

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Cover picture: *South Wingfield Manor, seen from the North, 11th October 2020* [M. Craven]

ROOTING FOR WINGFIELD MANOR

Inside this edition of the *Newsletter*, we carry an appeal for readers to consider signing a petition concerning the future of Wingfield Manor, which I urge you all to do. It has particular resonance for me because in 2015, a planning application was submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council by a serial developer of estates of rather un-wonderful small houses (often in very sensitive positions), Messrs. Gladman Developments. I was retained *pro bono* to make a case against this development, which was to put 80 such houses on the north side of Inns Lane.

I used the setting to make the case against the development, and argued that, although the Manor was well known to have had a Great Park and a Little Park, it was little realised that there was a third hunting park, like the others visible from the manor, to the north and west, called Heriz's Park. Ralph, 3rd Lord Cromwell, KG around 1440 had married John de Heriz's heiress and built the present manor, probably incorporating a previous structure. The Manor's high tower was an integral part of the building dedicated to the observation of the hunt.

Yet in the 12th century, William de Heriz, had donated a portion of his estate to the canons of the Abbey of Darley as part of a gift of the advowson of the church at South Wingfield made before his death in 1178. Essentially, the donation included not only land in South Wingfield but also more in Wessington to the north and Crich to the west.

Sometime between 1248 and 1261, Abbot Walter of Darley and the canons granted back to William's son, Henry de Heriz some of this land specifically so that he could enclose it to make a park for the purpose of hunting deer and other game to supply his table. In return, Henry was to pay the Abbey the agricultural tithes of corn and hay arising from his tenure and allowing the monks a right of way to enable them to carry away these goods payable to them as tithe.

The wording of the grant makes it clear that Henry already had at least one other previously existing park, likely to have been the Great Park, to the south, made therefore before 1248. The Little Park, the origin of which is not recorded, is likewise delineated on the Tithe Map and like the Great Park, was un-tithed, thus being clearly marked, whereas Heriz's Park, being on land associated with the gift of the church to the Abbey, was tithed. However, its boundaries are easily traced from the grant in the cartulary of the Abbey, and in the main are clear on the ground, even today.

At the appeal, we argued that as the three parks were hunting reserves and the high tower of the Manor had been erected specifically to observe the chase in any of them, then they constituted most emphatically the setting of the Manor. I submitted a detailed report to this effect and was cross-examined by Gladman's portly counsel (with whom I had previously crossed swords in the enquiry into the destruction of the Derby Marble Works to dual King Street.) but managed to hold my own. I also answered some questions from the inspector. In the end the latter refused the appeal on grounds of setting, under section 66 (1) of the 1990 Act.

Hence, my own personal attraction and enthusiasm for Wingfield Manor. Let us hope the petition bears fruit – although I shall not hold my breath as things are at present!

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FROM THE CHAIR

While the summer programme of events is now open for bookings, recordings of the winter talks given from January to April this year are still available on the DAS website. With a rich mix of topics and including Professor James Clark's absorbing and scholarly Joan D'Arcy lecture, 'The Dissolution of the Monasteries in Derbyshire', there is much to enjoy.

All of the matters on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 May (at which a quorum was just achieved) were approved, including some small changes to the Society's Rules. The meeting expressed its appreciation of John D'Arcy's long service on Council from which he has now retired. John remains an active member of the Architecture Section and Archaeology Research Group committees. The work of running the Society is undertaken solely by its members, so do please do get in touch if you would like to see how you might help.

With the help of funding towards editorial work provided in part by the Society and a crowdfunding campaign for printing costs, the free magazine *Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire* ('ACID') was produced as usual in time for distribution at Derbyshire Archaeology Day in Chesterfield in January.

In March, the brief for Phase 1 of the Repton project, generously funded by one of our members, was sent to a number of commercial firms and university departments. This was for a feasibility study to review the artefacts and archives from the Repton excavations that have been deposited with Derby Museums and to draw up a plan to identify priorities for future work with a view to the eventual publication of the results of the excavation of this most important site undertaken, by Martin Biddle and Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle in the 1970s and 1980s. The closing date for Expressions of Interest was 31 May and the Repton Committee will be assisted by one of Historic England's Science Advisors, Tom Elliot, in reviewing the submissions and choosing the successful tenderer.

Work is currently in progress to register the Society's land at Darley Abbey with the UK Land Registry. We are most grateful to Peter Milner FRICS, a trustee of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, for generously providing a valuation for the property for the application.

Good progress is also being made on the next issue of *Miscellany*. Becky continues as a member of the Editorial Team, managing the design of the publication and providing editorial advice and expertise.

The History Fair at the Strutts Centre in Belper on Saturday 28th June from 10.00am to 3.00pm, is shaping up to be quite a big event, with 25 local history groups booked to attend. There will also be short talks throughout the day and the DAS library will be open and we are also having a grand book sale. Do come along and meet and support the volunteers who do so much to promote, record and research the history of the county.

Rosemary Annable
chair@derbyshireas.org.uk

OBITUARY

Dr. Terence George Manby, FSA (1933-2025)

Terry Manby, who was for many years a member of this Society and a leading expert on the British Bronze Age, died peacefully at his home near Market Weighton in the East Riding of his native Yorkshire on 27th March 2025, aged 91 years. His interest extended well beyond the Bronze Age, however, and extended to pottery much more widely, although he was exceptionally well versed in Medieval, social and indeed industrial history. His career coincided with the immediate post-war era when a career in archaeology could be sustained by and in parallel with one in museums, before the era of professional agencies and local government reform took archaeology to new levels. He also made several contributions to the Society's *Journal*, and he excavated at Duffield Castle (in 1957, cf. DAJ LXXIX (1959)) first investigated by (William) Rolls Bland in 1887 and further in the 1930s; regrettably this remains



one of the National Trust's most neglected sites. He wrote *Food Vessels of the Peak District* (1957) and *Food Vessels of Derbyshire* (1964) and *Two Bronze Daggers from the Peak District* (1958) whilst in Derbyshire. He later moved to Yorkshire, where he was a leading light of our sister societies there, the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society (YAHS) most prominently.

Terry Manby photographed in 1984.

Terence George (Terry) Manby was born in Pickering, Yorkshire in 1933 to George Manby and Irene, *née* Wildon and, having been educated locally began, even then, to volunteer to help with local excavations, notably in 1950 at Flixton Scar under John Moore, the discoverer of this Mesolithic site. Faced, however, with the prospect of two year's National Service in 1951, he opted to sign up for five years in the Royal Air Force, following which in 1956 he joined Barbara Winstanley at Derbyshire's pioneering Museums Schools Service, which Barbara had built up from 1936, and which the County Council largely disposed of by sale in the 1980s.

After three years, he returned to his native climes by obtaining a post at the Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield, but found further advancement blocked by his lack of a degree. He therefore obtained a place on the University of Liverpool's MA course in archaeology; his PhD came later. This enabled him to apply for the sort of post for which he was best suited and in 1974 he was appointed curator of Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, a post he held until 1992, during which time he was elected FSA in March 1981. It was also at his suggestion that

the Aerial Archaeology Committee of the YAHS was formed in 1972, establishing a group of locally based flyers and archaeologists, who collaborated to coordinate flights across Yorkshire, covering the historic county prior to 1974 boundary changes.

Terry's archaeological work was considerable and important, and his written work hardly less so. He edited two important monographs and wrote two others, compiled or wrote 65 reports, articles and other contributions to larger works, and meanwhile was happy to produce such more accessible works as *Doncaster Yesterday: About the Town* (1980) and its successors.

Terry Manby leaves a wife, Joyce (*née*, Sidebottom) whom he married in 1959, children Richard and Gillian, five grandchildren and a brother, Barry. His funeral was at Haltemprice Crematorium on 28th April, followed by a service at All Saints', Market Weighton.

