



ANNUAL REPORT 2023
(The year ending 31st December 2023)
AND THE SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



An early 20th century Flintham Hall postcard
(Thanks to Andy Nicholson for providing this photograph)

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
The County's Principle History and Archaeology Society
Visit the website at www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OFFICERS

January to December 2023

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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 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, 37 Sidney Road, Beeston NG9 1AN
rosemarymuge@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

The members of the Council are considered to be the Trustees of the Society. Details of Membership of the Council and the named Trustees for the Charity are shown on page 2.

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 Williams, Myles Thoroton Hildyard and Neville Hoskins funds is incorporated into the General Fund. The Coddington Fund supported by the William Senior Record Series volume, the Centenary Fund, the Heritage Gateway and the Davis Bequest enabled the accessibility to the Nottinghamshire Bibliography. Now that all the above funds are expended, all necessary expenditure is met from the General Fund.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIR'S REPORT

The Annual Report provides a useful opportunity for reflecting upon the work of the Society during the past year and commemorating the achievements of the membership and Council in advancing our work and interests. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my usual, heartfelt, thanks for all the time, work, and effort which members of Council (especially those on the Standing Committee) have contributed during the year. Without them, the Society could not function effectively or achieve as much as it does.

The key achievement of the year was the completion of the project to digitise the back-catalogue of *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*. Spearheaded by Andy Nicholson, we now have a tremendous, freely available resource for the world to enjoy. The first part of the catalogue (comprising all the volumes up to 1950) was released on the Archaeology Data Service website last year and we look forward to completing the release of the remaining volumes during 2024. We also hope to bring to fruition the next two volumes in the Record Series - including the first to be co-produced in digital and print formats - after several years of work.

The Society continues to reflect upon ways to advance its activities and extend its membership. Work with schools and undergraduates is an area where some developments have been progressing. We hope to supplement these with the launch of the essay prize, open to but not confined to those in education and named in memory of Rosalys Coope, our former President, who generously provided a legacy from which we intend to fund the prize.

Further developments in providing materials in digital-only format - whether the newsletter or *Transactions* - will be kept under review. In all we do, the Society tries to balance the competing wishes and requirements of its traditional, long established members, and newer communities who access, and like to receive, information in different ways.

As ever, I remain willing to hear the views of members themselves on this subject and invite you to email me at richardgaunt@nottingham.ac.uk.

I hope that members feel that their subscription (which has not been raised for many years) continues to offer excellent value for money. The return of our Excursions programme is a welcome reminder of the opportunities which the Society provides, over and above its traditional work of academic publication and the winter programme of lectures and meetings. As ever, suggestions for new or different types of activities, events and venues are always welcome. Please keep us informed of what you enjoy about your membership and areas where you feel we can still develop and expand our offer. I look forward to meeting more of you at our events during the forthcoming year.

Dr Richard A Gaunt

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 the Council at meetings. The Standing Committee, established by Council and consisting of 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 and has done so in 2023, on 10th February, 12th May and 13th October, at the University of Nottingham. The Standing Committee generally meets online, and has done so five times in 2023, on 20th January, 31st March, 30th June, 29th September and 10th November. For the 2024 AGM, Council has proposed that a minor amendment be made to the constitution to help regularise the election and re-election of members of Council. This amendment is detailed in the agenda for the 2024 AGM, which is published in this Annual Report.

Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administrative Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions

Volume 126 for 2022 appeared on schedule. It was pleasing to see a volume that covered much ground, both in terms of the temporal range covered by the articles, and in the balance between those driven by archaeological or historical approaches. This is our aim for all volumes. But necessarily our hands are tied by what is actually submitted for consideration for publication.

We continue to receive a steady stream of submissions for the *Transactions*. We are always keen for more or to learn about work in progress which is ultimately intended for publication in the journal. This helps us plan into the future. For those hesitant about their research and whether it would be appropriate for the journal, please do contact either Chris King (chris.king@nottingham.ac.uk or myself (richard.jones@leicester.ac.uk) . We would be happy to offer advice and guidance even in the very early stages.

The process of making back issues of the *Transactions* freely available online has begun. You can now find the first fifty volumes at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1111859>. Work still needs to be done on tracing copyright permissions for illustrative materials contained in more recent volumes before these can finally be released.

Richard Jones, Honorary Transactions Editor

Record Series Future Publications :

Stapleford Constables Accounts of 1650 – 1685. A transcription of the financial accounts of the village constables of Stapleford, illustrating their duties which range from apprehending criminals to providing overnight accommodation for passing strangers - vagrants, soldiers (often 'maimed') and victims of disasters and piracy. Unfortunately publication has been delayed by issues with the original manuscript, but should appear during 2024.

