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DISCOVER

The University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections

ISSUE 19: SEPTEMBER 2022

The power of knowledge

How Nottingham led the adult
education revolution

Plus: discovering the community
treasures held within **manorial records**





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Cover image: “Learn at leisure series” leaflet advertising courses run by BBC Radio Nottingham and the Department of Adult Education, University of Nottingham, 1968. HR Potter Collection, HRP/Po/10/3.

COLLECTIONS AT A GLANCE

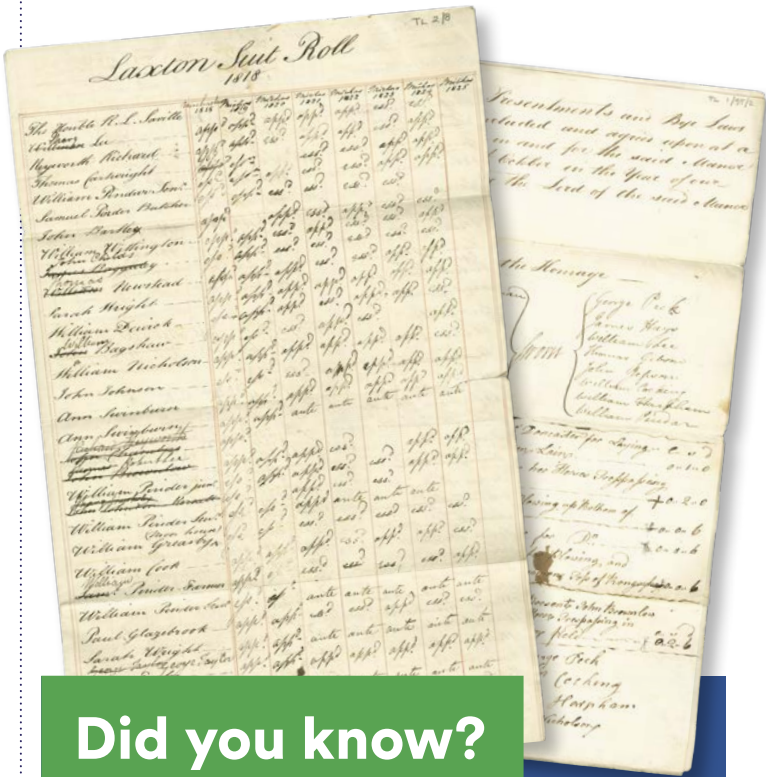
Title: Manorial records of Laxton, Nottinghamshire, 1744-1957.

Collection reference: TL

Link to catalogue: nott.ac/TL

Overview: A small collection of documents from the Laxton manorial court, including minutes, presentments (statements by the jury of matters to be dealt with by the court), and suit rolls (names of people who owed suit to the court, and should attend).

Why you should explore the collection: Manorial documents are wonderful sources of information about the lives of everyday people and the workings of communities.



Did you know?

Laxton in Nottinghamshire is the last open-field farming estate in England, preserving a medieval tradition. Three open fields, divided into strips, are farmed by tenants of the Laxton Estate, and are still managed by a jury reporting to the manorial court.

WELCOME

Letter from the Keeper

Welcome to the September issue of *Discover* magazine. This is my first issue as Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections, having succeeded Mark Dorrington who retired at the end of July. There is a farewell from Mark on p4, reflecting on his time at the University of Nottingham and I would like to wish him all the best for a relaxing and well-earned retirement.

We have lots of exciting things planned over the next few months. On 6 September, Manuscripts and Special Collections is co-hosting a Manorial Documents Register Conference with The National Archives. The conference marks both the centenary of the Law of Property Act that abolished copyhold tenure, and the recent completion of 30 years of work to make available online the Manorial Document Register for England and Wales. In celebration, this issue of *Discover* is something of a manorial documents special – with articles introducing manors and manorial records for those among our readers who are less familiar with them, as well as an article by our conservator, Robert Pearce, who explains some of the issues involved in preserving manorial records and archives more generally. Whether you are a seasoned user of manorial documents or are encountering them for the first time, we hope you will be inspired to explore some of the records that are held here in Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Also in September, we will be participating in the annual Heritage Open Day event, offering a talk on Robin Hood, a behind-the-scenes tour of Manuscripts and Special Collections and a guided

tour of our *Last Orders* exhibition at Lakeside Arts. More information, including how to book your spot, can be found on p14.

Last Orders closes on 9 October and on the 27th we will be throwing open the doors of *Knowledge is Power: Class, Community and Adult Education*. Further on in this issue exhibition co-curator Dr John Holford introduces the adult education movement and its links to the British labour movement and working-class politics.

Work is also underway to recruit to some vacancies within Manuscripts and Special Collections, and we will update you on that in the next issue. One vacancy is for my previous role of Senior Archivist, and once that role has been filled I will be handing over the editorship of *Discover*. It is a part of my job that I have loved, having started the magazine back in 2015, but I am excited to see where the next editor takes it. And I won't let go completely as I will be continuing to contribute the regular 'Letter from the Keeper'.

If you would like to find out more about any aspect of Manuscripts and Special Collections, or our work, please do not hesitate to contact me. Meanwhile I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of *Discover*.

H. Cotterill

Hayley Cotterill
Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections



Opening times

Reading Room at King's Meadow Campus

- 9.30am–5pm Monday–Tuesday
- 9.30am–6pm Wednesday–Thursday

Weston Gallery at Lakeside Arts, University Park

- 12 noon–4pm Tuesday–Sunday

Reflections of the Keeper – farewell from Mark

I retired from the post of Associate Director and Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the end of July, and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the last 8 ¾ years at the university.

The highlight is probably being the first university in the Midlands to be awarded Archive Service Accreditation in 2016. In 2018/19 Manuscripts and Special Collections were also the highest rated unit across the university in a survey of university staff.

During this period, we have run a number of very successful externally funded projects to extend access to our collections. The Wellcome Trust funded the ‘Development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at the University of Nottingham’ which catalogued and selectively digitised the papers of the Nobel prize winner Professor Sir Peter Mansfield and other scientists involved in the pioneering work on MRI at Nottingham.

Arts Council England, through a Designation Development grant, funded the recently completed project ‘Unlocking the DH Lawrence Collection: cataloguing and digitisation for research and display’ which saw the cataloguing of two Lawrence related collections, the digitisation of 797 Lawrence literary manuscripts, letters, typescripts, proofs and art works and the creation of the ‘Editing DH Lawrence’ exhibition in the Weston Gallery. Currently we are also nearing completion of the privately funded ‘Advocates of animal welfare: uncovering the archives’ project and the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust funded project conserving the papers of the Nottingham architect TC Hine.

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The highlight is probably being the first university in the Midlands to be awarded Archive Service Accreditation in 2016.”



Left: The MRI project team in the Manuscripts and Special Collections store.

