookseller, chemist and hairdresser, and many must have been suppliers of goods and services to the school as well as to people in the town – trade for which many of them would have been in competition with each other. The LTA does not, however, yield information on two issues – the amount of precarious mortgage debt which many of the smaller owners in particular must have carried, or the extent to which landowners passed on rate increases to their tenants.

Below the landowner class, the prosperity of many Uppingham traders was built on mortgages in the nineteenth century (ULHSG 2002, 23), and many of these loans ran the borrower into trouble in this decade (Rogers 2005, 105-22). The majority of the loans were on property, and many were handed down from one generation to the next (and then added to, or renegotiated – either to finance improvements or to raise capital for business ventures). Thus multiple mortgages were frequent; few were repaid in instalments, the majority of mortgage-holders paying off interest every year. Many of the lenders came from outside the town, with local solicitors acting as go-between. Some traders over-reached themselves. Uppingham's prosperity in good times was precarious, founded on borrowing which was now shown to have grown into unmanageable proportions. The shopkeepers and small businessmen

feared that rate increases might be passed down to them (openly or surreptitiously) by landlords when rent reviews took place.

In recessionary times, economic downturn meant reduced spending in local shops. Earnings of Rutland agricultural workers were close to the national average for English and Welsh counties in 1867-70, and remained so beyond the end of the century. But the county felt the effects of the 1870s depression quicker than many: it was one of only three counties in which small-scale rural depopulation had begun by the time of the 1881 census: so much so, that by 1911 its number of rural craftsmen would have declined by 11 per cent compared with 1851.

For all these reasons, the town authorities might well have feared a ratepayers' revolt if they launched into a bold and expensive programme of reform in 1875-6.

#### *The medical market – and its rivalries*

One of the interesting sub-plots of the Uppingham epidemic is the bitter dispute between Dr Thomas Bell and MOH Alfred Haviland. This made it much more difficult for school and town to work together, and it too had an economic aspect.

The term 'General Practitioner' (GP) was introduced in the 1820s, and the Medical Act of 1858 established state registration of qualified doctors, and set up the General Medical Council to govern them. Medical men had traditionally enjoyed high status and social respect, but by 1875 country GPs were fighting to establish themselves in a social hierarchy with a large number of newly-qualified legal and medical practitioners. Partnership was an idea which GPs still treated with suspicion. Specialists represented a growing threat to their livelihood.

GPs were battling with each other for patients, and for a niche market in each town, as increasing numbers of newly-qualified doctors emerged from medical schools. There was also a variety of unqualified assistants and prescribing chemists, as well as homeopaths, and some quack doctors and other charlatans. Patient lists had to be built up and nurtured carefully over many years. Younger sons often followed their father's footsteps, and there were many multi-generational family practices, thus strengthening a sense of territory and reputation.

By 1875 three doctors served Uppingham and its surrounding community. This level of provision (*c1:870*) does not suggest a shortage of medical expertise; the ratio of medical men per head of national population at the time was just under one to 1,700. The competition for custom may well have been intense between Augustus Walford (aged 54), Frederick Brown (40), brother of W H Brown, the Union clerk, and Thomas Bell (39) who was the

most recently trained. Bell held both LRCP and MRCS qualifications dating from 1861; Walford and Brown were only qualified in surgery and as apothecaries (MRCS and LSA). In addition to his medical practice, Walford was responsible for medical matters at the workhouse and was the town's public vaccinator.

Thomas Bell was the third generation of his family to practice medicine in the town. With a wife and four children aged between 4 and 9, he lived right alongside the school boarding houses that would be typhoid stricken, in High Street West. He would have felt all the economic and territorial



*Fig. 6. Dr Alfred Haviland, Medical Officer of Health  
(Frost 1914)*

pressures which faced GPs, and he had an emotional (as well as professional) attachment to the school: the fifth of seven brothers who all passed through it, he had entered it as a day-boy in Dr Holden's time (1846), when he was scarcely nine years old. Apart from a few years in London at medical school, he would spend the whole of his life living within a few yards of the school.

There were those who praised Bell's support for Thring, and his 'calm judgement (and) unfailing care' – although others criticised his actions during the typhoid outbreak as initially uncomprehending and later defensive. A shy man, it is likely that he was a conscientious practitioner, but not a high-flying one. He had outside interests – notably a keen interest in natural history – but he lived for his work

(ULHSG 2002, 11; obituary, *School Magazine*, 1914). The arrival of the forceful Haviland to investigate the school typhoid outbreak in 1875 threatened not only Bell's position as school doctor, but also his livelihood and reputation in the town.

The network of MOHs in rural areas was a recent creation – arising from the 1872 Public Health Act. They had to be qualified medical practitioners, but their skill and knowledge was highly variable – as was their determination and zeal. Some were barely adequate to the task; others were men of substance, intelligence and iron determination, almost messianic in challenging local employers and councils to put money into improvements. Haviland was one of the latter (his appointment being financed by the Uppingham RSA joining forces with others in the Northampton area to make a joint appointment).

Haviland was also a man frustrated by the premature ending of his own surgical career after an operating accident. A pioneer in the art of medical mapping, he was a tireless writer and lecturer – mostly on topics related to climate and disease. He frequently courted controversy; indeed in many ways he seems to have thrived on it. In the two years since his appointment, he had made a strong impact on his new area, identifying its disease patterns and geographical areas of concern.

Haviland's report on the state of the school, its houses and its sanatorium was critical of Bell both explicitly and implicitly. They clashed repeatedly both over the causes of the epidemic and the measures needed to tackle it, and the ferocity of Haviland's attacks helps to explain why Bell spent so much of the subsequent months during Thring's absence at Borth acting as the school's eyes and ears around the town, and harrying the guardians into greater activity – and why he wrote more than once to Thring asking for reassurance that his position would be safe once the school returned.

Bell's actions can only be fully understood against the background of this 'medical market'. Moreover, there is an additional dimension to his fears for his livelihood, in the shape of Dr Christopher Childs, one of the school's former pupils whom Thring recruited to go to Borth as the school's sanitary officer there. Bell's *Letterbook* shows that he harboured a longstanding suspicion that Childs was out to supplant him in the school when it went off to Wales, and to take away his patients in the town once the school returned. The fear was not entirely misplaced, although it vanished when (shortly after the school's return) Childs fell in love with Thring's daughter, Margaret. She was much younger than he; Childs broke a promise not to court her, and was summarily dismissed.

Bell remained in general practice in Uppingham;

he secured the post of school's sanitary officer (in addition to his medical responsibilities) after the departure of Childs, and eventually became medical officer of the Workhouse and public vaccinator too, on the retirement of Dr Walford. For many years he was a JP and churchwarden. He died less than a month before World War I broke out (11th July 1914), respected and much mourned. But forty years earlier, he could not have taken such high esteem – or economic security – for granted.

#### **Divided loyalties, and conflicts of interest**

For those caught up in these events, there were divided loyalties and potential conflicts of role. Ties of long-standing individual friendship were put at risk – for example, between Rector William Wales of the RSA and two school masters, the Rev William Earle (Thring's right-hand man) and the Rev R J Hodgkinson (who ran the Lower School so badly affected by the epidemic). Wales had been in charge of the parish church for nearly twenty years (1858); no doubt he had to work closely with his two churchwardens, William Compton (a wine merchant) and John Mould (a farmer and grazier), who had assisted him throughout all but one year of that time. There was also an established network of sidesmen, including Henry Kirby, George Foster and Dr Bell. Compton in particular would later end up having to put a longstanding loyalty to the test.

Wales was also President of the Mutual Improvement Society, designed to strengthen links between town and school; his Vice-President was John Hawthorn, who (as bookseller and printer) printed service sheets for the church as well as exam papers for the school. J C Guy was its Secretary; he was Manager of the Uppingham branch of the Stamford and Spalding Bank, one of three banks in the town, as well as being agent to a further four insurance providers and clerk to the school trustees. The Treasurer was Charles White, an ironmonger on High Street East who was to play a dramatic part in the 1876 local elections – and one of which Wales surely disapproved.

Two of the town's law firms were involved in a substantial range of activities beyond purely legal work: their potential conflicts of interest must have been unusually complex (ULHSG 2001, 26). First and foremost they were stewards for the two local manors. The Sheild family practice of William, William Thomas and Robert (with John Pateman in partnership) acted for the Manor of Preston and Uppingham held by the Noel family. William Sheild had worked in the town for three decades but lived in Wing, where he had inherited property. He was clerk to the magistrates and to the county courts, and also solicitor and superintendent registrar of the



*Fig. 7. A postcard depicting the Workhouse during its period as a First World War Auxiliary Hospital  
(Rutland County Museum, Hart Collection)*

Uppingham Union – a freehold and copyhold property owner of some substance, who also acted as a money-lender. He and his partners held a string of local posts as variously clerk to the justices, commissioner, registrar, bailiff, coroner, treasurer, and turnpike trustee. William Thomas Sheild and John Pateman were between them agents for no fewer than five insurance companies – presumably in competition with those linked to Guy. William Sheild was a guardian, whereas Pateman, his partner, was a strong school supporter. William Henry Brown acted for the Rectory Manor. He came from a long-standing Uppingham family, and was the third generation of his firm to work in the town. He was clerk to the guardians and the RSA, as well as clerk to the workhouse and commissioner to the supreme court of judicature.

Both law firms lent money and carried out extensive property transactions, which also involved arranging mortgages for clients, many of whom ran shops and small businesses. Both William Sheild and W H Brown were also board members of the Uppingham Gas Company. Their daily work would have given them a detailed knowledge of their clients' financial affairs, as well as local influence and considerable local patronage. Both had once been pupils at the school.

It needs little imagination to picture the professional and personal pressures on many of these figures. Some had an instinctive loyalty towards either school or sanitary committee; some had to balance their working knowledge of the financial

pressures on individuals with their sense that the town had to improve itself. Some no doubt had fears for the future, if they held land from the Rector, whose influence in both real and less tangible ways extended so widely: a godly man perhaps, but one not lightly to be crossed.

Nor was Thring a man to trifle with, where the shopkeepers were concerned. While no specific evidence has emerged of traders keen to replace rivals as suppliers to the school and its houses, this must have been an additional dimension. Thring had power to put some of their premises out of bounds if they failed to back him. But for many of them, their interests as traders in speeding up the reforms needed to secure the school's return conflicted with their financial aspirations as ratepayers not to allow the guardians to be too ambitious.

#### *The traders' decisive intervention*

How, in the end, did the traders' desire for reform overcome their instinct for retrenchment – to the extent that the RSA's hand was forced?

Thring's decision to remove the school was a gamble. He calculated that by this action he could 'persuade' the shopkeepers to bring pressure to bear on the RSA, both for better drainage and a mains water supply. The time away had to be short, because any prolonged absence would bankrupt him and his staff (with the trustees declining to make more than token payments towards its costs) and would presume too much on the continuing patience and loyalty of existing and new parents.



Edward Thring

Fig. 8. The Rev Edward Thring  
(Uppingham School Archives)

Smith and Wales calculated differently. For them, the priorities were to keep the ratepayers loyal and quiescent, while working to put improvements in place – but only when the correct plans, procedures and tendering arrangements had been carried out, to the letter. With luck, costs would meanwhile force Thring to make a premature and humiliating return. Past events suggested that they might be right; there appears to be little evidence of the traders forcing the sanitary pace in the years up to 1875. When they had made complaints about the state of the town back in 1857 (MH12/9815), it had been Thring and the housemasters who had made all the subsequent running.

In March 1876, after the third typhoid outbreak and with the school now actively preparing for possible departure elsewhere (fig. 9), the prospect of trade lost by the school's absence at last began to sink into the minds of local tradesmen. The traders demanded that the RSA allow ratepayers to attend the guardians' next meeting. Documents in the school archive, together with the account in Bell's *Letterbook* show that the RSA attempted to head off the move by saying that it was due to meet a LGB inspector at that meeting, so the traders' idea should 'stand over'. Undeterred, the same protesters sent a second petition, this time to the churchwardens,

calling for a ratepayers' meeting to discuss what sanitary improvements the town might need. The signatories represented a remarkable cross-section of local shopkeepers and suppliers of food, stationery and other services.

The meeting (on 23rd March) appears to have been heated; rumours were spreading that the RSA might be planning its own water supply at a price which would undercut Thring's scheme. The prospect of low prices might be welcome, but what smacked of a spoiling operation against the school on the part of the RSA was not.

Four motions were passed: firstly that a private water company was preferable to one organised by the RSA; secondly that a surface supply would not do; thirdly that the meeting disapproved of any spending by the Authority on plans for a surface supply; and finally that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the LGB. With great satisfaction, Dr Bell sent it on the following day.

