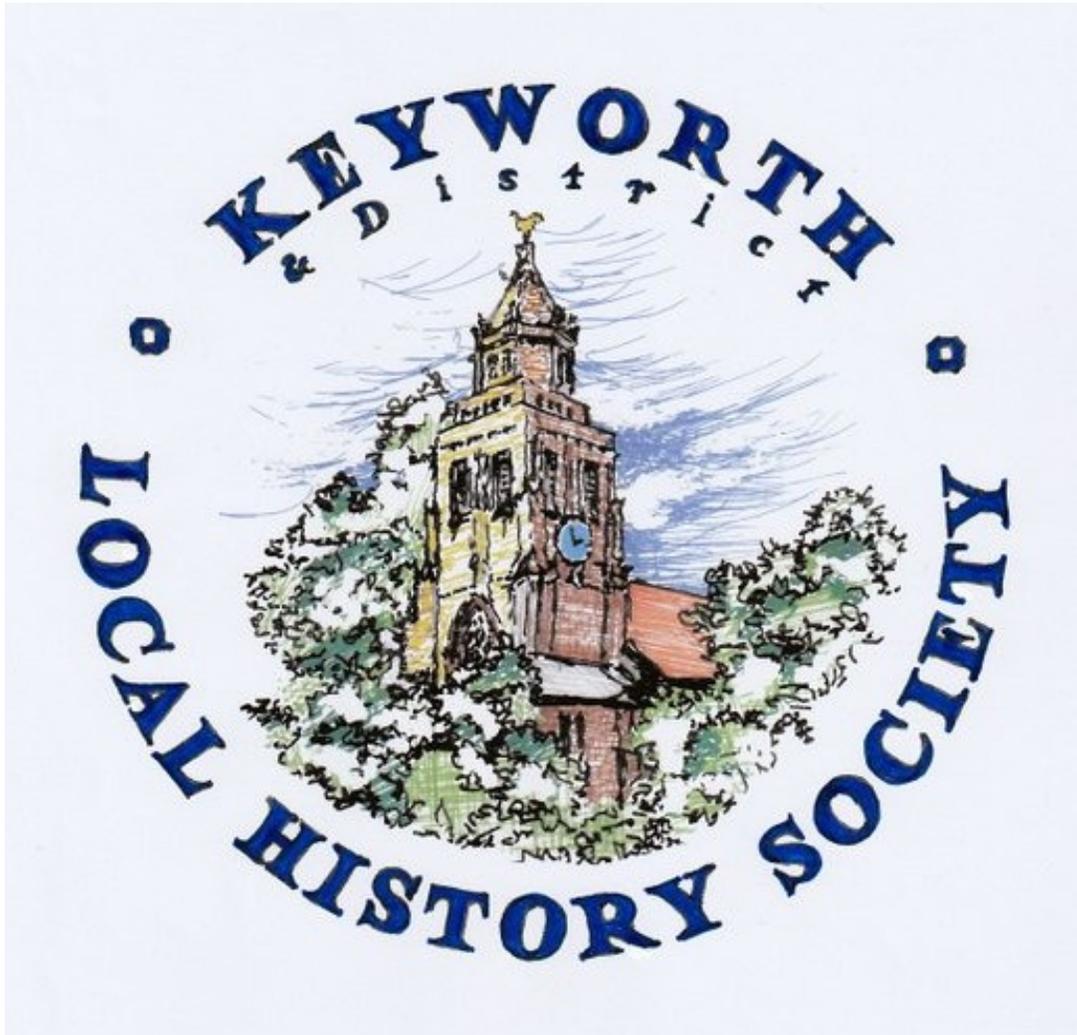


# THE NEWSLETTER No 87 : Autumn 2015



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Welcome to **The NEWSLETTER No 87: Autumn 2015**

**Please note:** the first Society meeting of 2016 will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The News Letter will be edited by Sheila Barton until another member takes on the role; please see the back page for details of how you can contribute to our News Letter.

## CHAIR'S REMARKS

Since the last News Letter I am sorry to have to inform those of you who did not already know, that Margaret Gill died in May; her funeral was attended by family, friends and representatives of the K&DLHS Committee. We have also held a minute's silence in memory of other members we have lost during the summer, including Joan Howarth and Shirley Ann Ashley.

Whilst looking through back copies of our News Letter, I was interested to read Alan Spooner's Editorial in the July 2005 edition (doesn't time fly ...!). I wish I was as talented in putting together such an interesting and apposite page of text - those of you who keep back copies can look up Issue 48 for yourselves....

The Society maintains an Archive of documents, photographs and maps, kept (mainly) at Keyworth Library. Our new Archivist, Dave Clarke, was co-opted onto the K&DLHS Committee at the June meeting. If you would like access to our resources, please contact him in the first instance. The items are listed on our website.

Research into our local history is a tradition established by our founder members, which we should, nay, must maintain in order to consider ourselves a real Local History Society. Several members of our Society have previous and extensive experience and would offer support and encouragement to those wishing to undertake some research, however small, perhaps for the first time: Just ask!

## EDITORIAL

Many important anniversaries should be recognised this year; it would be foolish to try to note them all. If you have something to say about the commemorations of, say, Magna Carta (800 years ago this year), Agincourt, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Keyworth Cricket Club, the Battle of Waterloo, the foundation of the Salvation Army (150 years this year, in Nottingham), the Women's Institute or the advent of women's suffrage (both 100 years ago), the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of VE Day (in May) or Hiroshima (in July), we would like to hear from you! Maybe you have visited associated historic places or commemorative exhibitions, would you write a brief account for our members? Your contribution will make interesting reading. The deadline for the next edition is 1<sup>st</sup> December, all contributions will be most welcome. If you might be willing to take notes at our meetings (in the manner of those produced by Gonville, as reported in previous editions) please speak to the acting editor or to any member of the K&DLHS committee.

*Sheila Barton*

# MEETING REPORT

In June, Carl Vivien gave us a presentation about the filming of the finding of Richard III – “R almost marks the spot”. Unfortunately was not as well attended as had been hoped, largely, I suspect, by clashing with Keyworth Dramatic Society “Summer Soiree”. (They were offering champagne and strawberries, I understand...) There has, of course, been copious information about this event, and some members may have felt this was an item too far. Not so! We shall have to invite him to come back: this informative, fascinating evening was presented by a gifted and engaging storyteller.

The “R” in question, as you probably already know from the publicity, denoted a reserved parking space in the car park under which Richard Buckley and the Leicester University team had hoped to establish the location of the Grey Friars building. Against all the odds, they found the last resting place of Richard III. It is quite breathtaking to think that digging any distance in any direction and they might have missed him entirely. The events of the discovery and subsequent discussion and preparation for display has been well documented in the media. The story told by our speaker gave us an entertaining insight into how the event was recorded from the beginning; the part played by the University in the investigations of the findings; the progress of the debate and impact on his life.



