

# THORPE HISTORY GROUP

## Newsletter - Autumn 2014

### Recent activities

Although our last talk was in April the group hasn't been idle during the summer. John Balls has published his book on the men commemorated on the War Memorial (see review and details of how to obtain a copy on page ?) and we had a stall at the Armed Forces Day in June and at the dedication of the plaque at the war memorial in August.

Two tours of the Rosary cemetery have taken place, one in July and the other in August. Both were well attended and despite the August rain most people seemed to enjoy their visit. If you would have liked to attend but couldn't make it, don't worry. We will be putting on a tour next summer which will be advertised in the newsletter.

In September we took part in the Heritage Open Day event, organising a talk and tour of Thorpe Lodge on two of the days, once the home of the Harvey family but now the offices of Broadland Council. 21 people attended over both days and we hope to put it on again next year.

This edition includes a report on our last talk, reviews of several new publications, an appeal for information on boatyards and the development of upper Thorpe and the usual list of future events.

### Our next event

#### **'Thorpe in World War One'**

a talk by John Balls.

**Friday 7th November 2014 - 7.30**

**at the St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane,**

There will be a charge of £3 per person.

Accommodation is limited so please arrive in good time.

## Our Last Talk: The Harveys of Thorpe

In April Patricia Wagstaff, of the Cringleford Local History Group, gave a detailed talk on the Harvey family, concentrating on John Harvey and his son, Major General Sir Robert John Harvey.

One of the most influential and wealthy families in Norwich in the eighteenth century the Harveys owned considerable property in the city including a large house in Colegate. John, who was the son of the wealthy and influential Robert Harvey who owned Tharston Hall, married Frances Kerrison aged 16, in 1784. The marriage producing 15 children.

After purchasing Thorpe Lodge Harvey had the adjacent road, now known as Harvey Lane, re-aligned to accommodate the construction of a carriage drive leading up to the front of the house from the Yarmouth Road. In the 1820s Harvey introduced the Thorpe Water Frolic which provided entertainment for his friends and for the general public. He lived a very active life but speculated unwisely and died in 1842 aged 81.

His son Robert had a distinguished military career, serving in the expedition sent to Portugal in March 1809, where under the command of Major-General Lord Hill, he served as a Captain of the 53rd Foot Regiment. In 1810, he was made a Major and appointed Assistant-Quarter-Master-General of the Portuguese Army. The following year he was appointed to the General-Headquarters of Marshall Lord Wellington – Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, as a liaison Officer with the Portuguese troops in the field and as Chief of the Staff of the Portuguese Army in Wellington's absence. He held this position until the end of the campaign in 1814.

During the first years of the war he was instrumental in the organization of nine Portuguese Guerrilla Corps known as the Ordenanças and in intelligence work, using his linguist abilities, especially in French and German. He was present at many of the battles of the campaign and at the sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo, Burgos, Badajoz and San Sebastian. After the capture of Badajoz in April 1812 he was made a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Portuguese Army and following Salamanca and Vitória, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army.

After the war Robert Harvey was highly decorated; made a knight of the Order of the Tower and Sword by the King of Portugal, and awarded a knighthood in February 1817 by the Prince Regent. He was later made a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

After marrying his cousin Charlotte in 1814, Robert inherited his uncle Robert Harvey's estate and the couple's wealth enabled them to buy Mousehold House which became home to their 11 children. In 1930s the building was sold to the Norwich Corporation and later converted to flats after been saved from demolition.

When Harvey died he left 3 volumes of diaries although 100 pages, referring to personal events, were missing so not much is known about this side of his life. Many of the farms in the Tharston Hall area are named after Portuguese battles in which he served. Robert Harvery died in June 1860 and is buried in the family mausoleum in Tharston Churchyard. One of his sons, Roger Kerrison Harvey, owned Holmwood, a large house on Harvey Lane which now a care home. After answering questions Patricia was thanked for her talk.

Pam Harwood

### Appeal for information

Malcolm Martins, a member of the Thorpe History Group, is looking for information on two important aspects of the town's heritage:

I am doing research into the history of the buildings and houses of Thorpe and the people who built them from 1900 to 1980. If you have any old builders or estate agents catalogues, plans and photographs which I could borrow please contact me. There is very little information about the Northern part of Thorpe at the moment.

I am also looking for information and photographs of the boatyards and boatbuilding in the area. There were many more boatyards in the past than today, I know of ten boatyards in Thorpe but there may be others.

If you can help Malcolm please contact him at 01603 437693 or email [martinsdirect@virginmedia.com](mailto:martinsdirect@virginmedia.com).

### Putting Thorpe History Group on a formal basis

Before the talk on Friday 7th November the Group will be reporting on its first year and proposing to formalise the arrangements as set out below.

We will be proposing the following:

That the attached constitution be adopted.

That the members (listed below) of the Steering Group be elected as the Management Committee of the Thorpe History Group for the next 12 months.