It is significant, however, that the traders again left it to Bell and the housemasters to make the running at this meeting – and that there was no immediate follow-up to it; the shopkeepers proved insufficiently strident or determined to carry their protest through. This may well have been a source of encouragement to the RSA in its determination not to be rushed by Thring; they were confident that Thring had over-reached himself, and they knew that the trustees were not prepared to put large-scale finance into the scheme. Mrs Bell recorded in the *Letterbook* that 'some of the guardians and their supporters were saying that nothing would be done, and Mr Thring would have to bring the school back to the Town as he left it'. However, the seeds of revolt had been sown. This became apparent in the extraordinary pantomime of the Authority's local elections, which offered both sides a chance to test local opinion, but also exposed them to potential rejection at the polls. For the school, Dr Bell and solicitor Pateman were candidates to displace sitting members. Brown (whose role as clerk to the RSA included running the election) intended to make no allowance, when deciding the length of time between sending out voting papers and holding the count, for the time it would take for the masters at Borth to return their papers. Thus they risked being disenfranchised. Archival material shows that the election then became a procedural battle of wits. The RSA decided to send out the ballot papers to the school houses at the last possible moment allowed in law.

Bell got wind of this. Supporters followed Brown round to each empty boarding house as he delivered the voting slips. They collected them up, and passed them to Charles White, the ironmonger. Joseph

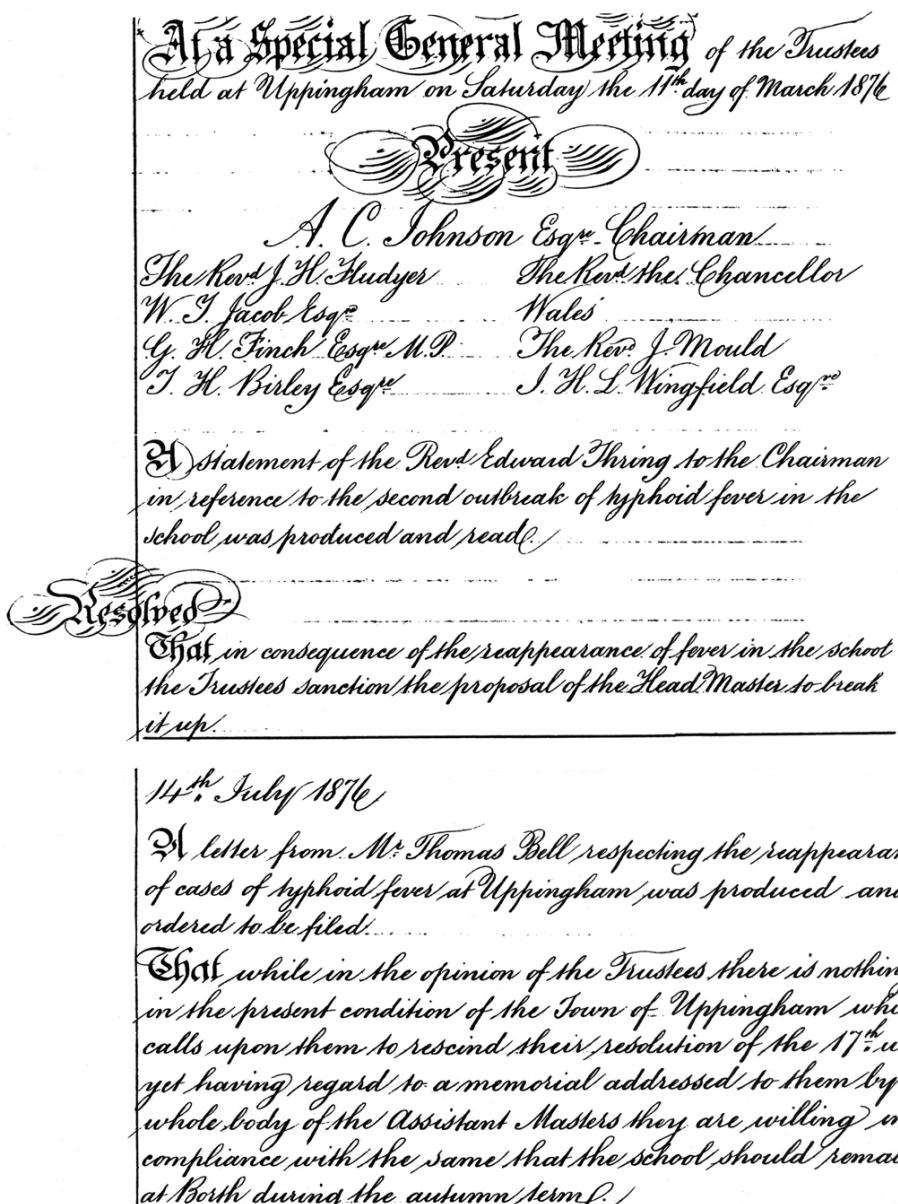


Fig. 9. Extracts from the Minutes of the school's trustees recording the decisions to break up on 11th March 1876 and to leave the school at Borth for the autumn term 1876 (Uppingham School Archives)

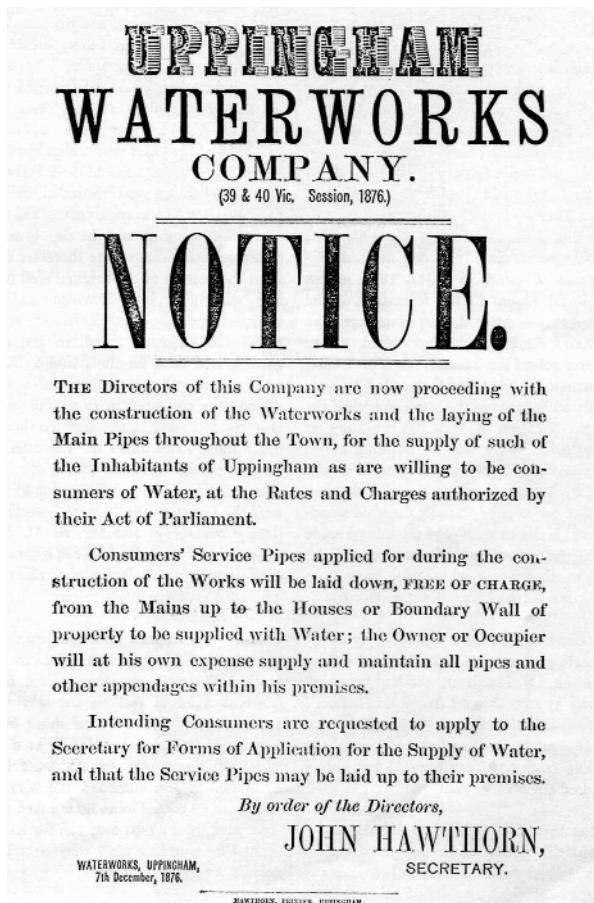
Woodcock (arguably the most active guardian opposed to Barnard Smith) provided a dogcart and a pair of horses, and White was taken straight to Rugby station where he caught the last train of the day to Borth. It was a slow one, and he had to travel all night, but on arrival at Borth in the early morning, he found Thring and all the masters on the platform, with tables, pens and ink at the ready.

Mrs Thring had provided breakfast for White to eat on the platform, and within a few minutes he was on the return train to Rugby. There he was met again by Woodcock – who managed to hand in the voting papers in Uppingham with fifteen minutes to spare. It proved to have been a worthwhile journey. After a few days of dispute over a number of doubtful or

spoilt ballot papers, several opponents of the school were voted off. Their replacements included Bell; the balance of view within the guardians was shifting markedly.

By mid-summer, it had become increasingly clear that the town improvements would not be ready for the school to return in September, and the trustees' inclination to instruct Thring to do so was overtaken by a scattering of new typhoid cases in the town itself. With no obvious timescale for drainage works in place, the traders began to become very agitated. They were given ammunition by an inspection visit from a Major Tulloch, sent by the LGB to check out the case for an improvement loan. When he went out to see the evidence, it was a hot July day. 'The drains

luckily stank on that day their best', according to Bell (*Letterbook*): 'Major Tulloch said the state of the place was a scandal and that the works must be done. His duties took him to many queer places, but he had never been in one so openly foul'. Even now, there was no major revolt; Thring wrote in his diary: 'Sundry of the townspeople (it was but small) spoke pleasantly of the school, and money statistics were advanced without contradiction to show how much the town gained by the school' (Parkin 1898, Vol 2, 59).



*Fig. 10. The Waterworks Company's notice concerning the laying of water pipes through the town in 1878  
(Uppingham School Archives)*

As the procedural delays continued, the shopkeepers were finally prepared to act decisively. The extent to which agricultural recession was already being felt (and instances of individual business bankruptcies) is hard to pin down, but the prospects were real enough. There was a renewed demand by local residents that Barnard Smith meet a ratepayers' deputation, representing no fewer than 75 others. The memorial (petition) they had drawn up pulled no punches:

*We the undersigned ratepayers believe... that our interests will be seriously damaged by any*

*further delay in improving the sewerage: that any addition to the long delay that has already elapsed must add heavily to the pecuniary loss, inconvenience, and suffering which many of them have already undergone, and will imperil the existence of the school upon its present important scale, and prove a deep and lasting injury to the ratepayers and owners of property in the parish*

*(Stamford Mercury 25th August 1876)*

The deputation was led by John Hawthorn, who would have felt the school's continuing (or even permanent) absence as keenly as anyone. His principal supporters were William Compton and William Garner Hart, a High Street grocer. Compton's intervention was highly significant; it was he who had led the call for improvements back in 1857, and as churchwarden and a prominent church benefactor, he was one of the few town traders who was not a dissenter – perhaps the only person who could have called Wales to order. That he did so publicly suggests that his patience was at an end.

The deputation met with Barnard Smith and Wales on 13th August. Forced by the weight of protest to drop their opposition to the water company, Wales then lost his temper, and said that the Authority would not be pressurised into action. Compton replied: 'Come Mr Wales, don't spoil it, we are all harmonious now'; others joined in so the Rector shut up, contenting himself with telling Mr Hawthorn, 'that he hoped now he (Hawthorn) would use his best influence to bring about a more charitable and peaceful feeling in the parish'. Hawthorn replied that he would leave it 'to someone more influential than himself' to carry out that process. With uncharacteristic boldness, he also reminded the Rector of the extent of public concern: 'the memorial was too fully signed to please the Rector and his friends' (Bell to Jacob, 13th August 1876, *Letterbook*).

It was the turning point; within ten days the RSA had at last accepted a tender for the sanitary works needed – although not until there had been a second angry meeting at which ratepayers (again led by Hawthorn), protested against all the delays – and Wales again lost his temper. In the end, Thring was proved right in reckoning that the school's absence would concentrate minds on the economic consequences before his own ability to fund the school's absence ran out.

#### *The aftermath: were there any real winners?*

What were the economic consequences for school and town in the years after the school's return? Thring found himself deeply in debt, and asked the trustees for help. They showed scant sympathy and played for time, initially criticising Thring for poor

*Uppingham's typhoid outbreak*



*Fig. 11. The High Street decorated to welcome the school back to Uppingham in 1877. The banner reads, 'One Heart, One Way'; others, all facing the way the school would come along the street from the railway station, read 'Welcome Home', 'Flourish School, Flourish Town, ', and 'Uppingham School - Good Name Lives for Ever' (Hilary Crowden)*



*Fig. 12. Uppingham School buildings, including the Chapel and, on the right, boys' studies, as depicted by the art master Charles Rossiter in Edward Thring's Borth Lyrics (1881)*



*Fig. 13. The west end of Uppingham High Street, as photographed by Dolby Bros of Stamford in the early twentieth century (Rutland County Museum, Hart Collection)*

accounting procedures and then merely forming 'a committee of investigation' (Trustees' minute book, June 1877).

They believed that the debt could be gradually reduced by an increase in the number of boarders – something which they must have known Thring would strongly oppose. The argument dragged on for some months before they agreed to grant limited payments to Thring and a long list of masters, totalling just over £3,000 – only a small proportion of the Borth costs (Trustees' minute book, October 1877).

Thring had meanwhile contacted the charity commissioners in April 1878, urging that all the Borth expenses should fall on the trustees. He wrote with passion about how the school had been built up through the financial contributions which he and the masters had made. He suggested that the loss to himself and the masters of the autumn 1875 epidemic alone totalled nearly £4,000 in lost fees. Hard on the heels of this had come the cost of the sanitary improvements to the houses. After the March 1876 outbreak there had been the additional expense of the move to Borth, whose costs he estimated at over £3,000 – to which the Trustees had contributed a mere £250. Another £300 had been given 'from within the school itself' (presumably by masters and other supporters).

He tried to show that the houses could not increase their boarder capacity. He believed that an additional sum of at least £20,000 needed to be

invested in plant and equipment if Uppingham was to function properly. His conclusion was that the tuition fee needed to be raised from £30 to £40.