*[Photograph: Jackie Fisher 2015]*

After much publicity, discussion and dispute, the **final**, final laying to rest of the monarch took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, in Leicester Cathedral; the first ever publicly witnessed burial of a monarch televised by Channel 4, the subject of much copy and an attraction to many visitors.

# NEWS AND NOTICES-LOCAL EVENTS

K&DLHS at Keyworth Show, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015



K&DLHS stall at Keyworth Show 2015 [photograph: Dave Clarke]

Many thanks to those who helped set up the stall and spared time to staff our gazebo, particularly Dave Clarke, John Adcock, Helen Proll, Barbara and Peter Stafford, Carole Robson, David and Shirley Charles. Amongst other visitors, Stephan Kosylo took the trouble to come from Woodthorpe to meet us with an interesting artifact associated with our village.



NATIONAL MEDAL FOR SUCCESS IN ART  
AWARDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



*Stephan Kosylo, Vice-President of the Numismatic Society of Nottingham*

Stephan had been in touch with K&DLHS through the website, and has received valuable information from Society members to aid his research into the Neate family, who had lived on Main Street. He brought a silver medallion, which he is keen to reunite with a member of the appropriate family. The name 'Neate' occurs in connection with the school and that of the Enumerator of the 1911 Census. If you know any more detail, please inform the editor.



*Archivist Dave Clarke viewing the K&DLHS/CAAG Census display*

Reginald Aslin Neate 1896 -1992  
far”)

(“the story so

Reginald was born in Keyworth the youngest child of Henry Daniel Neate, a schoolmaster and Alice Mary Neate. Three further siblings John Henry, Matilda Alice and Beatrice Emma are also listed in the 1901 Census. The family lived at No. 7 Main Street, Keyworth a property I believe now demolished and rebuilt as a Co-op store.

This article unfolds due to four reasons, firstly a medal (or medallion as we are allowed to call it as it is more than 50 mm in diameter) the legend around the edge, my personal interest in Numismatics, coin collecting and a further interest in Nottingham's industrial past, especially within the lace and textile trade.

I bought a 'job lot' coins in the mid 1990's which included the medal. The medal is impressive to view being 50 mm in diameter, over 3 ounces in weight and made of .925 solid silver. The legend on the edge reads

REGINALD A NEATE. DESIGN FOR LACE FLOUNCE AND  
INSERTION 1914

The medal is an award for success in art awarded by the Board of Education.

The terms relating to flounce and insertion triggered a relationship to the textile trade that intrigues me. To date my research has interestingly led me to Dorset where I have found out to date that Reginald, or Rex as he preferred to be known, died in 1992 having carried on throughout his life with connection to the arts, indeed leaving as a legacy after his death - a fund known as the Emmie and Rex Negate Fund. This was due to the fact that Rex was a founder member of the Studio Workshop of the Isle of Purbeck Arts Club.

When he died in 1992 Rex left money to establish the fund, the stated purpose to encourage artists on the recommendation of the Studio Workshop and to encourage the art of flower arranging through the Purbeck Flower Group. Emmie Neate was a member of the Flower Club. To date the fund has supported a number of workshops for the artists. It has also supported students in drama and music, the Writers Group, the Purbeck Instruments Loan Scheme and established the Emmie and Rex Negate prize for the most promising art student at Swanage School. I find this a nice coincidence. More research is required especially the Nottingham connections and I am sourcing more information from contacts that I have made in Dorset.

Finally I am delighted to be able to present a portrait of Reginald Aslin painted by a fellow member of the Purbeck Arts Club (who has sadly since died).

*Stephan Kosylo*



**“REG”** Reginald Aslin Neate  
(1896 -1992)

Painted by A Campbell in 1991, a fellow member of the Purbeck Arts Club, Dorset, (who has sadly since died), this image is reproduced with the kind permission of Purbeck Arts Club

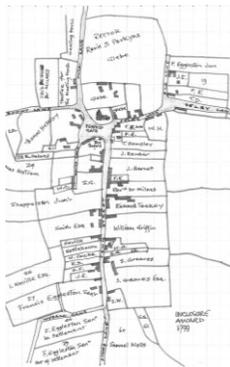
Stephan intends to send an update of his research as it progresses.

If you can shed any light on this medallion, or on the development of the processes in the textile trade to which it might refer, or have any other information about the family’s history, then please contact the editor, who will be happy to pass it on to Stephan Kosylo.

## KEYWORTH CONSERVATION AREA CENSUS

CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY GROUP (CAAG) and KEYWORTH & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (K&DLHS)

2pm – 4pm, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 **“Faces & Places”** Centenary Lounge:



A display of maps and photographs of earlier residents of Keyworth – please bring yours!  
(If you don’t know who they are, someone else might!)

We welcome documentation or other artifacts to record for the Conservation Area Census: please either bring them, or let us know if we may borrow and then safely return them to you.

Thank you!

Contact: Sheila Barton: [sheilakingdom@gmail.com](mailto:sheilakingdom@gmail.com) or telephone 0115 937 3068

# RUDDINGTON FRAMEWORK KNITTERS MUSEUM

Wed – Sun      1<sup>st</sup> April – 23<sup>rd</sup> December      11.00am – 4.30pm

Sunday      1<sup>st</sup> April – 30 September      1.30pm – 4.30pm

Bank Holidays      last entry 4.00pm

Adults £4.00, Students £3.00, children £2.00; Family Ticket (2 adults, up to 3 children) £10.00

Chapel Street, Ruddington, Notts NG11 6HE; tel: 0115 984 6914

email [office@frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@frameworkknittersmuseum.org.uk)

For anybody interested in local history or the textile industry there are plenty of volunteering opportunities. A Friends group raises funds for much-needed items. Members receive the Museum's newsletters and benefit from free entry and discount in the tea-shop.

Kathy Powis regularly updates the Society about events at RFWKW at our meetings.

*You might be interested.....*

**NLHA HISTORYFEST** - organised by the Nottingham Angel Row History Forum, part of Nottinghamshire Local History Association, with support of Nottingham Local Studies Library.