Diaries of Ichabod Wright of Nottingham 1814-1862. Ichabod Wright (1767-1862) was a member of a prominent banking family and a philanthropist who lived at Mapperley Hall. His diaries are mainly concerned with his private social life but record references to the county in both local and national events, including for example the dramatic consequences of the 1831 Reform Act riots leading to the burning of Nottingham Castle. The volume will be printed in an experimental digital format in 2024.

Nottinghamshire Surveyed: a Descriptive Catalogue of pre-1700 Maps and Plans of Nottinghamshire Estates. This is being compiled by the editor of the recent edition of *The Welbeck Atlas* (vol 47), and will be a detailed catalogue of over eighty early manuscript maps of the county, many held by archive repositories outside the county. This is expected in 2025.

New Proposals:

The General Editor welcomes proposals for transcripts of other outstanding historical texts relating to Nottinghamshire. These should comprise transcripts of the original (usually manuscript) document(s) prefaced by a substantial essay providing context and interpretation, etc. Full Guidance Notes for new applicants can be found on the Society's website under the sub-heading of the Thoroton Society Record Series.

Adrian Henstock, General Editor

Newsletter

There have been three editions of the Newsletter and a further Newsletter section in the Spring as part of the 2022 Annual report. The saving on postage and printing costs due continued to be a successful way of saving for the Society. I must thank Calvin, Tim, and Sean at Adlards Printing for their advice and work in allowing us to print the Newsletter at an affordable cost and their advice. They are very much appreciated. by the Editor. Postage costs are still causing me as Editor to think of ways of saving, and there are some ideas in the Newsletter section of this publication. A big thank you also to Hannah Nicholson who as Assistant Editor has met with me regularly over the past year and whose final proofreading with me just before publication is always a useful exercise. Thank you also to Janet Moore, Rosemary Budge and Barbara Cast who do the initial proof reading so efficiently. Your time in doing this is much appreciated. I am grateful to all who contribute articles for the Newsletter and to all who provide information that needs to be passed on to Thoroton members.

I appreciate all the articles sent to me. I would however urge you to let me know if the article has appeared in other publications. There have been a couple this year that have been published elsewhere and not mentioned to me. I have therefore not been able to note this when including them in the Newsletter. The variety of articles is a positive part of the newsletter, but once again I would like to see more Archaeology articles. There seemed to be a number of Archaeology students who I met at the University of Nottingham History Festival who thought there was an

opening for some contributions by them on topics of interest. I certainly was able to advertise the Thoroton Society and passed on a good number of Thoroton publications. It was a very useful day as Editor to meet both lecturers and students and advertise the Thoroton Society. If members know of History or Archaeology students at Schools or Universities who would like to write a short piece for the Newsletter please put them in contact with me. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Newsletter in 2023.

Paul Baker ,Honorary Editor of the Newsletter.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE

Website statistics for the period January - December 2023 show that every month an average of 1,835 unique visitors viewed 17,463 pages. The number of visitors is up from last year but they are viewing fewer pages.

The top Google search queries that led people to our website last year were 'thoroton society', 'george oakley aldrich', 'basford hall', 'mary and William howitt' and 'transactions of the thoroton society.' Aldrich was an 18th century physician who lived in Nottinghamshire for many years. Adrian Henstock wrote a short article about him in the *Thoroton Society Newsletter* and a portrait of him by a noted Italian artist was the subject of the BBC programme, *Britain's lost masterpieces*.

The Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online continues to increase in size and now holds around 12,950 entries (Michael Brook's original bibliography published in 2002 has around 8,700).

An important development during the year was making digitised Transactions articles from 1897-1949 available to download from the Archaeology Data Services website.

Links to all these articles have now been added to the relevant *Bibliography* entries.

Andy Nicholson, Thoroton Society Website Manager

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

The gateway has had two new entries this year - the Dukeries and the Mayflower Pilgrims. The Dukeries had taken some time to come together but I believe it to be an excellent addition and shows Nottinghamshire stately houses at their finest. The Mayflower Pilgrims was a little late for the 400th anniversary but shows the very significant part played by Nottinghamshire.

It is now 23 years since the gateway began documenting aspects of Nottinghamshire history. There are 80 entries on the website which are updated regularly. Many of the entries are written by experts in their fields. Andy Nicholson, who is the Thoroton website manager, takes a lot of time to put the entries onto the NHG website and uses his vast archive of materials to supplement images and documents.

