

The background of the entire page is a detailed historical map of Nottingham. The map shows various streets, landmarks, and geographical features. Labels on the map include 'Milton', 'Newcastle', 'Newmarket', 'Clare', 'House of Correction', 'River', 'Beck', 'Engraved', 'Gate', 'Meadows', 'Raff Yard', and 'Part of'. The map is rendered in a light, sepia tone, providing a historical context for the event.

Institute for Name-Studies + Institute for Medieval Research

Nottinghamshire Names Day Saturday 14th June

10:00 – 10:40 Rebecca Gregory – Settlement-names in Nottinghamshire

The names of most of England's cities, towns and villages are more than a thousand years old. They originated as meaningful descriptions of the world as early medieval people saw it, preserving everyday language along with the names of people, depictions of the landscape, and markers of resources and locations important enough to pin to a verbal map. In this talk, we'll think about how researchers decode and examine settlement-names which may have circulated orally for hundreds of years before their first surviving written records. We'll look at some examples of Nottinghamshire names which have changed dramatically over the past millennium, and consider how important those earliest spellings are. Once we've got to grips with the study of settlement names, we'll take a whirlwind tour through the peoples and languages present in Nottinghamshire and the permanent traces they left in the place-names we use every day.

Rebecca Gregory is Assistant Professor in Historical Linguistics and Onomastics at the University of Nottingham. She teaches across a range of topics in medieval language and literature, but her main research interest is in English place-names, especially in relation to the Scandinavian influence on names in the East Midlands. Becca is author of *Viking Nottinghamshire* (Five Leaves Press, 2017) and a contributor to the *New Dictionary of English Field-Names* (English Place-Name Society, 2018). In the wild, Becca can be spotted wearing wellies, carrying coffee, with a dog in tow.

10:40 – 11:20 Jayne Carroll – The names of Nottinghamshire water-courses

The names of rivers are amongst the oldest place-names still in use in Nottinghamshire today. This talk will explore the county's river- and stream-names, discussing their varied linguistic origins and the meanings that they had when they were first in use, hundreds – in some cases thousands – of years ago. These names communicate how the rivers behaved and were perceived in the distant past, from the 'trespassing' Trent to the 'lazy' Idle, from the 'crooked' Cocker Beck to the 'gravelly' Greete.


Jayne Carroll is Professor in Early-English and Name-Studies, and is Director of the Institute for Name-Studies at Nottingham. She has particular research interests in Scandinavian influence on English place-names, the place-names of the west midlands, and place-names with watery connotations. Jayne is co-editor of *Perceptions of Place* (with David Parsons) and *The Place-Names of Shropshire: Part 8* (with John Baker) .

11:20 – 11:50 Coffee Break

11:50 – 12:30 John Baker – Medieval assembly sites in Nottinghamshire

In the early medieval period, the business of local governance in Nottinghamshire, as in the rest of England, was carried out at public assemblies, generally held at established locations in the open air. Place-names are an important (in some ways the primary) source of evidence for the sites at which such gatherings occurred. Two types of place-name are especially significant: the names of recorded meeting-places; and place-names containing elements that imply the presence of assembly. For the first type, the names of Domesday districts – known as hundreds in much of England but wapentakes in Nottinghamshire – are especially valuable, since many seem to have been called after their meeting-places. The second type, containing elements such as þing 'assembly' and spell 'speech' often survive only as minor names and it is not always clear exactly what kinds of assembly they hosted. This talk explores the place-names of assembly in Nottinghamshire to assess their value in identifying locations of assembly and the nature of those meeting-places.

John Baker is Associate Professor in Name-Studies, and has worked at the Institute for Name-Studies in various roles since 2005. He works on place-name etymology and the application of onomastic evidence in historical approaches to medieval landscape and society. His publications include *Beyond the Burghal Hidage* (with Stuart Brookes) and *The Place-Names of Shropshire Part 8* (with Jayne Carroll).

A detailed historical map of Nottingham, showing the city's layout with streets, buildings, and the River Leen. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key features include the River Leen flowing through the city, the Nottingham Castle on the left, and the city walls. The map is labeled with various streets and landmarks, including the River Leen, the Nottingham Castle, and the city walls. The map is a historical engraving, showing the city's layout in a detailed and accurate manner.

Susan Kilby is a Research Associate within the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham. She trained as a medieval historian and is interested in human interactions with - and responses to - England's varied and diverse landscapes. Most of her work incorporates a focus on place-names of all kinds as she seeks to better understand our relationship with the local landscape, and the role that it plays in social and cultural history.

15:30– 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:40 Peter McClure – Surnames in Nottinghamshire

Most current Nottinghamshire surnames originated in the late medieval period, describing someone's occupation, or who they were related to (relationship names), where they lived or came from (topographic and toponymic names), or how they were nicknamed. Some arose widely across Britain, others have a more regional distribution. Typical of the north Midlands are Walker (occupational), Kirk (topographic), Burton (toponymic), Johnson and Gamble (both relationship names). Kirk and Gamble have Old Danish origins and reflect Viking settlement in the east Midlands in the late ninth and tenth centuries. Burton derives from several places so named and is therefore polygenetic (naming multiple, unrelated ancestors), whereas Attenborough is monogenetic, as DNA evidence has confirmed, because it derives from a single ancestor in the Nottinghamshire hamlet of that name. Thanks to linguistic changes, many surnames now convey a false sense or no sense. What counts as a Nottinghamshire surname? Some that originated here, like Attenborough and Daft, have stayed, but Cromwell has entirely left the county, while others, like Pierrepont (from Normandy) and Starbuck, have come into the county from elsewhere. The talk concludes by showing how researching Nottinghamshire's surnames has contributed to a better understanding of the history of the English language and society.

Dr Peter McClure is Honorary Professor of Name-Studies in the Institute for Name-Studies, University of Nottingham. His main research has been in the linguistic origins of English personal names and surnames and their value as evidence for other kinds of historical research, including family history, social history, vanished words and meanings, changes in pronunciation, long-lost occupations, patterns of migration, and the assimilation of foreigners. He is a co-editor (with Patrick Hanks and Richard Coates) of the Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland (2016) and (with Patrick Hanks and Simon Lenarčič) of the Dictionary of American Family Names (2nd edition, 2022). He is a former President of the Society of Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, a current Vice-President of the English Place-Name Society, and a consultant to the Oxford English Dictionary on English personal names and surnames.