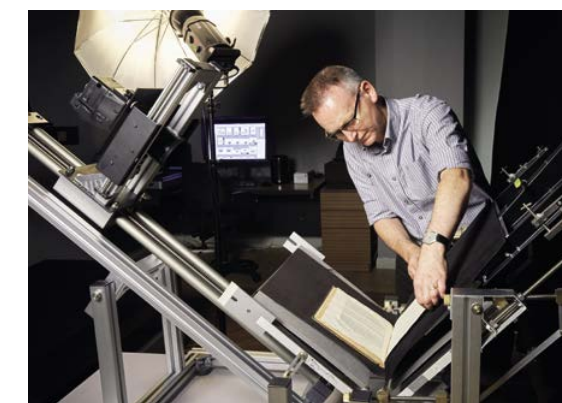
Right: Papers of Thomas Chambers Hine, pictured before conservation work on the collection began. MS 575

Below: [Both images] The Manuscripts and Special Collections digitisation studio.



We have continued to develop the wonderful collections held by Manuscripts and Special Collections and in particular the designated DH Lawrence collection. The acquisition of the papers of Lawrence's sister Ada Clarke, after an extensive funding campaign, was a particular highlight but we have also been excited to acquire manuscripts of the short story ‘Flying Fish’ and the essay ‘A little Moonshine with Lemon’, and a manuscript and typescript of the essay ‘Pictures on the Wall’; correspondence and postcards sent by Lawrence to members of his family; typescripts of the poetry collection *Pansies* and of the memoir *Dregs: A Foreign Legion Experience by an American* which was edited by Lawrence who also wrote a short memoir of the author, Maurice Magnus; and papers relating to the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in the USA and correspondence relating to Lawrence's literary estate. We are very grateful to a range of funders who have made these acquisitions possible.

We have continued to enhance the university archives especially through the Tri Campus Contemporary Collecting project which seeks to document the lives of students alongside the official archives. Recently we have also been pleased to acquire the Nottingham Theatre Royal archives and work with the Nottingham



Women's History Group to establish an East Midlands Feminist archive.

The procurement of a digital preservation system and the development of workflows and procedures means that we can now acquire and preserve born digital material and ensure the long-term preservation of our digital images. Building up equipment in our digitisation studio has extended the range of digitisation work that we are able to undertake and the setting up of the Heritage Digitisation Service has also enabled us to share our expertise and skills with other organisations.

Refurbishment of the Reading room, Bentinck room and the Weston Gallery and the decoration of the King's Meadow Campus corridor has improved the visitor experience. Use of our collections in taught modules, through student placements and participation in the Nottingham Advantage Award has enhanced the learning experience of students.

Promotion of the collections to a wider public audience remains a particularly important part of the section's work. The Weston Gallery exhibitions and supporting events programme goes from strength to strength. The quality and high standard of them all make it impossible to single out a particular favourite. The production of the iBook *'Parchment, Paper and Pixels'* with our colleagues from Learning Technology proved an exciting development.

Transfer of the University Museum of Archaeology to Manuscripts and Special Collections has seen the recent very successful hosting of the British Museum touring exhibition *'Ancient Iraq: New Discoveries'*.

Trying to operate through a global pandemic during the last couple of years has not been easy but our staff showed tremendous resilience and fortitude in re-opening the service at the earliest opportunity and keeping it going through subsequent lockdowns.

All these achievements would not be possible without the hard work, enthusiasm and creativity of my colleagues who I would like to thank for their co-operation and support throughout my time at the university and to wish them all the best for the future.

Mark Dorrington



From top: Scrapbook of Thomas Chambers Hine, photographed prior to conservation work.

Papers of Thomas Chambers Hine, MS 575

Staff at work in the digitisation studio.

Mark Dorrington in the Manuscripts and Special Collections store.

Images from the collections have been used to decorate the corridor leading to the Manuscripts and Special Collections reading room on King's Meadow Campus.

Introducing manors

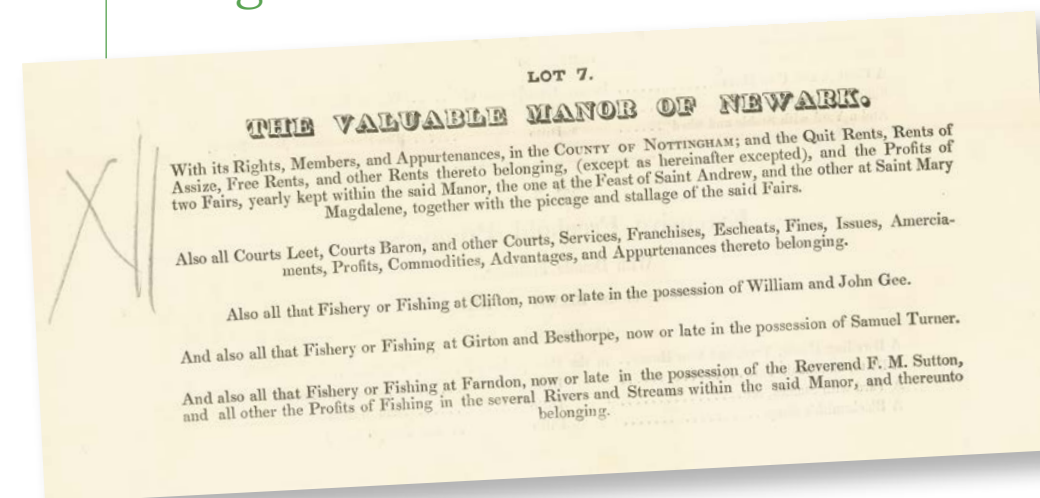
A manor was a type of landholding that was common in England and Wales from the medieval period onwards. The earliest documents held at the University of Nottingham which mention manors date from the late 12th century. Manors varied greatly in size and importance. They could be contained within one village, or consist of land in various parishes. Some parishes were divided between multiple manors, and many places included some properties which were in no manor at all.

The Lord or Lady of the Manor owned the whole manor. Originally, they had feudal powers over their manorial tenants, who in turn owed obligations to their Lord. A manor could be an effective way of managing a type of estate requiring a lot of co-operation between its residents, particularly rural estates operating strip farming. Strip boundaries needed to be maintained and communal grass areas protected. The manorial court in Laxton, Nottinghamshire, still identifies and punishes infringements of these kinds of activities. However, in most places, by the late nineteenth century, any manorial obligations had become obsolete and replaced with rents.