**Saturday 10 October 2015: 11am-3pm, Nottingham Central Library, 1st Floor**

An opportunity to come and see first hand the work of twenty-four local history related groups and organisations in the Greater Nottingham area, plus a number of short presentations on a range of local history related topics. Free Entry. Contact Forum Organiser, Robert Howard, 0115 9700369, [forum@nlha.org.uk](mailto:forum@nlha.org.uk)

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October: Sherwood Forest Heritage Bus Tours** (from Nottingham)

Mercian Archaeology: Aboard their Red 1960s London Bus; Adults £17.50 - An all-day event with commentary from expert archaeologists from Mercian's *Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project*... visiting Rufford; a former medieval Cistercian Abbey, Sherwood Forest Nature Reserve and the World Famous Major Oak (legendary hideaway of Robin Hood), King John's Palace (the Royal Heart of Medieval Sherwood Forest), Newstead Abbey, former Augustinian Priory and one time home of the poet Lord Byron, and passing through and past many historic, legendary and cultural sites. To book, visit <http://www.sherwoodbustours.com/>

*You might remember.....*

Howard Fisher asks: Did anything come of this; does any member remember it?

*“KEYWORD ‘YES’ to quiz query.*

*Keyworth Parish Council is supporting a suggested inter-village quiz competition. The idea comes from Nottinghamshire Community Council which is asking villages if they are interested in entering”.*

*(Evening Post 6 January 1975)*

# COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES IN KEYWORTH

"Commemorative plaques, which can be found on buildings of all styles and dates, are one of the most effective – and visible – means of celebrating our history and the historic environment. Plaques connect past and present in an immediate, tangible way, and have numerous benefits; for instance, they can increase a sense of pride among local communities and can educate about history and architecture, making both more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. They can also play an important conservation role, helping to highlight buildings with historic associations and to preserve them for the future".

*English Heritage "Celebrating People and Place (May 2010: Commemorative Plaques Part 1)*

A Blue Plaque was installed on George Martyn's Barn in 2005, by the Conservation Area Advisory Group, funded by Keyworth Parish Council:



The wording identifies key features and facts about this GRADE II Listed Building on a plaque designed by CAAG (Martin Clarke), created by Photocast.

1651 G-M; Built by farmer George Martyn;

**Base:** local limestone;

**Frame:** oak timbers held by wooden pegs;

**Walls:** originally wattle and daub. Replaced by bricks in herringbone pattern in 18<sup>th</sup> century;

**Roof:** originally thatch, now pantiles;

**Original use:** grain storage, threshing (on interior stone floor) and winnowing (large doors front and back provided draught);

(Funded by) Keyworth Parish Council.

It is hoped to continue this public commemoration of our community heritage with the installation of a Blue Plaque close to the gate of St Mary Magdalene in 2015

# CONSERVATION MATTERS

## 1: George Martyn's Barn



Building/Address		Barn at No 31 Main Street (east side)			
Listing serial number	6/77	grid ref:	6138 3066	File:	8.25.5
Grade II		Date listed	28.11.1972		
<p>Description: Barn, dated 1651, extended and altered C19th, restored 1977-8. Timber frame and red brick with herringbone brick nogging. Set on a rubble plinth. Pantile roof. Large doorway with plank door and overhead. Visible frame having 9 posts, braces, groundsill and wall plate. To the right is a red brick and pantile C19th extension. Lintel over doorway inscribed "1651 GM" Date of photograph attached to HBR Dec-Feb 1986</p>					

After the C14<sup>th</sup> parish church (Grade I), Martyn's Barn is the second oldest building in Keyworth and a Grade II listed building. The oak beam over the door has an inscription 'GM 1651', thought to indicate the owner (George Martyn) and when most of it was built (there is a C19<sup>th</sup> extension at one end). The inscription is barely visible. 100 years ago Main Street was lined with farm buildings, including several barns. One of the farms was called Inglenook Farm (the farmhouse still stands behind the barn facing onto Flinders Orchard; part of it may be the building in which George Martyn lived). [*Historic Buildings Record*]

Several sources of information are available to those interested in the construction of timber-framed structures in general and mediaeval barns in particular. An undated and unattributed magazine clipping “*Keyworth Barn*” by *Graham Beaumont R.I.B.A.*, [undated item, in the *K&DLHS/CAAG Census Archive*] identifies George Martyn’s Barn as an important example:

“A piece of English history stands in the Main Street of the village of Keyworth. As Charles II was escaping from the Battle of Worcester, a large timber-framed barn was being completed in Keyworth. The date 1651, and the initials “GM” can still be seen carved in the lintel over the big doors facing the street”.



*[Photograph Keith Barton 1997]*

Graham Beaumont outlines the necessary steps in the construction of this purpose built building, describes the limitations of available materials and considers how alterations over its long lifetime reflect technological change – “the barn as we see it today does not have exactly the same appearance as when it was finished in the mid seventeenth century: various changes have been made during its three-hundred year life, and the fabric of the building now forms an interesting record of these developments”.

For instance: “The roof covering would originally have been thatch, in common with all local barns and cottages at the time, but it was replaced by pan-tiling, probably in the middle of the eighteenth century when hand made, clay pan-tiles began to become the typical Nottinghamshire roofing material.

Straw for thatching was a cheap, locally available material, but it needed a steep roof to shed the rain, and it would only last about 30 years before needing renewal.

Pan-tiles, however, could be laid to a much flatter pitch (so saving on roof timbers) and were far more durable with a life of 150 years or so".... The change from wattle to brick panels at Keyworth is likely to have been made about 1700 when bricks were becoming cheaper and the old art of daubing was becoming more rare". He goes on to say "The oak frame itself still remains as it was in 1651 with all the charm of its rough, naturally curved timbers and the original pegged joints to please the eye". "The interior is spacious and lofty, roofed by soaring rafters with an intricate patternwork of collars, tie beams, purlins and diagonal braces".

"It is easy to underestimate the strength of a weathered, old oak frame. The decayed outer surface may give the impression of imminent collapse whilst the heartwood is sound and as hard as iron. Many fifteenth century timber-framed buildings still survive in excellent structural condition. In the gales of January 1976, it was the gable brickwork of two nearby new houses which collapsed, and not the old barn".

Grain would have been brought to the barn for storage, threshing and winnowing before being sent to the windmill on Selby Lane, now demolished, for grinding into flour. During the agricultural depression of the 1920s, little grain was grown in Keyworth and the windmill went out of use. (A photograph of the time shows animal manure piled up in front of the barn door, suggesting it was then used for wintering cattle). Sadly in recent times no use could be found for the barn and it began to deteriorate. Settlement of the ground on the street side, worsened by twentieth century traffic, led to the bulging of the brick panels and it became clear that repairs were urgently needed.

As early as 1968 the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust had drawn attention to the special architectural and historic merit of the building, and a year later they gave a grant for the repair of the roof. The Trust maintained its interest in the barn and in 1975 requested the architect Mr F.W.B. Charles, of Worcester, an expert on timber-framed buildings, to prepare a full scheme of restoration. In 1977, in the tenth anniversary year of its founding, the Trust combined with Rushcliffe Borough Council and the County Council to finance a complete restoration scheme which has secured the future of Keyworth Barn for future generations.

