

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**THE COUNTY'S HISTORY AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1897**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**For the year ended 31st December 2020**



**The cover illustration of Church, Land and People presented to Professor John Beckett on his retirement in 2020 as Chair of the Thoroton Society.**

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
OFFICERS**

**January to December 2020**

**PRESIDENT**

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**

David Bagley MA FLA, Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS  
FSA (from April 2020), Barbara Cast BA Hons (from April 2020), Sir  
Neil Cossons OBE FSA FMA,  
Keith Goodman BA FCA

**CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

Richard A Gaunt MA PhD FRHistS (from May 2020)

David Crook OBE MA PhD FRHS FSA      Mark Dorrington MA DAA  
RMARA

Trevor Foulds BA PhD FRHistS      Ruth Imeson (from April 2020)

David Knight BA DPhil FSA MCIfA      Scott Lomax BA MCIfA

Penelope Messenger BSc MEd      Judith Mills BA MA PhD

Hannah Nicholson BA MA PhD      Pete Smith FSA

Margaret Trueman BSc      Ruth Strong

James Wright BA FSA

**HONORARY SECRETARY**

Barbara Cast BAHons \*

**HONORARY TREASURER**

John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH \*

**HONORARY TRANSACTIONS EDITORS**

*History* - Martyn Bennett BA PhD FRHistS \*

*Archaeology* - Christopher King BA MA PhD \*

**HONORARY RECORD SERIES AND CONSULTANT EDITOR**

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS \*

**HONORARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Paul Baker FRGS MA BSc \*

**HONORARY ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY**

Rosemary Muge BA MA PhD (from April 2020)

156 Nottingham Road, Stapleford NG9 8AR

rosemarymuge@gmail.com

**HONORARY DISTRIBUTION AND SALES SECRETARY**

Robert James BA BPhil DipCG \*

**HONORARY LECTURE SECRETARY**

David Hoskins IEng MICE \*

**HONORARY EXCURSIONS SECRETARY**

Alan Langton BA \*

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH \*

*\*Ex-officio members of Council*

**TRUSTEES FOR THE CHARITY**

Richard A Gaunt, Barbara Cast and John Wilson

## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (TRANSACTIONS AND RECORD SERIES)**

Richard A Gaunt MA PhD FRHistS (Chair)

Jenny Alexander BA PhD

Professor Martyn Bennett BA PhD FRHistS

Barbara Cast BA Hons, Honorary Secretary of the Society

David Crook OBE MA PhD FRHistS FSA

Lee Elliott BA PgDip (Archaeol.Sci)

Trevor Foulds BA PhD FRHistS

Colin Griffin BA PhD

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS, Honorary Editor Record Series

Natasha Hodgson BA PhD

Christopher King BA MA PhD

Gavin Kinsley BA

John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH, Honorary Treasurer Record Series

## **THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

#### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The full name of the society is the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire and it is governed by a constitution known as the 'Rules of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire'. These rules are registered with the Charity Commissioners under number 237755.

#### **OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY**

Under the rules of the Society, its objects shall be to promote and foster the study of the history, archaeology and antiquities of Nottinghamshire for the public benefit and to promote and foster public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Nottinghamshire's history generally.

## **ADDRESS FOR ENQUIRIES**

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary, Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottinghamshire. NG14 7FX.

barbaracast@btinternet.com

Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administration Secretary, 156 Nottingham Road, Stapleford. NG9 8AR.

rosemarymuge@gmail.com

## **TRUSTEES**

The members of Council are considered to be the Trustees of the Society. Details of membership of Council are shown on page 3.

## **MAIN ADVISORS**

Bankers - HSBC Bank plc, 26 Clumber Street, Nottingham NG1 3GA

## **FUNDS**

The General Fund is used for the general furtherance of the aims of the charity. In order to achieve the aims of the Record Section, the Society has the power to print original historical materials, records and manuscripts. The residue from the Maurice Barley, Nora Witham, Myles Thoroton Hildyard and Neville Hoskins funds has now been incorporated into the General Fund. The Coddington Fund supported the William Senior Record Series volume, the Centenary Fund the Heritage Gateway and the Davis Bequest enabled accessibility to the Nottinghamshire Bibliography. Now the above funds are expended all necessary expenditure is now met from the General Fund.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

### INTRODUCTION AND CHAIR'S REPORT

Like most organisations, the Thoroton Society's programme of events for 2020 was seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various measures which the government took in order to counteract it. At the time of writing, we are still subject to severe restrictions on the activities which we are able to pursue in physical settings but have tried to take appropriate action to ensure that members are kept in touch with the Society's ongoing activities and are able to participate in events to the extent which is allowed. This Annual Report reflects the results of our endeavours, indicating the different ways in which we have sought to operate 'as normal' in anything but normal times. The onset of the pandemic required the postponement of most of our planned activities for the year, including the Spring Meeting and AGM, the excursions programme, the Thoroton Special Event (a concert by the Lincoln Waites at Southwell Minster), the Annual Luncheon, and the autumn programme of lectures. Fortunately, most of these events can be deferred, with bookings for venues and invited lectures 'held over' until we are able to meet. I am pleased to report that the Society's publications programme remained on schedule and maintained its usual high standard. Not only did our newsletter editor, Paul Baker, produce three excellent newsletters, but Martyn Bennett and Chris King ensured that *Transactions* appeared on time and with its usual high-quality submissions. The Record Series reached a major milestone with the appearance of its 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> volumes. The latter was a special presentation for John Beckett, in commemoration of his long-standing and distinguished service to

the Society as Chair of Council (1992-2020) and in recognition of his academic career at the University of Nottingham since 1979. I remain grateful to Andy Nicholson for continuing to maintain our excellent website and for sending out the electronic newsletter to members, and to Denise Amos for ensuring that the Heritage Gateway continues to publish new, fully refereed, material. It remains an essential and much-praised resource.

The pandemic has reinforced the essential role which the internet, social media, and video platforms such as ZOOM play in keeping us connected. We are delighted that James Wright agreed to launch us into social media with the creation of a society twitter account, which is already achieving impact. James was also pivotal in facilitating our first ZOOM lecture (appropriately enough, given by John Beckett in memory of Rosalys Coope) in January 2021. Though we will always want to meet in person, wherever possible, platforms such as these allow us to expand our reach, raise our profile, and generate interest in our work. After COVID-19, who can imagine life without them?

The Society continued to be governed through its Council, which met in October 2020 and February 2021, whilst key officers met as the Standing Committee between July 2020 and February 2021. In July 2020, the Standing Committee reviewed the constitutional requirements for running the Society, given the cancellation of the Spring meeting and AGM and the business which would have been conducted at Council in May 2020. In light of this, at its October 2020 meeting, Council resolved to adopt the matters arising from the business of the AGM, which was unable to be determined at that meeting, business which was discussed at Standing Committee and submitted to Council for consideration and resolution.