[*Obit. adapted, with portrait, from Society of Antiquaries' Salon, May 2025 with some personal knowledge and public notices.*]

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LIBRARY NOTES

Since the last Newsletter we have been very pleased to receive two generous donations of books – one in March from the family of the late Margaret Campbell-Wilson and another in May from the family of the late Jane Steer. These donations provide the library with books to add to the collection and if we already have them then donors are happy for us to sell them in order to raise money for the library. We thank the families for their kindness and generosity.

The Saturday morning openings continue to bring in people to coincide with the talks. At the AGM on the 10th May, the selection of drawings from the Cromford and High Peak Railway which were on display generated a great deal of interest and considerable detailed conversations about the railway as members pored over them.

A selection of new additions to the Library collection:

Silk Threads and Ironworks Anne M Powers, Quarndon, Quandary Press (2024) 84pp
Belper Voices Life in Belper in the Nineteenth Century vol 2. Christopher Charlton, Bernard Holden, Adrian Farmer, David Hool. The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Educational Trust (2024) 186pp

Nathaniel Johnston's History of the Foljambe Family Parts 1 and 2. Edited by Philip Riden Derbyshire Record Society Vols 50 (2024) 247pp and 51, 632 pp.

The Church Architecture of Richard Twentyman, by Chris Kennedy, Aidan Rudyard (2023) 249pp

Anne Allcock Hon. Librarian

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN CASTLETON & THE UPPER HOPE VALLEY

Colin Merrony

17th January 2025

Colin began, ‘As many of you know, Castleton is a well-loved tourist destination in north Derbyshire, famous for its picturesque scenery and historic Peveril Castle...However, its history extends far beyond the Norman Conquest....Over the past fifteen years, the University of Sheffield, in collaboration with the Castleton Historical Society, has been working to uncover the deeper past of this fascinating landscape’.

‘The project initially focused on the site of the medieval hospital along the road connecting Castleton and Hope...As the research expanded, archaeologists began exploring the broader area, examining remains stretching from the Roman period through to the 19th century.’ One of the most intriguing discoveries from this research has been evidence of settlement in Castleton predating the Norman arrival and the construction of Peveril Castle. ‘This raises,’ Colin continued, ‘important questions about who lived in the area before the medieval period and how the landscape developed over time’.



Part of the Upper Hope Valley, looking south from Thornhill-in-Peak, 18th Sept. 2021. [MC]

Colin explained that through fieldwork and excavations, a wealth of information had been uncovered about the Upper Hope Valley, from its ancient inhabitants to more recent historical developments. Among the findings are:

- Evidence of pre-Norman settlement activity, reshaping our understanding of Castleton's origins.
- Artefacts and structures revealing insights into daily life during various periods in the valley's history.
- A broader look at how people moved through and shaped this landscape over centuries.

Despite changes in academia, with the University of Sheffield's Archaeology Department now part of the School of History, Philosophy, and Digital Humanities, research in this area continues. Archaeologists remain committed to uncovering more layers of Derbyshire's past, enriching our understanding of both local and national history.

Our speaker concluded with a thanks for listening, to explore the remarkable discoveries made in Castleton and the Hope Valley. These findings are just the beginning, and continued archaeological work will no doubt reveal even more stories from the past. Our thanks go to Colin, for giving us such an interesting talk on an area practically on our doorstep. We hope to extend our knowledge in a visit during the summer.

Janette Jackson

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SOUTHWELL, THE HIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr Stephen Rogers

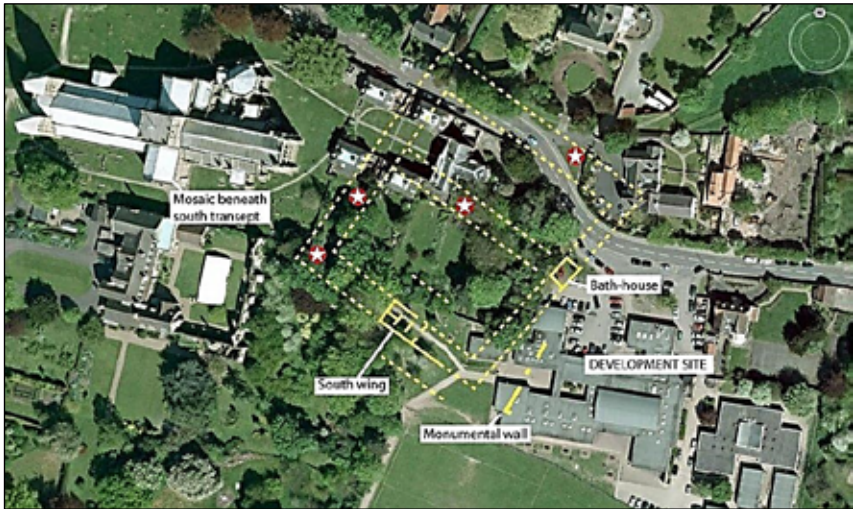
14th February 2025

Stephen began by saying that he was very pleased to welcome the Archaeological Research Group to explore the fascinating, often hidden archaeology of Southwell, Nottinghamshire during the summer. Southwell is a town steeped in history, with layers of archaeological discoveries that continue to shed light on its past. From its Roman roots to its medieval evolution, Southwell holds secrets waiting to be uncovered.

Southwell is home to what some archaeologists believe to be the largest Romano-British villa site in the region. The extent and significance of this site suggest that Southwell was far more than a simple Roman settlement; it may have had considerable regional importance as well. The architectural and artefactual evidence give us a glimpse into the lifestyles of those who lived here nearly two thousand years ago.

Following the Roman period, Southwell saw the development of an Anglo-Saxon church, later evolving into the grand Norman minster we recognize today. Archaeologists have debated whether this religious transition was influenced by the deep-rooted significance of the site, carried over from previous eras, which seems, on precedent elsewhere, eminently possible. The ongoing research aims to untangle these connections and understand how Southwell became a major religious centre in the region. It is possible, for instance, that the villa developed into a late antique 'house church' and the site's Christian significance was revived by a post-seventh century need to re-evangelise the countryside, hence its transition into a minster, like St. Alkmund in Derby.

Southwell Community Archaeology Group (SCAG), the group Dr. Rogers leads, has played a vital role in uncovering Southwell's medieval development. Their dedication to archaeological exploration has provided valuable insights into the town's past, helping to preserve and document its heritage for future generations. Collaborating with professionals and historians, SCAG has illuminated aspects of Southwell's history that were long forgotten.



Southwell: Roman villa plan superimposed on a vertical image of the site. [Southwell LHS]

That history took a dramatic turn in Southwell when King Charles I spent his last night of freedom at what is now known as *The Saracen's Head*. This coaching inn, with its preserved Elizabethan wall paintings, offers a rare glimpse into the past. SCAG's work with professional conservators has sought to understand and protect these artistic treasures, ensuring they continue to tell their story.

Stephen concluded that the archaeology of Southwell is vast, layered, and deeply fascinating. From its Roman origins to its medieval significance, the town offers insights into centuries of British history. With ongoing research and conservation efforts, the group hope to uncover even more hidden elements of Southwell's past.

Our thanks go to Stephen, for coming along and giving us such a wonderful insight in to Southwell, and its very varied historical past.

Janette Jackson

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ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

JOHN FLAMSTEED AND HIS FAMILY'S HOUSE IN DERBY

Chris Stone

11th October 2024

Our speaker, Chris Stone, is a member of Derby Civic Society, which has made no less than three unsuccessful applications to have 27 Queen St, Derby, derelict since 1998 but the home of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, added to the statutory list: in 1998, 2005 and

2011. Historic England (HE) considers the house to have little architectural merit, due to its three rebuildings and subsequent fairly drastic reductions in size, in 1908 and 1924. HE disregards a number of high-profile people, such as clockmaker and Lunar Society co-founder John Whitehurst FRS and the artist Joseph Wright also having lived there over the years.



Derby, 27, Queen Street in 1952, when occupied by Smith's Clocks, Ltd., there from 1864-1998, with the later Howard Smith's Rover outside. [Smith of Derby Ltd.]