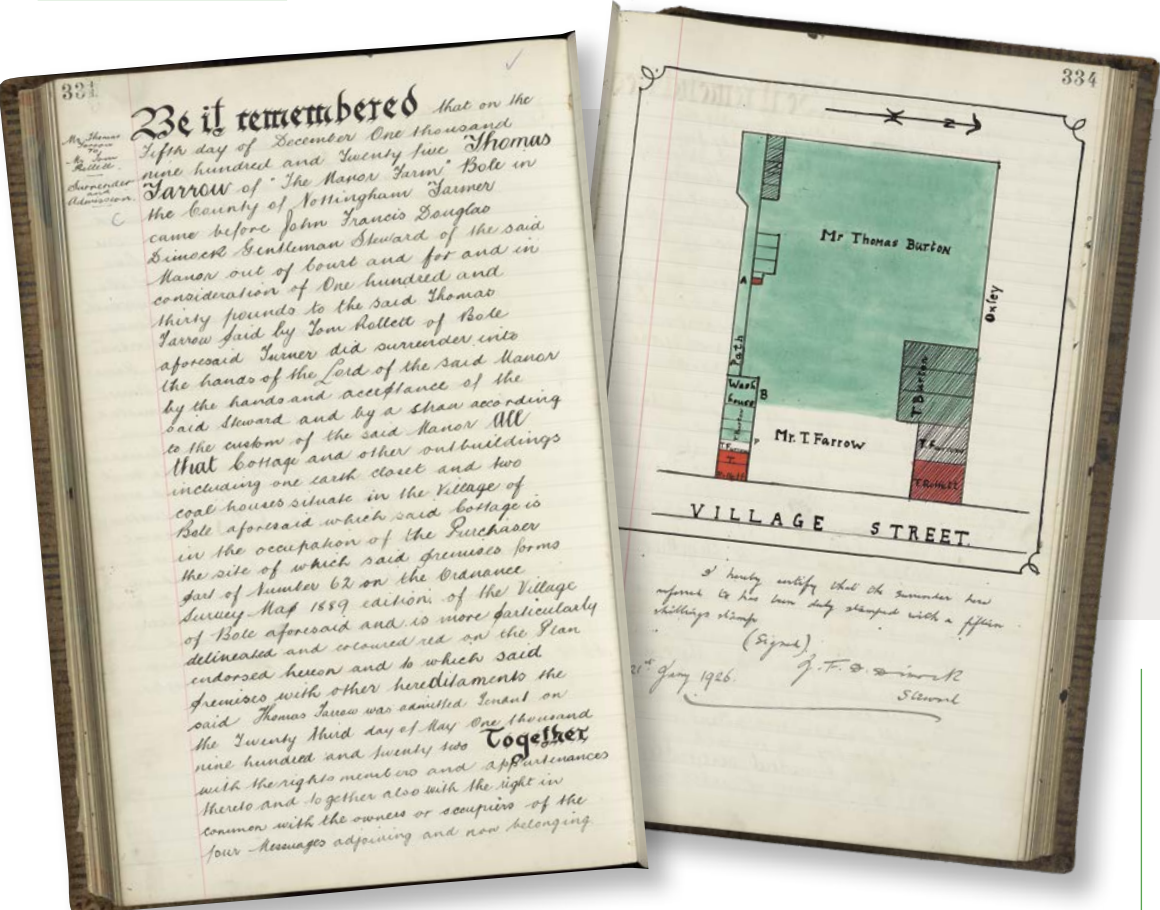


“The Lord or Lady of the Manor owned the whole manor. Originally, they had feudal powers over their manorial tenants, who in turn owed obligations to their Lord.”

Plan of Laxton, showing each individual strip and piece of land, 1834. The properties held by different landowners are shown in different colours. Manvers Collection, Ma 5416



Left: Detail from printed sale catalogue for the Manor of Newark, Lot 7 in a sale on 21 September 1837. Lists the rights of the manor including fisheries. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne 6 M 1/3/2/3/3



The last surrender and admittance in the North Wheatley Manor Court, 5 December 1925. Records of the Manor of North Wheatley, NWM/1/14

Manors themselves were freehold property, and were bought and sold between major landowners. The people who actually lived on and farmed manorial lands were copyhold tenants. They held their land by custom, which varied between manors. Nevertheless, most copyhold land could be bought, sold, mortgaged or inherited. Many landholdings were held by members of the same family for generations. However, every transfer of land had to go through the Lord or Lady of the Manor. The land was surrendered back to them before the new tenant was admitted. The Lord or Lady had the right to take fees from new tenants, and to receive a payment called a 'heriot' on the death of one of their tenants.

The Lord or Lady of the Manor could agree to sell land outright to their tenants, freeing it from its copyhold status and meaning it was no longer part of the manor. This was called enfranchisement, and the Copyhold Act of 1852 allowed tenants to demand this. When the Law of Property Act of 1922 came into effect in 1925, all remaining copyhold tenures were abolished.

Manor courts and manorial records

Manors were administered on behalf of the Lord or Lady of the Manor by a steward. All the business of the manor was written down in court rolls and other papers, although these have not al-

ways survived. Manor court rolls were written in Latin until 1733 and in English from then on.

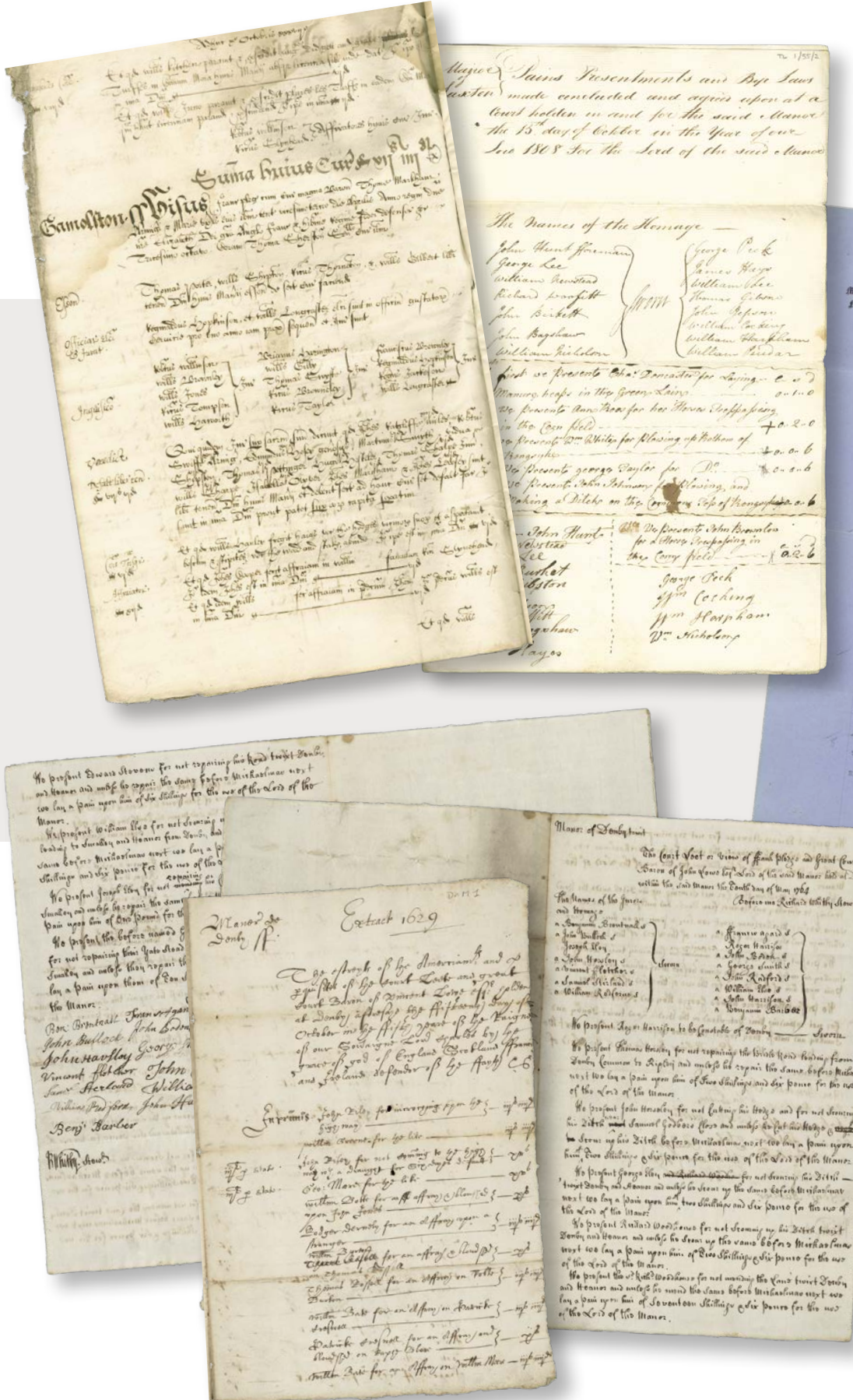
There were two main types of manor courts. The **court baron** administered the customs of the manor and dealt with any offences against it. The official record of the transfer of copyhold land to new tenants was written up in the court rolls. In addition, the steward wrote out an official copy of the court roll entry, which was kept by the tenant as their proof of title. This is where the term 'copyhold' comes from.