The trustees, fearful at the financial consequences if the commissioners were to back Thring's petition, then tried again to evade all responsibility. The commissioners decisively rejected this (in a letter of 20th June 1878, now in the school archives), and agreed to the suggested fee increase. They added that it was highly desirable in the longer term that the school should buy up the houses from the masters. This took time: not until after the Great War did the school begin buying them from their owners so that new housemasters would not have to bear the burden of purchasing them from their predecessors (Graham 1932, 161-62), and from 1946 it steadily ended the arrangement whereby house-masters drew profits as boarding-house keepers. Henceforth they would be paid a salary instead (Matthews 1984, 180-81). The school's financial affairs were becoming steadily more complex; J C Guy remained as clerk to the trustees until 1909, but a year later, the school appointed its first Bursar.

It seems certain that the masters never recouped much of the money expended during the move to Borth. Thring died a poor man; when his wife followed, his five children inherited barely £500 between them.

The consequences for the town's ratepayers were equally severe. After another typhoid scare in 1878,

the new sewerage arrangements worked well – but the ratepayers could not escape the costs. The parliamentary local taxation returns for Uppingham in comparison with the neighbouring Unions for the years 1874-82 show revealingly the extent to which the Uppingham RSA strained itself and its local community in an effort to effect the necessary improvements. In those years, the loan which it was struggling to repay was of a size exceeded in only twenty or so RSAs throughout the whole of England and Wales, most of which were markedly larger in terms of rateable value. Uppingham's spending on both sewerage and water provision compares well with the surrounding Authorities, and the acceleration in its activity during 1874-83 compares very favourably with, for example, the almost static picture in Stamford (Parliamentary Local Taxation returns).

Thus the property owners of Uppingham had to pay dearly for their improvements – and for the loans taken out to finance them. On this issue, Barnard Smith and Wales, who had warned so often about the burdens of sanitary reform falling on hard-pressed ratepayers, and who had been so roundly condemned by Thring for doing so, had been proved right after all. One group did prosper, however. Although the water company was to be dogged by technical problems during its first twenty years of operation, as demand increased and the water table simultaneously dropped, its shareholders prospered. By 1900 shares were selling at £6 – six times their 1876 price (*Stamford Mercury*, March 1990: Traylen, *Uppingham*, 26).

#### ***What does Uppingham's experience tell us?***

Clearly, economic aspects form only one part of the story of the Uppingham typhoid saga. But thanks to the combination of records possessed by the school,

the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland and The National Archives, and to the work of the Uppingham Local History Study Group, we have a uniquely detailed study of a rural community in which – once crisis broke – rivalries, fears for the future, pre-existing economic and other tensions threatened to tear apart the personal relationships and local government and economic structure of a very hierarchical local society. It provides a rural case study to complement the extensive work already done on public health development in large urban communities.

This case study also reveals the inadequacy of the local government machinery (both in the localities and at the centre in London) in the crucial period between the Public Health Acts and the setting-up of county councils two decades later, at a time when expectations about public health provision were rising dramatically in the wake of growing scientific research. The burden placed on RSAs by the Health Acts of the 1870s was highly unrealistic, and the obstacles to reform were much greater than has previously been realised.

It demonstrates the professional rivalries of the local doctors, and the social and personal tensions between the town's leading personalities. It shows how slowly the new medical knowledge filtered down from centres of knowledge into the localities – and how critically important such knowledge was, as boarding schools expanded their pupil population. It also demonstrates that the traditional view of these events as the struggle of a victimised school against an incompetent and uncaring town is far too simplistic. It does, however, also confirm the extraordinary conviction and organisational skills of Thring as he steered his school through a challenge unique in scale in the history of Victorian education.

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# Rutlanders in Devon, Norfolk & Warwickshire found in the 1851 Census

AUDREY BUXTON

Thirty years is the usual span allocated to generations by genealogists. When the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints decided to transcribe the census returns, they did a sample of data for 1851 as well as for 1881 (which became the preferred year for the whole country at evaluation, as it linked well with family remembrance), covering the counties of Devon, Norfolk and Warwickshire. I have a copy of this transcript, and thought it would be helpful for those who are interested in Rutland genealogy to find the roots of Rutlanders living in one of these three counties who had moved there between the census of 6th June 1841 and that of 30th March 1851.

The Mormon index for the 1851 census can be sorted by birthplace as well as by surname and nominal age, and I found the names of 26 people said to have been born in Rutland who had moved: four to Devon, twelve to Norfolk and ten to Warwickshire (Table 1). Given that this index was made by people unfamiliar with the names not only of the individuals (some of whom would have been unable to read or write, so could not have disputed what was written by enumerators who seemed to have their own problems with spelling and geography) but

also of places, readers will understand the difficulties in tracking down some birthplaces. For instance, what are we to make of 'Whea, Rutland' or 'Rutland, Shropshire' for that matter? In one instance there were two children born in 'LEC', but the Chapman Code, which identifies counties by three-letter groups, does not have this grouping. Leicester (LEI) was a possibility, but I could not find the family without an address for reference, particularly as the father was born in Staffordshire.

The other main difficulty is that it may be impossible to trace married women where only a notional year of birth is on offer (i.e., a birthday could have been celebrated any time between 31st March 1850 and census day). Only 'age at last birthday' was asked for, and even then the age may have been given incorrectly.

Below is the full list of people by name, probable birth year, birthplace and census place, including one other female who did not show up in the initial trawl. This person, discovered when searching the detailed data, was Harriet Chambers (No. 6) a visitor to No. 16. She does not appear in the original list, but I have added her in alphabetical order.

1.	Andrews, Mary	Servant	1813	Ketton	Stratford on Avon WAR
2.	Boss, Thomas	Head	1823	Luffenham	West Lynn St Peter NOR
3.	Broom, Ann	Head	1809	Cottesmore	North Elmham NOR
4.	Browne, Mary	Servant	1815	Market Overton	Garboldisham NOR
5.	Carby, John	Servant	1811	Hempingham [sic]	Exmoor DEV
6.	Chambers, Harriet	Visitor	1826	Rutland RUT	Birmingham WAR
7.	Chapman, Thom. Freeman	Head	1791	Barrowden	Brancaster NOR
8.	Cranford, Rebecca	Wife	1811	Rutland LIN [?]	Warwick St Mary WAR
9.	Daale, Amos	Lodger	1830	Sefferham [sic]	Birmingham WAR
10.	Drummond, Ann	Head	1789	Oakham	Birmingham WAR
11.	Healey, John	Servant	1821	Barroden [sic]	Exmoor DEV
12.	Hewlett, Margaret	Wife	1811	Barrowdon [sic]	Plympton St Maurice DEV
13.	Jackson, William	Servant	1830	Uppingham	Kings Lynn St Margaret NOR
14.	James, Mary	Mother	1771	Whea, RUT [?]	Outwell NOR
15.	Jefferys, Mary	Sister-in-law	1786	Rutland RUT [?]	Norwich St Stephen NOR
16.	Jones, Mary Ann	Wife	1814	Rutland SHR [?]	Birmingham WAR
17.	Long, Charlotte	Wife	1807	Rutland NOR [?]	Sprowston NOR
18.	Pole, George G.	Head	1805	Oakham	Birmingham WAR
19.	Smith, John	Head	1793	Bettow [?]	Birmingham WAR
20.	Smith, Richard	Servant	1824	Rutland RUT [?]	Snitterfield WAR
21.	Sprigg, Celia	Servant	1835	Branston [sic]	Chilvers Coton WAR
22.	Twite, Mary Ann	Wife	1816	Pickworth	Grimstone NOR
23.	Tylor (Wilson), Harriot	Daughter	1833	Loddington RUT*	Terrington St Clement NOR
24.	Tylor (Wilson), William	Son	1834	Loddington RUT*	Terrington St Clement NOR
25.	Ward, John	Head	1790	North Luffenham	Walpole St Peter NOR
26.	Willcox, Christopher	Head	1791	Upingham [sic]	Aston WAR
27.	Youle, Ann	Wife	1793	Brook [sic]	Exeter St Sidwell DEV

Table 1. Rutlanders in the 1851 Census (Index © 1997 IRI, used by permission)

1. **Mary Andrews**, unmarried. Ketton parish registers searched from 1812. Children of William/Alice, John/Susanna, James/Hannah did not include a Mary in any year close to 1813: not found.
2. **Thomas Boss** was born at North Luffenham, baptised 27th April 1823, son of Joseph (shoemaker) and Mary.
3. **Ann Broom**, a married woman who was housekeeper at North Elmham Hall in Mitford Hundred, was not found at Cottesmore nor in the Rutland Marriage Index. Unfortunately her husband is not in the list of servants nor are there any other members of the Broom family in the parish, so we do not know his first name. Perhaps the relevant 1841 census for Norfolk would be useful in this respect.
4. **Mary Browne**, an unmarried servant said to have been born in Market Overton around 1815, is equally elusive. There is only one child of this name in the relevant period, but that Mary, daughter of Robert and Ann, was baptised on 27th December 1812, somewhat early unless her age had been estimated.
5. **John Carby**, horse-keeper, born at Empingham around 1811, is not in the parish register but could be John Corby, son of Adam and Jane, baptised 20th February 1813, although this is a little late. Adam and Jane Corby had no family living with them in 1841. John and a friend, John Healey (see No. 11) were on Harsers Farm, Exmoor and probably went there together.
6. **Harriet Chambers**, unmarried, a general servant and visitor to the Jones family (see No. 16), aged 25, is given merely as born in 'Rutland'.
7. **Thomas Freeman Chapman** from Barrowden, an inn-keeper, son of Freeman and Mary Chapman, was baptised there on 10th October 1790.
8. **Rebecca Cranford**, wife of Henry, was not found. The vague reference to her birthplace suggested that she was born in Lincolnshire, particularly as a female visitor was from Tetford LIN; this was confirmed by Devon CRO.
9. **Amos Daale** was revealed as Amos, son of Ralph (a smith) and Ann Dale at South Luffenham, baptised there on 14th June 1829.
10. **Ann Drummond**, a married governess, appears alone at the census address. A general search for 'Drummond' in Birmingham does not show any husband or family; therefore – sadly – not found.
11. **John Healey** (see No. 5, John Carby), 10 years younger and a shepherd, is also working at Harsers Farm. He appears to be the son of John (labourer) and Mary Healey, baptised at Barrowden on 25th June 1820.
12. **Margaret Hewlett** was the wife of William and also from Barrowden, but not married there. No child was baptised 'Margaret' in the parish register during 1811.
13. **William Jackson**, a servant, is the son of John (chairmaker) and Mary, daughter of Robert and Mary Berridge, living in Stockerston Road, Uppingham in 1841. He was baptised in the Methodist church there on 28th November 1829, having been born on 23rd November.
14. **Mary James**, widow, born c. 1771. Apart from the difficulty of translating 'Whea' into anything other than Teigh, the son with whom she was living was born around 1807 in Outwell NOR; therefore a check on the parish registers there could prove useful.
15. **Mary Jefferys**, widowed sister-in-law of the head of household Elizabeth Copeman – herself a widow – may have been a Copeman. There are no Jefferys or Copeman grooms married in Rutland 1754-1837. The surname Jefferys and variants is common in Norfolk.
16. **Mary Ann Jones**, wife of Joseph, is said intriguingly to have been born in 'Rutland, Shropshire' which is a new one! Aged 37, she had an unmarried visitor (see No. 6: Harriet Chambers) also 'born in Rutland'. The words 'needle' and 'haystack' come to mind for these two ladies...
17. ... and for **Charlotte Long**, wife of John, who was from 'Rutland, Norfolk'! A search for their daughter Elizabeth, born in Sprowston NOR c. 1830, might prove useful.
18. **George Godfrey Pole**, born in Oakham and baptised on 11th January 1805, was the son of George, born on 10th July 1771 and baptised at Oakham Bargate with his younger siblings. The register does not give any denomination other than 'Independent'.
19. **John Smith** of 'Bettow' proved to be from Belton rather than Barrow, and was the son of Robert and Elizabeth, baptised there on 3rd November 1793.
20. **Richard Smith**, aged 27, has only 'Rutland' as his birthplace. Again, not found as yet.
21. **Celia Sprigg**, an unmarried servant from Braunston aged 16, was the daughter of William (wheelwright) and Emma Spriggs, baptised as Cicely on 19th October 1834, having been born nine days earlier (Fig. 1).
22. **Mary Ann Twite** from Pickworth, aged 35 and married to James, is yet another failure. She was not married in Rutland; a search of the baptism registers in Pinchbeck LIN c. 1838 for Eliza, or Grimstone NOR 1842-46 is recommended, which may reveal their other two children Henry and Betsy.
- 23-24. **Harriot and William Tylor / Wilson**. These two were listed as the children of Robert Wilson. Clearly this was incorrect as Robert would have been only ten years old when Harriot was born. The parish register showed that they were the son and daughter of Matthew Simpson Tyler (grazier) and his wife Jane, both having been born in Loddington, Leicestershire in 1832 and 1834 respectively, and evidently were Jane's children by her first husband, who was buried there on 27th November 1834 aged 31 years, eight months after William's baptism.
25. **John Ward** was not found at either North or South Luffenham. There were children of William and Elizabeth Ward being baptised in North Luffenham around this period, but no John.
26. **Christopher Willcox**, born around 1791, does not appear in the baptisms register. The only child with this

surname around this time is Christian, son of Mary (single woman), baptised on 21st November 1792.