Fortunately, following Matthew Saunders' report on listing HE commissioned in 2018 and published in 2021, the organisation has recently changed its ideas and is now considering buildings with a historic past, which includes its association with its inhabitants. Hence a further application was made in April 2024, co-ordinated on behalf of the Civic Society by our speaker.

John Flamsteed was born at a family property in Denby in 1646. When the complexities of the Civil War abated somewhat, they moved back to Derby, where John attended Derby School. Here he learnt and developed an interest in astronomy and trigonometry, encouraged by Immanuel Halton of South Wingfield Manor. The father, Stephen, built an impressive new house in Queen St in about 1670. It was here where Flamsteed made important astronomical observations of stars, comets and planets. These were made with the help of a wall running from north to south, with a quadrant fixed to it so he could measure angles. Among his discoveries was the first accurate calculation of the distance from the earth to the sun. In 2004,

a developer-led archaeological dig was undertaken in the garden, but unfortunately, no evidence of the quadrant wall appears to have been found.

In Europe during the 17th-century, accurate charts for navigation across the oceans, using astronomy, were being developed in observatories. This was necessary due to the increase in overseas trade. Charles II had an observatory built to Sir Christopher Wren's design at Greenwich, completed in 1676, and Flamsteed was invited to run it because of his well-known insistence on precision and accuracy. His title was the King's Astronomer, a professional post for which he was paid £100 a year, not by any means always paid on time! Apart from his observations of the heavens, two of his achievements were the invention of Greenwich Mean Time and the placing of the Greenwich Meridian (an earlier meridian passing through Derby, was abandoned).

In London he met the likes of Newton, Halley, Wren and Hooke, although like most people, he came into conflict with Newton. He was caught between him and Halley, who succeeded in expunging him from history, rescued only by the posthumous publication of his *Atlas Coelestis*. Eventually, Flamsteed's work was devalued by the development, in the mid-18th-century, of John Harrison's portable clock, from which mariners could work out a ship's longitude while at sea – much simpler than Flamsteed's complicated charts. Flamsteed died in 1719 and was succeeded in his post by his ex-pupil, Doveridge-born Edmund Halley.

From 1764 to 1788 the building was the home of Whitehurst, for whom Joseph Pickford greatly enlarged it, and where Benjamin Franklin stayed. From 1793 until his death Joseph Wright lived there, too, attended by Whitehurst's friend Dr. Erasmus Darwin.

The house in Queen Street does have some historic fabric, which includes some 17th and early 18th-century panelling, Restoration period beams, part of the 18th century staircase and outer walls from the 17th and 18th centuries. The house was drastically reduced when the Council decided to widen the road, and the present frontage of 1924 by T H Thorpe, was a legacy of this and some now consider this too embodies historic value.

The garden remains under threat of development by its owner. The Civic Society considers it to be of great significance and would eventually like to develop it into a space with an astronomical theme, as has happened with the Herschel Museum in Bath. As an aside, it is also only of the last intact burgage plots in Derby.

Thanks to Chris for an interesting and illuminating talk.

Pat Haldenby

STOP PRESS: Talk about the efficacy of the Society's lectures: 27 Queen Street (Flamsteed House) was added to the Statutory List, grade II on 15th November, following the occasion of the talk. The current owner's plans have yet to be considered. (Ed.)

A WALK ROUND THE DARLEY ABBEY MILLS

Anthony Attwood

10 September 2024

An early evening walk in the company of Anthony Attwood of Patterns Properties Limited, owners of the Darley Abbey Mills, provided the opportunity to hear at first hand how it has been possible to retain the major elements of such a large cotton spinning enterprise, the Evans family's Boar's Head Mills, which were begun in the later 18th century, as a viable business in the post-industrial age.

For Anthony this is a family story that began with his father Sam, a patternmaker, who formed his own business in 1947 operating from the family home in Margaret Street in Derby and later moved to the Darley Abbey Mills. When Darley Abbey faced its second 'Dissolution', with the end of textile manufacturing, Sam decided to buy the Middle and East Mills which he used for his own business, while letting out space to eventually over 50 other businesses.



The largest house on the Boar's Head Mills site, built c. 1797 possibly intended for the Mill Manager, with the main reception rooms on the taller first floor and the ground floor used for business.

[Rosemary Annable]

Making industrial buildings, some of which had remained empty for many years, fit for new uses was a huge task and the decisions by the family later to buy the North Mill in 2010, followed (after the North Mill had been restored) by the West and Long Mills in 2012 were particularly courageous as by now the Boar's Head Mills were part of the Derwent Valley Mills

World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) and Grade I Listed.

The site now accommodates a huge cross-section of business, leisure and office spaces, as well as a successful wedding venue and an increasing hospitality component that supports a night time economy. Some 500 people work on the site, equalling the size of the workforce when the mills were owned by the Evans family. Attempts have also been made to encourage the use of entire floors of the mills by single businesses so that, as single uninterrupted spaces, they demonstrate their original design and purpose, while many other original features also remain.



Darley Abbey, the mills from the south, 2016.

[MC]

The location of Darley Abbey has also been an important factor in restoring the site; being in Derby, but not physically a part of it, with the benefits of parking space, lack of congestion and ease of access, although the closure of the Darley Abbey Toll Bridge in May 2022 at two days' notice due to safety concerns and its replacement by a temporary bridge for pedestrians and cyclists – but not road traffic – remains to be resolved.

Anthony's enthusiasm for and commitment to his family's work at Darley Abbey Mills is clear and for one who must have dealt with so many planning applications with all of the associated complexities of dealing with Grade I Listed buildings in a World Heritage Site, his cheerfulness for the task was remarkable.

With the DVMWHS now required by UNESCO to comply with annual 'State of Conservation Reporting' due to the continuing decay of the Belper Mills and unsympathetic planning decisions affecting the WHS in Derby, it is heartening to see what can be achieved when a site has what all agree is the vital component for restoration and viable reuse – the right owner.

The history of the buildings at Darley Abbey Mills can be found in an English Heritage Research Report by Adam Menuge 'Boar's Head Mills, Darley, Abbey: a survey and investigation of the cotton mills and ancillary buildings', 2006 on the Research Reports section of the Historic England website historicengland.org.uk

Rosemary Annable

‘ELEGANT, WELL-MANNERED BUT NEVER DULL’ – THE CHURCH ARCHITECTURE OF RICHARD TWENTYMAN

Christopher Kennedy and Aidan Ridyard

8 November 2024

This double presentation, with Chris Kennedy providing the background and cultural context and Aidan Ridyard the architectural detail and appreciation, proved an ideal way to introduce the eleven churches (ten Anglican and one Methodist) designed by Richard Twentyman (1903-1979) over some 35 years of social, cultural and liturgical change. From inter-war monumental brickwork (St Gabriel, Fullbrook, Walsall, Staffs.), post war modernism (All Saints, Darlaston, Wednesbury, Staffs.) and into the 1960s with new directions, responding to liturgical change (St Andrew, Grange, Runcorn, Cheshire), Twentyman’s designs responded not only to the opportunities for new materials to produce lighter forms, but also the need for churches, many in large new housing developments, to provide both a spiritual focus and community base with linked halls and other facilities.

Whatever the external form – or budget – the defining feature of Twentyman’s work was his use of fenestration, concealed from immediate internal view, to produce spaces full of light, with a clear focus on the eastern end of the building and the purpose of worship. Ornamentation was used sparingly, a single sculpture or carving, frequently the work of the sculptor Don Potter and stained glass not at all, with the sole exception of a window by John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens, which occupies the whole width of the west wall at St Andrew, Whitmore Reans (Wolverhampton, Staffs.). For several churches, Twentyman also designed the furnishings.