We are always happy to hear from anyone who may have an idea for an entry.

Dr Denise Amos ,Heritage Gateway Co-Ordinator

THE THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP

We can report that our experiment to create an online forum for queries and discussions of Nottinghamshire-related historical and archaeological research has not been a resounding success. Lacking critical mass, and thus receiving only periodic postings, lively debate has not been forthcoming. It is probably wise that this experiment is abandoned. The online forum was created when in-person meetings were either banned or problematic. That situation has now changed. We would therefore like to gauge interest among members for the re-establishment of a face-to-face

research group which might meet monthly or bi-monthly in an accessible venue. If you would be interested in joining the group as a regular member then please contact me in the first instance (richard.jones@leicester.ax.uk) . We are aware that the success of any such group relies heavily on the input from active members and needs clear organisation. It was just such a group that thrived under the watchful eye of the late John Wilson. We would therefore also be interested in any expressions of interest from individuals who would like to take a lead role in running the group. Again, please contact me in the first instance and I would be happy to have a chat with you. Finally, but again craving feedback from you, we would like to gauge interest in the idea of establishing a county-wide research project that offers members to participate in a Society-led project. Ideally this project would be interdisciplinary, allowing members to contribute to it from different perspectives and drawing on their own research skills and interests. Furthermore, it should also be a project which offers opportunities for local studies undertaken by small groups or individuals which, when aggregated, might result in a county-scale study.

Richard Jones ,Chair of the Research Group

THE THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP

The Response Group has responded to a number of planning or heritage issues once again this year – returning to two which were addressed previously.

The Halloughton (Cotmoor) Solar Farm returned to planning with an application to amend some of the previous conditions. The Society's response stated concern regarding the implication of varying conditions, some of which were likely to further damage this special Nottinghamshire village and have implications for the historic buildings near the entrance to the village. The environment of the church, the only public building in the village, the peace of which would surely be compromised by extra work's area nearby. We await the outcome of the application.

The Almshouses at Cossall were again subject to a revised planning application. The response to this further application by the same applicant was to hope that Broxtowe Borough Council would find that this new application would be highly detrimental to this rare survival and important Nottinghamshire heritage asset and, unless the applicant made radical changes to the plans in consultation with experts in the field of ancient building restoration, that it should now determine That this damaging application to such an important building be refused. Since writing the original report for this Annual report you will have seen the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) notice reference Willoughby Almshouses, I would say that it is an exceptionally unbelievable decision by Broxtowe's councillors . We will be continuing to seek and support a review of this decision which goes against all listed building legislation and advice

Broad Marsh The third area to be addressed was the deterioration of the Broad Marsh area as the masterplan was awaited. The main concern was the state of the caves which were suffering from vandalism, water egress and damage being caused to the contents of some of the caves. An answer was received from the company involved in ongoing planning and we await further information. The Response Group endeavours, when alerted, to make appropriate comments to the planning authorities where it is deemed to be a planning issue which will be of significant detriment to the historic and/or archaeological interest of the county. Members bringing matters of concern to our attention will be required to forward information on the proposal and the reasons for objection in order that a case can be made.

Barbara Cast , Response Group Coordinator

GEOFFREY BOND AND THOROTON RESEARCH AWARD

The Society is most grateful for Mr Geoffrey Bond's continuing support in generously assisting the funding of this award which is matched with an equal amount from the Society's own funds. –

any funds not used each year are carried over for future projects. The award has been administered since its inception nine years ago by Barbara Cast, the Society's Honorary Secretary. I have now taken over the role of Research Award Administrator and would like to thank Barbara for her sterling work over this period.

In 2023 there were two applications for an award, and both were awarded grants of £1,000. One is to continue research into two volumes of a journal kept by Miss Anne Cooke which covers the period 1835 to 1839. Although born in Macclesfield, she came to live in Nottinghamshire where she had relatives, and the journals are now held by Nottinghamshire Archives. The other grant is for further archaeological investigation in Wiverton and will fund training workshops for project volunteers to engage in work with finds and enable pottery dating to be undertaken.

There is a requirement for those receiving grants to provide articles on the outcomes of their research for the *Newsletter*, and subject to the editorial processes these may develop into papers for the *Transactions*.

Applications from members undertaking research are most welcome and should be sent to markdorrington52@gmail.com by the 1st of September. The terms and conditions of the award can be found on the Society's website.