***"Keyworth Barn"*** *Graham Beaumont R.I.B.A., [undated item K&DLHS/CAAG Census Archive]*

In 1977, an item in *The Nottingham Topic* explained that "The historic importance of the building and the various covenants restricting its use means that a commercial use of George Martyn's Barn is not appropriate and Keyworth Dramatic Society have been the tenants of the Barn since its renovation in the 1970s. It is used by the Dramatic Society for storage and construction of scenery and the storage of props and costumes. In 1999 the Society was given permission to construct a costume store in the Barn. The constraints on this were strict to preserve the architectural integrity of the original structure. The store is therefore sited in the Victorian brick built extension area so as not to impinge on the timber frame and it is constructed as a self-standing structure without any fixings to the fabric of the Barn itself."

***"Nottinghamshire Countryside"*** *in Nottingham Topic (August 1977)*

Rushcliffe Borough Council produced a Conservation Leaflet "Conserving Rushcliffe's Built Heritage", which provided information about George Martyn's Barn in an attractive and innovative leaflet, which sadly is apparently no longer available. It is transcribed here:

## “The Barn In The Twentieth Century”

The 1651 timber-framed barn is a listed building because of its architectural and historic interest and is the only one of its kind in the county. Its original use was storage, and, at harvest time, corn would have been threshed on the stone-flagged floor. It was last used as a working barn in 1967. In 1968 an Appeal against refusal of permission to demolish the barn heard that repairs to the barn were urgently needed and that it was in imminent danger of demolition as the owner could not afford restoration of this unused building; there were urgent and immediate repair costs of £2,500. The then Minister of Housing refused permission to demolish, concluding “if this building is ultimately lost to succeeding generations, it will have demonstrated the weakness of modern planning law”. In 1969 the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust gave a grant for the repair of the roof, and although the building was listed in November 1972, subsequent neglect meant that throughout the early 1970s the building was in genuine danger of collapse.

The brickwork and timbers were slowly slipping and the barn ‘moved’ several times during the winter of 1975/6 resulting in it being roped off from the road. By the Spring of 1976, the barn’s future was again in doubt and subject to a new public enquiry; estimated costs to fully repair the building had spiralled to anything up to £30,000. The owner, Mrs Wood, said she was “sick with worry” over the possibility of the building falling down on a passer-by. By May of that year the Planning Committee once again recommended that Listed Building Consent to demolish should be refused, concluding that “restoration and retention (of the barn) is a feasible proposition and the public interest would be best served by its preservation”. At last a solution was found. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1977, Mrs Wood sold the barn to Rushcliffe Borough Council for 5p, who in turn promised a full restoration of the property within 12 months. Rushcliffe, together with the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust and the Historic Buildings Trust financed a complete restoration scheme costing in excess of £20,000, and the long-term future of this beautiful barn was finally secured. The barn was opened in 1997 as part of the Rushcliffe Festival and the national heritage Open Day initiative; over 250 people visited the barn. All were impressed by this marvellous survival illustrating the village’s agricultural past.

**Construction of the barn:** The lintel or beam above the main door, facing Main Street, is inscribed “1651 GM”. Historical research by Keyworth & District Local History Society suggests a number of lines of evidence which link George Martyn with the barn and, interestingly, that this part of Keyworth was considered to be within the parish of Bunny, as a small enclave. The Keyworth protestation rolls of 1642 are an important source of information because all the men in the Village had to protest their allegiance to the Church of England. Two men had the initials GM: George Martyn and George Martin. George Martyn of Keyworth is noted in the Court rolls for 1654 as protesting his appointment as a Church Warden for Keyworth because his farm was located in Bunny parish. Nineteenth century parish registers of Keyworth refer to people as living in “Keyworth in the parish of Bunny”, the first such being 1878. This suggests that such residents no longer had to travel to Bunny for baptisms, weddings and burials. Comparison to the census enumerator’s records has helped locate these properties as clustering in the area of this barn.

The first part of the barn’s construction would have been erection of a low plinth wall using local stone to stop the bottom of the frame rotting from contact with the ground. Heavy oak sills were placed to take the wall posts, every third oak post being strengthened to take the weight of the roof trusses and all the posts would have been joined by braces.

Panels left within this framework were filled with wattle and daub, replaced by the present herringbone patterned brick noggin as bricks became more plentiful. The type of bricks used dates the changes to about 1700. Large doors were added so that laden carts could be driven into the building. This formation also allows the wind to blow through the building to aid threshing where the workers threw the wheat into the air to blow the chaff off the wheat. Many old barns have a lane running parallel called Chaff Lane. The threshing floor can still be discerned with this barn.

The roof would originally have been thatched. If you see buildings with a steep roof pitch this usually indicates that they have been thatched in the past. This roof type is a queen post rafter but has intricate detailing with the wind braces, collars and purlins. These features can be seen today, largely as built in 1651, a remarkable survival of a unique part of Keyworth's agricultural and cultural history.

*Rushcliffe Borough Council, Development Services Department*

**The RBC website currently states:**

“The small, 10 hectare Conservation Area was designated in October 1999 and lies at the heart of the village. It comprises mostly of the retail and commercial core, and is focused on the church and the remains of 5 Grade II Listed houses and barns along Main Street. The most notable is the timber-framed George Martyn's barn on 31 Main Street - the lintel over the doorway is inscribed "1651GM".

<http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/conservation/conservationareasinrushcliffe/keyworth/>



*[Photograph Sheila Barton 2012]*

In “**Timber-framed Buildings of Nottinghamshire**” (2004), J. Mordan says

“George Martyn’s Barn boasts “one of the largest pegged roofs in Nottinghamshire, spanning over 23 feet (a timber-frame barn will usually span about 18 – 20 feet). The roof has a double set of side purlins because of the sheer size of the span and the length of the rafters. There are four surviving bays and there may have been one more. The original oak frame has survived and is infilled with the best example of brick noggin visible in the county. This is not the original walling material but probably dates to not long after the 1650s.” “Dated by dendrochronology to between 1635 – 1655”, it is described as “probably the grandest of all the county’s surviving agricultural buildings” and he describes its features in greater detail, under the headings of those which are ‘visible’ and those which are ‘not visible’.

The base is made of stone – either the local blue lias limestone similar to the building stone of most of the church and the footings of many old buildings on Main Street – or glacial erratics originating in other types of rock hundreds of miles away and brought to this locality by glaciers during the Ice Age (note the different colours and textures of the stones).