The **court leet** was a local court of law for routine offences. Jurisdiction normally exercised by the royal courts was often transferred to local manorial courts. It would try offences such as assaults, obstruction of highways, or the breaking of the assize of bread and ale. It might also deal with the election of local officials such as constables. Often described in the court rolls as 'The Court Leet and view of frankpledge', 'frankpledge' was a system of mutual responsibility for the maintenance of law and order.

Other manorial records include surveys, maps, and other documents relating to the boundaries, customs or courts of a manor, and suit rolls, jury lists, minutes and presentments relating to hearings at the manor court.

Manorial records are a brilliant, and often under-used source, for those looking at economic and financial history, the history of the land and

how it has been used, and for family historians. Manorial records are notable for being one of the few types of document where information about ordinary people - not just the upper classes - is likely to have survived, perhaps even from the medieval period. In consequence, they are an important source for wider social and economic history as well as the history of places and families.



From the left: Page from a Court roll for the Manor of Gamston, Nottinghamshire, 1595-1600. You can see the words "Gamolston visus franc pleg' cum curia magna baronis". Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne M 87

Presentments at Laxton Manor Court, 1809. Manorial Records of Laxton, TL 1/55/2

Above: Draft enfranchisement and draft surrender and admittance relating to land in Farndon, 1923. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne 6 M 1/3/9/16/1-2

Left: Examples of jury lists, suit rolls and presentments from the Manor Court of Denby, 1629 and 1764 . Includes presentments relating to affray and bloodshed. Papers of the Drury-Lowe Family of Locko Park, Dr M 1 and Dr M 22

Manorial records

Manorial records are 'court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and books of every description relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor'. These are all the records that would have been used to help administer a manor, but not the title deeds that were evidence for buying or selling of manorial land.

The Law of Property Act 1922 abolished copyhold land tenure from 1925. After 1925, people who needed to be able to provide proof of title to former copyhold land had to have access to the manorial court documents in which they were written. The Master of the Rolls was asked to issue 'Manorial Documents Rules' to define what was a manorial document, to ensure that such manorial records were properly preserved, and to establish a Manorial Documents Register (MDR) to keep track of where the records were kept.

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is the official index to English and Welsh manorial records. It provides brief descriptions of documents and their locations in public and private hands. Maintaining the Manorial Documents Register is the responsibility of The National Archives (TNA). The recent completion of a 30 year programme has seen the MDR revised, updated and computerised. discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search

The University of Nottingham, like many other archive repositories, is designated as a 'place of deposit' for manorial records.

You can search our catalogue for descriptions of the manorial documents found within our collections, mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk. There is also a Research Guidance section on our website which gives more information about manorial records, nott.ac/manorial

What's what in manorial records

Admittance or admission – Ceremony by which a new tenant gained entry to a customary holding, by paying a fine; usually preceded by a surrender.

Accounts – Kept by the manorial steward or bailiff, these would nearly always cover the manorial income over a single year running from Michaelmas (29 September) to Michaelmas.

Charge – The amount of monies received by the steward or bailiff, recorded in the accounts.

Court roll – The formal record of a manor court, written on a roll of paper or parchment. Sometimes the term court roll is still used even when the manor court records are kept in a volume or as loose sheets of paper.

Customary tenant – Tenants holding land according to the customs of the manor.

Custumals – A survey of rents, services and other obligations owed by tenants to the lord or lady of the manor, and also of the rights and obligations of the lord or lady. They formed a legal and theoretical record of rights and obligations and as time went on, the services and produce listed in them might be commuted to monetary payments. The 'customs' would vary significantly from manor to manor.

Discharge – A record of expenditure by the steward or bailiff, recorded in the accounts.

Extent – An extent was a description and valuation of all the items on the manor. The valuation was essentially the amount which could be got for the item if it were leased out. It was usually written in a set order, beginning with the manor house and its gardens and grounds, then moving on to mills, then to the demesne land (divided into sections for arable, meadow, pasture and woods) then setting out details of tenants' rents and services, and concluding with the total value of the manor.

Heriot – Payment made to the lord or lady of a manor on the death of a tenant.

Presentment – Statement by the jury of matters to be dealt with by the manorial court.

Rental – A list of all the tenants who held land in the manor, together with a description of the land they held and a record of the rent they paid.

Surrender – Ceremony by which an existing tenant gave up a customary holding; usually followed by an admittance.

Terrier – A survey arranged topographically, field by field, or where strip farming was used, strip by strip.

Manorial records can be found within many of our archive collections, especially within our family and estate collections. Britain's major landed families held vast amounts of property all over the country. Naturally, some of this would have been copyhold, or manorial land, and for this reason manorial records can often be found with family and estate archives.

Collections containing manorial records include:

- ◇ *The estate papers of the Denison Family, De A and De B*
- ◇ *Papers of the Drury-Lowe family of Locko Park, Dr 5*
- ◇ *Estate Papers of the Eyre family of Grove, Ey*
- ◇ *Papers of the Monckton-Arundell Family, Viscounts Galway of Serlby Hall, Ga*
- ◇ *Estate Papers of the Kirke Family of East Markham, Ki*
- ◇ *Manvers Collection, a Collection of Estate Papers of the Pierrepont Family, Earls Manvers, of Thoresby Hall, Ma*
- ◇ *The Family and Estate Papers of the Willoughby Family, Lords Middleton, Mi*
- ◇ *Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne*
- ◇ *Records of the Manor of North Wheatley, NWM*
- ◇ *The Portland (London) Collection, being Legal, Financial and Estate Papers of the Dukes of Portland, Pl*
- ◇ *Papers of the Smith-Bromley Family of East Stoke, Sm*
- ◇ *Papers of the Thoroton and Hildyard families of Screveton and Flintham, THF*
- ◇ *Manorial records of Laxton, Nottinghamshire, TL*

Mind your manors: conserving and preserving manorial documents



1. One of the guiding principles of conservation is that everything that you do to a document should be reversible.

2. Wheat starch paste is a key tool in the conservator's arsenal. It is used as an adhesive when carrying out repairs to paper and has been in use for over 1,000 years. We make our own paste in the conservation studio.