Chairman - John Balls - Chairman

Treasurer - Joanna Barker

Secretary - Nick Williams

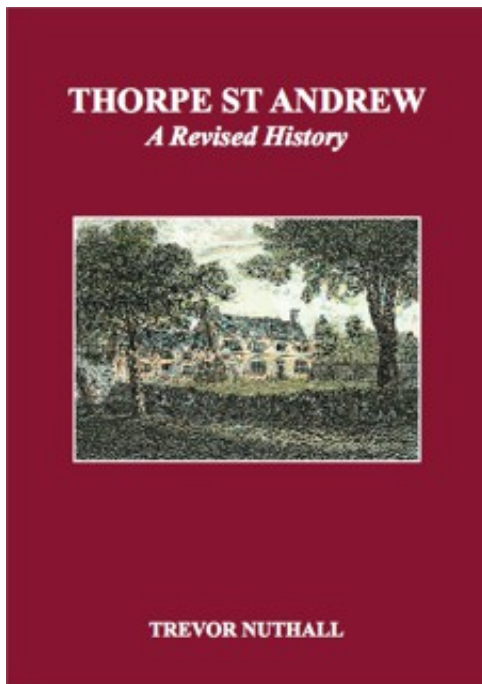
Committee Members - Phyll Hardie, Pam Harwood, Malcolm Martins

Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Balance for the first year of the group have been examined by a third party who found them to have been properly prepared for the accounting of the group. Copies of the Statement of Accounts will be available at the AGM.

As reported in an earlier newsletter a Barclays Community Account has been set up in the name of Thorpe History Group.

Joanna Barker, Treasurer

## Reviews



### **Thorpe St Andrew - A Revised History, price £10.**

This is a newly revised version of Trevor's book, published in 2002, which has been out of print for some time.

It takes the form of an imaginary two mile journey along the Yarmouth Road, starting at Harvey Lane and ending at Boundary Lane. In taking this journey it tells the story of the growth of Thorpe from the mediaeval period up to the nineteenth century and describes many of the buildings - some of which are no longer there - that lined the road. It is available from the Town Council offices and local book shops.

### **Thorpe St Andrew War Memorial, by John Balls, price £5.**

Published earlier this year to coincide with the centennial commemorations of the outbreak of the First World War John's lavishly illustrated book is a carefully researched tribute to the men who died during that conflict and whose names are recorded on the Thorpe war memorial on River Green.. It includes servicemen of many different backgrounds such as Captain Frank Haldenstein, son of wealthy shoe manufacturer Alfred Haldenstein of Thorpe Lodge, killed in France in 1917, and Claude Kysh, who died of wounds after the end of the war in November 1918.

'Thorpe St Andrew War Memorial' can be obtained from the Town Council offices at Dussindale or direct from John Balls at 01603 433712 or email at [john1912@btinternet.com](mailto:john1912@btinternet.com).

Thorpe St Andrew War Memorial



“LEST WE FORGET”

John Balls

ORIGINS OF THE STREET  
AND ROAD NAMES OF  
THORPE ST. ANDREW



By  
Dale Wiseman and Roger Pointer

**Origins of the Street and Road Names  
of Thorpe St Andrew, price £6.**

Written by Thorpe men Dale Wiseman and Roger Pointer this new book is a gazetteer of the town's road and street names in a handy volume. Their research has enabled them to provide the detail behind the signs we pass every day.

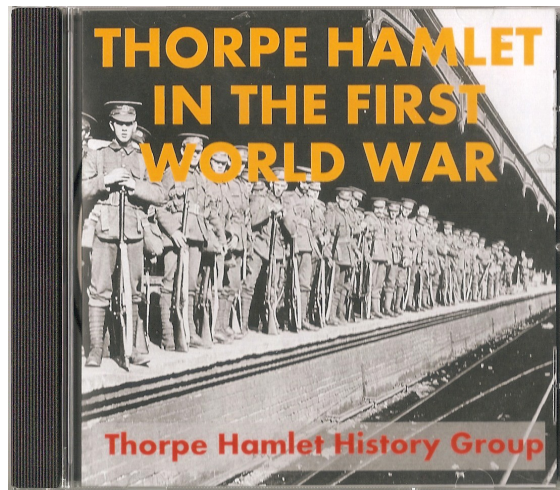
It also includes essays on some of the more interesting names linked to Thorpe such as Boulton and Paul and the Caston family.

The book is available from the Town Council offices and Thunder Lane Post Office.

**'Thorpe Hamlet in the First World War', Thorpe Hamlet History Group,  
price £10**

This cd, produced by the Thorpe Hamlet History Group, looks at the impact of the war on the parish of Thorpe Hamlet and the ways in which life for people there was affected by the war, whether as participants or as those left behind. It includes the soldiers who went to fight but also covers such varied aspects of the war as recreation, transport, industry and the impact of the war on everyday life.

Priced at £10 it can be obtained from Jim Marriage on 01603 436149 email [jim.marriage@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.marriage@btinternet.com).



Copies of all three books, but not the cd, will be available for sale at our next talk on Friday 7th November.

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Joanna Barker, Treasurer

### Events in 2014/15

Date	Title	Venue	Time
Friday 7th November 2014	Thorpe in World War 1, a talk by John Balls	St Andrew's Centre	7.30 pm
Friday 6th February 2015	'The Churches of Thorpe St Andrew' a talk by Nick Groves	St Andrew's Centre	7.30 pm
Friday 17th April 2015	'A Tour of Thorpe' a talk by Janet Smith and Nick Williams	St Andrew's Centre	7.30pm
Sunday 26th July 2015	History tour of the Rosary cemetery by Nick Williams	Rosary - meet at chapel	2pm
September	Heritage Open Day event	To be confirmed	
Friday 13th November 2015	'Thorpe Hamlet Miscellany' by June and Jim Marriage	St Andrew's Centre	7.30pm

### Getting in contact

If want to know more about the Thorpe History Group or have something interesting on the history of Thorpe you would like to share please contact Nick Williams on 01603 438766 or email him at [Spinney72@aol.com](mailto:Spinney72@aol.com)