To accommodate another necessity of population growth and one in which the choreography of function is very different from religious worship, Twentyman’s two crematorium chapels, Bushbury in Wolverhampton (1954) and at Redditch (1971-1973) incorporated landscape as an integral part of their design with mourners moving from the chapel into views of the countryside and new life beyond.

Aidan and Chris after their talk at St Mary’s Church Hall.

[Susan Peberdy]

Two of Twentyman’s smaller churches have been repurposed as halls and St Nicholas, Radford, Nottingham (1954-1955) which has succumbed to problems of concrete and asbestos

degradation is likely to be demolished, but the rest continue to serve their communities exemplifying the criteria Twentyman thought important in a church building – dignity and a devotional atmosphere.

If you thought that you weren't interested in 20th century church architecture in the West Midlands, or the work of a Wolverhampton architect you may never have heard of, then Chris Kennedy & Aidan Ridyard's book *The Church Architecture of Richard Twentyman* which is beautifully written, illustrated and designed, is available at richardttwentyman.com

Rosemary Annable

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BOLSOVER CASTLE

Richard Sheppard

7th February 2025

Some 'lesser known aspects of Bolsover castle, as revealed by archaeological investigation' was the topic of a talk to the Society by Richard Sheppard at St Mary's and also online. Richard, now retired, was an archaeologist working for Trent and Peak Archaeology, who was regularly consulted on Bolsover from 1990 to 2012, and particularly during the extensive improvements carried out by English Heritage between 1997 and 2002.



Bolsover, the castle painted by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm, 1770s. [Abbot & Holder, Ltd.]

The castle occupies a commanding position, originally established by William Peverel, on the limestone escarpment above the model village, since heavily industrialised, of New Bolsover.

Ownership passed to the Crown and in the 16th century to the earls of Shrewsbury, from whom it passed to Charles Cavendish, son of Bess of Hardwick. In 1612 Charles employed Robert Smythson to begin building what is now known as the 'Little Castle' on the footprint of an earlier mediaeval keep. Building was finished in 1620 under Charles' son William, now with the help of John Smythson. Bolsover achieved its greatest moments with the construction of the terrace range containing the state apartments where King Charles I and his wife were entertained in 1634. William, a celebrated horseman and later 1st Duke of Newcastle, went into exile after the battle of Marston Moor. He returned after the Restoration with his second wife Margaret a noted intellectual of the time, but their son Henry was less enthusiastic about Bolsover and, by the end of the 17th century it was no longer being used as the family's main seat and became something of a retreat.

Richard commented that the site was remarkably 'archaeologically clean' as far as small finds were concerned. He also noted that generally, the archaeological investigations had not been able to provide positive evidence to support some of the guide book suggestions for the location of various mediaeval walls and buildings. In particular, he believed the exact location of the gatehouse had not been convincingly established. Excavations prior to the building of the present Visitor Centre revealed some Saxo-Norman pottery and many post pits dated to 1200-1250. There is documentary evidence from 1225, after it had been taken over by the Crown, of expenditure on a new bath house and kitchen.

Much of the interest centred on the Little Castle and its immediate surroundings. Evidently it had suffered remarkably little damage during the Civil War despite being occupied successively by Royalist then Parliamentary troops. Richard mentioned an anecdote of more recent potential damage when workmen were renovating the prestigious ground floor Pillar Room, taking paintwork off the panelling that included the original layers. A fortuitous visit by a paint specialist stopped the work in time to study the layers, which included gilding and graining. English Heritage was subsequently able to renovate the room to its original decorative scheme.

Every room in the Little Castle has an allegorical theme, whether from the bible in the Star Chamber, more sensual scenes in the Elysium Closet or from the classics, particularly the Labours of Hercules that feature downstairs and over the entrance doorway. It is thought the latter represents the struggles of William Cavendish against his inclinations. On the top floor, Richard noted that there is quite a lot of brickwork dividing the rooms in what was probably the servant's quarters. He suggests the building was put up very quickly with the construction, but not the decoration, finished by 1620. The accounts indicate that women and children were also involved in its construction.

Adjoining the Little Castle is a garden enclosed by a massive curtain wall in the centre of which is the Venus Fountain. With English Heritage's intent to get it operational again, quite a lot of archaeological work was carried out to trace the water supply pipework, after the rather damaged statue of Venus went away to be conserved. Much of the lead piping beside the fountain had been removed during the Civil War to provide lead shot for the extensive ordnance

at Bolsover. Its loss was even noted by Margaret Cavendish when she returned in 1650. The pipework led under the curtain wall to a cistern house which possibly had contained a water wheel to feed the tank. The site as a whole was fed by water from a number of conduit houses (known locally as Cundy Houses) that were supplied by springs. As part of this work, Richard believes they found a bath house beside the Terrace range.



Bolsover Castle, the Little Castle from the North West, and the Venus Fountain.

[English Heritage]

One addition to the site during the Civil War was a viewing platform, near the Little Castle, which Richard suggested was to give cannon suitable coverage of the flanks of the castle. In later times, during the 19th century, the Little Castle was occupied successively by two local vicars of very different life styles. From this period Richard found more than a hundred graffiti on lead roofing strips, many inscribed in the shape of a foot with initials and dates. Richard finished with an enigmatic tile from the earliest period of the Little Castle which he suggested might represent that of a hooded man.

There will be an opportunity to explore these features for ourselves during a summer visit with Richard that will be a follow up to this wide ranging and entertaining talk.

D G Jones

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INDUSTRIAL SECTION

HOLMES OF DERBY – COACH MAKERS TO THE MONARCH

Amy Bracey

11th April 2025

Amy Bracey represents the Carriage Foundation, a charity devoted to the conservation of horse drawn carriages and related artefacts and architecture.

The Holmes family had been established as coach builders in Lichfield from the 18th century if not earlier but, in 1795, Charles Holmes, moved the firm to premises on London Road, Derby. They adopted steam powered machinery from 1845 onwards and became the largest coach builders in the county, with showrooms in Sheffield, Burton on Trent, and London. The firm was awarded Queen Victoria's Royal Warrant and the sovereign herself bestowed a visit to the works in September 1852. By the time of the Queen's visit, the works, set around a courtyard, were closed off from the road by a stylish screen. At Calke Abbey a full set of high-quality vehicles made by Holmes are on display in the stables and when the house was being restored all the bills from Holmes' were discovered.

Interestingly, Arthur E. Holmes, grandson of the founder, was a leading campaigner against the Derby tramways in 1877, doubtless seeing it as a threat to the profusion of private transport to the detriment of his business! His brother, Herbert Mountford Holmes ran the London showroom at 40, Rupert Street, Haymarket and later from 37-38 Margaret Street.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers visited the factory in 1898 and admired the wide range of machinery, with between 200 and 250 men working on up to 100 carriages. The firm exhibited carriages, harnesses and saddlery in numerous exhibitions, winning medals for several of their designs, and held royal warrants for 100 years.

In the 20th century Holmes became a supplier of bespoke bodywork for motor vehicles, ranging from Rolls Royce and Bentley cars to delivery wagons and buses. In 1923 they merged with another Derby firm, Frederick George Sanderson & Sons of Midland Road, motor engineers, becoming Sanderson & Holmes. The firm eventually became part of Mann Egerton car dealership in the 1970s, which in turn was taken over by Inchcape.

The story of Holmes has come into the spotlight recently with the appearance of an archive relating to the business at an auction in Nottingham. The range of material was quite extraordinary, ranging from a petty cash book from 1813-1822, lease agreements for property in Derby and London from 1824-1860, daybooks from the 1840s and 1880s, minute books from 1920s, royal warrants, patents, portfolios of carriage drawing, exhibition medals and photographs.

The Carriage Foundation was asked to advise on the archive before the auction, and when Amy realised its significance there was a frantic effort to secure funding to ensure the archive was

kept together in the UK. In the end the Carriage Foundation was able to purchase the archive using loans from individual benefactors, as an interim measure until the Derbyshire Record Office was able to obtain funding to provide a permanent home.