This included the appointment of a new Chair of Council (Richard Gaunt) and a new Vice-Chair (David Hoskins) with special responsibility for a newly-formed Events Committee. This was created in response to the retirement of Barbara Cast from the administrative and organisational work involved in running the Annual Lunch, Special Events, and the AGM and Spring Meeting. The Society continues to benefit from Barbara's knowledge and experience, not only as Honorary Secretary of the Society - a formal role which we require as a charity - but as the organiser of the Thoroton Response Group and Geoffrey Bond Research Award. The Response Group has continued to be busy behind the scenes, commenting (amongst other proposals) on plans connected with the Nottingham Castle Transformation Project and the future of Broad Marsh. It also expressed the Society's opposition to the renaming of Southwell Minster. Whilst recipients of the Geoffrey Bond Research Award have been unable to complete the work associated with their awards, due to COVID restrictions, the Society has extended the deadlines for completion of these projects. We were also delighted to receive further, generous, support from Geoffrey Bond, so that the award (which the Society matches in kind) can continue into its sixth year. We remain immensely grateful to Geoffrey for his ongoing support and look forward to reading about the outcomes of these projects in the Society's future publications. Members of Council have continued to represent the Society on other organisations and I am grateful to them for their willingness to do so. Other organisations kindly send in reports on our behalf, which is an important means for maintaining contact between us. Several members of Council indicated their wish to retire from officer roles which they have fulfilled for many years. In addition to the revision

of Barbara's role as Honorary Secretary, John Beckett retired as Chair of Council after 28 years' service and is retiring from Council at the 2021 AGM. Each paid tribute to one another in our summer newsletter. Likewise, Martyn Bennett has retired as History and Managing Editor of *Transactions* after ten years in that role. We are indebted to Martyn for this vital and important work. Similarly, Alan Langton indicated his wish to retire as Honorary Excursions Secretary, effective from the 2021 AGM. It is hard to overstate his achievement in sustaining an aspect of the Society's work which is so valued and appreciated by our members. One of our Vice-Presidents, and former officers, David Bagley, is retiring as Vice-President at the 2021 AGM and we wish him well for the future. Looking ahead, John Wilson has given notice of his retirement as Treasurer and Membership Secretary at the 2022 AGM. It is vital that we have successors who can continue John's high standards and sound stewardship of the accounts. Any member with relevant experience, or suggestions for individuals to approach, are invited to contact myself or John in confidence and without commitment.

Finally, I should like to extend my personal thanks to the Council, to the Society's officers, and to the membership of the Society, for their ongoing support of our activities during an incredibly difficult year. It is hard enough to succeed a well-established and long-serving team of officers, who have done so much to make the Society what it is today. It is even harder to do so in the midst of a global pandemic when the normal mechanisms for engaging members are so restricted. As such, I remain indebted to everyone for their help and support on all aspects of the Society's organisation and management as well as for their freely given advice. I have been immensely fortunate in having Rosemary Muge,

our newly appointed Honorary Administration Secretary, to work with in keeping the administration of the Society in good hands. Both of us are new to our roles and learning fast! I look forward to working with you – and meeting you – in what I sincerely hope will prove to be better times ahead.

Richard A. Gaunt, Chair of Council

## **PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL**

The Society's Council has responsibility for overseeing the Society's business, finance and development. The Council's officers, and those representing the Society on various organisations, report to Council at meetings. The Standing Committee, established by Council and consisting of the officers, meets on a regular basis and reports to Council at each meeting of the Council. It has responsibility for the day to day business of the Society, the planning of its programme and detailed consideration of any initiatives. Members of Council and its officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period as set down in the constitution; it is anticipated that all members of Council will be involved in the business of the Society and, to this end, many of them take on specific roles and attend all meetings of Council. Council generally meets three times a year, but has only met twice in 2020. The first meeting was in our usual venue of Lenton Grove, courtesy of the University of Nottingham, in February. The second meeting was in November in the Nottingham Mechanics Institute. The planned May meeting of Council had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 emergency. As a result of this the Standing Committee, when it met in July, undertook various measures to accommodate for the cancellation of the Spring Annual General Meeting and the May Council meeting. All members of Council were then contacted

by email and approved the measures which the Standing Committee had proposed.

Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administration Secretary

## **HONORARY TREASURER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR TO DECEMBER 31st 2020**

The Society's finances are in good shape, in spite of the publication of two volumes in the Records Series, which accounted for the main costs incurred this year. Subscription income amounted to £9,173, with an additional amount of £3,245 received in 2020 for 2021 subscriptions. Sales of Records Series books came to £3,802, with both the *Welbeck Atlas* and the *Newstead Abbey* volume continuing to be in demand. We now also have the *Sir Stephen Glynne Church Notes* and the *festschrift* volume to Professor Beckett, *Church, Land and People*, both of which have sold well. Sales of *Transactions* were down this year, bringing in just £62. Sadly, the coronavirus put paid to most of the Society's activities this year, with no Spring Meeting, no Excursions, no Annual Luncheon, and no Summer Musical Event at Southwell; just two lectures. No publication grants were received this year. However, the Society received £59.52 from the Publishers' Licensing Society for reproduction of Thoroton Society copyright material. Gift Aid received amounted to £1,220. Interest on our investment at National Savings and Investments for 2020 is not recorded in the Accounts this year. It was necessary to print the Annual Report and Accounts before the interest statement was received from NS&I. The interest accrued for 2020 will be included in the accounts for 2021. Sadly, the level of interest on NS&I investments was reduced to 0.01% in October 2020, so future

income from this source will be minimal. At the end of the financial year, the General Fund stood at £16,290.09 and the Records Section Fund at £35,391.00. The total assets of the Society amounted to £51,681.09 with no uncleared cheques outstanding.

John Wilson – Hon Treasurer

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2020**

There were several people who did not renew their subscriptions in 2020, but several new members joined during the year. Most of the new members took Records Series membership in addition to Ordinary and in some cases Associate membership. Overall, therefore, the individual membership shows a net loss of one member. Seven Institutions declined to renew their subscriptions for 2020. Comparative membership numbers are:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Individual members	187	194
Individual members with Record Series	89	83
Associate members	53	54
Life members	5	5
Life members + Record Series	4	4
Student members	3	3
Student members + Record Series	1	1

Honorary members	2	2
Record series only	3	2
<b>Total individual members</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>348</b>
Institutional members	14	16
Institutional members with Record Series	51	56
Institutional members - Record series only	2	2
<b>Total institutional members</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Final total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>422</b>

Total Record Series	150	148
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John Wilson Membership Secretary

## PUBLICATIONS

### Transactions

Despite the volume being produced in a normal and timely manner, the publication of Volume 123 was somewhat different in 2020. The copies all had to be distributed by post due to the cancellation of the Annual General Meeting because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The volume consisted of four archaeological articles and six history articles. The subjects covered a range of eras and subjects as diverse as water meadows and Jesse Boot. Whilst the vast majority of the work was completed before the first lockdown starting in March

2020, the distribution was undertaken in the middle of it. Final stages were conducted professionally and successfully even though the publishers 4Word had to work in a distanced manner. The PDFs were delivered to the authors within the usual timescale, but the hard copies were delivered to them later than usual.