*[Photograph Keith Barton 2011]*

The base may predate the building and have supported an older construction, probably made entirely of wood or mud. The stone kept the barn’s wooden frame clear of the ground to prevent rapid rotting. Good local stone is not plentiful around Keyworth and, apart from the church, was only used for footings.

The timber frame is of oak and carried the weight of the roof. Most beams are the originals but some have been replaced. Joints are held together by round wooden pegs.

The individual timbers would have been cut to size on the ground; the ends of each piece were then scratch-marked to indicate where they were planned to go – a seventeenth century flat-pack! For instance, two ends marked 'III' were intended to fit together. Some marks are still visible inside the barn.



*[Interior photographs Keith Barton 2011]*



Brickwork fills the spaces between the timber frame. Originally the in-filling was wattle and daub (a mixture of twigs and clay), scraps of which were found when the barn was renovated. The herringbone brickwork (“noggin”) probably replaced the wattle and daub in the eighteenth century – a characteristic pattern of the time (seen also in a barn at Hoton) - the bricks, a relatively new building material, were hand-made and relatively flat. Contrast with C19th bricks (machine made and thicker): compare the main building with its extension.

The roof was almost certainly once thatched. Circumstantial evidence (not always conclusive): the steep pitch (to throw rain off more efficiently) and gable ends projecting above the present roof level (to hold in the thatch). Early photographs show a tiled or pan-tiled roof - curved tiles like the present ones.

The plaster floor, made from a mixture of local gypsum, clay, sand and fine gravel, provided a hard, dry surface on which to store and thresh. After the corn had been stored and dried at the two ends of the barn it was threshed: a bunch of stalks was beaten (thrashed) against the floor near the doors until the grain and chaff had fallen away. A pile of mixed grain and chaff accumulated after hours of back-breaking labour. The stalks were put to one side for use as straw. Threshing provided winter employment when there was a shortage of jobs.

The double doors on both sides were opened on a windy day for winnowing – separating the mixed grain and chaff. A tray would scoop up some of the mixture and throw it into the air, a through draught blew the lighter chaff towards the leeward door space, the heavier grain fell down onto the floor, to be bagged up and taken to the mill for grinding into flour. The wide doors allowed grain carts to enter easily and deposit their load.

“It sits right by the road and is easily walked past, but if you get the chance to go inside...”

*[Mordan J. 2004 “Timber-frame Buildings of Nottinghamshire” Notts County Council p27]*



*Heritage Open Day 2012, hosted by Keyworth Dramatic Society [Photographs Sheila Barton]*

If you would like to see the conserved documentation and the current photographic record, have additional information or wish to clarify or correct detail, please contact our Archivist, Dave Clarke, or K&DLHS members of the CAAG - Keith Barton, Martin Clarke, Sheila Barton

## FEATURE: Soccer in War-Time George Murfet

When WW2 was declared, in September 1939, Notts County were 3<sup>rd</sup> in division three (south) of the Football League, and their near neighbours, Nottingham Forest, 8<sup>th</sup> in division two. The declaration caused an immediate abandonment of the existing four leagues and to their replacement by ten based not upon merit but upon limiting the travel of players and supporters. Both clubs then participated in an East Midland division in which they each played 20 matches, Forest finishing next to bottom, with the County one place below; but there were obvious mitigating circumstances for all clubs, teams and players. It should always be remembered that soccer is essentially a loyalty sport where brilliance of play is ranked second to winning at all costs.

Following the 1939-40 season, there was talk of discontinuing all football competitions but in July 1940, the FA chose to establish two regional divisions (North 36 clubs and South 34 clubs) with a further League South, having 8 clubs. The clubs were allowed to play whoever they wished, but without the simplistic 2 points for a win or 1 for a draw. Instead goals conceded/against were divided into goals scored/for and that determined their position in the league. Thus, in the South Regional league, Forest finished in 28<sup>th</sup> position from a goal calculation of 0.649, after playing 25 matches, whilst the County finished 30<sup>th</sup> from a goal calculation of 0.636, after playing 21 matches. This decimal notation system was then discontinued for something equally abstruse. In 1941-42, Nottingham Forest played 13 matches in the Southern, but the points were manipulated to suggest that each club had played 18 matches and so, here again, decimals became involved. Forest also played 16 matches (listed in alphabetical order as Non-Qualifiers) with no particular number of matches to be played; the County not participating in any competition. In 1942-43, with a normal points award system in the 1<sup>st</sup> North League (until Christmas Day), both teams played 18 matches, with the County finishing 29<sup>th</sup> and Forest 31<sup>st</sup>. After Christmas in the 2<sup>nd</sup> North League, Forest finished 29<sup>th</sup> but the County moved up to 12<sup>th</sup> (out of 54). In the years 1943-44 and 1944-45, and in the same leagues, Forest finished 26<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> whilst the County were 47<sup>th</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup>. Once the war ceased, both in Europe and the Far East, the FA clubs were able to participate in any of 11 league competitions, the county doing so in two and forest in one, both without distinction.

Once call-up started to make inroads into club football and the established players were away on duty, the opportunity for reserves and amateurs was there for the asking. That situation did not diminish a club's prospects since some were rich enough to develop a youth policy and so had a considerable number of teams. Preston North End was such a club, with seven teams in 1939-40 and ready funds available for necessities.

Not all were so fortunate; but those in the lower divisions were able to use the ability of 'guest' players who found themselves within the locality, perhaps as a result of manoeuvres/training. Soon, however, those guests became resourceful, travelling farther afield and to pre-arranged schedules. It proved beneficial for the player, the club and the spectators, if not within the spirit of the game. A cry would echo "Who's playing today?" as the spectators would live in hope. On many occasions, a crowd would hear the name of an international player and a tan-hoy would ask that a well-known soccer player, such as Stanley Matthews, should present himself at the secretary's office. Then the gaff was blown as some, untalented, possible look-alike, with the same name as the maestro himself, would admit to only having a name in common.



At the opposite end of the spectrum, the stops were pulled out to aid those with considerable skills to be available for international matches and other important games. Shifts were changed and lifts were offered for supporters not to miss their hero or heroes not to disappoint their adoring fans.

In that respect, even Tommy Lawton chose to guest for Greenock Morton whilst on honeymoon in 1941.

Without guest players the wartime game would have collapsed. Visiting teams, turning up short of a full complement of players, would be allowed access to anyone available. The more important the club, the greater were players to play for them. It reached its highest degree of absurdity when, in a local cup final, Chelsea guested eight players. Not every club could afford quality players. Matches sometimes started a player short until someone's subsequent arrival. Substitutions were not allowed but some played until selected players arrived late. In 1941-42, Nottingham Forest used guest players on 75 occasions. Some teams guested all eleven players whilst impostors would admit to being footballers with hilarious results. Programmes were of little value with Tottenham once needing ten changes to its team list. Other identical names were listed for each side and many were falsified. Players were often dropped when a superior talent turned up, who may well have played for another club day's earlier.