Holmes & Co., rebuilt premises (dated 1911) photograph from the Gentleman's Magazine of that year. Part of the building still survives, opposite Derbion. [MC]

The collection has now been conserved and packaged and is being gradually photographed to make the documents accessible online. Volunteers from the Carriage Foundation are transcribing the correspondence and day books, with a longer-term aim to explore publication of the material.

Ian Mitchell

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DERBY AND ALE

John Arguile

29th March 2025

This gentle talk gave us an insight into an activity which is very popular but is perhaps rarely thought about. As a young employee at Rolls Royce, John was billeted in the West End where there were pubs on every corner. Later, interested in history, he began to investigate further. These houses were home-brew pubs, brewed at the back and sold at the front. In the late 18th and early 19th century Derby had more home-brew pubs than anywhere else in the UK and although known as a brewing town, it had originally been a malting town. Investigations have shown that Derby was exporting 3,000 bushels of malt a week to Nottinghamshire and

Staffordshire making it a major trade for the town – 76 malting houses, and 194 pubs in Derby at the time, enriching the Lowes and the Gisbornes in the 17th and 18th centuries and the Clarkes in the 19th. The remains of this industry can be seen on street and house names.



Typical 19th century corner pub: the Dog & Partridge, Bedford Street, opened 1873 when the street was pitched and still (miraculously) going – less its chimneys! [The late Don Gwinnett]

John took us through major players in this industry, starting with Thomas Lowe a maltster turned brewer in the late 18th century then, as Alton's, to become the first big wholesale brewer with 290 pubs serving the population. Stretton's expanded through the 19th century. The coming of the railways with a vast influx of workers, brought fierce competition for beer. Offiler's from Nottingham bought into Derby with *The Vine* at Whitaker Street, very close to the railway and they continued to buy up smaller pubs. Bass from Burton came on the scene as 'bitter' became a favoured taste – Derby was originally a 'mild' town.

Through the years brewers came and went. Charrington's bought Offiler's then Bass bought Charrington's and became the main brewer. For the family companies over the two centuries John suggested that lack of skills and acumen in the next generations, high dividends with little invested in the firms, inevitably resulted in the decline of many brewers. But times come round again and artisan beers, just like the old home-brew pubs, are popping up in small corners.

There was a lot of detail in the talk and John gave us a flavour of the fascinating history of Brewing and Ale in Derby. Questions elicited further information.

Anne Allcock

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LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

LOCK-UPS IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Robert Mee

10th January 2025

Robert Mee gave members a very entertaining lecture on lock-ups, well-illustrated with photographs of those still standing and archive pictures of some which have not survived. To start, we learnt that there were various names for these places of confinement – kidcote, kitty, gaol, dungeon, round house, cage – to name just a few.

The origins of these was not always obvious but the variety would seem to suggest that the provision of these places of confinement was local in nature rather than set out in any form of legislation. The architecture was varied yet at the same time, there were several clear themes, such as an octagonal shape with tall pyramidal roof – particularly found in Derbyshire and round ones with domed roofs. Buildings with steep roofs were more difficult for prisoners to get out of or rescuers to get in. However, lean-tos, single rooms in private houses and basement rooms were also to be found.



The lock-up at Breedon-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, photographed on 28th July 2013. [MC]

These places of confinement were to hold people who were awaiting an appearance before a justice of the peace or magistrate, or were awaiting transport to local assizes and were not long-term goals. Drunks were also housed therein to sober up. The comforts therefore were generally non-existent, with fireplaces generally being only available for custodians. In many instances the local constable, who was charged with housing the prisoners, would often have an arrangement to place someone temporarily in a barn or house and pay for this. The Derbyshire quarter sessions, in 1790, issued instructions that in every parish where there was not already



such a place, a small property be secured for use as a lock-up. This followed instances where the local public house had been used and custody had not been carried out in what was deemed a suitable manner!

Ticknall Lock-up, built before 1790, quite architectonic in brick with ashlar banding, on the orders of Sir Herry Harpur, 6th Bt., of Calke, photographed 8th August 2013. [MC]

Only seven of these lockups remain identified in Derbyshire, although clearly there would have been very many of them. The provision of a lock-up in Ticknall predates this instruction, however. The building which survives is octagonal with a tall roof. Alfreton contained two cells and a hall for the custodian with fireplace. Some have chains to shackle prisoners still in place. Architecture is varied: some are quite picturesque.

These places of confinement generally fell out of use when parishes got their own local constabularies and police stations generally contained suitable accommodation in the form of cells for prisoners. Ranging beyond the East Midlands, some of the more curious structures are the converted base of a market cross in Deeping St James (Lincs.), a converted wellhead, a structure that looked more like a garden shed in Roydon (Essex) and a converted room in the 14th century guildhall in nearby Thaxted.

Alfreton lock-up: also architectonic, in ashlar coal-measures sandstone, with arched door, twin oeils-de-boeuf and a commemorative tablet. Photographed 8th August 2013. [MC]



Some lock-ups were later converted to other uses, despite their cramped nature. Storage was always a possibility and one lock-up has had a varied life and is presently a takeaway pizza establishment, having previously housed the village fire engine and a public convenience. During the Second World War, some were used by the home guard in which to store their equipment and others were re-purposed as pillboxes, although the nature of construction would not have afforded much protection in the face of a concerted enemy onslaught.

Generally, in recent years, communities have taken pride in these buildings, have campaigned to save them from demolition, have even had them moved to more suitable locations and supplied passers-by with historical information about them by means of information panels.

Susan Peberdy

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THE FOULDS FAMILY

James Foulds

7th March 2025

James Foulds took us back to the start of his family's history in music and business. His ancestor William Foulds was living in Leicestershire working as a stocking frame knitter until 1840, when he moved to Mile Ash Lane in Darley Abbey to seek work at the Evans' Boar's Head cotton mills there. In 1859, his son Charles was born and he received a good education until William died; thereafter, he was forced to provide for the family. He started work at an ironmonger's shop in Derby but, by 1880, he had become apprenticed to William Orme, who was a dealer in pianos, organs and musical instruments in Derby, Nottingham and Burton. Charles seems to have enjoyed this, as he became a proficient restorer and an enterprising business man. In 1892 he made a very good marriage to Edith Morrall, who provided the backing he needed to invest (£1,525 for shop and stock) in taking on the Nottingham branch of Orme's business when he wanted to retire. William Orme, though, imposed a restriction on trading in Derby, where he still had a shop.

It was only a couple of years later that William Orme died and Charles hastened to open a shop in Derby, at 3 Iron Gate. The Nottingham shop was a lucrative source of income for Charles and he became known as a promoter of musical events. In 1908, Charles rented No. 40 Iron Gate to make room for the repair and refurbishment of pianos.

Charles and Edith had three children Dorothy, Arthur and Leslie. Arthur first joined the family firm when 16 years old in 1911 and was apprenticed to Sir Herbert Marshall's Piano Business in Regent Street in London in 1913. This career move was disrupted by the First World War and he joined up in 1914. At the end of the war, Arthur re-joined the business to become the Manager of the Chapel Bar, Nottingham, branch. Also in 1918, he married Elsie Jakes and they settled in Mapperley in Nottingham. In 1919 their son Philip (James's father) was born followed by three younger brothers Bob, Tony and Michael.

Charles became more involved in local government and became Mayor of Nottingham in 1925-26; this became the cause of a rift in the family as Arthur felt Charles was neglecting the family

business. Through the late 1920s and '30s, the slump caused the shops to fail until all that was left was the Iron Gate shop which became a new firm in 1933 still in the name of Charles Foulds but with CE Turton (who was the firm's accountant) on the board. Charles remained interested in the business, visiting every week until his death in 1945.