With the continuation of the pandemic extending into the autumn of 2020 the Publications Committee met virtually on 19 November under the chairmanship of Richard Gaunt. Approval was given to the society's publication plans for the forthcoming period. It was confirmed that volume 124 would be the last for which Professor Bennett would serve as History and Managing Editor.

The production schedule for *Transactions* Volume 124 is at the time of writing running to plan. It has been agreed with 4Word that due to the continuation of the pandemic the process of editing the first and second proofs will be conducted electronically for this volume. The exact means of distribution will depend upon the nature of the continuing pandemic management.

The editors normally at this point express their thanks for the work of the publishers 4Word of Bristol. For two reasons this year thanks are doubly deserved, firstly for the way that the company and its staff have ensured that volume 123 appeared on time and that there is every prospect that volume 124 will do so as well. Secondly, the history editor expresses his grateful thanks for the work of the company during the ten years in which he served in the role.

Martyn Bennett, Honorary Transactions Editor

### **Record Series**

Volume 49 of the Record Series - *The Nottinghamshire Churches Notes of Sir Stephen Glynn 1825-1874* - was published during

2020. This is an edition of the architectural notes compiled by Glynne (1807-1874), a Welsh landowner and antiquarian, during his extensive travels throughout England. The Notes cover approximately two thirds of the ancient parish churches of the county and are invaluable for recording features lost during later restorations. They were transcribed and edited by Dr Lawrence Butler, who unfortunately died before he had completed the task, but his surviving text has been edited and extended by Professor John Beckett. The volume is illustrated by superb modern photographs of selected churches.

A previously-unannounced volume - no 50 - also appeared in the summer. Entitled *Church Land & People: Essays presented to John Beckett*, and edited by Dr Richard Gaunt, this *festschrift* volume contains essays from seventeen contributors on topics relating to the history of Nottinghamshire and East Midland counties from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Professor Beckett stood down as Chair of the Society and also retired from his post at the University of Nottingham. Copies have been sent to all *Record Series* subscribers.

#### ***Future Publications:***

***Stapleford Constables Accounts of 1650 - 1685.*** A full transcription of the financial accounts of the village constables of Stapleford during Cromwell's Commonwealth and the royal Restoration is being prepared by Graham Crisp. Such accounts are comparatively rare and provide insight into the wide variety of constables' duties, ranging from apprehending criminals to raising taxes and troops for the army, providing overnight accommodation and refreshments for passing strangers - vagrants, soldiers (often 'maimed') and victims of disasters and piracy, etc as well as rewarding villagers for killing moles, polecats and other 'vermin'.

*Nottinghamshire Surveyed: a Descriptive Catalogue of pre-1700 Maps and Plans of Nottinghamshire Estates.* This is being compiled by Stephanos Mastoris, editor of the recent edition of *The Welbeck Atlas* (vol 47), and will be a detailed catalogue of over eighty early manuscript maps held by archives repositories throughout the country.

*Lost Churches and Chapels of Nottinghamshire.* A gazetteer of lost places of worship of all denominations known to have existed between mediaeval and Victorian times.

*The Diary of Abigail Gawthorn of Nottingham 1751-1810.* This reprint of the text of the diary of a fashionable Georgian lady - first published by the Society in 1980 - will contain a revised and extended introduction.

Adrian Henstock

## **Newsletter**

Four issues of the Newsletter have been published this year as usual. There has been discussion recently about the cost of publication and the mailing costs. As Editor it is my aim to keep the Newsletter to 20 pages with colour only on the front and back cover. This year we have strengthened the proof reading of the Newsletter and thanks to John and Janet Wilson for their excellent work for us proof reading the editions before they go to be printed. Adlard Press have also worked very hard to keep the costs down and we have reduced the print numbers to allow us to have 40 extra copies for distributing at events and to send to new members when they join. The mailing continues to be carried out from the mailing firm in Derby that Adlards use for mailing publications. The cost of postage however has risen so if any members do not require a printed version and prefer an online version please let me know.

The Newsletter has an 'impact factor' that is very positive. I would like to thank members who have communicated to me about their pleasure in reading the articles. It is very important that members can contribute articles to the Newsletter. I am delighted with the support that many of you give by contributing and I am always pleased to receive these contributions. The variety of topics this past year have been excellent. Thank you to all the authors and also to those I have asked to review books and provide Thoroton Society news too.

The Newsletter is not for large articles or for inappropriate articles. Large but appropriate contributions may be passed on to the Editors of Transactions.

Paul Baker, Honorary Editor

### **GEOFFREY BOND AND THOROTON RESEARCH AWARD**

The Research Award has now been active for six years and continues to attract some interesting and worthwhile applications. The Society is most grateful for Mr Bond's generous support in funding this award and that he has kindly agreed to support the awards again in 2021. The Society will continue to make provision for an equal amount from its own funds. In 2020 the number of applications was the lowest since the award commenced: this was probably related to the difficulty of accessing archives and of travelling due to the pandemic. However, the selection panel was pleased to make an award of £1000 to Jeremy Lodge for his research project on the history of Lowdham Borstal. The 2019 award recipients, having faced Covid19 access difficulties, have been given a further year to complete their projects. There is a requirement for those receiving grants to provide articles on the outcomes of their research for the newsletter and, subject to editorial processes, these

may develop into papers for the Transactions. Currently there are two papers which will appear in Transactions in due course. Applications from members undertaking research are very welcome.

Richard Gaunt, Barbara Cast and John Beckett, adjudicating panel

## **THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP**

There have been a number of matters brought to our attention this year which were considered to be of concern or requiring Society input. The first one was the Halloughton (Cotmoor) Solar Farm proposal. The Society's representation stated that, although the move to using non-fossil fuels was essential, there had to be careful consideration of where installations such as solar farms were sited. In this instance the site is of considerable landscape and wildlife importance, potential archaeological interest and adjacent to the historic conservation area village of Halloughton which has many old buildings, including a number of which are listed. Of particular importance are Manor Farmhouse and the Church of St James. It is through a field adjacent to St James that the entrance to the site is proposed according to the site plan. The graveyard of St James is in itself a place of pilgrimage because a number of its graves are of people of significance, including Sir Frank Stenton, former President of the Royal Historical Society, and Lady Doris Stenton FBA, herself an eminent historian, and also local historian Philip Lyth. So this first intrusion into Halloughton would be where are sited the two most prized listed buildings of the village; one a building which started life as a 13<sup>th</sup> century tower, a rare form of building, to which was added a hall-house in the 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century, with a farmhouse added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Manor Farmhouse, as it is named, is described by Pevsner as "rambling and picturesque" and