27. *Ann Youle*, born around 1793 in Brooke. This was another difficult one, as her husband was from Nottinghamshire and their visitor was from Yorkshire, so no clue there. It is possible that she was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Kemp, baptised on 11th March 1792: there are no other baptisms of an Ann in this period at Brooke.

Where the women were married I looked for the ceremony in Rutland, and found only that a John Youle married Ann Woods of Lyndon in 1810 by Licence; but this groom was from Hull, Yorkshire: neither of these places ties in with their stated birthplaces. However, it should not be dismissed: during my on-going trawl of Marriage Licences issued to Rutland couples I have been amazed by the distances between the abodes of many brides and grooms, which are, again, not necessarily where they were born. Nor should we assume that the birthplaces they gave were accurate; in my own family I have a female ancestor who says she was born in Northumberland in 1841, and in Scotland in 1851.

I drew a blank on every other married woman except one, given that the answers may well be found in Norfolk, Warwickshire or elsewhere. Unfortunately, in these money-driven days, it is extremely rare for any County Record Office to carry out detailed research for nothing, and I received no specifically useful information from either Warwickshire or Norfolk, although I thank them for their interest and advice. Where any of the individuals I found were living in either of these counties I would be extremely interested to hear from any reader who has connections, or any information additional to that which I was able to find about the listed people and their families. So far as the Devon connection was concerned, however, I had a wonderful response from Jan Wood at the Exeter CRO who gave me a great deal of information about Henry Cranford and his wife Rebecca (No. 8) who was revealed to have been born in Telford in Lincolnshire – not Rutland after all. Anyone connected with this family is welcome to contact me for more of the details she very kindly sent me, including Henry's career.

Several of those I was not able to find may have had a non-conformist background. Unfortunately very few registers held at Wigston cover the probable birth years. Ketton Independent chapel (founded 1822) covers only 1823-1837, the combined register 1798-1836 for the General Baptist chapels at Morcott (founded 1710) and Barrowden (founded 1819?) includes baptisms of residents from Northamptonshire villages, while Oakham Baptist chapel has births 1766-1835 and burials 1786-1827. 'Bar-Gates Independent Meeting House' in Oakham was founded in 1727 but the register begins in 1786. Fortunately, the minister recorded some names

from the old register in alphabetical order, the earliest in 1759. Oakham Methodist chapel was founded in 1816 and has burials and baptisms from 1816 to 1837. At Uppingham, the register for the Independent Ebenezer chapel, founded in 1717, runs from 1785 to 1837 and covers the births and baptisms of people in other villages (as do some of the others) including Caldecott, Lyddington and Preston, Wakerley (Northamptonshire) and Hallaton (Leicestershire).

In putting together this article I am grateful for permission to use the index, published in 1997 and compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, whose services to genealogy are unsurpassed. This was my starting point. I had to use some imagination to locate the possible answers where the birthplaces were recorded incorrectly.

The surviving records of relevant non-conformist churches were searched in addition to parish registers for Rutland and Leicestershire, the 1841 census returns for Rutland (in which many ages are rounded up or down to the nearest five years), and the marriage index compiled by the Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society for the period 1754-1837. This is published by them and is available for purchase in six parts either on-line or from their bookshop, c/o 87 High Street, Leicester, LE1 4JB. The reference for the Rutland non-conformist film is R.46. All these are to be found in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The Marriage Licences index held at Northamptonshire County Record Office is to be found in 54 boxes and covers both Northamptonshire and Rutland, indexed by groom and bride. Devon's main CRO is in Exeter and Norfolk registers are deposited at the Central Library, Norwich. Warwickshire's main office is in Warwick, but there are Birmingham records in the Reference Library, Birmingham. All these sources were consulted. There is one other possibility which I have not explored: local newspapers may have recorded the births and/or marriages of some of these individuals, although few of less prominent families appear prior to 1800.

My thanks also to the archivists at Kew, Northampton and Wigston; in particular the great help I have had from Dr. Margaret Bonney, both for her invaluable suggestions as well as checking the above for me for any errors or omissions.

<i>Dr:</i>		<i>Cicely,</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Braunston</i>	<i>Charles Colle</i>
<i>Oct:</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>and</i>		
<i>No. 339.</i>		<i>Emma late Spriggs</i>	<i>Spriggs</i>		<i>Mrs</i>

Fig. 1 The entry for Cicely Spriggs in the register of baptisms for Braunston in 1834 (ROLLR)

# Rutland History and Archaeology in 2004 and 2005

Edited by T H McK CLOUGH

The following abbreviations are used in this section:

APS	Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9RW	RLHRS	Rutland Local History & Record Society <i>Rutland Record</i>
LHS	Leicestershire Heritage Services, Room 500, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8TE	RR	Leicestershire & Rutland Sites & Monuments Record (Leicestershire Heritage Services)
RCM	Rutland County Museum	SMR	University of Leicester Archaeological Services, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

## I - Archaeological Fieldwork during 2004 and 2005

Short reports, arranged in alphabetical order by parish

### Ashwell, South View Farm, Brookdene (SK 866136)

On behalf of E Sheriff (Rearsby) Ltd, APS carried out a watching brief in 2004 during development in the historic core of Ashwell. However, archaeological remains were restricted to an undated but apparently recent pit and no artefacts were retrieved. Archive to be held by LHS.

Michael Wood

survey was undertaken as it takes many seasons to reduce a site to such a metal-free state....'

As the team continued fieldwalking east of the 'Damme Field' the quantity of archaeological material lying on top of the plough soil diminished: no more Iron Age sherds, only a little Roman and Saxon, no more Stamford Ware, and very little medieval or post-medieval

### Ayston parish east to Wing Burrows (SK 8700)

The RLHRS Archaeological Team's fieldwalking survey in the parish of Ayston continued through the winters of 2003-04 and 2004-05, completing much of the arable along the ridge from the A6003 Oakham road towards Wing Burrows in the east. At the team's request, a metal detector survey of the 'Damme Field' (*Rutland Record* 23 (2003), 130) was conducted by the Ambion Historical and Archaeological Research Group in September 2004. Their conclusions, as reported by Steven J Houghton, make disappointing reading. He states (*in litt*) that the 'fact that Roman and medieval coins plus Anglo-Saxon beads had been found on the field by the fieldwalkers, only using their eyes, was greatly encouraging as from past experience finds of this nature are rarely made without the aid of more sophisticated equipment. These early finds seemed to indicate that there could be a large amount of metalwork waiting to be recovered which would greatly add to the wealth of information already obtained about the site via fieldwalking.'

'Once the detector survey commenced it soon became evident that this was not the case. Romano-British finds were virtually non-existent, and given the large amounts of Roman pottery present this was strange, in fact metal finds were strangely thin on the ground.'

'One point of interest was that if we left the grid and the main area of the site then metal finds began to appear with more frequency as we moved further away from the Roman pottery scatter....'

'It seems almost certain that the site has suffered at the hands of "nighthawks" and has been illegally detected on over a number of years ... someone has found evidence of Roman occupation and has systematically detected the field possibly under cover of darkness? We feel that this has to have taken place long before the fieldwalking



Part of a Neolithic sickle or dagger found in 'Top Prettys' by Rob Hutchins and identified by Lynden Cooper (scale in mm)

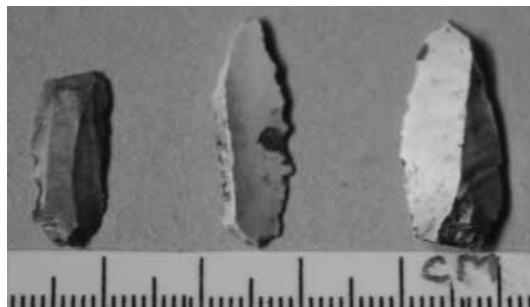
pottery. But the flint scatters were interesting. Although there was a falling off in quantity, tools like Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scrapers and arrowheads were there, as were Mesolithic and rare (?) Palaeolithic pieces (RLHRS R47, R49-54 incl).

Elaine Jones (RLHRS) with contributions from Lynden Cooper (ULAS) and Richard Knox (LHS)

### Ayston, Poor Field (SK 861070)

Possible Late Palaeolithic and Early Mesolithic flints around 10,000-12,000 years old and dating from the end of the last ice age were amongst some 860 pieces found by the RLHRS Archaeological Team during fieldwalking in January 2005. The material was concentrated around a spring issuing from the porous Northampton Sand of the Uppingham plateau.

Although not all the material has yet been identified,



*Three obliquely truncated points from the 'Poor Field', Ayston, indicative of the Early Mesolithic (scale in mm)*

Lynden Cooper notes that typological study suggests that the majority is Mesolithic but earlier and later material is also present. Two backed blades may be attributed to the Late Upper Palaeolithic. The Mesolithic element includes cores, debitage and tools. The microlith repertoire includes thirteen obliquely truncated points, a trapeze and a crescent. The oblique points probably indicate an Early Mesolithic date (RLHRS R56).

*Lynden Cooper (ULAS) & Elaine Jones (RLHRS)*

**Barrowden, Durant Farm, Main Street (SK 94490002)**  
An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS in 2005 for Mick Hudson Builders in advance of proposed residential development. The work confirmed evidence for medieval settlement in the form of two limestone walls, previously located during evaluation in 2003. Unfortunately the remainder of the area was heavily disturbed by quarry pits. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Matthew Hurford*

**Barrowden, Redhill Farm (SP 927992)**

Development close to cropmarks of an enclosure that perhaps define a prehistoric cemetery was monitored on behalf of C W and R D Tyler by A Clements of APS in 2004. No archaeological remains were identified though post-medieval artefacts were recovered. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Barrowden, Welland Farm, Main Street (SK 949000)**

An archaeological evaluation commissioned by Burghley House Preservation Trust was undertaken at Welland Farm by ULAS in August 2005. Four trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. Excavation revealed possible medieval or post-medieval structural remains in the E half of the site in the form of a limestone wall that was probably part of a building demolished between 1886 and 1900. Fragments of a yard or floor of an unknown date were also revealed during trenching. Two pit features were also partially excavated and may represent quarry pits associated with the construction of buildings in the medieval period. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Matthew Hurford*

**Bisbrooke, St John the Baptist (SP 888995)**

The church was rebuilt in 1871 and, although it incorporates a little old work, is a 'modern' building in the style of the 14th century. In October 2005 there was

an archaeological watch on a trench for gas, water and sewerage connections. This trench cut into the church's W wall and was 300mm wide and 700mm deep. The cut showed that the 'modern' church had been built upon earlier foundations and that the present ground surface had been built up with a stony silt in which were found four Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware potsherds, but no grave bones. Grave bones could be seen on the earlier buried ground surface exposed at the bottom of the trench (RLHRS R58).

*Elaine Jones*

**Cottesmore, Main Street (SK 90361362)**

A Clements of APS carried out a watching brief, for Paul Brook, Building Contractor, during development in the historic core of the village in 2004. A stone wall was revealed and although undated is thought to be associated with an adjacent 18th century cottage. Artefacts of 18th-20th century date occurred abundantly and probably reflect occupation at the site during this time. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Cottesmore, 30 Main Street**

ULAS were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 30 Main Street in 2005. The site was within the historic settlement core of the village and was considered to be of high archaeological potential. Three evaluation trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation but nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

*Gerwyn Richards*

**Empingham, Mill Lane (SK 95770883)**

A watching brief was undertaken in 2005 on the eastern edge of the village and near to previous discoveries of Roman remains by A Clements of APS for Mr Porter. However, no archaeological remains were revealed. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Great Casterton, Home Farm yard, Old Great North Road (TF 000088)**

APS carried out a watching brief in 2005 at the S edge of the Roman town and in an area where medieval and Roman remains, including a burial, had previously been found. However, no archaeological remains were revealed. Additionally, G Taylor of APS undertook a programme of building recording prior to alteration and demolition of structures, some of which are 18th century and listed Grade II. A house, barns and other agricultural ranges, probably mainly of 18th century date, were examined. A range of buildings was added to one of the barns in the late 18th or early 19th century and this, too, was subsequently extended. Additions, used as livestock sheds or for storage, were also made to the house. Major changes had been made to the complex in the latter part of the 20th century, with most of the original openings on the house frontage being replaced by car-port doors and parts of the upper storey and internal walls removed. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Tom Bradley-Lovekin and Gary Taylor*

**Greetham, Main Street (SK 92881434)**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in 2004 by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks associated with a residential development on land at The Meadows on Main Street. There was an undisturbed natural stratum across the site.