There was evidence that mercenaries were becoming part of the organisation, not only soldiers of fortune, but sailors, airmen and those in the civil defence. Stoke once allowed four of its players to play for Nottingham Forest, only for the latter to attempt to persuade them to play against Stoke sometime later.

As an example, consider the two leagues in which Notts County played in the 1943-44 season: the first (North 1st) ended on 25th December 1943 and the second (North 2nd) started then until 26th May 1944. In the first, 18 matches were played and County finished 47<sup>th</sup>, whilst in the second 20 matches were played, with County finishing 54<sup>th</sup>. The County could, barring injuries, have used the same 11 players for all the matches, but used 129 different players instead; suggesting that many players, when taking the field, had never met other members of the team. In theory, there would have been 418 different team shirts  $(18+20) \times 11$  players = 418; but the actual number of appearances totalled 478, which means that either two substitutes/match occurred or that 'extras' might have appeared for a variety of reasons, the uncertainty of army regulations being the most obvious.

Although subject to parsimony, those who became part of the playing system enjoyed a hectic life, travelled the country, developed a great deal of camaraderie, played a game they emphatically loved and entertained the multitude rather than engaged in fighting the enemy.

The surprising outcome from 'guesting' was the lingering friendships left with clubs and fans that benefitted players in their later years.

Most Notts County supporters record Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> 1947, away to Northampton Town, as being Lawton's first game for the County.

In 1942-43, however, he made a guest appearance without scoring a goal. So many players guested for so many teams that it is interesting to speculate as to whether some inexplicable later transfers were the result of lingering contacts. In this respect, the County had a number of examples. At the end of the 1940s and early 1950s, when they were in the second and third divisions, the club recruited Frank Broome, Leon Leuty and Ian MacPherson, two being from Derby County and one from Arsenal: two being ex-England internationals. Although nearing maturity, they seemed to have left the superior 1<sup>st</sup> division before their talents had diminished; with the maximum wage offering them nothing extra to stay or to leave.

Broome, in fact, played in 20 matches and scored 15 goals in 1940-41 and is not heard of again playing for the County until 1949-50. In the Nottingham Post of November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014, Colin Collindridge was described as Nottingham Forest's oldest living player and in the 1950s he played for the club as an outside left. In 1942-45, he played for the County scoring well over three seasons. In 1940-41, Broome also played once for Forest. The immense number of players associated with clubs was vastly out of keeping with today's squad system.

For the enthusiast of yesteryear, asking who was where and why they took the steps they did, "Soccer at War 1939-45", by Jack Rollin is a record of British football & footballers during the 2nd World War and is a tonic for those who can still recall celebrity names. It was an era when, in the absence of much entertainment, there was a thirst to watch/play soccer and forget the hostilities around.

George J Murfet 2015



*1940s football boots, Black Country Museum*

[Commemorating 50 years since Nottingham Odeon became the country's first two screen cinema, George Murfet also remembers the heyday of cinema-going in the city: see Nottingham Post publication "Bygones" p 36, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Ed]

## FEATURE: Two Early Members John Adcock

When Don and Jennifer Anderson joined the K&DLHS in 1995, some two years after its foundation, the first project was just being completed: "*Keyworth 1894-1994*". Don and Jennifer remember prominent members, many of whom are sadly no longer with us, such as Bob and Rosalind Hammond, Peter Roper, John Thelwell and Beryl Mellor - but some who are, such as Keith Barton, Alan Armstrong, Alan Spooner and Pam and Alan Clarke.



The couple cannot recall the first talks they heard, but think they just missed one on Inland Waterways and do remember Denny Plowman's talk on Green's Windmill. They certainly recall early interesting visits, including one in 1995, to the Laxton open field system led by an enthusiastic retired farmer with a passion (obsession?!) for old agricultural implements, and also an interesting evening walk around Lowdham. They must have made their interest a shade too obvious, as Jennifer was later persuaded to join the committee for 3 years when she organised several successful visits herself.

These included a memorable one to The Boots Company made on Thursday, 13th May 1999 by 28 enthusiastic local historians. The 330 acre site was toured by means of a Wrights coach but the inside viewing of several floors was on foot and the cream tea so kindly provided by the firm at the end of the visit was more than welcome!

But long before that were Don's own 1930s childhood years which, he admits wryly, will soon be eligible as one of the Society's English Social History talks! For instance he remembers clearly the strict beliefs of his Plymouth Brethren parents and now appreciates the effect these had on his upbringing.

His request to join the Boy Scout Cubs was turned down because, in his father's mind, the Cubs were associated with the Anglicans whose values differed markedly from his own. The Brethren did not countenance alcohol, betting, theatres, frivolous leisure pursuits or certain popular newspapers. Don recalls his father's *approval* of taking a Sunday walk in the park with his son, but his *disapproval* of the flying of a toy airplane on that same outing! And then Brethren's plain, unconstructive services, in which women played no active part, were austere for a young boy, but, at the same time Don accepts that boundaries were clearly established and that discipline, although strict, was administered with love and care.

While, earlier, Don's grandfather had enjoyed a secure job as an engine driver on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, it was his father who, in the long depression of the 1930s, became known as "the rich man of the family" because, as a post office salaried worker with an assured pension, he was considered well off!

Later, that work took the family from Blackburn, where Don was born, to Birmingham and then to Walsall, where, aged eleven and during WW2, he went to grammar school and stayed there until he was seventeen.

He entered the Civil Service but this career was interrupted by two years National Service in the RAF. Here, although his RAF duties, which involved personnel selection, were interesting, they did not give a rather disappointed Don the opportunity of learning to fly.

On demobilisation Don returned to the Civil Service. But later, when married with three children, he found family finances somewhat strained - which was a common feature of life in England in the 1950s! But, gradually, Don progressed within the Board of Trade and found his work exciting, particularly when he moved to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and later to Regional Airport Development. At the latter he found the work challenging, as the very essence of diplomacy was required when the competing interests of airport developers, local politicians, surrounding businesses and worried local residents had to be assessed so that viable recommendations for subsequent airport expansion could be made to anxious government ministers.

It was while working on financial assistance to industry in the Manchester Regional Office that Don met Jennifer, who had also moved to the Office from London about a year earlier, to set up an internal library. They became friendly through the office Sports and Social Club, enjoying, in particular, walks in the nearby Peak District, but it was the breakdown of Jennifer's treasured but aging yellow submarine (Austin mini!), and Don's desire for an alternative to eating his own (truly unique!) reheated stew for 5 days, that finally brought them together!