its tower as “rare”. Dr Norman Summers, a long-time member of the Thoroton Society, undertook research into this building, once a prebendal house of the College of Southwell, and wrote a definitive description of it in the Society’s Transactions. As Dr Summers states, here are “700 years of architectural and social history”. This is a most important building and, along with the Church of St James, deserves to retain an undisturbed and peaceful setting. At the time of writing the application is yet to be decided. The other three cases are sited within the City – one being the threat of demolition of Radford Boulevard Board School which was designed by GT Hine, the son of the renowned architect TC Hine, and with literary associations due to Alan Sillitoe having attended the school. The Society representation resulted in assurance from the Heritage Strategy Officer that the Victorian part was not to be demolished and a new appropriate use was to be sought. Next was a request for consideration of how coaches taking visitors to the Castle would best allow visitors to alight and subsequently park. This is a difficult matter as the space around the Castle is very limited; however a response was made with some comments trusted to be useful.

Finally, the Society responded to the Broad Marsh consultation and made a number of recommendations regarding ways of showcasing the area’s rich history through which it could be better interpreted, including an improved visitor centre for the Caves and incorporating information on local but lost features such as Drury Hill, interpretive panels regarding the area’s archaeology and history and a small park on the site of the Abel Collins almshouses. Overall that it be a more open, mixed use and safe area which encouraged access to and views of other historic features nearby. Members are welcome to send in their concerns, with details,

regarding the county's historic buildings and sites: these will be considered for representations to the appropriate body.

Barbara Cast, Response Group Coordinator

## **THE THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP**

Sadly, the Research Group was unable to meet in 2020 owing to the Covid restrictions. In spite of libraries and archives being closed or offering only very limited services, members were able to continue carrying out their own research to some extent. 2022 will see the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Thoroton Society. It had been hoped that a small publication, detailing the lives of some of the founder members and other early members, could have been produced to mark the occasion. This has not proved possible. Instead, it is planned to highlight an early member in subsequent issues of the Thoroton Newsletter. Members of the Research Group will hopefully be contributing.

John Wilson. Coordinator of Research Group

## **THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE**

Website statistics for the period January - December 2020 show that every month an average of 1,863 unique visitors viewed 16,553 pages. The number of visitors is up from last year (the figure was an average of 1,602 per month) and they are viewing more pages (in 2019 it was an average of 11,300 per month). The most viewed sections of the website continue to be 'Events', 'About us' and 'Publications'. Most people found our website by searching with *Google*. One of the more unusual search phrases used last year was 'combs eureka aerated pastry flour antidote for indigestion'. I was

scratching my head trying to imagine what content could be relevant until I remembered that our Treasurer, John Wilson, wrote an article about the company in an edition of the *Newsletter* which is available on the website.

*The Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online* continues to increase in size and now holds around 12,450 entries (Michael Brook's original bibliography published in 2002 has around 8,700).

Andy Nicholson, Thoroton Society Website Manager

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY**

The year 2020 turned out to be a better year than anticipated for entries on the website! My husband who is interested in World War One wanted to know more about soldiers who were executed at dawn and so a few enquiries and some reading led us to northern France where we found some of the graves of those from the Sherwood Foresters who were Shot at Dawn (February 2020). Having lived for some years in Edwalton there, I decided to carry out some research and the entry on Edwalton was put on the website in July 2020. About two years ago I was contacted by Dr Patrick Bradley who had read the entry on hospitals and wanted to update the entry by writing something about the Ear, Nose and Throat department, which he had been in charge of until recently. After a lot of communication and coronavirus interference, the ENT section went live on 22 January 2021. The entry on Mansfield Rehabilitation Centre and Ernest Alexander Nicoll, came about as a result of watching the BBC news during lockdown. Sophie Rayworth (news reader) talked about the life of her grandfather E A Nicoll during the Second World War. Having failed to make contact with her I decided to make my own enquiries, even though libraries and archives were closed. My efforts paid off and with the help of Mr Google the entry was made live on 22 January 2021.

Looking forward there are several new entries which will be put up during 2021.

Denise M Amos, Heritage Gateway Coordinator

## **SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2020**

### **Excursions**

Sadly, 2020 proved totally negative so far as excursions were concerned. Although we had planned a programme of four outings, because of the lockdown we have not been able to have any at all. This has all been very sad for the thirty or so members who have always supported these ventures over the years, and especially for members who have been pleased to help organise some of the outings themselves. I had already announced that I intended to pass on the organisation of excursions to someone else for the 2021 programme but, as it has turned out, my successors have enthusiastically taken on the responsibility now, even though the prospect of us being able to do anything like our previous outings looks extremely unlikely. I am delighted to be able to say that the Excursions Programme is being taken over by Ruth Strong and Pete Smith, two reliable and keen members of the Society, who I am quite sure will give this aspect of the Society's organisation their own unique approach. They have already planned to create a tentative programme for 2021 which hopes to include visits to local places which will not need coach travel nor lengthy day-long outings. I have every confidence that this part of the Society's organisation is in very safe hands, and I look forward to attending rather than organising!

Alan Langton, Honorary Excursions Secretary

### **Lectures, Presentations 2020**

We opened 2020 with high hopes and the *Maurice Barley Lecture* from Council member Pete Smith on a comparison of the

architectural merits of Wollaton Hall and New Hardwick Hall through the last 400 years. Both houses were the work of Robert Smythson and were remarkable at the time for their symmetry and the amount of glass used. Pete also used many illustrations to show how Smythson's work was a big influence in the design of many of the great houses of the area. In February we were treated to the *Norah Witham Lecture* given by David Norbrook as a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Lucy Hutchinson. Lucy was the wife of John Hutchinson, Governor of Nottingham Castle during the Civil War, and she became a noted writer of poetry and other work culminating in the much-delayed publication of her 'Memoirs of the life of John Hutchinson' which has become a much-studied record of life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the time of the English Civil War, the Commonwealth and the Restoration. March saw the beginnings of the pandemic crisis and our scheduled speaker was unable to travel to Nottingham to deliver his presentation. As a consequence, David Hoskins dusted off the slides put together for just such an occasion by his father, Neville, converted them to PowerPoint and gave the small but enthusiastic audience an afternoon of nostalgia. The images were taken from outings and events around the time of the Society's centenary and members were invited to reminisce about the people, many no longer with us, and the events and locations shown. Sadly, there were to be no more outings or presentations in 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions and work started anew on the 2021 calendar to make it adaptable for whatever conditions we were going to be living with at the time.