*David Leigh*

**Greetham, St Mary's Church (SK 92461467)**

On behalf of St Mary's PCC, APS carried out a watching brief at the medieval church in 2005. A graveyard soil, undated but probably in development since the medieval period, was cut by the foundation for one of the buttresses. The 19th century vestry wall footings were also observed. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Mark Peachey, John Tate and Stephen Jones*

**Greetham, Greetham Quarry Extension (SK 930149)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to Greetham Quarry by ULAS in May and June 2005 for Mineral Surveying Services Ltd on behalf of M Dickerson Ltd. This work followed on from a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that had highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the application area. The evaluation forms part of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed extension of the quarry. Sixteen of the excavated trenches were positioned to target possible features previously identified by the geophysical surveys and eight trenches were located in the blank areas.

Positive results were obtained from thirteen of the targeted trenches excavated, mostly confirming the presence of archaeological features previously suggested by geophysical anomalies. Several features were also identified which had not been detected by geophysics. Primarily these features were pits and ditches, many of which can be dated to the Mid to Late Iron Age. The other eleven trenches did not yield any features or finds, as was generally suggested by the geophysics.

The results suggest that the main focus for archaeological activity is located to the N of the application area where the ditches may form part of a Mid to Late Iron Age enclosure. The sections excavated into the ditches yielded domestic rubbish as well as disarticulated human remains and may relate to the activities of a small farmstead. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*James Harvey*

**Langham, Melton Road (SK 842109)**

Development in the medieval core of the village, and close to prehistoric and Roman remains was monitored on behalf of Rutland Planning by M Woods of APS in 2005. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered but no archaeological remains were identified. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Neil Parker*

**Lyddington, Bedehouse (SP 875970)**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at Lyddington Bedehouse in 2004 during the excavation of trenches in connection with the replacement of underground electric sub-mains cabling. A number of features were uncovered including part of a wall, a

possible hearth and an earth closet. A number of medieval finds were also discovered, including a ridge tile. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Leon Hunt*

**Manton, The Priory, Priory Road (SK 881047)**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS in 2005 on behalf of Mr J Booth during groundworks for the construction of a 1½ storey dwelling house on land adjacent to The Priory, Priory Road.

No previous archaeological work had been undertaken on the site, and the last archaeological fieldwork to have been carried out in Manton appears to have been as long ago as 1996. The brief from the County Archaeologist has identified the area to be of archaeological potential, due to the site's situation within the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of the village. The watching brief revealed stratified archaeological deposits and pottery from the Roman through to the post-medieval period. Two field system alignments from the Saxo-Norman to medieval periods were discovered along with a medieval to late medieval wall and cobbled surface, probably associated with the Priory. Archive to be held by LHS or RCM.

**North Luffenham, Morcott Spinney earthworks**

(SK 927025)

An archaeological fieldwalking survey around Morcott Spinney earthworks was undertaken by the RLHRS Archaeological Team in November 2005 to see whether, or not, material on top of the ploughsoil could point to the date of the structure and to the ridge way. As virtually nothing was found around the earthwork, the team was none the wiser concerning its date and function. However, 271 pieces of flint were retained and have been described by Richard Knox of LHS: 36 pieces (13%) have been ascribed to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (8000-3000 BC) although a few may be older; most of the material (87%) is Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (*c*3000-1500 BC). This raises the possibility that the flint scatter indicates an ancient ridge way (RLHRS R59).

*Elaine Jones*

**Oakham, Barleythorpe Road (SK 855092)**

ULAS carried out an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching in 2004 for Prime Life Ltd and Corporate Architecture Ltd on land to the north of Rutland Memorial Hospital and off Barleythorpe Road, Oakham, in advance of the development of three 20-bedroom residential nursing homes and social centre together with 27 elderly person's cottages, new access road and roundabout. The site consists of two main areas; part of a playing field and an adjacent triangular piece of rough ground. The site lies in an area of potential for prehistoric and Roman remains. No archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. A 19th century ceramic beer bottle was recovered from one trench and a small flint end-scraper and a piece of post-medieval pottery were recovered from another. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Leon Hunt*

**Oakham, Ashwell Road (SK 884096)**

APS carried out a watching brief for Barratt East Midlands Homes during development to the north of the

historic core of Oakham in 2004. Previous investigations on other parts of the same development site had revealed undated ditches and recovered artefacts of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later date. The present investigation identified further undated ditches. These extend the previous discoveries and seem to be related to, or part of, an extended N-S boundary evident on historic maps of Oakham and stretching as far south as Oakham Castle or beyond. This would tend to suggest the feature had a Late Saxon or medieval origin. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Andrew Failes*

**Oakham, Northgate (SK 85790897)**

Development in the historic core of Oakham on Northgate, which is referred to as early as 1501, was subject to a watching brief in 2004, carried out by APS for Wynbrook Homes. Pits and ditches containing Stamford ware pottery and dated to the Saxo-Norman period were revealed. A post-medieval pit and a wall footing or path constructed of brick was also identified. The absence of artefacts dating between the 12th and 18th centuries suggests the site was unoccupied during this period. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Neil Parker*

**Oakham, Mill Street (SK 86140862)**

F Walker of APS carried out a watching brief for M Potts, builder and contractor, during development in the historic core of Oakham in 2005. Two undated pits were revealed, together with a group of post-medieval refuse pits and a ditch. A large quantity of 18th century and later artefacts was recovered. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Oakham, Oakham School (SK 861088)**

Prior to its demolition, R Hall of APS carried out a photographic survey of the Hodges Building at Oakham School on behalf of Pick Everard in 2005. This indicated that the building was of 2-storey mock-Tudor style construction. One main phase of construction in the mid 19th century was noted, though there was evidence of extensive modifications carried out in the later 20th century. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Rachel Hall*

**Seaton, West Farm (SP 90059823)**

ULAS was commissioned by Chartermann Designs Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of a housing development at West Farm in 2004. An evaluation carried out by ULAS (ULAS Report No 2001-156) had identified the site as having archaeological potential and the Senior Archaeologist instigated a programme of archaeological investigation. As a result of the evaluation two areas were earmarked for open area excavation, covering an area of approximately 1840m square.

Excavation indicated that the area had suffered considerable 20th century truncation. Area 1 was the larger of the two areas, located towards the centre of the development area, and contained a considerable amount of earth-fast archaeological remains, most of which were clustered adjacent to the westernmost site boundary. A substantial stone-built feature was uncovered within the smaller Area 2 as well as a single linear feature.

The majority of the archaeological remains were sample-excavated; a wide range of dated material was recovered, including Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval. By far the majority of the excavated features dated from the 12th to the 14th century. The stone structure within Area 2 was dated to the 19th century.

*Gerwyn Richards*

**Stretton, Stretton Road (SK 94651535)**

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken in 2005 by APS for Showman's Land Development Co Ltd in an area of prehistoric remains alongside the Ermine Street Roman road. A Saxo-Norman pit containing substantial parts of a Stamford Ware pitcher and a quantity of iron smelting slag was revealed. This pit may have been a tapping pit associated with iron smelting furnaces. Although such furnaces did not survive, areas of burnt or heat-affected deposits may indicate their location. A dumped deposit containing further slag was also identified and although undated is thought to be contemporary with the Saxo-Norman pit. Remnants of ridge and furrow of probable medieval date were recorded, together with a post-medieval ditch and parts of a small stone structure, perhaps a field shelter, also of post-medieval date. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Thistleton (SK 910173)**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in May and June 2005 by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land for a proposed quarry and an access (haul) road. On land for a proposed quarry, geophysical and fieldwalking surveys were followed by trial trenching. Dispersed areas of Iron Age and Roman occupation were revealed. The late Iron Age occupation was located in two areas, one comprising a group of gullies, pits and postholes, the other an isolated ring ditch. The Roman occupation was characterised by ditches and gullies together with the occasional pit. The few finds suggest the occupation is on the periphery of a settlement, with the linear features representing part of a field system. There was a widespread pattern of furrows across most of the site, relating to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Finds included Roman and medieval pottery, animal bone, a coin, and a fragment of lava quern.

The access road is divided into eastern and western parts along a 2.25km route crossing Fosse Lane. To the east of Fosse Lane was a single possible Iron Age ditch. To the west of Fosse Lane were features associated with Thistleton Roman town, characterised by a metalled road and surfaces, stone structures (walls and an oven or kiln), ditches and gullies, pits and postholes, and a single grave. Two large features were probably Roman quarry pits. Finds included Roman pottery, animal bone, three coins, a brooch, a copper casket fitting and a fragment of glass. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Steven Morris*

**Thorpe by Water, The Cutting, Main Street**

(SK 894964)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2005 during site levelling and the excavation of wall footings for a new

dwelling on a small plot of land adjacent to 'The Cutting'. The soil strip revealed two shallow intercutting gullies running parallel in a NE-SW direction and one was traced further in the wall footings. Sample excavation yielded a few eroded sherds of coarse pottery of probable late Iron Age date and one Roman sherd. The finds add to evidence of Roman occupation nearby, which was suggested by the pottery from a watching brief on the adjacent plot in 2003. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Andy Mudd*

**Tickencote, St Peter's Church (SK 99060949)**

On behalf of Graham Cook Architects and Tickencote PCC, A Clements of APS carried out a watching brief during excavation of a service trench at the 12th century church in 2004. A sequence of post-medieval graveyard soils bounded by the churchyard wall was revealed, together with recent paths. Medieval and post-medieval artefacts, including part of a glazed medieval roof tile, were retrieved. Finds and archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Tinwell, Casterton Lane (TF 00550645)**

APS maintained a watching brief on behalf of Hereward Homes Ltd during development in the medieval heart of Tinwell in 2005. A medieval pit was recorded together with an undated ditch. A post-medieval ditch and a soakaway were also noted. Artefacts of medieval to recent date were recovered. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

**Uppingham, Leicester Road (SK 854007)**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Uppingham Town Council on land off Leicester Road in November 2005. This work was in advance of the proposed conversion of the land into a cemetery and the provision of car parking spaces. Six evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed three undated linear features, the possible remnants of one medieval furrow, and a small Mesolithic-Neolithic flint assemblage. Archive to be held by LHS.

*John Tate*

**Uppingham, St Peter & St Paul (SP 867996)**

The church had been extensively restored and enlarged in 1860-61, but during 2003 and 2004 an archaeological watch was conducted on restoration and re-ordering works. Outside clearance work for the new drains around the N entrance porch by the Market Place pointed to the taking down of the earlier ground surface by the Victorians for the widening of the N aisle in 1861. Within the church, the removal of pews and pew support platforms showed an old packed earth floor sealing deposits beneath. Although the original foundations of the 14th century church tower were still intact, no other foundations of the earlier church were seen (RLHRS R48).

*Elaine Jones*

**Uppingham, School Lane (SP 866997)**

A programme of building assessment was undertaken in 2004 by R Hall and G Taylor of APS for Uppingham School, to assist the determination of a planning appli-

cation for demolition and adaptation of several buildings in the street, some of which are listed Grade II and date from as early as 1697. The assessment indicated that the historic fabric of the earliest, listed, buildings would be minimally affected by the proposals. The buildings proposed for demolition dated from the 19th and 20th centuries. A 19th-century cast-iron range was noted in the cellar of one of the buildings and this same structure, although predominantly of brick, has remnants of an ironstone gable wall. Cartographic evidence indicated this gable had belonged to an earlier structure noted on the 1804 enclosure plan but subsequently demolished; the present brick building had been constructed against the ironstone structure. The second building proposed for demolition was found to be a 19th century stable block with extensive 20th century modifications. Scars and remnants of feeding troughs, hayracks and timber stall partitions were noted, along with the original drain in the brick floor. Archive to be held by LHS.

