



LIBRARY NEWS 2026

JULY - SEPTEMBER

OPENING HOURS

July 8th	1.30 - 3.30
July 25th	10 - 12
August 12th	1.30- 3.30
August 29th	10 -12
September 9th	1.30 - 3.30
September 26th	10 -12

WEBSITE

The newsletter can also be found on the website on the library page along with all the library information and the search facility for the catalogue. All books new to the Library are on the catalogue and suggestions are always welcome.

The views expressed in the articles are entirely those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Society

A SELECTION of BOOKS NEW to the LIBRARY

The Strutts Mills of Belper and Milford. Belper North Mill Trust
2026 Produced as part of the Belper 250 celebrations

REPTON STUDIES Dr Harold Taylor.
2026 A reprint in one volume of three booklets written by Dr Taylor between 1977 and 1983 and produced by Friends of Repton Parish Church

Wirksworth A History Mary Wiltshire and Anton Shone 2019

Second edition of this book first published in 2016

A few months ago Richard Clark alerted me to an advert in the London Review of Books about the Library of the late Gladwyn Turbutt whose obituary is in the current volume of the DAS journal. The advert intimated that anyone interested in the library either whole or in part was invited to make contact. This I did and it eventually led to a very interesting email conversation with the family. They were pleased that we had got in touch as this was a Derbyshire connection and all the more so as Gladwyn Turbutt had been President of the Society for some years. On explaining that our remit is books on or connected with Derbyshire we were sent photographs of the relevant shelves. In the 21st century there are rarely long lists of books - photographs provide sufficient information to make at least some decisions. Richard Finch and myself made a first choice and arranged to collect them from Brackenfield where the family allowed us to look at the whole collection and take what we wished which was very generous of them. It is a real privilege to look through someone else's library. It was a wonderfully eclectic collection - how interested Gladwyn Turbutt was in so many things. As you might expect, given how long our library has been in existence and the size of our stock, we already had a considerable number of books but there are always more to be added. In total we have added 20 books to our collection including the 2 editions of Gladwyn Turbutt's **My Commonplace Book** and all were

donated by the family. Richard writes later in the Newsletter about some of the books .

Anne Allcock

From the Library of Gladwyn Turbutt

Through the generosity of his family we were invited to select books from the collection of the late Gladwyn Turbutt for the Society's library.

This has enabled us to fill some important gaps. Significant additions include:

Benedict NICHOLSON: Joseph Wright 2 vols 1968. This is regarded as probably the definitive modern work on the Derby artist.

Francis THOMPSON: History of Chatsworth 1949. A detailed study by Thompson, a librarian and archivist and Keeper of Devonshire Collection at Chatsworth - "being a Supplement to the Sixth Duke of Devonshire's Handbook". It complements the author's book 'Chatsworth; a short history' 1951 - a book more akin to a guide book style and already in the library.

We have also gained some useful standard works:

H C DARBY: The Domesday geography of Northern England 1977. Includes Derbyshire.

David WILSON: Archaeology of Anglo Saxon England 1981.

There are also several major modern works on country house architecture:

H M COLVIN & J HARRIS (editors): The country seat – essays in the history of the British country house 1970.

Mark GIROUARD: Robert Smythson and the architecture of the Elizabethan era 1966. This fine hardback copy of the 1st edition complements the existing library paperback copy of the 2nd edition.

Andor GOMME: Smith of Warwick 2000. A biography of the architect Francis Smith 1672-1638 with a comprehensive listing of his works and detailed coverage of the Derbyshire houses, including Alfreton Hall, Aston Hall, Calke Abbey, Catton Hall, All Saints' Derby, Kedleston Hall, Locko Park, Radbourne Hall, Sutton Scarsdale.

Christopher HUSSEY: English country houses mid-Georgian 1760-1800 1963. This includes an account of Kedleston.

Nigel NICHOLSON: Great houses of Britain 1967. This has useful summary descriptions of Chatsworth, Haddon, Hardwick and Kedleston.

J M ROBINSON: Francis Johnson – Architect 2001. A biography of the Yorkshire architect 1911-1995 who worked on historic buildings including Hardwick where he is quoted on the difficulties of working with the Ministry of Works and National Trust when they both have an interest in the project.

Brian WRAGG: The life and work of John Carr of York 2000. This includes his Derbyshire work at Buxton, Chesterfield (the 1787 town hall), and minor work at Chatsworth.