David Hoskins. Honorary Lecture Programme Secretary

## HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY IN 2020

Brief details of archaeological investigations conducted in 2020 are provided in this summary, which complements Scott Lomax's report on archaeological activity in Nottingham City. It has been compiled in consultation with Dr Christopher King, Honorary Editor (Archaeology) of the Society's *Transactions* and Ursilla Spence of Nottinghamshire County Council. Further details of the projects listed below are provided in the summary of recent archaeological projects that is contained in Volume 124 of the Society's *Transactions*.

**Cromwell Quarry** - Archaeological monitoring by Trent & Peak Archaeology on behalf of Cemex UK during sand and gravel extraction revealed a large palaeochannel preserving the foundations of a substantial wooden structure dating possibly from the early medieval period. It is hoped that post-excavation analysis will shed further light upon the purpose of this structure, which was supported by upright posts driven deeply into the channel bed and, towards the centre of the channel, linked by morticed horizontal timbers. Several fragments of wood, provisionally interpreted as belonging to a sewn-plank vessel, were also recovered. A radiocarbon date of 688–882 cal AD was recovered from the structure, and it is hoped that some timbers may be suitable for dendrochronological dating. Interestingly, an 8th century dress pin was also retrieved from the channel deposits.

**General Baptist Chapel, East Leake** - Matt Hurford was commissioned by East Leake Baptist Church to carry out archaeological monitoring during construction work. Excavations inside the chapel revealed the 1756 stone plinth for the west wall that had been demolished during enlargement of the chapel in 1839 and showed original roof timbers to have been reused as floor beams for the choir dais. The incorporation of numerous Swithland

slate tiles in the 1839 demolition material shows the current Welsh slate roof to date from the 1839 reconstruction.

**Langford Quarry** - Archaeological monitoring on behalf of Tarmac during aggregate extraction revealed a large channel representing a continuation of the Slough Dyke palaeochannel recorded in an earlier phase of extraction to the south. The feature incorporated an organic silt clay with occasional concentrations of molluscs (most probably freshwater mussels). Samples of these organic deposits have been submitted for palaeoenvironmental assessment and radiocarbon dating. Evidence for nearby human activity includes cattle bones and a fragment of worked wood recovered from organic silts. Excavation to the north of the channel has revealed traces of Romano-British settlement.

**Newark: A1/A17 Junction** - Three evaluation trenches were dug by Oxford Archaeology East on the northern outskirts of Newark on behalf of Simons Developments Newark Ltd. Trenching in advance of a proposed development for a distribution facility and associated infrastructure uncovered extensive archaeological remains, including traces of ditched enclosures and other boundary ditches. Pottery dating from the Late Iron Age to the later Romano-British periods was recovered from a range of features across all three trenches, with evidence for more intensive occupation in the later Roman period.

**St Laurence Church, Norwell** - Matt Hurford conducted an archaeological excavation on behalf of Norwell Parochial Church Council prior to the extension of a drainage gully along the north chancel wall. Removal of the topsoil revealed disarticulated skeletal remains and a west-east wall comprising up to four courses of well-dressed angular skerry blocks bonded with sandy clay. This wall was overlain by the late 13<sup>th</sup> century chancel wall but followed a slightly different alignment, suggesting an earlier structure: perhaps the Norman chancel which was repaired or replaced by a legacy left to the church in John Clarell's will of 1295.

**Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve Archaeology Survey** - Mercian Archaeological Services CIC continued a project aimed at recording archaeological remains within the boundaries of the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve. The survey includes the analysis and ground-truthing of lidar data, earthwork surveys and study of air photographs and historic maps and documents. Field investigations this year have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, but fieldwork has nonetheless added significantly to the range of surviving archaeological remains that have been recorded during the course of this project, including holloways, ridge and furrow, linear earthworks, boundary markers and vestiges of 20th-century military activity.

**9 Church Street, Southwell** - University of Leicester Archaeological Services undertook a survey of this building, which forms part of the former prebendal house of Norwell Overhall, in advance of building redevelopment. The survey identified structural remains of a late 18th century private house, later converted to a bank. Removal of modern suspended ceilings has revealed well preserved moulded plaster ceilings and the remnants of a mosaic floor dating from the 19th century.

**10 Church Street, Southwell** - A building survey, geophysical investigations and excavation were conducted by Southwell Community Archaeology Group on this property which, in common with the neighbouring building (No.9), forms part of the former prebendal house of Norwell Overhall. A resistivity survey in the rear garden revealed anomalies suggesting a wall, ditches and a possible pit. Excavations investigating these anomalies revealed extensive modern deposits above traces of a 19th century carriage driveway and drainage features (mainly of the 19th century). Part of a medieval mudstone wall was discovered, together with medieval pottery, but the character of this structure remains unclear.

**4 Vicars' Court, Southwell** - Southwell Community Archaeology Group excavated three test-pits in the garden to investigate whether

medieval walls discovered during excavations in the neighbouring property (No.2) continued into this plot. This site, immediately east of Southwell Minster, is known to have been occupied by the medieval Vicars Choral building and might also preserve archaeological traces of the pre-Minster Saxon church. Excavations uncovered some late Saxon and medieval pottery but no definite evidence of wall foundations.

David Knight, Archaeology Rapporteur

## **ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CITY 2020**

There has been very little archaeological work in Nottingham city during 2020, largely on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Only four sites have been archaeologically excavated, which is a marked reduction from the 32 projects undertaken in 2019. Four archaeological contractors have undertaken the fieldwork, which is outlined below: AOC Archaeology; Pre-Construct Archaeology; SLR Consulting; Trent & Peak Archaeology. Although fieldwork has been very limited, there have been large numbers of planning applications submitted, and early discussions for major developments have taken place, all of which suggests that the amount of archaeological fieldwork will increase in the not too distant future.

### **Nottingham Castle**

The redevelopment works at Nottingham Castle continued throughout the pandemic, with archaeological monitoring of the installation of new services and adventure play equipment. Most of these interventions did not reveal anything of archaeological interest, with later disturbing destroying remains in some areas and elsewhere substantial post-medieval and modern landscaping

sealed earlier remains which were not encountered due to the shallow nature of the works. However, remains of the State Apartments (constructed during the 15<sup>th</sup> century) were found at a surprisingly shallow depth (c. 0.3-0.5m below ground) in the Middle Bailey. Investigations for the play equipment in the inner ditch revealed the rock-cut edge of the defensive ditch, which was filled in following the demolition of the castle in 1651 and formed an area of gardens by 1744, with major landscaping works in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cut into the side of the ditch was what may be interpreted as a pit, as well as what appears to be highly eroded rock-cut steps. These features are of uncertain date but are believed to predate 1744. In addition to monitoring, some very small investigations were undertaken in advance of works in the areas of the site considered to have a higher potential for human remains or significant structural remains. These mostly revealed extensive disturbance of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century dates but did reveal possible remains of the Great Chapel which stood in the Middle Bailey until the castle's demolition. Demolition material, probably dating to the 1651 demolition, and later landscaping deposits were also encountered. Further details of works at the castle should be provided in the Transactions.