Mark Dorrington, Research Award Administrator

LECTURES , PRESENTATIONS AND EXCURSIONS

2023 opened with us back in our usual location at the Nottingham Mechanics, and the *Maurice Barley Lecture* delivered by Becky Valentine, illustrating the work that had been done to restore and repurpose some of the historic buildings in Nottingham's Lace Market. In February, Council member James Wright delivered the inaugural *Rosalys Coope Lecture*, describing the latest findings from the archaeological work at Greasley Castle. March then saw Ross Balzaretti of Nottingham University use the *Norah Witham Lecture* to share with us the life and work of local artist Anne Enfield.

Our Spring Meeting & AGM was held at the end of April in the delightful surroundings of St Augustine's Church at Flintham. The formalities of the meeting were followed by afternoon tea, served in Flintham Hall and hosted by Sir Robert Hildyard and his family. Members were also invited to visit a number of the historic rooms in Flintham Hall and to view some of the restoration work on the upper floor.

A full programme of excursions took place in 2023 and are reported elsewhere by their organiser, Ruth Strong. Autumn saw the new season start with the *Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture*, given by another Council member, Pete Smith, covering his research and thoughts on the discovery of a set of drawings for Plumtre House in Nottingham.

In November we held our Annual Lunch at Ramsdale Golf Centre, enjoying good food, good company and the story of Father Henry Garnet, as told by William Ruff. We then continued with the *Nottinghamshire History Lecture* given by Erin Newman of Nottingham Trent University and taken from her thesis on criminality in Nottinghamshire before the Civil War. We closed 2023 in December with Kevin Powell delivering the *Neville Hoskins Lecture* on the subject of Queen Victoria and her influence on Nottingham in the late 19th century.

David Hoskins, Vice-Chair & Hon. Events Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY IN 2023

Brief details of the most significant archaeological investigations conducted in Nottinghamshire during 2023 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*. Additional information on the projects listed below is provided in the summary of recent archaeological projects that is contained in Volume 127 of the Society's *Transactions*.

Beckingham: Church Street

An evaluation was carried out by Allen Archaeology on behalf of Gr33n Group (G2) in advance of residential development. Geophysical and earthwork surveys had previously recorded evidence of medieval ridge-and-furrow. Ten trial trenches were excavated across the site. Eight of these revealed archaeological features, mostly corresponding to ridge-and-furrow but also including ditches relating to later agricultural activity. An early 13th to mid 14th century green-glazed potsherd, two abraded fragments of ceramic building material and, most notably, a 9th century AD metal strap end were recovered.

Clumber Park

Allen Archaeology conducted a watching brief for National Grid during electrical groundworks for the Clumber House Substation in the Stable Yard quadrangle, uncovering several phases of the former stable's floor: the original 18th century brick floor; a Staffordshire blue brick floor installed in the 19th century; and a concrete floor laid during its conversion to a substation in the mid-20th century. Allen Archaeology also conducted a watching brief for the National Trust during utilities works at the Turning Yard, identifying the foundations of a late 20th century building abutting the yard's perimeter wall and a stone curb probably associated with the road leading to Clumber House that is shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map.

Cottam Power Station

York Archaeology was commissioned by EDF Ltd to monitor digging of a new service trench immediately west of the Power Station. Five linear ditches interpreted as the vestiges of field boundaries were located, but none yielded associated dating evidence. Some of these features continued the alignments of medieval ditches recorded in the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, and hence might relate to medieval activity. In addition, one ditch could be shown to correlate with a boundary depicted on 19th and 20th century historic maps.

Dorket Head Quarry

York Archaeology conducted archaeological monitoring at Dorket Head Quarry near Arnold for Istock PLC. A possible rectilinear ditched enclosure and six pits, all severely truncated and dated by associated finds to the Romano-British period, were recorded. Occupation on this small rural site was shown to focus upon the third to fourth centuries AD, with some evidence for activity in the preceding century. Discoveries of quern fragments indicated small-scale crop processing, while charred plant remains included wheat (probably spelt), hulled barley and oats.

Harworth: Mulberry Logistics Park

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified undated ditches which may represent a continuation of Iron Age and Roman field systems recorded in an earlier evaluation immediately to the south. Several undated ditches, possibly dating from the later medieval or early

post-medieval period, were replaced by boundaries on a different alignment and yielding post-medieval and modern finds.