3. Parchment is made from animal skin - primarily sheep. It has been used as a writing medium for centuries.



tal standards, preventing mould growth, slowing the rate all such organic material deteriorates, and ensuring our collections survive into the future.

“Approximately 85% of our holdings are paper and 5% parchment. The remaining 10% is audio-visual material.”

4. The quality of paper was a lot better before the Industrial Revolution. Prior to 1830 the majority of paper used in the UK was cotton or linen based, often manufactured off the back of the textile industry. As the demand for printed literature grew paper manufacturers switched to wood pulp instead. However, wood pulp paper is chemically unstable unless carefully treated, and will only last for a short while before it begins to discolour and break down, making its preservation more challenging and creating more of a headache for conservators.



Sequence: Conservation work being carried out on parchment – the writing medium used for the majority of manorial documents.

Left: Court Rolls from the Manor of North Wheatley, 1633-1719. Three Court Rolls made of parchment membranes sewn together at the top and rolled up for storage.

Records of the Manor of North Wheatley, Nottinghamshire, NWM 1/6-8

When considering conservation of manorial documents, we ask the same questions as we ask about our other archives. That is to say; what age are they, what are they made from and how have they been cared for before they came to us.

The manorial documents in our collections range in date from the 12th to early 20th century, they may be paper or parchment, they may be rolled, folded, bound or loose. Often, we find them gathered into tight bundles, tied with string or ribbons and placed in a box.

Good quality parchment and paper can easily last for a thousand years if it is looked after. That is a big if. The most common cause of harm to such documents is being kept in poor storage conditions, neglected, damp and dirty, or conversely documents may have been overused and damaged by poor or too frequent handling.

Both the condition and the intended use of the documents help guide us in considering the treatment options.

In recent years there has been a shift away from heavy handed repair techniques or “restoration” towards stabilising the collection. We call this preservation rather than conservation.

In the past a document may have been thoroughly repaired using various tissues, papers and adhesives to make them robust enough for almost any handling. We are now more likely to look holistically at the whole collection to improve its state of preservation. Of course, we still sometimes need to carry out repairs to a document, and these are done with a lighter touch and are more sympathetic to the character of the document. This sort of skilled repair work is not done routinely, rather when it is needed, such as making a document fit for exhibition or regular handling.

If we consider the conservation of manorial and other documents written on parchment, all parchment repairs used to be carried out ‘like for

Heritage Open Day events

An un-heroic history of Robin Hood

Manuscripts and Special Collections delves into one of the most enduring literary inventions from the East Midlands: Robin Hood. In this talk we look at the way the legend has changed over the centuries and find the possible sources of inspiration behind the heroes and villains at the heart of the tales.

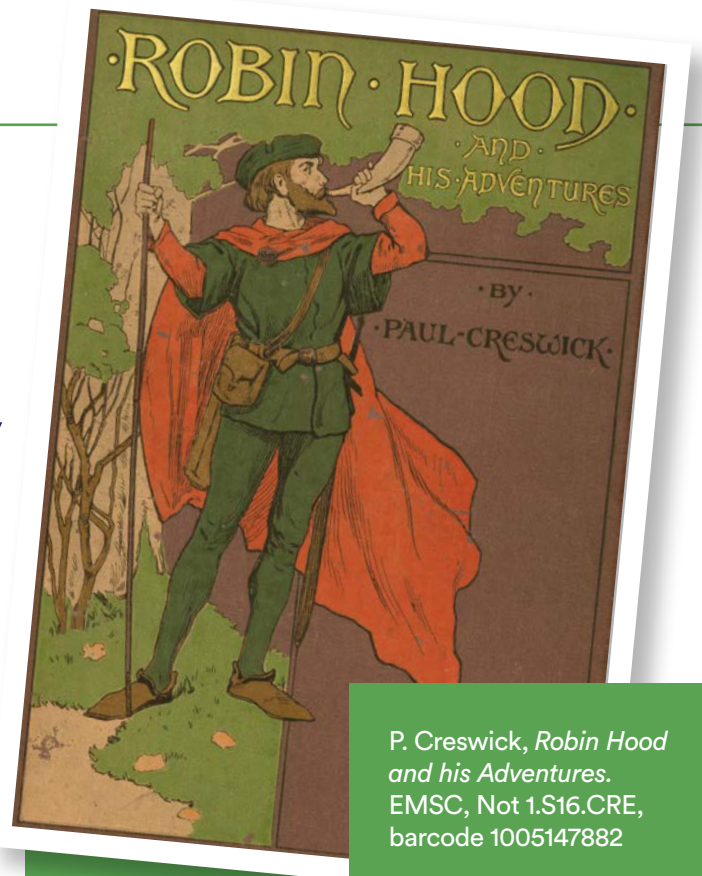
Join us afterwards for a behind-the-scenes tour of the archive and a display from the collections of some rather more tangible but equally astounding inventions from the region.

The tour can be booked separately but places are limited so book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Last Orders: Stories of alcohol and abstinence in the East Midlands

Through vivid stories, this exhibition examines the tensions that have marked Britain's changing relationship with alcohol over two centuries, and the emergence of the temperance movement's efforts to call time on drinking.

Join us for a special guided tour with one of the curators to find out more.



P. Creswick, *Robin Hood and his Adventures*.
EMSC, Not 1.S16.CRE,
barcode 1005147882

Book your place

Venue: Manuscripts & Special Collections, King's Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR

Talk: 10am Friday 16 September. Lasts approximately 1 hour

Tour: 11.30am Friday 16 September. Lasts approximately 1 hour and involves some walking

Cost: Free

Venue: Weston Gallery Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Exhibition opening times:
Tuesday-Sunday:
12noon-4pm

Guided tour: Thursday 15 September, 11am
Lasts approximately 1 hour

Cost: Free

PROFILE

Five minutes with... Hayley Cotterill



What is your job title and how long have you worked in Manuscripts and Special Collections?

"I am the Associate Director and Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections, taking over from Mark Dorrington who retired at the end of July. I have worked in Manuscripts and Special Collections for 11 years, originally joining as an archivist on a short-term post, covering another staff member's maternity leave. More recently I have been Senior Archivist for Academic and Public Engagement, looking after our teaching, exhibition and outreach programmes and leading the Academic and Public Engagement team. Before moving to Nottingham I spent a number of years working at Warwickshire County Record Office."

What does your new role as Keeper involve?

"You might have to come back to me in a few months when I've figured that out! In all seriousness though I am responsible for leading the section, working with a wonderful group of colleagues to ensure that we continue to develop the collections, look after the materials in our care, and make them accessible to our university community and the wider public."

Why did you decide to become an archivist?

"I used archives in my History degree, and visited a number of county record offices and university archives for my dissertation. I loved being able to use and handle original sources. I think that from the moment that I first set foot in a reading room I knew that I had found my place."

What are your priorities for Manuscripts and Special Collections in the months and years to come?

"One of my first priorities is to guide us through our reapplication for Archives Accreditation. Accreditation is the UK quality standard for ar-

chives, and accreditation status lasts for 6 years. Having first been accredited back in 2016 we are now in the midst of making a new application. Other priorities include continuing to develop our digital services, which includes looking at ways to increase access to our digitised and born-digital materials, and continuing to explore ways of opening up the collections, so that more people know about and use the amazing archives and printed materials that are held here in Manuscripts and Special Collections."