**Glasshouse Street** - A small excavation was undertaken in December 2019-January 2020 on a site at the corner of Lower Parliament Street and Glasshouse Street. Located just outside the defences of the medieval town, on its northern side, the excavation offered the opportunity to investigate extramural occupation and activity. Despite the presence of deep basements, which would have truncated some archaeological remains and deposits, excavation revealed two undercrofts, a ditch of medieval date and a second ditch of either 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Post-excavation work on this site is not yet complete and so further details will be provided in due course.

**Lenton Priory** - A small excavation was undertaken at the site of Lenton Priory in September/October, as part of a documentary to be televised on More 4 (the broadcast date is not yet known). The excavation and programme will demonstrate the importance of this important medieval priory, remains of which are well-preserved below ground but for which there are few standing remains.

**The Island** - Archaeological work on the Island site (the former Boots Island site, to the east of London Road) have focussed on monitoring of geotechnical investigations for Phase 1A of the development of the site. The Island is of potential archaeological interest because the now culverted River Leen flowed through the site and was, as shown on the earliest maps of Nottingham (the 1609 Sherwood Forest Survey and John Speede's map of 1610), braided in this area. The monitoring undertaken thus far has shown that there is a lot of disturbance due to the extensive developments of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with any surviving archaeological deposits now deeply buried. As such, the works to date have revealed only post-medieval and modern deposits and structural remains but future work, at both the Phase 1A site and later phases, may offer glimpses of evidence of riverside activity of medieval and post medieval date (and potentially of prehistoric date) as well as important palaeoenvironmental remains which will provide valuable data regarding the changing landscape.

Scott Lomax, Nottingham City Archaeologist

## **PLANNING AND CONSERVATION IN THE CITY / NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY**

Despite the suspension this year of many of the Civic Society's usual face-to-face activities including talks, guided walks and 'blue' plaque unveiling, the Civic Society has been busy trying to engage with Nottingham City Council and other interested parties over the

future of Broad Marsh. We are deliberately trying to re-establish the name of the 'Broad Marsh' district (two words) as distinct from 'Broadmarsh' – which was a Westfield rebranding of the shopping centre almost twenty years ago. The Civic Society sees this name change, reverting to the historic, topographical name for the area, as symbolic of a re-think for the future and leaving behind the damaging mistakes in the 1960s/1970s where the very large building (the size of a football pitch) obliterated the old street pattern and 'crashed into' that iconic feature of Nottingham, the historic sandstone cliff and its caves.

As soon as Intu collapsed into administration and the Council took control of the whole site, the Civic Society wrote to the Leader of the Council putting forward our aspirations for how the area could be redeveloped for the better. We are pressing for the return to open-air streets again that link up with the truncated ends of Carrington Street, Lister Gate and Cliff Road to re-establish the network of original routes through the area. We would like to see as much of the existing centre demolished as soon as possible and a design competition undertaken to draw in the most creative ideas. The Civic Society believes Broad Marsh should be rebuilt as an energy-efficient, traffic-free and sustainable place to live and work. It is recognised that new uses, instead of large amounts of retail space, should be introduced to create a mixed-use community include housing, particularly affordable housing for key workers. New green 'pocket parks' should be included where possible to complement the principal Collin Street public space. Green roofs would be expected as part of low-carbon designs for individual new buildings. We are also encouraging the promotion of cultural tourism in the new Broad Marsh area in a number of ways. Opening up the view of the Castle from Collin Street (entailing the

demolition of at least part of the Arndale car park) along with providing a direct pedestrian crossing of Maid Marian Way, would result in a visibly direct connection from the Collin Street linear park.

The Civic Society is keen to promote a new caves visitor centre accessed at the Cliff Road level from the foot of the Contemporary steps, and possibly including some public open space in front of the last remnant of the exposed sandstone cliff. (This is located below the garden of Willoughby House - Paul Smith's shop - and the former Jamie's Restaurant - in the vicinity of the lost Drury Hill.) This would make the Broad Marsh caves' interpretation for visitors more comprehensible and open up the possibility for extending public access to the neighbouring Willoughby House caves too, at the same time encouraging connections to the Lace Market's visitor attractions. So far, we have been encouraged by the public response from Councillor Mellen (Council Leader). We are hoping to be included in the Broad Marsh Think-Tank which the Council has talked about setting up as part of the process of re-thinking its redevelopment. We now have to await the outcome of the Council's Consultation referred to as 'the Big Conversation'.

**Planning Reforms:** The Civic Society has objected to the proposed reforms to the planning system contained in the government's White Paper consulted upon this autumn. We are concerned that the over-simplification of the system, zoning broad areas for greater or lesser amounts of development at the Local Plan stage would represent a threat to the historic environment, to local distinctiveness and the potential loss of heritage assets which are not already formally designated as such. Removing local accountability at the detailed application stage is considered to be a threat to local democracy. There would no longer be an opportunity

to engage with the planning system other than at the Local Plan stage.

**Major Developments:** The most high-profile scheme to get approval this year is the development of the former Guildhall, the listed Victorian civic building on Burton Street, converting it to a hotel. The Civic Society welcomed the restoration and the opening up of the courtrooms and other grand civic spaces to public use. However, we were concerned about the 13 storied tower (of hotel bedrooms) that will be sited in the Guildhall Yard following the demolition of twentieth-century offices there. We consider that this tower would loom over Fire Station House, a diminutive Victorian listed building that fronts South Sherwood Street. The adjacent vacant Police and Fire Station complexes are dignified twentieth-century buildings which, unfortunately, we have failed to persuade the Council to seek their refurbishment although, so far, no proposals have been published. There is some good news though.

The Civic Society objected to the application to demolish the former Majestic Cinema at No. 700 Woodborough Road - citing the pedigree of its architect Alfred Thraves, a renowned Nottingham cinema designer and the unusual design of the building. Our objection drew attention to the building's design as being almost unique, taking advantage of the steeply sloping site with the entrance at balcony level. This design was highly unusual and innovative and identifies this cinema as something special. Historic England has recognised the importance of the cinema and the building has now been listed Grade II, so it is to be hoped that the museum occupying part of it can remain. Nottingham City Council has now adopted its 'Local List' and introduced a process which enables further buildings meeting the criteria for local significance to be added in due course. The process gives some measure of

protection as 'Local List Status' needs to be considered in the planning process, avoiding demolition by default. However, this promising step forward would probably be undermined by the Planning White Paper's suggested reforms.

The various Heritage Action Zone grants for restoration works to shop fronts in some city centre conservation areas have greatly improved the appearance of Victorian buildings along Carrington Street en route from Nottingham Station. Shopfront improvement schemes are also underway in Market Street and expected to start shortly on the east side of Wheeler Gate. The opening of the new library, bus station and Broad Marsh Car Park (due in 2021) is also expected to make a positive impact on the townscape. It is just such a pity about the rest of Broad Marsh!