Kelham, near Newark

Geoarchaeological investigations were conducted by York Archaeology during archaeological evaluations by Archaeology Wales preceding development of a solar farm. These demonstrated the survival of organic deposits in association with a lidar-mapped palaeochannel and later prehistoric burnt mound. Samples were recovered from the mound material and underlying channel sands and gravels, and it is hoped that these will elucidate the chronology and landscape setting of this monument.

Langford Quarry

A geoarchaeological borehole survey was undertaken on land to the south of Langford Quarry in advance of a planning application by Tarmac for future sand and gravel extraction. A total of 16 window-sample boreholes were sunk across the site to supplement Ground Investigation boreholes drilled by Tarmac in 2012 and 2022. These shed valuable light upon the complex sequence of fluvial floodplain deposits and identified a number of palaeochannel sequences along the terrace edge and within the wider floodplain adjacent to the Slough Dyke drain. Recommendations have been made for radiocarbon dating and additional palaeoenvironment assessment of preserved fluvial sequences to determine the significance of these deposits for advancing our understanding of the Trent Valley landscape.

Newark-on-Trent: Middlebeck

Archaeological and geoarchaeological investigations in advance of housing development were continued by Oxford Archaeology, working with RPS Consulting on behalf of Urban and Civic Plc. Particular attention was focused in the southern part of the development area upon an area close to Farndon Fields, where earlier investigations had revealed *in situ* Late Upper Palaeolithic remains. No additional *in situ* remains of this period were revealed, but instead discoveries in this area of Neolithic pits, Grooved Ware pottery and lithic artefacts provide valuable evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. Northwards of this area, investigations focused upon a complex sequence of structural remains spanning the period from the later Bronze Age to late Roman period. Later prehistoric structural remains included several pit alignments, thought possibly to signify division of the landscape in the later Bronze and Iron Ages, a burnt mound and a complex sequence of Iron Age ditched fields and enclosures, the latter preserving the remains of pits, probable roundhouses and other structural remains associated with pottery, querns and other domestic material. The area was transformed in the Roman period by the development of a more regularly defined enclosure system, probably originating in the 2nd century AD. This included in one area the remarkable total of 73 Romano-British pottery kilns with associated features, but away from this industrial zone emphasis appears to have been more upon agricultural production, with evidence for both crop and animal husbandry.

Evidence for later activity includes several Early Medieval sunken-featured buildings, two antler combs dated to the 5th to 9th century AD and a small collection of other finds dating from this period. A curious alignment of three parallel lines of postholes, extending over 30m and ending at one of the Early Medieval buildings, may also date from this period, but its purpose remains unclear. Moving into the post-medieval era, the remains of a small ditched enclosure of Civil War origin and the poorly preserved structural remains of Hawton Hall, believed to date from at least the Civil War period, were also investigated.

Radcliffe-on-Trent: Nottingham Road

Evaluation trenching by Allen Archaeology on behalf of Avant Homes Midlands revealed two foci of medieval activity. A series of intercutting pits and ditches, yielding 5th to 13th century pottery and environmental samples suggesting final crop processing and storage, was recorded towards the north-west. This area appeared to be separated from ridge-and-furrow to the south by a boundary shown in historic mapping and may perhaps correlate with the settlement of Lamcote, mentioned in the Domesday Book. A second focus of activity was recorded to the north-east. This was represented by pits and ditches yielding small amounts of later medieval pottery and tile and by two stone walls of uncertain date, with environmental samples providing evidence of a grassland habitat. Further mitigation comprising targeted excavation and monitoring during construction began in November 2023.

Retford: Little Morton,

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified two parallel undated ditches in land adjacent to Mansfield Road. The ditches do not align with field boundaries depicted on historic mapping and may represent the continuation of a Romano-British field system recorded previously immediately to the east of the site.

Ruddington: Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park,

York Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation and geoarchaeological assessment at Ruddington on behalf of Fair Oaks Renewable Energy Park Limited. The evaluation revealed only limited archaeological data, including a single flint core of possible Neolithic date, field boundaries and brick drains. The geoarchaeological survey, however, showed the site to lie on the edge of former lacustrine deposits, while an auger survey across part of the site identified deeper, possibly waterlogged deposits that may yield organic materials with potential for elucidating Holocene landscape change in the area.

Skegby: Tuxford Road

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology to the north and south of Tuxford Road confirmed the results of a previous geophysical survey and identified two areas of Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity. Iron Age features included ditches and pits, with associated pottery yielding evidence for activity during the Middle and Late Iron Age periods. Occupation in the Romano-British period centred on a small farmstead of relatively low status, yielding evidence for crop processing, metalworking and spatially distinct areas of butchery waste. Associated pottery suggests that this site was occupied from the 1st to 4th centuries AD. Activity within a similar date range was identified to the north-west of the settlement and included an inhumation burial, probably of Romano-British date, within the terminus of a boundary ditch.