Foulds' shop in Iron Gate, Derby in 1988. The building started life in 1693 as The George Inn, which lasted until 1814. Parts of the interior are older, with surviving timber framing. [MC]

The rift was never allowed to affect the family's social life. After Charles died, Arthur returned as Managing Director. His son Philip had started training in the music business and, like his father, had his career interrupted by the Second World War, returning in 1946 only to be sent to Liverpool to be apprenticed to Rushworth and Dreaper Organ builders, and makers of musical instruments, which had a branch in Bond Street, London, which is where Philip met Jean, James's mother. The Rushworth and Foulds families have been leading lights in the National Music Trades Association for many years.

Throughout the '50s and '60s the rise and fall of record sales, radio and TV sales and TV rental, kept Foulds in business until the discount stores began to overtake them. However, 1965 saw a boost to guitar sales due to the success of the Beatles and Philip also enabled hundreds of Derby school children to be able to have music lessons on the instruments they were able to hire through the instrument rental business that he introduced. Philip was actively involved with Music festivals – he sponsored Provost Ron Beddoes', successful Cathedral music festivals in the late 1960s, which attracted internationally known figures, Yehudi Menuhin amongst them – competitions and choirs and, for his services he was awarded a Civic Award in 1999. James's introduction to music was through his voice: he became a chorister in St Paul's Cathedral in London when seven years old followed by a music scholarship to Repton after his voice broke.



*Foulds' shop in Iron Gate, 7th
March 2018. [MC]*

James went through school and university with no interest in the family business but in 1976 his father suffered a coronary and gave James a choice: to either join the business or Philip would dispose of it, so James decided to join him. James went to various other music businesses to learn his trade before taking up work in Derby. During the 1980s and '90s a joint venture buying in bulk helped to keep music shops in business but eventually the rise of the internet has proved the final straw for most music shops and the only remaining branch with the Foulds connection today is the guitar shop now located in the Strand Arcade in Derby.

Susan Peberdy

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THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES: THE J W ALLEN COLLECTION

One of the Society's most prolific writers for the popular press was J W Allen, a regular contributor to the *Derbyshire Countryside* throughout the 1950s (with his series 'Riddles of Derbyshire History', 'The Countryside', 'Byways') and in the 1960s to the *Derby Evening Telegraph*. In an 'Epilogue' to his work, which he had begun over 25 years previously, Allen explained that he had written 'so that the pleasure and interest my wife and I had might be shared with others, especially those no longer able to get out and about'. He would have preferred anonymity under a pen name but thought that 'statements of fact and opinion ought to be authenticated by the writer's name'; and in his many roles as writer, WEA lecturer, occasional broadcaster and headmaster of Mackworth Secondary School, J W Allen was a very well-known name indeed.

John William Allen (1902-1988) became a member of the DAS Council in 1950, a role he continued to fill into the 1970s. After his death in April 1988 his widow Nancy donated ‘a number of photographs, papers etc’ to the Society which were then deposited at the Derbyshire Record Office as part of the DAS archives. The photographs have remained unlisted since they were donated and so have not been available for research



*J. W. Allen standing at Harboro
Rocks. [DAS]*

As part of a project to provide full descriptions for the ‘Unlisted’ DAS archives, the collection of more than 900 good quality, large, black and white images (there are some duplicates), the majority of which are identified on the back or can be recognised from others in the series, has now been catalogued. Further work will continue to link the photographs to Allen’s published articles to identify their date – the one thing not recorded on the photographs, or in Allen’s notebook catalogue. Many of the pictures are Allen’s own, while others, in particular those taken for publication in the *Derbyshire Countryside*, were by C Eric Brown, who was also a member of the DAS.

The collection reflects the wide knowledge and range of interests demonstrated in Allen’s writings, including his love of the countryside and of walking, geology, local history, archaeology, architecture and coach roads. As most of the photographs were taken in the 1950s and 1960s, the collection is now of historical value in its own right as a record of the county almost 70 years ago.



J W Allen: Thorpe Cloud for Dovedale railway station, after the track was lifted in 1964 but before conversion to the Tissington Trail in 1970-71; dating kindly provided by Mark Higginson. [DAS]

***Typescripts of Allen's *Derbyshire Life & Countryside* articles (over 270 of them) are also held at the DRO and are in the Local History collection.

Rosemary Annable

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PETITION TO SAVE WINGFIELD MANOR

The Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust (DHBT) supported by Linsey Farnsworth, currently MP for Amber Valley, is asking members of the public to sign a petition urging the Government to take action to secure the future of Wingfield Manor, a grade I listed consolidated ruin and a scheduled ancient monument at South Wingfield.

Wingfield Manor is one of the most impressive surviving 15th century houses, and unique in all having been built in one campaign of building, rather than over several generations. Its high tower is only the second residential tower house in the region and from it, Lord Treasurer Cromwell's guests could follow the chase in three contiguous deer parks which surround the house. It is said to have inspired Hampton Court Palace and it boasts a rich history. The Manor's most famous resident was undoubtedly Mary, Queen of Scots, guest of George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury & Waterford. She was imprisoned here on two separate occasions, and

it is believed that Wingfield Manor played host to the hatching of the infamous Babington Plot involving Anthony Babington of nearby Dethick Manor.

Over the years it has also been a battleground, under destructive siege during the Civil War; a strategic munitions store, during World War II; and, it was even home to one of the country's first flushing toilets. On the exterior of the great hall, modified as a residence by amateur astronomer Immanuel Halton, who was a mentor of Revd. John Flamsteed FGRS, First Astronomer Royal, are some of Halton's surviving experimental sundials with their gnomons.

Despite its significance, the Manor is currently closed to the public due to safety concerns. The Manor has been passed down through generations and its current owner has now decided it is time to move on and sell this historic monument. Indeed, older members will recall being threatened by farmer Critchlow waving a shotgun when trying to visit in the 1960s. The ruins remain in private ownership, upon which the government in 1960 placed a guardianship order. English Heritage has been responsible for the site's upkeep more recently but the costs involved in making it accessible to the public have become prohibitive. It is now listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register due to its deteriorating condition.

In view of the changing situation, the DHBT supported by MP Farnsworth are calling on members of the public to consider adding their names to a petition, asking the government to recognise the importance of Wingfield Manor and to take steps to ensure it is made once more accessible to the public and available for everyone to enjoy. The petition will be available to sign in a number of venues until June 30th, after which it will be presented in Parliament by our MP.

Supporters can sign the petition at the following locations:

- ***Alfreton***
Alfreton House Tea Rooms, 127 High St, Alfreton DE55 7HH
The Moot Bar, 19, 19a, Church St, Alfreton DE55 7AH
- ***Ripley***
Town Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley DE5 3BT
- ***South Wingfield***
Wingfield Station, Holme Lane, DE55 7LJ

Further details may be found on the Derbyshire Historic Buildings website.

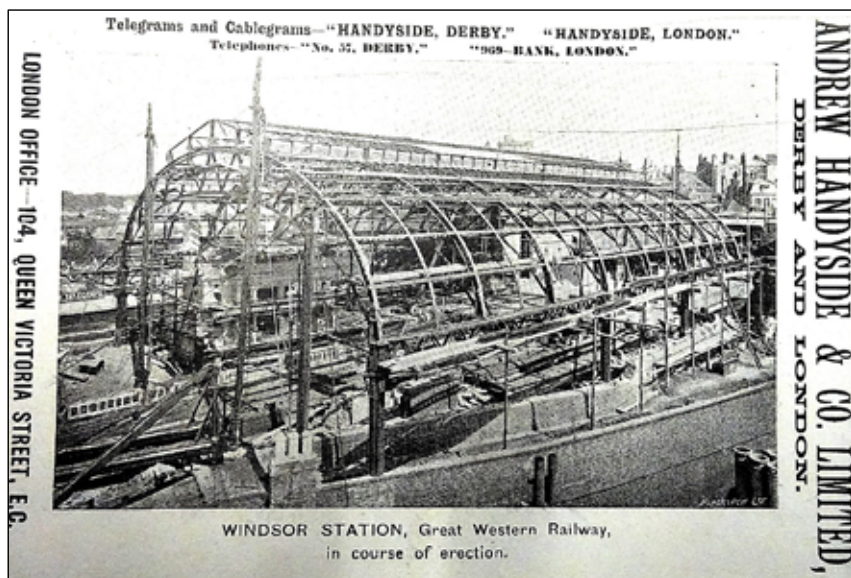
Note that the petition has to be in paper format (rather than on-line signatures) because then it allows our MP to present it formally in Parliament to the Speaker of the House. Both the wording of the petition and the response will be published in Hansard as a lasting record that the matter has been raised in Parliament. E-petitions (online) can be presented, but these tend to only be considered by Parliament if there are 10,000 signatures. With the time pressure, paper format is the way forward.