Hilary Brindley Vice -Chair (Planning) Nottingham Civic Society

## **NOTTINGHAM HERITAGE PANEL**

One of the more unexpected repercussions of the COVID pandemic was the serious financial consequences for INTU, which had been at the heart of plans for redeveloping the Broadmarsh Centre. Society members will have watched with interest as the old Broadmarsh car park was dismantled, to make way for what was anticipated to be a major regeneration of the shopping district running from Market

Square to Nottingham Railway Station. The City Council subsequently put out a call for public views on its proposals for the Broadmarsh site, to which the Society has responded via the Thoroton Response Group. As one might expect, Broadmarsh featured prominently on the agenda of the Heritage Panel this year. So too did other important developments, such as a (successful) City Council bid to the Future High Streets Fund for government

funding to help reinvent the streetscape around the old West End Arcade. There has also been a good deal of thinking about Nottingham's heritage, both tangible (built or physical) and intangible (assets, reputation). The Panel has been kept up to date with new initiatives such as the Story of Nottingham project, which seeks to position the city in relation to its historic association with Rebellion and Robin Hood whilst celebrating Nottingham's contemporary profile as a diverse and energetic post-industrial city. The Thoroton Society continues to work closely with like-minded stakeholders on the panel, notably Nottingham Civic Society, and to make representations about matters of common interest via the Heritage Panel and through the Thoroton Response Group.

Richard A Gaunt, Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative

## **NOTTINGHAM CASTLE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**

With luck, this should be the final progress report concerning work on the project because the transformed Castle site should re-open during 2021. It is a testament to the efficiency with which the project has been managed that COVID did not materially derail progress on the construction work, which had to be completed to an already tight schedule. The constructors, G F Tomlinson, completed specialist restoration works and built a brand-new visitors centre which were handed over in time for the fit-out and display of the new galleries. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, a great deal of work continued on the underpinning research and interpretation of the galleries. As someone who has been involved in the conception and realisation of the new Rebellion Gallery since 2015, I can assure members of the Society that unrivalled care and attention has been paid to ensuring historical accuracy is at the heart of the interpretation. Fellow Council member, Dr Hannah Nicholson, also

worked on the project intensively during the period 2019-2020 and has materially contributed towards ensuring the robustness and historical accuracy of the new displays. Whilst the Rebellion and Robin Hood galleries are the centrepiece of the transformation, visitors will also be able to enjoy new displays involving (amongst other delights) Nottingham's famous alabasters, its high quality salt-glazed stoneware, and its eponymous lace. These, together with the City's core collection of art and design, will be featured in beautifully restored galleries which combine state-of-the-art technology with the precious artefacts themselves. Had it not been for the intervention of COVID, the opening of the transformed Castle was to be the centrepiece of a year of heritage-led celebrations across the City. However, the imminent appearance of both the newly reopened Castle and a new Central Library are likely to remain highpoints which society members will want to experience when opportunities allow.

Richard Gaunt ,

Nottingham Castle Transformation Project Representative

## **VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

The catastrophic damage done to all aspects of the economic, social and cultural life of the country in 2020 has inevitably affected work on VCH in Nottinghamshire. Both the National Archives, local authority library and archives services have effectively been closed down, making it very difficult to make progress. The position over

the proposed VCH Nottinghamshire Volume III, which was completed about five years ago, remains very unsatisfactory. The text has been rejected for publication by the *de facto* general editor of VCH on the basis of one referee's report (despite the fact that in content and approach it closely follows VCH Derbyshire Volume III, which was published without incident in 2013) and efforts to revise it have been hampered by lack of access to libraries and archives. In the meantime, Sheila Leeds and I have done what we can to draft text for a projected Volume IV on the parishes of Rushcliffe wapentake northern division and other volunteers continue to work on parishes elsewhere in the county. Two by-products of the group's work are an edition of a volume of 17th-century Stapleford acres which includes a timber-framed house that is in need of careful renovation - the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust has contributed towards its future with a measured survey of the building. A full Stapleford Constables Accounts of 1650 – 1685 has been accepted for publication in the Thoroton Record Series and an article on the history of the engineering industry in the Derbyshire parish of Sandiacre, next door to Stapleford, will appear in the 2021 Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

Philip Riden

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST**

The report for 2020 will not be one to look back upon with any degree of pleasure. The NBPT, like many others, enjoyed a few months of forced lockdown in the early part of the year, before a degree of freedom means that regular monthly meetings have resumed, now possible from the comfort of home. The office in Southwell seems almost superfluous to requirement. A look back at

the previous 2019 Report can reveal that work on the listed Robin Hood Hotel buildings in Newark is now almost complete with a planned opening in February 2021. I am told that the contractor can be congratulated for the standard of work carried out. The Annual Nottinghamshire Local History Fair in Mansfield was cancelled and with the pandemic health restrictions, there are no trips or visits to report this year. One potential project which the NBPT has been able to support is the Museum of Life in Tuxford. The Museum was founded in 1998 by Dorothy Harrison, who sadly died in 2019. Trustees of the estate are currently involved in saving a very fine collection of handcarts and other rural artifacts that Dorothy had collected and, in some cases, had restored. The collection is thought to be of national value but the trustees need help in securing its future. The site which extends to over 6 acres includes a timber-framed house that is in need of careful renovation, and the NBPT has contributed towards its future with a measured survey of the building. NBPT continues to answer requests for assistance and this is a chance for a reminder of the extensive online archives available on the website at [www.nbpt.co.uk](http://www.nbpt.co.uk).

NBPT responds to local authority consultations when approached but it is noted that the tendency is for local authorities to determine planning applications without such consultation. This year the AGM was held by Zoom, which may well be the format for future meetings. The annual accounts showed a healthy position, with the recent downward trend in income temporarily halted by a one-off return for work carried out in the 1980s on a listed building in Nottingham. The occasional newsletters keep members informed, although contributions are always welcome.

Alan Wahlers, Hon. Sec. NBPT

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

In every respect the Association has had as much of a challenging year as most other heritage organisations during the period of the pandemic. Our first decision was to ensure the safety of our members and to cancel the March 2020 Day School. Subsequently, committee meetings have been held via Zoom enabling us to continue the management of the organisation. However, after a fairly rapid turnover of chairpersons (following the resignation of John Parker in 2019), we now find ourselves without a Chair. Currently, we are welcoming applications to fulfil the role. Despite this, we continue to meet, authorise grants in support of local history enterprises and to publish our regular newsletter and the *Nottinghamshire Historian*. We have decided not to resume our day schools series until the pandemic has completely receded. Instead, we worked with Nottinghamshire County Council to offer two online talks by Adrian Gray and Richard Holledge in December, linked to the Mayflower theme. These were well attended and we have booked another three speakers who will speak monthly until the spring – Sharon Bennett Connolly (Ladies of the Magna Carter), Marc Allum (History of Collecting) and Helen Bates (Leaves of Southwell Project). Our other activities will continue as normal.