Do you have a favourite item or collection?

"I don't know if I'm still allowed to have favourites, but I have always loved the Howitt collection, a collection of correspondence between the writer Mary Howitt and her extended family. The collection is a rich resource for evidence on a wide range of social, political, and literary subjects from the mid-nineteenth century. The bulk of the correspondence was between women, and there is a lot of discussion of domestic issues, including the raising of children, as well as on the role of women themselves with Mary Howitt being torn between domestic duties and her career as a writer. Geographical location is sometimes particularly important, as in the series of letters from Mary's sister Emma Alderson, in Cincinnati, Ohio before the American civil war. The letters between Mary and her sister Anna Harrison are particularly rich and show the close bond between the two sisters, who were separated physically for most of their adult lives."

What do you most enjoy about the work that you do?

"I genuinely love my job. I'm really looking forward to the challenge of developing the section and ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of our current and future users."



Booking information: Email mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk to reserve a space or call 0(+44) 115 951 4565. Lines open 9.30am–5pm Monday – Thursday.

The power of knowledge

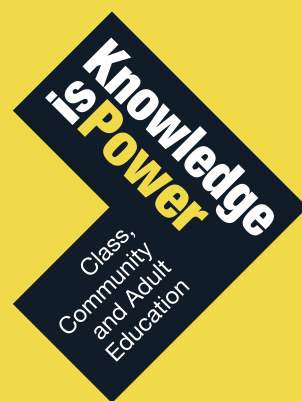
Professor John Holford

When Ken Coates came to study at the University of Nottingham in the early 1950s, he was still at work in Bilsthorpe colliery. He joined a course for miners taught by the university's extra-mural department. For two years they met, two days a week – one with 'day release' from the pit, one a Saturday 'under my own steam' – studying economic history, logic, economics, English litera-

ture. It was, he wrote, 'my salvation', leading on to a full-time scholarship, a first-class degree, and an academic career in Nottingham.

Every university, more or less, had an extra-mural department in the 1950s. Nottingham's was one of the biggest. It was also the largest department in the university. As an academic in the department, Ken spent the next three decades educating working people in the region, and agitating to improve their lives.

Though most extra-mural departments closed around 20 years ago, through the 20th century they were a knowledge highway between universities and the people of their regions. I've been busy over recent months, working with Manuscripts and Special Collections to tell the story of Nottingham's department, through the exhibition



Spotlight on low-income families

POVERTY IN CITY: SHOCK FACTS



Top: Nottingham branch of the WEA, Shakespeare Street. University of Nottingham Collection, ACC 3187.

Left: Photograph of staff in the Adult Education department (Alan Thornton, Jack Simpson, Harold Wiltshire, Peter Wassell and Karl Stadler) on a staff away-day in Skegness, 1958.

Courtesy of Sue Edmond (née Butler).

Above: 'Poverty in City: Shock Facts', newspaper clipping from the *Nottingham Evening Post* showing response to Ken Coates and Bill Silburn's poverty study in St Ann's, Nottingham, 7 May 1968, Papers of Richard (Bill) Silburn, MS 875/2/4.

Knowledge is Power: Class, Community and Adult Education.

We are piecing together the history from different sources held in Manuscripts and Special Collections. The papers of Ken Coates are one of the most important. Ken, whose career culminated in a decade spent as a Labour Member of the European Parliament in the 1990s, was a moving force in several organisations and popular movements: the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, European Nuclear Disarmament, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, the Spokesman Press, and the Institute for Workers' Control.

Though his energy and international political prominence made Ken unusual, he was in many ways a typical extra-mural academic, teaching adults in the community in day-release and evening classes, and researching what mattered to them. He had many colleagues, teaching a comprehensive range of university subjects: archaeology, astronomy, economics, English and foreign literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology, zoology.

Extra-mural courses differed from 'internal' university courses in many ways. The students, of course, were all adults, and brought varied life experience into the classes. Harold Wiltshire, professor and head of extra-mural studies in the 1950s and 1960s described other core principles: their aim was neither vocational nor 'learning for learning's sake', but 'learning for understanding the great issues of life'. Examinations and awards were 'deplored'. There were no entry qualifications: 'the only selection used is self-selection'. Teaching was 'Socratic' in 'small tutorial groups meeting for guided discussion over a fairly long period'.

Robert Peers became University College Nottingham's first professor of adult education a hundred years ago this year. This was the first university chair in the field anywhere in the world. Peers had launched the department two years earlier

“Every university, more or less, had an extra-mural department in the 1950s. Nottingham's was one of the biggest. It was also the largest department in the university.”

– Nottingham was the first to act on the post-First World War's, Ministry of Reconstruction's, recommendation that each university should set up a department. He proved a visionary organiser and leader, building – with support from the Workers' Educational Association – a huge programme of courses and education centres across the East Midlands.

By the mid-1930s, there were over 4,000 extra-mural students – this at a time when the university college as a whole had fewer than 600 full-time students. It continued to grow under his successors for half a century. By the 1960s there were teaching centres in towns from Matlock and Derby to Lincoln and Boston, and classes in innumerable other towns and villages.

University extra-mural classes were havens of scholarship for 'ordinary' adults. The department's library sent a box of books to every course. Students did research, generating and spreading knowledge in their locality and far beyond. Adult classes had a profound influence on scholarship in fields such as archaeology, cultural studies, industrial relations, and local history. A social survey of St Ann's which Ken Coates' adult education class conducted in the late 1960s influenced national policy debate about poverty. Based on reflective discussion and curricula agreed between students and tutor, extra-mural classes were schools of democratic citizenship.



Exhibition starts
**27 October 2022–
12 March 2023**
Free exhibition
Weston Gallery

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Exhibition events

Lunchtime talks 1-2pm, £3 (free concessions)

A series of talks will be held in the Djanogly Theatre to accompany the exhibition. Talks are £3 (concessions free), All talks start at 1pm and last for approximately 1 hour. Advance booking is recommended.

Adult Education and the University of Nottingham Tuesday 8 November

Nottingham pioneered the education of adults from the 1870s onwards. John Beckett, Emeritus Professor and historian of the university, looks at how adult education emerged as a separate field after WWI and flourished for 80 years, before going into decline in the 1990s.

Learning through adversity: educating adults in post-pandemic worlds Thursday 24 November

Professor Sarah Speight discusses education affected by crisis between 1922 and 2022, in the aftermath of world wars, global pandemics and environmental change. She considers how adult education reshaped itself to serve its constituents through the darkest of times – and helps us face today’s challenges.

Weston Gallery Tours

Free. Advance booking required.

Tuesday 1 November and Tuesday 6 December, 11am–12noon

Join us for a guided walk through the exhibition and learn about the stories behind the items on display.

Box Office:

+44 (0)115 846 7777

lakesidearts.org.uk

Adult Education and the Left: Culture, Democracy and Labour Tuesday 31 January

University adult education is often associated with “the Left”. Many involved in university and WEA classes were active in politics and trade unionism and had an enduring impact on higher education. Professor John Holford reflects on how adult education has shaped British politics and culture – and why we need it even more today.