*Rachael Hall*

**Uppingham, School Lane (SP 866997)**

Archaeological evaluation and monitoring were supervised by R Hall of APS for Uppingham School. Evaluation identified a probable garden feature of stone, though this was undated. A subsequent watching brief identified several 19th century pits and two undated post-holes. Building recording was also undertaken on a cellar and the southern gable of the range of buildings. No architectural features were identified in the cellar to indicate that it belonged to an earlier, pre-19th century, building. Rather, the superstructure rose directly off the basement walls, suggesting the two parts of the building are probably contemporaneous and of the 19th century. Cartographic evidence revealed that separate free-standing buildings had been located in the area, with the gaps between them subsequently being infilled and some of the original structures then demolished. The southern gable of the range was identified as a former northern wall of one of the demolished buildings, and contained a blocked fireplace and an inserted window. During the demolition of the wall a stone block inscribed 'Jr. Anno', perhaps part of a reused datestone or gravestone, was recovered. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Rachael Hall*

**Whissendine, Main Street (SK 828123 – SK 831143)**

Replacement of sewers through the centre of Whissendine in 2005 was monitored by APS for Pick Everard Ltd on behalf of Severn Trent Water. A sequence of road construction layers of probable modern date was identified but no earlier archaeological remains were revealed. Archive to be held by RCM.

*Aaron Clements*

**Negative watching briefs in 2004 and 2005**

Lyddington, near Bedehouse (SP 875971) 2005, APS  
Oakham, 78 South Street (SK 85880860) 2004, ULAS  
Oakham, Church St, Church hall (SK 86020898) 2004,  
John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

South Luffenham, West Farm (SK 93028703) 2004, ULAS  
Seaton, 4 Moles Lane (SP 90119813) 2004, ULAS

## II - Other Reports for 2004 and 2005

### Lincolnshire Archives

#### Contact information:

Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB.  
Tel: (01522) 525158 (search room appointments and  
enquiries); (01522) 526204 (other enquiries).  
Fax: (01522) 530047.  
Website: [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives).

E-mail: [lincolnshire.archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:lincolnshire.archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk).  
Opening times: Mon: (Mar-Oct) 1pm-7pm, (Nov-Feb) 11am-  
5pm; Tues-Fri: 9am-5pm; Sat: 9am-4pm. Closed on UK  
public holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.  
Appointments for microfiche viewers and study tables are  
necessary to ensure space in the search room.

The following Rutland archives were accessioned by Lincolnshire Archives during 2004 and 2005:

#### **Records of the Stamford Methodist Circuit:**

These records have not been fully catalogued, but their general reference number is METH B & C/STAMFORD.

##### *Casterton Magna [in Little Casterton parish]*

Chapel registration certificates, 1882 & 1884.  
Memorandum of choice and appointment, 1914.  
Memorandum of choice and appointment: 'Casterton Magna  
Methodist Chapel (Ex Wesleyan Methodist) situate at Little  
Casterton in the Parish of Little Casterton', with associated  
papers, 1939-47.

##### *Edith Weston*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house situate in the parish of  
Edith Weston... in the occupation of Eliza Grant, widow',  
1813.

##### *Empingham*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house occupied by Charles  
Keen, farmer', 1830.  
Bill for renovations, 1911.  
Memorandum of choice and appointment with associated  
papers, 1928.

##### *Exton*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Building occupied by the Wesleyan  
Sunday School', 1831.  
Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house occupied by Edward  
Hotchkin', 1837.  
Lease of chapel, 1853.

Chapel registration certificate, 1861.

Correspondence re proposed lease of site for chapel, 1902-06.  
Memorandum of agreement for site of chapel, with covering  
letter, 1906-09.

Chapel registration certificate, with covering letters, 1906.  
Letter and accounts re dismantling and re-building of chapel,  
1906-07.

Chapel building accounts, with printer's bill, 1909.

##### *Ketton*

Chapel Committee sanction for the erection of a chapel, 1864.  
Memoranda of choice and appointment, 1891, 1916, 1934 and  
1958.

##### *Market Overton*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house in the possession of  
Christopher Bennett', 1808.

##### *Ryhall*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house of John Christian,  
carpenter', 1810.  
Memoranda of choice and appointment with associated  
papers, 1893-1958.

##### *Whitwell*

Dissenter's certificate: 'Dwelling house occupied by John  
Bolland, labourer', 1830.

#### **Records relating to the Ancaster Estates at Normanton:**

##### *Cash Books*

Grimsthorpe and Normanton Estate Cash Books, 2nd Jan 1895-  
30th Sept 1932 [13 ANC 2/3/2].

##### *Rentals*

Grimsthorpe, Normanton and Lindsey Coast Estates Rentals,  
1925-31 [13 ANC 2/1/2-1-3].  
Grimsthorpe, Normanton and Lindsey Coast Rents Received at

Audit [13 ANC 2/1/6].

##### *Ledgers*

Grimsthorpe and Normanton Ledgers, 1896-1943 [13 ANC  
2/2/2].

Normanton Ledger, June 1955-December 1959 [13 ANC  
2/2/3/1].

### Northamptonshire Record Office

#### Contact information:

Northamptonshire Record Office, Wootton Hall Park,  
Northampton, NN4 8BQ.  
Tel: (01604) 762129. Fax: (01604) 767562.  
Website: [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk./community/  
record+office](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/community/record+office).

E-mail: [archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

Opening times: Mon: 10.30am-4.45pm; Tues, Wed: 9am-  
4.45pm; Thurs: 9am-7.45pm; Fri: 9am-4.15pm; Sat: two  
mornings a month, 9am-12.15pm. Contact the office to con-  
firm Saturday opening dates.

No Rutland material reported for 2004 or 2005.

### Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

#### Contact information:

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, Long  
Street, Wigston Magna, Leicester, LE18 2AH.  
Tel: (0116) 257 1080. Fax: (0116) 257 1120.

Website: [www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/museums/  
record\\_office](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/museums/record_office). E-mail: [recordoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@leics.gov.uk).

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.15am-5pm; Wed:  
9.15am-7.30pm; Fri: 9.15am-4.45pm, Sat: 9.15am-12.15pm.

## 2004-05

Potentially the most significant Rutland material received this year was the large collection of title deeds and manorial records brought in from one of the county's most prominent solicitors (DE6683). Its size alone precludes swift listing but an initial scan indicates the importance of its contents, including Preston cum Uppingham manorial records, 18th century maps, and a Ketton manorial survey.

Although the receipt of ancient parish registers seems now to be a thing of the past (a measure of the success of the parish surveys of a few years ago) some other important parish records still appear from time to time. One such was the deposit from Wardley (DE6773) which included a bundle of the overseers of the poor papers, including 1831 census statistics, and records of removals and apprenticeships from the 1790s. Equally curious was the collection of proclamations and printed forms for national days of prayer and thanksgiving, from 1739-1900.

The Rutland branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies) deposited two of their admirably thorough surveys; of the parish churches of Stoke Dry (DE6633) and Wardley (DE6715). There was also an archaeological report, including a valuable photographic record, of work carried out at Uppingham parish church during 2003 and 2004.

Thanks to the Friends of the Record Office, a large collection (DE6666) of aerial photographs of new housing and schools' catchment areas, including many in Rutland, was purchased. Also received were collections of photographs by Eric Swift of Rutland views and inns and inn signs (DE6782) and of the Police (DE6687 and DE6733). The most unusual deposit of pictorial material however was the trio of drawings of Uppingham in the 1970s by Warwick Metcalf (DE6671).

Further work was undertaken on familiarisation and use of the CALM archive cataloguing system with the aim of cataloguing all new accessions on CALM by the end of 2005. Work also began on creating a 'web' version so that the electronic catalogues could be accessible via the Internet.

With both conservators fully occupied, this year saw a very satisfactory increase in conservation work, with nearly 50,000 items/pages treated. The largest Rutland collection worked on was the 6,200 or so title deeds and manorial records (DE6683), referred to above. All required primary conservation treatment involving removal of dirt, insects and other detritus, before being transferred to archival storage. The records had been stored in a barn in Lincolnshire; as a consequence damp had caused some of the parchment and vellum documents particularly to become mouldy and infested with silverfish and mites.

During the year April 2004 – March 2005 the Record Office received 23 deposits of Rutland records. These included:

DE6590: Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society records, 1997-2001

DE6633: NADFAS survey of St Andrew's Church, Stoke Dry, 1994-2001

- DE6637: Morcott and Barrowden Baptist Church records, 1935-2003
- DE6659: Uppingham deeds, 1781-1905
- DE6666: Leicestershire and Rutland aerial photographs, 1970s-80s
- DE6670: Uppingham parish records, 2003-04
- DE6671: Warwick Metcalf drawings of Uppingham, 1990s
- DE6683: Rutland manorial records and title deeds, 17-19th century.
- DE6686: Calendars of probate grants in England & Wales 1890-99
- DE6687: Leicestershire & Rutland special constabulary records c1956-72
- DE6715: NADFAS survey of St Botolph's Church, Wardley, 2004
- DE6733: Photographs taken by a probationer in Leicestershire & Rutland constabulary c1946
- DE6734: Uppingham Mothers' Union accounts 1968-85
- DE6737: Photographs of Exton and transfer of Exton MSS to Record Office 1987
- DE6756: Whissendine parish council records 1894-1998
- DE6773: Wardley parish records 1739-1972
- DE6777: Uppingham Methodist Church records 1991-2003
- DE6782: Eric Swift photographic collection: Leicestershire & Rutland views, inns and inn signs 1960s-80s
- DE6785: Uppingham cemetery plans 2004
- DE6793 Files of correspondence, deeds and other agreements re the provision of land at Enderby, Leicestershire, for the Leicestershire and Rutland Mental Hospital 1934-1937

## 2005-06

While this year's archive accessions have been mostly routine, the conservation work was concentrated on three Preston parish volumes, including two of considerable interest. The churchwardens' accounts 1596-1792 and overseers of the poor accounts 1646-1796 are both early and important records of their type. Both volumes were taken down, the leaves repaired as needed, and rebound in vellum as the original bindings. Also treated was a Volunteer Yeomanry account book 1872-1878.

Tailoring CALM to the Record Office's cataloguing systems was successfully completed (as projected) at the year's end, as was a considerable amount of technical work to the system's Internet interface, making the electronic catalogues available via the Record Office website. User testing took place in December and the online catalogue went live on 1st April 2006. Initially only a proportion of new catalogues, and some of those converted via the national Access to Archives (A2A) initiative, will be available. However 'data cleansing' of further A2A catalogues is ongoing, as is exploration of the possibility of converting 10 years' or so of Word catalogues into CALM format. All future cataloguing will be in CALM and available online immediately.

A new development has taken place in respect of historic films held at the Record Office. The Record Office had a miscellaneous collection of about 150 reels of film, including a few of Rutland interest. These had been acquired to secure their preservation, but neither equipment nor skills have been available to curate or exploit them properly. Under a new partnership with the Media Archive for Central England (MACE), all the films have been deposited in MACE's custody and a programme of

initial preservation and cataloguing work is underway.

Staff of the Record Office have taken part in a number of outreach events in Rutland or for Rutlanders. The May Weekend 2005 activities in Oakham and Uppingham were boosted by Record Office exhibitions on the work of the Office and Rutland sources, supported by the presence of Record Office staff. The exhibitions remain at Rutland County Museum for possible further use, although an intended joint initiative to promote the Record Office's services to Rutland was necessarily deferred because of the planning and execution of major changes to the Museum.

In May a member of staff spoke on 'The wool trade in medieval Rutland' at the AGM of the Rutland Local History & Record Society. Also in May a family history workshop was held at Uppingham Library, and in July the Rutland group of the Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society were shown round the Record Office and given some palaeography practice on Rutland documents. In March 2006 a successful family history workshop day was held at Oakham Library. The day undoubtedly benefited from the surge in interest in family history created by the second series of BBC TV's 'Who do you think you are?', one of the subjects of which was the celebrated former Uppingham schoolboy Stephen Fry.

During the year April 2005 – March 2006 the Record Office received 14 deposits of Rutland records, including:

- DE6801 Lease of land at Belvoir by the Duke of Rutland to Leicestershire County Council for a petty sessional house 1907  
DE6802 Oakham Rural District Council records, including sub-committee minutes 1954-63, standing orders 1963, rate estimates 1965-66 and planning application notification 1973  
DE6815 Photographs of Uppingham and Ayston churches c1970-80  
DE6850 Photographs of horses in agriculture c1930-70  
DE6859 Scrapbooks of news cuttings and ephemera re Boy Scouts activities 1926-75  
DE6860 and DE6870 Mosaic (charity covering Leicestershire and Rutland) records c1899-2000  
DE6872 Belton-in-Rutland Parish Council Minutes, 1979-99, and receipts and payments book 1968-94  
DE6886 Ketton Parish Council Minutes 1979, financial records 1984-2000, aerial photograph c1990, and cemetery records 1881-2003  
DE6891 Leicestershire Footpaths Association, footpath diversion and modification papers 2003-04  
DE6892 Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum Minutes 1902-08  
DE6921 Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society minute book 1944, and Junior Quiz 1946  
DE6978 Oakham Congregational Church Annual accounts etc 1961-2002

*Carl Harrison, County Archivist*

## **Rutland County Museums Service**

Contact information:

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW.