We are also privileged to have copies of two editions of Gladwyn Turbutt's My Common-Place book – Essays on diverse subjects 2020 & 2023. As indicated in the title these include thoughtful chapters on varied topics including Mount Vesuvius, An Unconventional View of Religion, and A Tribute to Concorde. There are then autobiographical chapters on family life at Ogston Hall, his career in the civil service including a spell as private secretary to the Governor General of the West Indies, and his substantial writing on Derbyshire history. More conventional common-place book content is covered in chapters entitled Words of Wisdom and Curiosity, and Reflections in Verse.

These are some of the highlights of the family's handsome gift to the Society in Gladwyn's memory.

Richard Finch

On going through the books after collecting them, we found a couple of letters dating from August 20th, 1969 which are of some interest. Patrick Harris, Gladwyn Turbutt's nephew, has given us permission to quote them. The address on both letters was Reighton Hall, Filey, East Yorkshire. The first letter is from Francis Johnson the architect, whose biography was in the collection of books from the Turbutt Library.

Dear Mr Turbutt

Thank you very much for your kindness in showing us your house. We had a most interesting afternoon and enjoyed it all. Your enthusiasm is infectious.

I do hope things turn out all right for Ogston. It would be such a pity you felt you had to leave when your family have such a long connection with the place. Its situation is beautiful. I felt this strongly in the evening light in your garden,

Should you ever find yourself near Filey I hope you will call and see us.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Francis Johnson

The second letter is from Edward Ingram, the historian and author and Francis Johnson's partner

Dear Mr Turbutt

I would like to say thank you for the kind way in which you received us on Sunday and for spending so much time with us. Our visit was much enjoyed. I found the house fascinating in the odds and ends it contained & such a variety of woodwork.. With you I deplore the Victorianisation, for I am sure much of the delightful fragments must have been in situ in parts of the untouched house. It is always pleasant to meet an enthusiast like yourself, who is imbued with love for his native heath, - you certainly made our visit a memorable one.

With kind regards and good wishes

Your sincerely

Edward Ingram

There was also a pencilled note in Gladwyn's handwriting to the effect that Henry Thorold also visited around the same time, possibly the same day. He was the writer of the Shell Guides to Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and also books on Lincolnshire churches and one on Southwell Minster. Patrick remembers him driving around in a Rolls Royce!

Ogston Hall was clearly a place of interest for historians and architects.

My Common-Place Book 2nd Edition

Gladwyn Turbutt. 2023

Richard has already commented on the First Edition of My Commonplace Book. In the Second Edition dated 2023 Chapters 1- 19 are the same as the First Edition with 2 more chapters added and Chapter 23 'At the End of the Day' being a slightly altered version of the original Chapter 20 of the same title. The pages of photographs and pictures all pertaining to his life and interests have increased to 32. One of the new Chapters is a Tribute to the Late Queen Elizabeth II.

What comes off these pages is a man retaining his interest in everything going on in the world even as he approached the end of his life. They read of a full and well-lived life and there must be a comforting poignancy for the family as they read his gentle and thoughtful words.

This journey through Gladwyn Turbutt's books has been a real privilege and we thank the family for their kindness in giving us the opportunity and for their generosity .

Books in the Library written by Gladwyn Turbutt and publication dates

A History of Ogston 1975

A History of Shirland & Higham Derbyshire 1978

A History of Derbyshire. Part One Pre-history, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Derbyshire 1999

A History of Derbyshire. Part Two Medieval Derbyshire 1999

A History of Derbyshire. Part Three Tudor, Stuart and Georgian Derbyshire 1999

A History of Derbyshire. Part Four Modern Derbyshire 1999

The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem in Derbyshire history 1999

Superstition and religion in early Derbyshire History 2006

JOURNALS RECENTLY ARRIVED

Archaeology Cantiana vol. 147

Post -Medieval Archaeology Vol. 60 pt 1

Medieval Archaeology Vol. 70 /1

Midland History Vol. 51/1

Staffordshire Archaeological and History Society Vol. 57

Surrey Archaeological Society Vol.118 2025

The International Journal for the History of Engineering and Technology Newcomen Society Vol .96/1

Thoroton Society Vol.129

And Finally

Richard dropped across this. You might wonder what someone would write 70 odd years later.

"For those interested in architecture and the arts there is a great deal to see in this lively town"

This observation about Derby by W G Hoskins comes from a slim booklet *"East Midlands & the Peak"*, one of a series of regional guides published in 1951 to mark the Festival of Britain. Hoskins comments on Derby: *"a great railway centre, which has much to commend it, much more than anyone might expect upon arrival at its railway station. For those interested in architecture and the arts there is a great deal to see in this lively town."*