Workers’ Education and the Co-operative Spirit Tuesday 14 February

Professor Cilla Ross, former Principal of the Co-operative College, reflects on Nottingham’s first adult education professor, Robert Peers, his interest in the co-operative movement, and how these ideas remain central to economic and social justice at work and in the wider society.

Film Screenings and Panel Discussions

Djanogly Theatre, £3

St Ann’s (U) Friday 2 December, 7pm

The film runs for 45 minutes and will be followed by a 45 minute panel discussion.

A chance to see Stephen Frear’s 1969 documentary about daily life in St Ann’s, Nottingham, shortly before its so-called “slum clearance”. The film is based on research by Ken Coates, Bill Silburn and a University of Nottingham/WEA adult education class. A panel discussion will follow the screening. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.

Portrait of a Miner and Band Fever (15) Thursday 9 March, 7pm

The films run for c.40 minutes and will be followed by a 45 minute panel discussion.

A unique opportunity to see two short films made by the National Coal Board about Nottinghamshire miners and their communities: Portrait of a Miner (1966), shot at Thoresby Colliery, while Band Fever (1978) focuses on a juvenile jazz band competition in Mansfield. A panel discussion on adult education, trade unions and Nottinghamshire’s mining communities will follow the screening.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Additions to the archive



Above: ‘Sex Locked Out’ cover page and original publisher’s envelope, 1928. DH Lawrence Collection, La Mc 2/11

Vanity Fair file-copy typescript of ‘Pictures on the Wall’ published as ‘Dead Pictures on the Walls,’ December 1929. DH Lawrence Collection, La L 35



It has been a busy few months, with some exciting and long-awaited additions to our archive collections and newly catalogued material appearing online. Highlights include:

Theatre archives

Joining our ever-growing theatre collections we have the fantastic Footprints Theatre Trust Archive, 1978-2018 (MS 1049). This collection documents the East Midlands educational theatre organisation run by husband-and-wife team Janet and Steve Stickley. Scripts, photographs, publicity material, letters, and project papers demonstrate the storytelling, drama and dance

workshops the group delivered in schools, where the focus was on the role of imagination in education, feeding into the school curriculum and national themes such as the exploration of truancy, abortion, and improving literacy.

DH Lawrence

We continue to grow our Lawrence collections with the addition of interviews about the author with contemporaries in Taos. These include interviews with Trinidad Archuleta, a Pueblo-American who knew Lawrence in New Mexico, Saki Karavas, owner of Lawrence paintings at the Hotel La Fonda in Taos, and Tinka Fechin, an artist who knew Frieda Lawrence and Dorothy Brett

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

following Lawrence's death (La Av 1). We have also acquired a first edition copy of Lawrence's essay 'Sex Locked Out', 1928, housed in the original publisher's envelope (La Mc 2/11) and a *Vanity Fair* file-copy typescript of 'Pictures on the Wall' showing editorial word changes and cross-outs, which was published in the magazine as 'Dead Pictures on the Walls,' in December 1929 (La L 35).

We are also pleased to announce the opening of two new Lawrence catalogues. Following the completion of our fantastic, Arts Council funded, 'Unlocking DH Lawrence' project, The Editorial papers of Cambridge University Press relating to the CUP edition of *The Letters and Works of D.H. Lawrence* (La E nott.ac/CUP) and the Research papers of Professor James T. Boulton relating to DH Lawrence (La R 2 nott.ac/Boulton) are now accessible on our online catalogue.

Manvers Collection

Some long-awaited estate papers have come to us as an accrual to the Manvers Collection. The newly arrived material consists of Thoresby estate papers and correspondence files, 1642, c.1907-2018 (ACC 3174) and Kneesall estate papers and correspondence files, c.1914-2000 (ACC 3175). A special thanks is due to the Thoresby Volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the last 10 years sorting and listing the material prior to transfer.

Detailed information about the Collection is available on our website: nott.ac/manvers

University archives

We continue to add to our ever-expanding university collections, including the University of Nottingham Art Gallery and Djanogly Art Gallery Exhibition Files, 1956-c.2019 (ACC 3185). This collection documents the wonderful exhibitions that have taken place in the Portland building over the years through art files, scrapbooks, and posters.

Due to our work on the *Knowledge is Power* exhibition we have received a transfer of records from the School of Adult Education, covering the 1930s-2000s (UAD2/4). The Department of Adult Education was part of the Faculty of Education from 1948 (when the University was created) until 1997, when the Department (later School) of Continuing Education was formed. Documents include course papers, display material, programmes and photographs. See pp16-18 for details of the *Knowledge is Power* exhibition.

Special collections

Notable additions to the special collections include an album of lithographs of six drawings by Anne Enfield (1801-1865), bound in the original purple moiré cloth covers, stamped with the title *Nottingham Sketches by Mrs Wm. Enfield*. The handsome presentation of the album and its six images, chosen for widest public appeal, was in aid of the Midland Institution for the Blind, to which all profits raised from this publication of 1854 were devoted. The artist was the daughter of Matthew Needham (1768-1840), who brought



Above: Photograph of the Foyer of the Adult Education Department at the University of Nottingham, 14 Shakespeare Steet, Nottingham, c. 1960s. Archive of the University of Nottingham: Academic Faculties, Departments and Research Institutes, UAD2/4

Top right images: Nottingham Castle. Described by Anne Enfield as "reduced to its present ruinous condition by a body of rioters in the year 1831, on the rejection of the Reform Bill by the House of Lords".

Trent Bridge.

Lithographs by Hullmandel & Walton after drawings by Anne Enfield. From *Nottingham Sketches by Mrs Wm. Enfield* (1854). East Midlands Special Collection, Oversize XX, barcode 1008339015



mandel developed a method for reproducing gradations in tones and for creating the effect of soft colour washes which enabled the printed reproduction of Romantic landscape paintings of the type made popular in England by JMW Turner. However, lithography was adaptive to demand. Another notable addition to the East Midlands Special Collection is also a lithograph but in this instance it is a rare example of lithography being used to reproduce a manuscript text for the benefit of a small circle of family and friends. The author is Lady Frances Parthenope Verney, Florence Nightingale's sister. The text *Life and death of Athenā, an owlet from the Parthenon* was written and illustrated by Parthenope after Florence's departure for Scutari and sent to her there to amuse her whilst she recovered from an attack of fever. Its date of publication, or dissemination among family and friends, must be 1855. The copy in our collection remained in the family and passed into the ownership of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter and step-great niece Ruth Florence Verney (1879-1968), according to the bookplate.

Scan to
access
La E
catalogue



Scan to
access
La R 2
catalogue



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access
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Collection



Scrapbook pages from Nottingham Art Gallery Exhibition Files.
From ACC 3185



the family from Wilford village to Lenton House on Beeston Lane. They were active Unitarians, attending High Pavement Chapel, and supporters of the Reform Bill and freedom movements further afield, in Europe. In 1835 Anne married William Enfield, a fellow Unitarian who attended the same chapel. Enfield served as Nottingham town clerk between 1845-70. They dedicated much of their lives to philanthropy, which is where this album fits in. Letters of the family and likenesses, including several of Anne, are held here, in the Records of High Pavement Presbyterian (Unitarian) Chapel (Hi); more material is held at Nottinghamshire Archives.