The DHBT would be happy to send a printed pack to anyone who needs it, for which telephone 020 7219 2737 or E-mail: Linsey.farnsworth.mp@parliament.uk



South Wingfield, surviving portions of the pale of the north (Heriz's) park, Wingfield Manor, April 2015 looking east from SK37305577. [Private collection]

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Advertisement discovered in the rear section of Bradshaw's Railway Guide 1875; apologies for the slight distortion: couldn't get the page flat enough!

PUBLISHED IN APRIL

Your editor's sequel to the 2nd edition of *The Lost Country Houses of Derbyshire*, which was published by Amberley of Stroud last Easter (March 2024) has now suffered its own sequel, called *The Lost Country Houses of Nottinghamshire* which is from the same publisher and was published at Easter. Cost is £15.99 per copy, obtainable from most local bookshops.

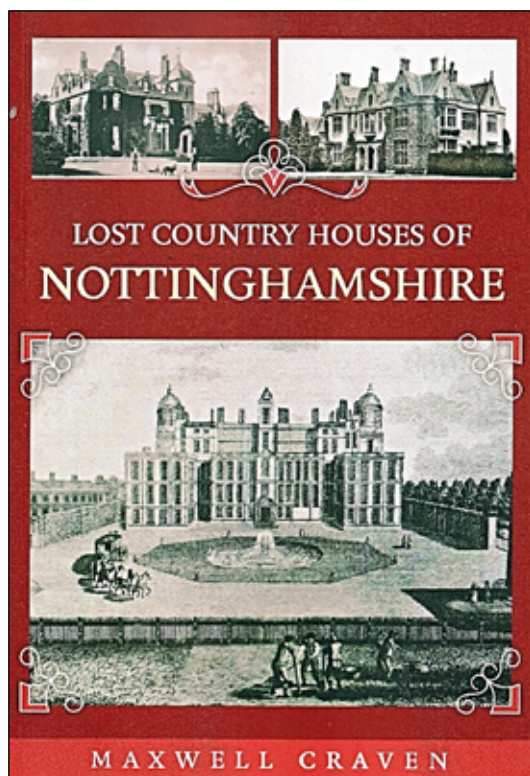
For your money (£15.99) you get 94 pages covering 70 houses lost, from Laxton Castle and Clipstone Lodge in the 14th and 16th century to more recent examples like Park Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse and Lamcote House, Radcliffe-on-Trent, destroyed in the 1970s and 1980 respectively.

For members intending to go with the Archaeological Research Group to Laxton in August, the site of the Castle and the Manor House which succeeded it (demolished c 1662) are easily accessible.

For real masochists, the same author will be linked with Georgian Group Head of Casework, James Darwin to produce *Lost Houses of Staffordshire*, which Amberley are bravely publishing in spring 2026.

Even more bravely, they have commissioned us to write *Lost Houses of the West Midlands* too, born of the realisation that the urbanisation of Staffordshire around Stoke and Wolverhampton had produced so many lost houses that we would have to do a separate West Midlands book to take the pressure off Staffordshire. Hence, this effort, scheduled to be published in 2027, will include West Midland County's lost houses formerly in Shropshire and the counties of Stafford, Warwick and Worcester.

Illustrated cover of The Lost Country Houses of Nottinghamshire.



In many ways, these tomes make for a depressing read, yet a fascinating one, too.

MC

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THE GEORGE INN, IRON GATE DERBY

Having included reports of John Arguile on ale and brewing in Derby, and of James Foulds on the history of his family's music business, which was for so long based in premises originally built as The George Inn, your editor thought that a short article on The George might prove an acceptable coda.

One of the two truly classic coaching inns in Derby, the *George* is first mentioned in a deed granting the lease to Edward Osborne, Gentleman, of 1648. The present façade (now split between *Jorrocks* and formerly Fould's music shop) was built in 1693, in which year Alderman Samuel Heathcote the elder was obliged to take a 999-year lease on a piece of land on Irongate 40ft wide and 6½ in in depth, on which his newly-built façade had encroached the public

highway! The interior still betrays signs of its earlier (timber-framed) fabric, and the building probably had 16th-century origins.¹

From 1735 the London/Nottingham stage coach ran from the *George* making the journey in three days each way under the proprietorship of John Needham and Thomas Smith.² Furthermore, the (dominant) Whig faction in Derby, under the leadership of the Duke of Devonshire, met here in the lead-up to the 1745 Rebellion (ironically, in view of its ownership by the Jacobite and Tory Heathcote family), and from here Alderman Stamford's horse was commandeered by the Scots advance guard at 11am on 4 December that year.³ In 1766 the post office was run from the inn, and not long afterwards an assembly room was built at first-floor level along the Sadler Gate frontage (behind the building now known as Lloyd's Bank).



Derby, Iron Gate: view from north, photographed by Richard Keene, 1855: the façade of the George is visible behind the horse.

[MC]

¹ 1648 and 1693 deeds: Jeayes, I. H., *Calendar of the Deeds held by the county Borough of Derby* (London 1904) III. 4, no. 88; the author was shown the interior with the late Roy Christian by Philip Foulds, 1985.

² *Derby Mercury (DM)* 3/4/1735

³ Eardley Simpson, L.L., *Derby and the 'Forty-five* (Derby 1933) 131-142.



This necessitated the purchase by the proprietor, Edward Chamberlain (who was also postmaster), of the *Black Boy*, which was relocated further down the street, and the *Sun*, both of which were pulled down. In about 1790, Hon. John Byng (later 5th Viscount Torrington) visited Derbyshire and stayed at the *George* (as well as the *Bell*). He wrote: ‘A bad dinner and a bad wine. Salmon peas and lamb; drank beer, wine, brandy and malt liquor.’ He was not the only distinguished visitor, either, for in 1768 King Christian VII of Denmark and his Chancellor were guests.⁴

Derby, George Yard, rear of the former George Inn, Sept., 2015. [MC]

In 1784 a tragedy was narrowly averted when the sign, then carried, like that presently at the *Green Man & Black’s Head* at Ashbourne, on a timber gantry across Iron Gate, suddenly collapsed just as a chaise was travelling beneath it. In the event it was the poor old horse that suffered the fatal consequences, not the distinguished passengers!⁵

Although, from the later 1760s, George Wallis of the *New Inn* was capturing (or generating) most of the coaching trade in the region, the *George* managed in 1802 to franchise from his son the daily post coach, probably because the former hostelry was unable to take the pressure of extra services.⁶ It was, however, not enough to halt its decline, for it was offered for sale in May 1814, and was ‘now discontinued as an inn’ eleven months later, having been ‘broken up and sold in lots’ in July 1814 with further sales taking place in November 1818. Later still, in 1823, the local paper announced ‘All that part of the former George Inn on the north side of the gateway (to George Yard) is to be sold as retail shops.’ One of these, in the event, was opened within a very few years as the *Globe*, ensuring some form of continuity of hospitality after an interruption of barely a decade.⁷

⁴ DM 5/9/1768

⁵ DM 8/7/1784

⁶ DM 18/11/1802

⁷ DM 5/5, 23/6 & 19/7/1814; 6/4, & 5/5/1815; 15/9 & 24/11/1818; 23/7/1823

The business and most of the goodwill went, with the penultimate landlord, George Woodward, to the *Talbot* in 1804, and that inn was re-named the *George & Talbot* accordingly.⁸ However, in 1815, the *King's Head* came onto the market, and Woodward outbid the sitting tenant, John Hoare, for it. Woodward therefore abandoned the *Talbot* and re-Christened his new charge the *George & King's Head*. Hoare, meanwhile, decamped across the road in a huff to found a rival establishment, the *Hotel & King's Head*.