On returning to work in London, they married and, initially, lived in Godalming, before moving 'down the line' to the beautiful village of Rowland Castle, near the coast and where Jennifer had moved to a post in the MoD. That move meant Don commuting 70 miles each way daily, but he felt this was more than worth it, to live near Portsmouth Harbour and his sailing boat!

That all changed after Don took early retirement, and changes in the MoD caused Jennifer to seek work elsewhere. She obtained a post in the British Geological Survey library here in Keyworth and the couple moved to their current house on Nicker Hill. Jennifer remained at BGS until she, too, decided that her various external interests did not leave enough time for paid employment!

Unlike Don, whose early interests favoured the sciences, Jennifer was interested in history at school, and often regrets not studying it further. She was born and brought up in Yorkshire from where her research shows her ancestors had come. (The exception is the line that had the sense to emigrate from N. Notts to Doncaster in the 19th century!)

Her father was a local builder and her mother a housewife as was then quite normal. She had a good local grammar school education and like many post war 'baby boomers' was the first of her family to go to university, where she read Social Sciences at Leicester before doing a Diploma in Librarianship in London.

Don regrets not staying on at school for longer, thereby losing the chance of going to university but, as many young people did then, and still do today, at that time he could see little relevance in much that was being taught. He made up for this by studying economics as a mature student, enrolling with Harold Wilson's brainchild, the Open University, during its first year of existence in 1969. With the OU he first read social sciences but later switched to the arts. In all he studied for six years, while holding down a full time job, before gaining his Bachelor of Arts degree. That really was studying the hard way! Other, usually mature students, and similarly placed, were studying for the external degrees awarded by London University - the first English university to do so for home students in 1858 and those from overseas only seven years later.

Although hard-going, such study has its advantages, and in the final module of his OU course Don researched, from original documents, the early years of the - very large - First Sunday School in Stockport, near Manchester, which was founded in 1784 shortly after the famous Robert Raikes School in Bristol. Don says that in late 18th and early 19th centuries such schools were not necessarily attached to a specific church.

While their teaching of Christianity was important, the schools existed primarily to spread literacy and numeracy among the general childhood population.

Jennifer has not always shared her husband's love of boats, for Don was a keen sailor and kept a yacht in Portsmouth Harbour throughout their married life. Indeed Jennifer had to pass an initiation test before Don proposed, in what turned out to be a VERY cold VERY wet week on a hired yacht near Maldon, chartered to show her the Splendours of Sailing! Knowing it was to be 'love me, love my boat', she later spent many summers pottering on the Solent.

Don's interest goes back to his infancy when, to his father's dismay, he dug a long pit across their lawn and tried to fill it with water: it was to be the berth for the boat he was to build the next day! Strangely enough, his father was not amused and the boat never materialised! Later his maritime interest was rekindled during a holiday on the Norfolk Broads and he set about constructing his own "real" boat. He drew detailed plans, bought sheets of plywood for the hull and timber for the mast and, in the living room of his house, built his 13 foot x 5 foot boat. To accommodate the shell he had to remove a fireplace and later manoeuvre the vessel carefully out of the house. Although still a non-swimmer, he launched the boat in the sea near Rye - and wonders to this day how he regained dry land safely!

His last boat was a tough, sea-going sailing boat aptly named *Fidget* which had a powerful auxiliary engine which, he claimed, could make an Atlantic crossing; unfortunately its skipper was inadequate and the skipper's wife rather more than simply reluctant! So, while neither has ventured that far, Don did cross the English Channel in it several times - though Jennifer used the ferry! Now he has, regrettably, 'swallowed the anchor' having sold his last boat five years ago. So both Andersons, the bold and the cautious, are now safely anchored in the inland port of Keyworth!

*This is an extended version of an article which first appeared in the series 'Getting to Know You', published in the Keyworth Methodist Church magazine, The Key of June, 2007; a continuation of John's series "Village People" - which has previously featured Ruth Hennell; Stan Hibbert; Alan Copson. It is hoped that he will give us many more. Ed.*

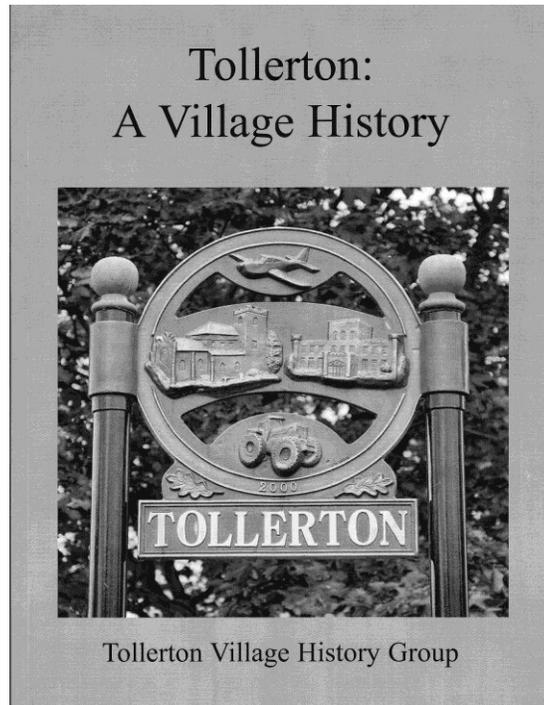
**"Faces & Places"** K&DLHS/CAAG event (see page 9):

If you might be willing to help with the rush (making coffee, taking down details, washing up) please let Sheila or Keith Barton or Archivist Dave Clarke know as soon as possible...

*Thank you.*

# BOOKCASE

**TOLLERTON A VILLAGE HISTORY:** Tollerton Village History Group:  
Barny books: ISBN 978.1.906542.75.7: £10.00  
from Barny Books ([www.barnybooks.co.uk](http://www.barnybooks.co.uk))



Barny Books is a business of publishing advisors which helps authors to self-publish under the Barny Books name. One of the Tollerton Village History group members is a partner in the business. This book was launched on 9 May 2015 in the church at Tollerton. It is 19 x 25.5 cms in size, perfect bound, has 160 pages and many monochrome and colour images. It is nicely presented and written in a clear and easily read style. However, the borders around the printed area are narrow and so make for difficulty in reading the inner print due to the curl of the perfect binding and this detracts from the enjoyment of reading the book. Why this wasn't considered at the lay-out stage is surprising because part of the pleasure of a book is its presentation and ease of handling. Whilst the sources used are mentioned throughout the text a bibliography section would have been useful.