Charles Joseph Hullmandel, whose workshop Hullmandel & Walton created the lithographs for Anne Enfield's album, was an important figure in the development of British lithography. Hull-

Finishing soon

Last Orders: Stories of alcohol and abstinence in the East Midlands



Through vivid local stories, *Last Orders* examines the tensions that have marked Britain's changing relationship with alcohol. It considers the two centuries before the First World War, and a series of economic and political transformations that prompted questions about the place of drink and the need to regulate alcohol consumption.

The materials on display demonstrate some of the ways in which drink was celebrated. Brewing beer was a source of local pride, and selling alcohol provided employment and tax revenues. Local pubs were places of storytelling, companionship and plenty of incident. And the rituals of drinking were part of family, business and civic traditions. Against these constructions, the exhibition traces the emergence of the temperance movement in the 19th century, which held drink responsible for urban disorder and domestic neglect, economic inactivity and poor health. Its members pledged to abstain from alcohol. Personal sobriety was presented as a route to collective self-improvement and even led campaigners into political battles. *Last Orders* makes the case that temperance efforts to call time on drinking represented a new model of civic participation and even citizenship.

This exhibition has been jointly curated by Dr David Beckingham (School of Geography) and Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham.

Last Orders runs until Sunday 9 October.

Exhibition events

Lunchtime talk at the Djanogly Theatre
1-2pm, £3 (free concessions)

Does the way we drink alcohol change with age?

Tuesday 4 October 2022

How do people drink in different times of their life? Does pouring your own drink at home change how much you consume? In this talk Dr Katy Jones of the School of Medicine will explore current research on patterns of alcohol consumption and whether people drink differently in different life stages.



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Weston Gallery Tour

Wednesday 28 September, 2-3pm

Join us for a guided walk through the exhibition and learn more about the items on display.

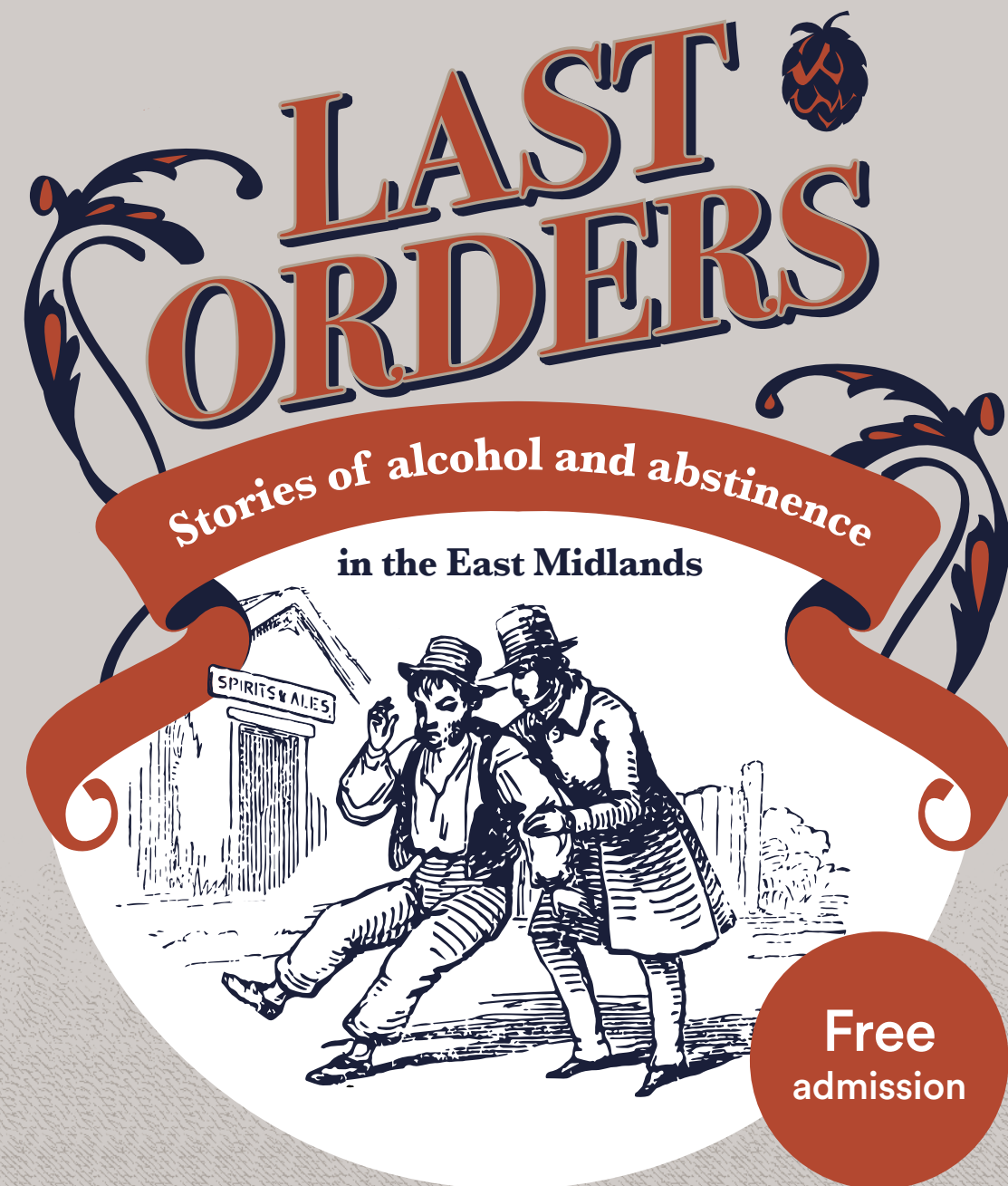
Free. Advance booking required.

Box Office: +44 (0)115 846 7777
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University of Nottingham
Libraries, Manuscripts and
Special Collections



Until 9 October at Weston Gallery

Opening times: Tuesday–Sunday 12 noon–4pm. Closed Mondays.

DH Lawrence Pavilion
Lakeside Arts
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

Box Office: +44 (0)115 846 7777
lakesidearts.org.uk
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Talks and tours

from Manuscripts and Special Collections
at the University of Nottingham

Our talks (last for approximately 45 minutes)

Our expert staff offer talks on a range of topics including:

- Introduction to Manuscripts & Special Collections
- Sex and Scandal in Nottingham Church Court
- Supernatural Stories from the East Midlands
- Health, Wealth, and Tastiness
- An Unheroic History of Robin Hood
- Murder Most Horrid

Our tours (last for approximately 60 minutes)

- Private behind-the-scenes tour at Manuscripts and Special Collections, display of archives and rare books.
- Private curator's tour of the exhibition gallery at Lakeside Arts.

For group size, fees and refreshments, see online.

For a full list of talks available and
details on how to book, visit
nott.ac/mss-tours-talks

or email:
mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk



Or scan QR
code for more
information



We can travel to venues in
and around Nottingham or
deliver talks online.