Derby, George Yard (entry from Sadler Gate, left) May 1855, photographed by Richard Keene, Showing the cockpen Chinoiserie balcony, and the former Co-operators' premises. [MC]

To the rear of the inn, in George Yard, a balconied extension was built for patrons to watch cock fights and similar sports; the balustrade was in the Rococo Chinoiserie style, even today often called 'cockpen' by auctioneers. There were also a trio of three-storey dwelling houses there, once part of the inn, a gateway into Sadler Gate (still extant), carriage sheds and enormous stables. In one of the hay-lofts adjoining, in 1849-50, Thomas Rushton Brown and Amos Scotton (father of the Midland Railway's first official photographer) and 10 others founded a Co-operative Society on the lines of that of the Rochdale Pioneers of five years before. They had the encouragement of their employer, William Mansfield Cooper, architect and builder, and £2. This pioneering organisation went on to great success, but the sale, in June

⁸ *DM* 25/10/1804

1855, of these premises in severalties caused them to remove to other premises and they fetched up in Victoria Street by 1858.⁹

The grand assembly room, 56 ft. by 19 ft., latterly a billiard room, was taken over not so long afterwards by William Bemrose, the printer, as a printing works (1848); he had previously acquired the former Lloyd's Bank on the Iron Gate/Sadler Gate corner as his headquarters. The *George* had been kept from the 1730s to the 1780s by two generations of Matthew Hows, both aldermen and both mayors, and, by co-incidence, ancestors of the Bemroses.

MC

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A SERIOUS CASUALTY: MELBOURNE HOUSE, DERBY

On 18th May this year, a fire, started deliberately, seriously damaged the roof of the wonderfully Gothic Melbourne House, Osmaston Road, Derby. This long empty house, for which a developer is said to have paid £100,000 over the odds in 2022, had already suffered a fire in its service wing, flanking Melbourne Street, following which the City Council seems to have made no move to impose a repairs notice nor to insist that security be improved.



The building was put up, with a Baptist chapel almost adjacent, in 1863 for ex-Derby Mayor and Alderman Robert Pegg (1801-1867) paint and varnish manufacturer by Nottingham architect Thomas Chambers Hine (1813-1899) and is grade II listed. It also boasts a galleried Chellaston alabaster staircase and two chimneypieces of this local mineral. It is not known what has survived the fire, bar the roof.

Melbourne House, 25th March 2016. [MC]

⁹ Holyoake, J. & Scotton, A., *Jubilee History of Co-operation in Derby* (Derby 1900) 23-30; DM 6/6/1855.

SOCIETY SUMMER PROGRAMME 2025

Saturday 28 June – 10.00am to 3.00pm Derbyshire History Fair at Strutts Community Centre in Belper. Short talks throughout the day and refreshments will be available. The DAS library will be open. Free admission to all, no booking required. Parking is available on site at DE56 1UU.

Tuesday 8 July – 2.00pm to 4.00pm A walk around Ticknall (Architecture Section) led by Janet Spavold and Sue Brown. Meet at the Village Hall car park, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall, DE73 7JX.

Unfortunately, his event is now fully booked.

Wednesday 9 July – 10.30am-4.00pm (with lunch break) John Smedley factory visit and archive (Industrial Archaeology Section) The company's archivist Jane Middleton Smith will be telling us something of the history of the buildings and will provide an exclusive look into the archive. The factory is located at Lea Mills, Lea Bridge, Matlock DE4 5AG. There is a customer car park on Mill Lane, 50 metres from the factory entrance. Book on Eventbrite, £10.00 per person.

Wednesday 16 July – 2.30pm to 4.30pm Tour of Radbourne Hall (Architecture Section).

Unfortunately, his event is now fully booked.



Sutton Scarsdale, east front, May 2001

[MC]

Wednesday 6 August – 11.00am to 3.00pm (with lunch break): Bolsover Castle and Sutton Scarsdale (Architecture Section). Richard Sheppard will give a guided tour of Bolsover Castle in the morning (11.00am to 12.30pm) and at 2.00pm on the other side of the Doe Lea valley at Sutton Scarsdale Hall. Book on Eventbrite, no charge for the tour but normal English Heritage admission charges will apply for Bolsover Castle. If you are not an English Heritage member, you can pay on the day for admission or book online. No entry charge for Sutton Scarsdale.

Tuesday 12 August – 2.00pm-4.30pm. Talk and walk around New Mills (Local History Section). Meet at the entrance of New Mills Library, Hall Street SK22 4AR for an introductory talk by Roger Bryant, followed by a guided walking tour led by Mike Daniels. There is a car park in front of the Town Hall & elsewhere. 15 places.

Wednesday 13th August – 10.30am Current archaeological work at Castleton (ARG) Colin Merrony will show us around the site of this summer's archaeological excavations at Castleton in the Hope Valley and tell about the recent finds, and how these illuminate the history of the area.

Meet at 10.30am at Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Rd, Castleton S33 8WN. There are two car parks close by. There will be a 500m level walk along the village street from the Visitor Centre to the excavation site.

Book on Eventbrite £8.00 per person

Monday 18 August – 11am. A site tour of 'Derventio', our very own Roman fort in Little Chester, Derby where there will be an archaeological training dig in progress. (ARG) The tour will be led by Laura Parker, Community Engagement Manager of York Archaeology. Laura will give us details of the previous excavation in 2016 and then take us to the current dig. Meet at Chester Green Community car park DE1 3RR

Book on Eventbrite £8 per person



Derventio, well, excavated January 1973; photograph by the late Michael Mallender.

Sunday 17 August – 11.00am to 1.00pm Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet (Industrial Archaeology Section). Meet 11.00am when the site proper opens. Free parking available at the Hamlet, Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S7 2QW, or pay and display at Millhouses Park South, 5 mins walk away. 25 places

Wednesday 20th August – 10.30am. Visit to Laxton a Working Heritage Village (ARG). The only remaining working open field farming village in Europe still operating this ancient system. Meet at 10.30am.in the car park of *The Dovecote* inn, NG22 OSK. where Stuart Rose will walk us around the village and give us the History. There will also be chance to visit Laxton Visitor Centre.

Book on Eventbrite, £8 per person. Orders will be taken for lunch if required before the tour, alternatively do bring along a picnic.



Site of Laxton Castle, July 2023

[MC]

Wednesday 3 September – 2.00pm – 4.00pm Derby Cathedral (Local History Section). Book on Eventbrite, £10 per person.

All visits should be booked online using Eventbrite. The booking links can be found on the DAS website <https://www.derbyshireas.org.uk/diary/summer-programme/>

If you cannot book on-line, please contact Rosemary Annable (01773) 828141 (evenings) who will do this for you.

SECTION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2025-2026

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Chair	Ann Jones
Vice-Chair & Treasurer Fieldwork Fund	John D'Arcy
Secretary/Programme Secretary	Janette Jackson
Fieldwork Officer	David Budge
Committee:	John Morrissey, Denise Grace, Vicky Wade

ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

Chair	John D'Arcy
Secretary	Rosemary Annable
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Rear cover, upper: *Norton c. 1860, artist unknown, showing then newly erected (in 1854) obelisk by Philip Hardwick to the sculptor Sir Francis Chantrey, Norton's most famous son.*

[Bamfords Ltd.]

Rear Cover, lower: *Watercolour, George Vawser, jr. (1815-1893), A View of Spondon c. 1845.*

[Bamfords Ltd.]