I also feel that the use of sources has been restricted to those easily available, no use, as far as I can see of the facilities at Kew (National Archives) or at Lambeth Palace (Anglican Archives) has been made and there is great reliance placed upon the Rev. Potter's *History of Tollerton* written in 1929. As all historians know, there is great danger in using secondary sources without checking their accuracy.

The same comment applies to the use of the internet. Perhaps taking a little longer to do the research and delving deeper into the sources – mention is made of the catalogue at Nottinghamshire Archives but whether the actual documents were all accessed is unclear but if not, one wonders why not. Explanations of events are given in a brief way but some need greater comment. For example mention is made of enclosure but not what that involved.

Having said all this, the book is aimed at the general reader, not an academic historian, and so perhaps doesn't need the depth of explanation and research that a more scholarly work would require. It certainly serves as a starting point for further research into the history of Tollerton. I am sure the general reader in the village and further afield will find the book interesting, especially the direct quotes from people who have been contacted and given of their time to find letters and delve into memories. The more recent history of the village is covered in much more detail than the history beyond living memory but that is the nature of such works of local history. The many photographs, some in colour, add greatly to the understanding of the story told in the book, the reader will learn a great deal about Tollerton. The book is well worth the cost and for anyone interested in the South Nottinghamshire villages it is highly recommended.

With this publication and that for Normanton-on-the-Wolds published quite recently we are seeing the story of the South Nottinghamshire Wolds villages come to life. Perhaps someone will be stimulated to write the story of Wysall and, maybe, Keyworth's history could be written into a single book on the lines of this one about Tollerton – using the quite extensive research and writings on the aspects of the village already published by Keyworth & District Local History Society – which would be a very useful introduction for new people coming to live in the area as well as being, perhaps, more accessible to the general reader than some of the existing publications. Food for thought stimulated by the work of the Tollerton History Group.

(The Rev. Sidney Pell Potter's book on the History of Tollerton is available in reprint form from Reprint, Loughborough ([www.reprintuk.com](http://www.reprintuk.com)) at £6.00.

Howard Fisher, MA, LRPS, CPAGB,.

Our Publications Sub-committee is preparing a book by one of our members entitled "Keyworth Remembered" which it is hoped will be available shortly.

*If you have a book you can recommend and review, let the editor know.*

# LAST, BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST

Donated to Keyworth & District Local History Society.....



*Cllr Liz Chmara (Vice Chair, Keyworth Parish Council) and Sheila Barton (Chair, K&DLHS) admire pictures donated by Lizzie Stones. [Photograph: Keith Barton]*

Lizzie Stones (who lives in Bottesford) has donated old pictures of Keyworth to the Society in memory of her parents, Peter and Margaret Jackson who lived in the village in the 1950s. She had contacted the Society when she found them in her parent's house after her father's death, and met with Helen and Sheila in the Bistro in the spring to tell us about her connections with the village. Lizzie was born in Main Street [in the the building now occupied by the Veterinary Surgery and Dental Practice] and attended the Village School, Selby Lane, before her family moved elsewhere.

**“Old Lane, Keyworth”** adults and children standing along what is now Elm Avenue

**“866 Keyworth”** Selby Lane: the windmill and the Village School (both demolished)

**“Bunny Lane, Keyworth”** showing Manor Farm, the tower of St Mary Magdalene Church

**“Keyworth”** Main Street, with several groups standing on what was formerly known as Town Street, and locally as “Cow Muck Alley”, looking towards the Square.

Thanks to Keyworth Parish Council and Liz Chmara (Vice Chair) in particular, for permission to hang these pictures on the wall of the Centenary Lounge of the Village Hall for all to see. Similar images may be seen in the Green Room (Keyworth Parish Office) during open hours.

If you have any pictures of the village, or people connected with Keyworth, please see page 9 for details of the joint K&DLHS and CAAG event in November: **“Faces & Places”**

## Safety Guidance: Society Meetings in the Centenary Lounge

### *Welcome!*

For your own safety and that of others: please remember to sign in as you arrive, and familiarize yourself the following safety guidance:

**Fire Extinguishers** note locations;

**Fire Exits** – Main entrance; exit from Centenary Lounge.

### **Fire Evacuation: Call 999**

- 1) Leave quickly and safely by the nearest exit (see escape lights above the doors)
- 2) Keep moving; do not stop on the steps or immediately outside the doors.
- 3) Do not go back for personal belongings
- 4) Committee members will assist less mobile members to make a safe exit.
- 5) Go to **the Assembly Point: Car Park outside the Village Hall.**
- 6) Do not return until advised that it is safe to do so.

**DEFIBRILLATOR** in Village Hall Foyer [between the kitchen and gents toilets].

Access from Centenary Lounge via connecting doors:

Key is in box on wall (break glass in case of emergency)

### **Call 999**

#### **To access the Defibrillator:**

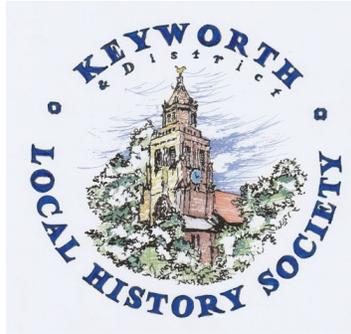
- 1: Unclip the strap and lift out the case;
- 2: Unclip the two side studs and open the case.

When the lid is opened, the defibrillator will automatically switch on.

You will then receive spoken instructions. Follow these to use the device.

[A defibrillator is now also available in the former telephone box at the top of Bunny Lane]

If the emergency facilities are needed, a committee member must inform the Parish Office as soon as possible after the event.



The News Letter is issued four times a year: The deadlines for submissions are the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, May, September & December.

Items for inclusion can be submitted as a typed or manuscript document; pictures, drawings or diagrams are particularly welcome.

If your submission is handwritten, please CAPITALIZE any names or unusual words.

If you wish original documentation to be returned, please include an envelope with your name on (to be returned at the next Society meeting), or a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Your contribution can be either

- given to the Acting News Letter Editor (as above) at Society Meetings;
- posted to Sheila Barton, 1 Parkside Keyworth NG12 5HF; or
- sent by email (in Word or JPEG format, please) to the Acting News Letter Editor: sheilakingdom@gmail.com.

Acknowledgement of sources of material will be given wherever possible.

The editor reserves the right to reduce copy or hold items over for future editions.

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Any opinions are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of Keyworth & District Local History Society.

If you would prefer to receive this Newsletter in large print format, please notify the editor or any Committee member.

It is hoped to upload information about our Society to our website so that an archive can be available to others. Please contact the web master, Nigel Morley, or any committee member.

Photographs are taken as a matter of record at Keyworth & District Local History Society events and may be published in the News Letter or on the website:

[www.keyworth-history.org.uk](http://www.keyworth-history.org.uk)