Tel: (01572) 758440. Fax: (01572) 758445.

### *Rutland County Museums and Records Service in 2004*

#### *Rutland County Museum*

The highlight of 2004 was the completion of the first stage of the Museum Development Programme, which was launched on the evening of 1st April. Thanks to generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Friends of the Museum, the RLHRS and the Rutland Decorative and Fine Art Society, the Museum now has a vastly improved entrance, shop and study area, together with a new exhibition: 'Welcome to Rutland'. The public celebrations on the following Saturday, 3rd April, were equally successful, thanks to the enthusiastic support of members of the Friends of Rutland County Museum and of the RLHRS who ran a range of events and activities on the day, which proved to be our busiest since Independence Day in 1997.

2004 also saw the introduction of 'Games at the Museum', originally part of a joint project with the Library Service that was supported by the Arts Council East Midlands and the East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. Examples of traditional pastimes such as Nine Men's Morris and Trundles (or Hoops) have proved very popular with visitors of all ages since their introduction in March.

#### *Oakham Castle*

2004 was a very busy year at Oakham Castle, thanks to the Oakham Festival and a new programme of Sunday Fairs, set up by Oakham Town Partnership. The climax of

Website: [www.rutnet.co.uk/rcc/rutlandmuseums](http://www.rutnet.co.uk/rcc/rutlandmuseums).

E-mail: [museum@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:museum@rutland.gov.uk).

Opening times: Mon-Sat: 10.30am-5pm; Sun: 2pm-4pm.

the first year's programme was undoubtedly the John Miller Band (nephew of Glen) who filled the Castle grounds on a sunny Sunday afternoon in September.

Plans to develop Oakham Castle also started to gather speed this year, with a programme of work by volunteers to reveal the inner bank of the Castle Wall.

### *Rutland County Museums and Records Service in 2005*

The year was one of change, with the Cultural Services Team leaving the Education Department to become the Culture and Partnerships Team in the Community Services Department of Rutland County Council. In the process we have gained closer contacts with other staff whose work relates closely to our own including members of the Community Development, Planning and Environmental Services Teams.

The Service's work with schools benefited from the help of the East Midlands Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's Learn with Museums Programme. This allowed us to work with teachers to develop a Victorian education session, which uses both the Museum and the Castle, and has proved very popular with schools.

#### *Rutland County Museum*

The year saw the start of a major reorganisation of the Museum buildings, which will create new and more accessible stores at the back of the Riding School and give the Museum better office accommodation. The programme also includes a re-design of the Museum Courtyard, which had to close in 2004 when it became

unsafe for visitors. The new configuration for the Riding School will also provide improved exhibition spaces, particularly for temporary exhibitions.

2005 also saw the introduction of a Visitor Centre at the Museum, introduced to help fill the gap left by Oakham TIC, which closed in December 2004. In addition to providing a valuable service to our visitors, the Visitor Centre has helped us to build stronger links with other partners in the tourism industry.

This year saw the introduction of a volunteer programme at the Museum and their assistance has helped us to progress a number of projects, including redisplayes on the balcony, and the mammoth task of preparing our stores for the move to their new homes, once they are ready for occupation.

The Museum hosted an exciting programme of temporary exhibitions, and we are grateful for the Rutland Local History & Record Society's loan of its very popular exhibition on the Home Guard as our contribution to the

commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

#### *Acquisitions*

The Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle acquired a hoard of 1,364 late Roman bronze coins for the Museum. The coins, which were found in Ketton, are mostly from the 4th century AD, and include one silver coin. The hoard is interesting both for its considerable size and its clear association with the period when Rome withdrew from Britain.

#### *Oakham Castle*

Progress with the Oakham Castle development programme was delayed by the works at the Museum, but the former Number 1 Court was refurbished and is now a bright and popular space which can serve a variety of purposes, including exhibitions and meetings.

*Simon Davies, Museum Service Manager*

### **Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust**

#### Contact information:

Honorary Secretary: Mrs L Worrall, 6 Redland Close, Barrowden, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8ES

The Thanksgiving Service for the Trust's 50th Anniversary on 20th June 2004 at All Saints' Church, Oakham, was well supported by representatives from Rutland's churches and chapels, civic dignitaries and well-wishers. Bishop Ian preached, lessons were read by Sir David Davenport-Handley and Dr Laurence Howard, and the organ was played by Trustees Alan Southern and John Saunders. Members of All Saints' made everyone most welcome.

Fifty years is very little in the life of our places of worship, the majority of which have been here for nearly twenty times as long. Ongoing repairs to ancient fabric are inevitable: the Trust has been privileged to have been able to aid these and hopes to continue to do so.

In 2004-05 grants were promised to St Luke's, Tixover for work including repairs to tower, walls and windows, and to All Saints', Oakham, for emergency plaster work in the S transept. Applications from four other churches were awaited. Several churches promised help earlier completed work during the year, and others were raising funds in order to begin.

Grants totalling £8,000 were promised in 2005-06 to help St Botolph's, Wardley, with restoration of interior limewash, St Mary's, Ayston, with minor but essential repairs to stonework and interior decoration, and St Andrew's, Stoke Dry, with repairs to a collapsing church-yard wall. The Trust was also able to assist St Peter and St Paul's, Exton, when there was a need for a short-term bridging loan during their extensive repairs.

In contrast to that comparatively quiet year for grant-giving, at the year's end the Trust was aware of nine imminent applications: it is heartening to know that so much work is intended. The Trust continues to urge relatively small works to be put in hand speedily to prevent deterioration.

Cycle Ride day, Saturday 10th September 2005, was unusually cold and wet, but Rutland's riders, walkers and

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stewards did their utmost to raise sponsorship for the Trust and their nominated churches and chapels. The winner of the Davenport Cup, Nick Wells, reached 51 Rutland places of worship, and three others visited over 40. John Walker was pronounced Champion Walker: he went from Oakham to Belton with his guide – he is partially sighted. In spite of the weather, and understandably fewer riders than usual, nearly £16,000 was raised, including some very welcome Gift Aid. The Trust's 50% is an invaluable boost to funds, and it is hoped that sponsored churches and chapels found their share useful. The next Ride will be in September 2007.

Thanks go to all who have sent donations in these two years, to the Parochial Church Councils of Belton, Clipsham, Little Casterton, Manton, Pickworth, Pilton, Preston, Ryhall, Tickencote, Tixover and Stoke Dry and for their support, and to Castle Cement for sponsorship of Ride materials. Special thanks go to the PCC of St Luke's, Tixover, who repaid the Trust for an earlier grant, as they had since received bequests. It is hoped that anyone who wishes to support the Trust's work will remember it when Wills are being considered.

Two long-serving Trustees retired in 2004-05: John Gammell and Mrs Mavis Norton-Fagge served for 18 and 20 years respectively and will be much missed in many ways. In their stead the Trust welcomed Peter Tomalin and Mrs Sally Vincke. Later, Alan Southern, for 21 years a Trustee with special responsibility for eight places of worship, stood down. Alan also laid a sure foundation for the success of the Cycle Ride and was Ride organiser from 1987 to 1999, when Richard Adams succeeded him. George Shepherd, a most enthusiastic local Ride Organiser and intrepid rider himself, has now become a Trustee in his place. Each Trustee has special responsibility for a number of the county's churches and chapels, and the new Trustees have inherited those of their predecessors.

In 2005-06, the Trust's President attended the annual meeting of representatives from County History Churches Trusts in Lichfield. The Ride Organiser also works with other County Trusts concerning Ride matters. Problems always need solving, but there is much enthusiasm and

determination throughout the country to help keep local, unique and irreplaceable places of worship in good repair: certainly this applies in Rutland, and the Trust exists to help those who care for them.

*Linda Worrall, Honorary Secretary*

## Rutland Local History & Record Society

### *Chairman's Report for 2004-05*

This has been another very successful year for the Society. Apart from members' meetings, the Society's activities have included management meetings, sub-group activities, interaction with Rutland County Museum, and other outside influences. The twice yearly Newsletter keeps members updated with details of past and future events and activities; keeps us in touch with members who are unable to attend meetings; generates a continuing detailed history of the Society; shows new members that we are an active Society; and provides a forum for short articles and reviews which would not normally be included in *Rutland Record*.

The recommendations of the Society's Development Group, chaired by Alan Rogers, are in their second year of implementation. We have adopted Editorial, Financial and Library policies, as well as safety guidelines for the Archaeological Group. Our commitment to be more involved with the local community is being honoured through the Heritage of Rutland Water project. For this a competition for the Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize was devised for local school children. Presentations to pupils at a number of local schools were designed to encourage them to carry out research and prepare reports on some aspect of the project. Over thirty entries were received and prizes were presented to the winners by local children's author Larry Harris at our joint Summer Social with the Friends of the Museum on 11th June 2005.

Another example of community involvement is the work carried out by our enthusiastic band of oral history interviewers who have recorded the memories of some very interesting people as part of the Rutland Water project. One of our interviewees, Edna Locke, who lived at Beech Farm, Middle Hambleton until it was demolished, was filmed by Anglia Television as a direct result of a researcher hearing her oral history tape.

As the Project approaches its half-way stage, I would like to thank all those involved for their sterling efforts. Their input, which is monitored for the Local Heritage Initiative quarterly reports, was approaching 12,000 hours at the last count.

I would also like to give a special mention – and thanks – to the Library Group (Auriol Thomson, Peter Tomblin, David Carlin and Peter Diplock). They have expertly sorted, catalogued and arranged the Society's library, organised the disposal of surplus books, and liaised with the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland regarding the transfer of original documents. The Executive Committee recognised some time ago that the rightful place for original documents currently in our collection, such as sale catalogues and other ephemera, is the local record office. However, these will only be handed over after copies have been taken so that they can still be seen in Oakham by local researchers.

Prompted by the donation of a brass embossing stamp to Rutland County Museum, the Society recently decided to adopt the old county seal as its logo for use on the website, letterheads, publications and other printed material. A simplified version of it can be seen on the dial of the workhouse clock in the museum, and on the cover of the index to volumes 1 to 10 of *Rutland Record*.

I would now like to look to the future and highlight some challenges that face us. Firstly, to the casual observer, the Society's financial position appears to be very healthy, particularly while the coffers are awash with Lottery money. However, the underlying situation is that income from subscriptions does not cover the basic annual cost of running the Society. If we are to prevent our reserves from gradually slipping away it is essential that we raise subscriptions to a more realistic level, and this is being done.

Secondly, it now seems almost certain that some areas at Rutland County Museum will be reorganised to accommodate the County Council's Cultural Services and Property Services Departments. The current plan is that the area at the southern end of the museum, which includes our office, will be converted to house the reserve collection. The storage rooms above the new Welcome to Rutland Gallery will be converted to offices for museum staff and Cultural Services, including an office for us in this area. This is likely to happen sooner rather than later, probably starting in July or August 2005. We have been assured by the Museum Services Manager that our new office will have equal or greater floor area, will be provided with shelving for our library, and will have disabled access. We will have a temporary office whilst the work is taking place, during which time our library will have to go into storage. We have also been assured that help will be provided in packing and moving the library.

The third challenge concerns our Secretary, Sue Howlett, who has indicated that she will be moving out of the area in 2006 and consequently retiring from the post at the next AGM. This is the most important post in the management team and we need to be looking for a replacement long before she has to leave us. In fact Sue has been filling two roles: traditional secretary and social, or meetings, secretary. So we need two people to replace her.

Still looking to the future, we have two events coming up which deserve special mention. The first is a special Society display in the museum tracing the history of the Rutland Home Guard in the Second World War. This will run from July to September and is designed to support local VE Day anniversary celebrations. The second is our annual Village Visit in September which this year is based on North Luffenham. 'The Pastures' in Glebe Road, which was built in 1901, was designed by the Arts and



*Fig. 3. RLHRS members enjoy autumn sunshine as Sheila Sleath tells them about Lyddington church during a guided walk in September 2004.*

Crafts architect C F A Voysey. I am hoping that we will be able to see this house as part of the visit, and that we will be able to attract a speaker to talk on the life and work of this very famous architect.

Finally, I must end by advising you that I will not be seeking re-election at this Annual General Meeting. However, I will still be involved in the Rutland Water project, Newsletter production, Village Visit organisation, the Jack Hart postcard digitisation project, and possibly other areas. I would like to thank everyone involved in this Society – officers, committee members and the membership as a whole – for allowing me to be Chairman for the last two years. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every day of it.

*Robert Ovens, Chairman*

#### ***Chairman's Report for 2005-06***

Once again it is the privilege of the Chairman of the Society to report on a year of immense activity, achievement and promise, testimony to the energy, enthusiasm and (unpaid) professionalism on the part of so many.