James Wright



INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS  
/ TRUSTEES OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

I report on the financial statements of the above charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the Act and
- -To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination , no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that any in material respect the requirements - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or -to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and Comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion , attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: A Hodges

Dated 25 January 2021

A Hodges FICB PM Dip AR&H Accountancy Services Ltd

## **NOTES**

### **Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting standards required by the Charities Commission for the Receipts and Payments method of accounting by charities. The requirements of the Charities Commission document CC16b (September 2010) are complied with.

#### **Fund Accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives

of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against specific funds. The aim and use of each fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund. The only Restricted fund is the Records Section fund

### **Incoming and outgoing resources**

Incoming and outgoing resources are accounted for on the Receipts and Payments basis **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on the Receipts and Payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Management and administration costs are those costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Sale	2020 £	2019 £
Record Series	3,802	1,633
Transactions	62	693
Other Sales	0	220

Bookstall (net)	71	161
	3,935	2,707
Grants	2020	2019
Page grants for papers in Transactions	0	630
Excursions and other functions	£ Receipts	£ Expenses
	£2584	2518
Excursions	0	0
AGM		25
Annual Lunch		200*
Summer Musical Event		235*
	*Deposits carried over to 2021	
Management And Admin.	2020 £	2019 £
Printing and Stationary	274	383
Newsletter	1,946	2,494

Annual Report	371	312
Postage and Stamps	6,734	4,064
Insurance	75	75
Honoraria and Accountancy fee	485	360
Membership fees	0	25
Sundry Expenses	105	237
	9,988	7,950

**Trustees' remuneration** Four Trustees were reimbursed an amount of £298 (2019 - £408) in respect of expenses that they had paid out on behalf of the Society. These expenses consisted of postage, stationery, Record Section, Excursions and miscellaneous expenses.

<b>Records Section</b>	Balance at 1 January 2020	42,018
Incoming resources	6,251	
Outgoing resources	12,878	
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>35,391</b>	

Records Section Funds are used to print original historical materials, records and manuscripts.

John Wilson Hon. Treasurer

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

The 124th Meeting AGM of the Society will take place by Zoom (the Zoom link will be given to members closer to the time)

1. Welcome by the President, Adrian Henstock
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Matters arising from the cancellation of the 123th Annual General Meeting and from the minutes of the Standing Committee of July 2020 which are relevant to this issue.
4. Receiving the Annual Report, including the Honorary Treasurer's report.
5. To set subscription rates for the year 2022.
6. Chair's remarks
7. Vice- Chair's remarks.
8. To elect Officers of the Society and Members of Council (information and voting conduct on this having been concluded in advance)
9. Other business.

**Note regarding measures taken in the absence of the 2021 AGM**

The Society's Standing Committee met on the 17th July to consider what arrangements to make following the cancellation of the 2020 AGM.

The Council had, at their meeting on the 14th February confirmed their approval of the following :

1. The Annual Report for the year ended December 2019, including the Hon Treasurer's report with audited accounts,

and a proposal by Council for :the appointment of an Independent Examiner, subscription rates for the year 2021, for the appointment of an Honorary Administration Secretary to fulfil certain specific functions in lieu of Honorary Secretary, the nomination of officers for the year 2020-2021 and the nomination for election to Council of those listed on page 27 of the 2020 Annual Report.

2. The Standing Committee asked that Council confirmed their recommendation that: Richard Gaunt to be confirmed Chair of Council, effective from 1 August 2020.

David Hoskins to be confirmed as Vice-Chair Of the Council, with special responsibility for coordinating the Events Committee, effective from 1 August 2020.

As a result of these two requests for Council's confirmation, the members of Council were asked by email if they would confirm the appointments of Richard Gaunt and David Hoskins as above.

Fifteen members of Council replied, all of them affirmative, which together with the six members present at the Standing Committee meeting, made a total of 21 in favour. This is a majority of the 25 members of Council so these recommendations were confirmed. Council, at their next meeting on 10th October 2020, resolved to adopt the matters arising from the business of the cancelled 2020 AGM which were discussed at the Standing Committee on 17th July 2020.

Rosemary Muge (Honorary Administration Secretary)

**What we will have missed this year, tea after the AGM:**

**Photograph of Tea after the AGM in 2014**



Photograph David Hoskins

## **THE AGM 2021**

**Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire AGM**

**Time: Apr 24, 2021 02:30 PM London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94377926520?pwd=c1hpaER1dkMvQ2JyamJzYTI1STVrZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 943 7792 6520**

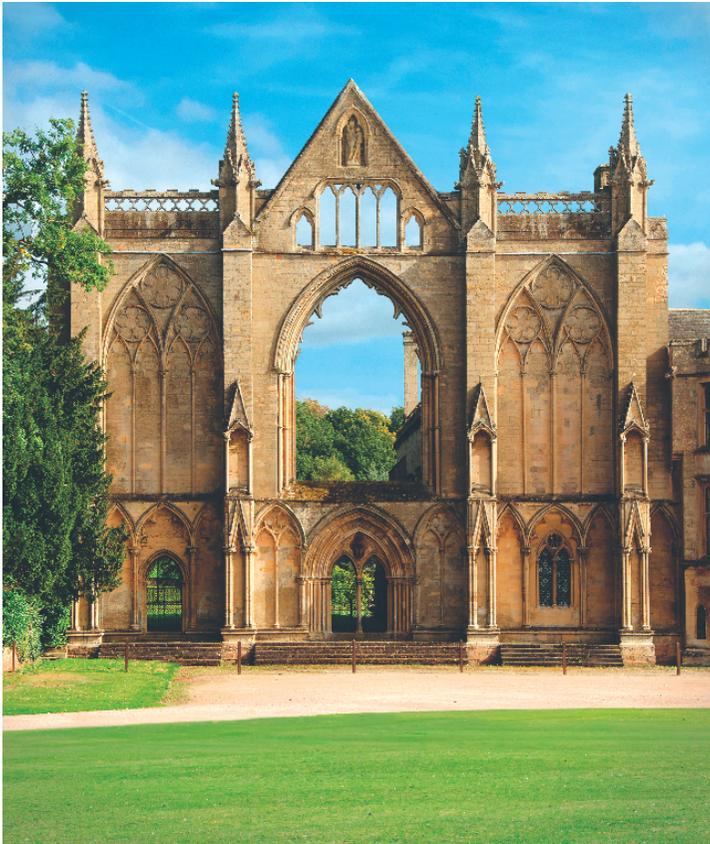
**Passcode: 989443**

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Tel 0115 921 4863

**Newstead Abbey which has featured twice in recent Newsletters with articles by Pete Smith and hopefully will be visited by a Thoroton Society Excursion in September 2021.**



Photograph David Wrightson