Either on its own, or in conjunction with the Friends of the Rutland County Museum, the Society has staged a number of outstanding lectures involving not only a distinguished range of visiting speakers but also the Society's own members. Highlights included Margaret Bonney's exploration of the relationship between Rutland and the medieval wool trade, Tim Clough's introduction to the Oakham map of 1787, and the Bryan Matthews lecture in which the Chief Executive of the British Library, Lynne Brindley, expounded on the library's role as a repository of Rutland resources.

It was another important year for the Society's

publications. The highlight was the publication of *The 1712 Land Tax Assessments and the 1710 Poll Book for Rutland*, an important resource for students of early eighteenth-century society, not only in Rutland but also more widely. *Rutland Record* 24 duly made its slightly belated appearance. Other works nearing publication include Ian Ryder's study of Rutland Enclosures and the much-anticipated volume on the heritage of Rutland Water. Thanks are once again due to Tim Clough, our long-serving Honorary Editor, for his sterling work. *Rutland Record*, of course, depends on the quality and range of its contributions. Members should not be daunted by the challenge of getting themselves into print. It was with great pleasure that the Society learned that an article from *Rutland Record* 23, 'The Medieval Park of Ridlington' by Anthony Squires has been awarded one of the British Association for Local History's prizes for the encouragement of research and publication, whilst the doyen of Rutland local historians, Bryan Waites, has been honoured with an Award for Personal Achievement by the same organisation.

By far the largest venture which the Society has ever undertaken, the Rutland Water Project, is now nearing completion. Financed by a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this has involved a vast amount of work, co-ordinated by Robert Ovens, in archival and photographic research, the recording of data and the conduct of numerous interviews. The level of community interest and involvement has been huge, and this has been supported by substantial media interest, including national television. We look forward to the publication of the book which will be the main outcome of the project. The aim of widening community involvement in the project was also reflected by the participation of local primary schools in

June 2005 for the first award of the Prince Yuri Galitzine Prize. It is the Society's intention that the Galitzine Prize be awarded annually. Any member of the Society can nominate potential recipients of the award, details of which can be found on the Society's web-site, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org).

The Society also had a number of successful visits. The annual village event, held at North Luffenham in September, was excellently organised by Robert Ovens and featured the influence of 'Arts and Crafts movement' on the local vernacular architecture. In June Alan Curtis led a privileged visit for members to Drayton House. Led by Kate Don, the Archaeological Group continues to brave the elements for their regular field walking activities, and their report appears below.

The Historic Environment Group, under the auspices of David Carlin for the north of the county and Auriol Thomson for the south, continues to monitor planning applications in Rutland in order to alert the local authority in the case of insensitive building or rebuilding, an increasing challenge in view of the ever-expanding level of building in Rutland. The Library Group worked hard to organise the Society's collection of books; although quiescent recently, its work will resume when the Society regains access to its office in the Rutland County Museum.

The Society continues to work closely with the staff of the Rutland County Museum. Recent months have brought immense frustration for Simon Davies and his colleagues as construction work in the museum has dragged on seemingly interminably. One consequence of this has been that the Society has had to vacate its office within the museum and this has necessarily limited the availability of the Society's services to members and the wider public. We hope that members will bear with this temporary inconvenience so that once the construction work has been completed both the Museum and the Society will be able to offer a more comprehensive service to the public.

On a sad note, it is with regret that the Society acknowledges the recent passing of one of its longest-standing members, George Finch. Another stalwart of the Society, Professor Alan Rogers, recently suffered a heart attack, but he has reported that he is on the mend.

No report of the Society's activities would be complete without reference to two people whose contributions to the Society have been immense. One is my predecessor as chairman, Robert Ovens, whose tirelessness on behalf of the Society has been legendary, with the publication of *Time in Rutland*, co-ordination of the Rutland Water project, development of the Society's web-site and organisation of village events. All of this activity has not deterred him from the immense task of digitising photographs from the collection of Jack Hart. The other is our indefatigable secretary, Sue Howlett. Sue is shortly to move to Essex and will therefore be vacating her role with effect from the AGM. We will all miss her organisational skills, patience, tolerance and good humour. Her contribution to the success of the Society's activities has been huge and she will be a big miss.

*Michael Tillbrook, Chairman*

#### **Archaeological Activities**

In April 2004 the archaeological group assisted Bob Sparham of Nottingham University to undertake a fieldwalk on land adjacent to a Romano-British villa on the outskirts of the Leicestershire village of Wymondham (SK 846184). The villa had been the subject of excavation in 2003 under the direction of Professor Roger Wilson. A number of rooms were exposed, several containing sections of mosaic flooring. Pottery dated the villa from the second to the fourth centuries AD with evidence of rebuilding, extension and refurbishment over time. The fieldwalk recovered a quantity of Romano-British pottery, tile and tesserae suggesting that either the villa was larger than was at first thought or there was more than one building.

In July, August and September 2004 the group was afforded a rare opportunity to assist with excavation at the villa site. Two trenches were opened, one of which contained a quantity of *opus signinum* together with part of a collapsed wall of herringbone construction. The structure was tentatively identified as part of a bathhouse. All material removed from the site and the reports are lodged with Nottingham University.

Kate Don gave a number of talks and exhibitions on the subject of the Romano-British town at Thistleton. In March 2004 she exhibited at 'The Romans are Coming!', an event organised by Heritage Services at Donington-le-Heath Manor House. Together with Wendy Walden she exhibited at the re-opening of Rutland County Museum in April, and with Wendy Scott and Richard Knox of Leicestershire Heritage Services at the 'Finds Day' in June. Thistleton was again exhibited at Market Overton village hall in July 2004, at Whissendine Arts and Crafts Exhibition in August 2004, and at Jewry Wall Museum in July 2005 as part of the 'Big Roman Dig' events. In November 2004 Kate spoke at the meeting of the Friends of the Museum and RLHRS and exhibited at 'Found in Leicestershire', another event at Donington-le-Heath. She was guest speaker at meetings of the Ramblers' Association, the National Women's Register and the Rotary Club in 2004. In 2005 Kate staged an exhibition of 'Market Overton in Old Photographs' as part of the village 'Feast Weekend' activities and in November she spoke to children at English Martyrs Primary School in Oakham.

In June 2004 members of the group had a 'wild goose chase' around Suffolk and Norfolk - morning coffee at West Stow Anglo-Saxon village near Bury St Edmunds, lunch at Grimes Graves, a special garden tea tour at Holme Hale Hall near Swaffham, then 'sundowners' at Denver Sluice before trekking home to Rutland at dusk: perfect!

The Society is indebted to the farmers and landowners of Rutland who allow the archaeological group to work on their land, to the staff of Leicester County Council's Heritage Services for their knowledgeable guidance and support, and not least to the fieldworkers who so generously give of their time and brave often uncomfortable conditions to help us to extend our knowledge of Rutland's archaeology and landscape.

*Kate Don*

# RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700273

## The Society's publications, with their main contents, are currently available as follows:

### *Rutland Record 1* (£1.00 post free)

Emergence of Rutland; Medieval hunting grounds; Rutland field names; Illiteracy in 19th century Rutland

### *Rutland Record 2* (£1.00 post free)

Archdeacon Johnson; Thomas Barker's weather records; Rutland Agricultural Society; Rutland farms in 1871

### *Rutland Record 6* (£1.50, members £1.00)

Transitional architecture in Rutland; Family of Rutland stonemasons; Restoration of Exton church

### *Rutland Record 7* (£1.50, members £1.00)

Rutland place-names; Rutland Domesday; Lords and peasants in medieval Rutland; Shakespeare in Rutland

### *Rutland Record 12* (£2.00, members £1.50)

Deer parks; Preston records; Thring at Uppingham; Jeremiah Whittaker; Joseph Matkin; Cinemas in Rutland

### *Rutland Record 16* (£2.00, members £1.50)

Iron smelting; Saxon archaeology; Stilton cheese; Oakham in 1871; Rutland Hotel, Wangani

### *Rutland Record 17* (£2.00, members £1.50)

Byrch's charity; Maj-Gen Robt Overton; 50-52 High St, Uppingham; White Hart, Uppingham

### *Rutland Record 18* (£2.00, members £1.50)

Earthworks at Belton-in-Rutland; Peter de Neville; Oakham gallows; Buckingham's house at Burley

### *Rutland Record 19* (£2.00, members £1.50)

Anne Barker; Exton and Noel family; 14th century Rutland bacon; Emigrants to Australia

### *Rutland Record 20* (£2.50, members £2.00)

Rutland castles; Medieval site at Barrowden; Mompesson and Rutland inns; George Phillips

### *Rutland Record 21* (£2.50, members £2.00)

Mary Barker letters; Anton Kammel, musician; Uppingham School and Borth, 1875-77

### *Rutland Record 22* (£3.50, members £3.00)

Religious Census 1851 (pt 1); Exton churchyard

### *Rutland Record 23* (£3.50, members £3.00)

Tinwell Roman coins; Ridlington Park; Lord Ranksborough; *Notitia Parochialis* 1705; annual reports

### *Rutland Record 24* (£3.50, members £3.00)

Medieval wool trade; Ketton quarries; Religious Census 1851 (pt 2); annual reports

### *Rutland Record 25 - Rutland in Print: a bibliography of England's smallest county*, compiled by J D Bennett (£3.50, members £3.00)

Subject index and index of publishers

### *Index of Rutland Record 1-10*, compiled by John Field (1994) (£2.50, members £1.50)

### *Index of Rutland Record 11-20* – in preparation

#### The following issues are out of print:

*Rutland Record* 3-5, 8 (Who was Who in Rutland), 9, 10 (Burley-on-the-Hill), 11, 13-15; please enquire for details of contents and availability of photocopies

**All orders for publications**, with payment in sterling including postage as shown above, and trade enquiries should be sent to: The Honorary Editor, RLHRS, c/o Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, England.

**Membership enquiries** should be sent to the Honorary Membership Secretary at the same address.

## Rutland Record Series (new lower prices)

1. *Tudor Rutland: The County Community under Henry VIII*, ed. Julian Cornwall (1980). The Military Survey of 1522 & the Lay Subsidy of 1524, with introduction (now £3.00, members £2.00)

2. *The Weather Journals of a Rutland Squire*, ed John Kington (1988). Thomas Barker's 18th century weather, farming and countryside records, with introduction (now £5.00, members £3.50)

3. *Stained Glass in Rutland Churches*, by Paul Sharpling (1997). Complete survey and gazetteer; introduction; lists of glaziers, subjects, dedicatees, donors, heraldry (now £5.00, members £3.50)

4. *Time in Rutland: a history and gazetteer of the bells, scratch dials, sundials and clocks of Rutland*, by Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath (2002) (now £10.00, members £7.50)

## Occasional Publications

1. *Domesday Book in Rutland: the dramatis personae*, by Prince Yuri Galitzine (1986)(OP)

2. *The Oakham Survey 1305*, ed Allen Chinnery (1988). Medieval survey: population, occupations, topography, customs, and personal/place-name evidence (£3.50, members £2.50)

3. *The Rutland Hearth Tax 1665*, ed Jill Bourn & Amanda Goode (1991). Population and payment information, with introduction (£3.50, members £2.50)

4. *The History of Gilson's Hospital, Morcott*, by David Parkin (1995). The charity, its almshouse, trustees, beneficiaries, and farm at Scredington, Lincs; foundation deed, Gilson's will (£3.50, members £2.50)

5. *Lyndon, Rutland*, by Charles Mayhew (1999). Guide to the village and church (£2.50, members £2.00)

6. *The History of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist & St Anne in Okeham*, by David Parkin (2000). The 600-year old charity: history, chapel, trustees and beneficiaries (£3.50, members £2.50)

7. *The 1712 Land Tax Assessments and the 1710 Poll Book for Rutland*, ed T H McK Clough (2005). Introduction, commentary, transcripts, indexes (£5.95, members £4.95)

8. *Common Right and Private Interest: Rutland's Common Fields and their Enclosure*, by Ian E Ryder (2006). Detailed account of how Rutland's enclosures evolved, with historical background, case studies, gazetteer and indexes (£7.50, members £6.00)

## Postage and packing

*Rutland Record, Index, Occasional Publications* 1-6: 75p one issue + 50p each extra issue, maximum £3.00; *Land Tax, Common Right, Stained Glass*: £1.00 each; *Tudor Rutland, Weather Journals*: £1.50 each; *Time in Rutland*: £5.50. Overseas charged at cost – please enquire for details: payment in sterling only

# *Rutland Record 26*

*Journal of the Rutland Local History & Record Society*



Uppingham from the south c1851

Rutland and the Gunpowder Plot

Uppingham's 1875-77 Typhoid Outbreak

Rutlanders in Devon, Norfolk & Warwickshire in the 1851 Census

Rutland History and Archaeology in 2004 and 2005