South Wheatley: Wood Lane,

An evaluation was undertaken by Allen Archaeology on land adjacent to Wood Lane, in advance of the proposed development of a solar farm. 248 trenches were excavated, targeting the results of a geophysical survey by Magnitude Surveys. Five trenches at the northern edge of the site revealed a sequence of intercutting Romano-British ditches. Large quantities of pottery, tile and other artefacts, including a copper alloy brooch, brooch pins and a bone hair pin, suggested nearby structures that may have been narrowly missed by the evaluation.

David Knight, Archaeology Rapporteur

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CITY (2023) REPORT

It has been a very busy year for archaeology in Nottingham, though the level of fieldwork remains lower than prior to the pandemic and reflects the reduction in the number of major developments in the city. Nonetheless, discussions with developers and consultation regarding future major projects, and the City Council's caves policy implemented in 2019, have created large workloads. This is especially the case for sites where caves are known, or there is the potential for unknown caves to survive. Only highlights of archaeological fieldwork, and other development control matters, are included here. Archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken by Allen Archaeology, Groundworks Archaeology, PCAS Archaeology, Salford Archaeology and York Archaeology

Broad Marsh

The site of the former Broadmarsh Shopping Centre has been generating a lot of work. During the creation of a new 'Green Heart', Allen Archaeology have been monitoring groundworks due to the known presence of human burials of medieval date, and other remains associated with the Greyfriars Friary which stood on the site from the early 14th century.

Proposals for the future of the Broadmarsh shopping centre site, as well as the wider Broad Marsh area (including the Peoples' College) are continuing, and a Master Plan is being drawn up. Discussions between the Master Planner and I have been taking place to help ensure that caves and other archaeology are fully considered and protected. Many caves exist in addition to those forming the City of Caves attraction, and other archaeology (including three burial grounds) are present. The caves forming the City of Caves attraction are a Scheduled Monument, which means they are nationally significant and protected by law. Other caves at both the former shopping centre and college sites are subject to the council's caves policy (policy HE2 of the City Council's Local Plan Part 2). Burial grounds are also protected by law. Other archaeological remains are the subject of policy HE1 of the City Council's Local Plan Part 2. With reference to policy, I have been working on the heritage policy sections of the Greater Nottingham Strategy, ensuring that archaeological remains receive the appropriate consideration in major developments, including Broad Marsh.

Since demolition works began at the shopping centre, there has been a significant amount of water ingress into the caves, leading to significant damage to archaeological features (specifically tanning vats believed to be of late medieval date). I have been calling for measures to be implemented to prevent water ingress and working with colleagues in the City Council, and Historic England, measures have been introduced but the condition of these caves, and the remains within them, must be the key consideration in all future planning at this site. A long-term management strategy is required to preserve and enhance the caves, and to inform this strategy I have been working closely with the British Geological Survey to install monitoring equipment. The equipment captures data relating to water levels, the sources of the water, the moisture content within the rock, and the levels of vibration in the sandstone.

Huntingdon Street Pottery Kiln

The highlight of the year for archaeology in Nottingham has been the discovery of a well-preserved pottery kiln at 248-262 Huntingdon Street. The fieldwork, undertaken by Groundworks Archaeology, followed lengthy negotiations between the developer's consultants and I regarding the need and scale of archaeological work. The discovery of a kiln during the construction of an air raid shelter to the north of the site, and substantial amounts of pottery waste within metres of the site, raised the likelihood of the survival of a kiln. The fieldwork initially involved evaluation but quickly proceeded to full excavation upon the kiln's discovery. A summary of the excavation will feature in the *Transactions*, with a more detailed report expected to be published in a journal. This is a first for Nottingham, being the first pottery kiln to have been professionally excavated, analysed, written up and published. Radiocarbon dating provides a

chronology for the kiln's use and sherds of pottery waste from the kiln indicate the types of pottery it produced. As such it makes a significant contribution to the understanding of pottery production in medieval Nottingham.

The Former Loggerheads

A small evaluation excavation was undertaken on land adjacent to the former Loggerheads public house on Cliff Road in advance of an extension to that building. The evaluation was undertaken by Allen Archaeology, with further excavation undertaken by York Archaeology. At the time of writing, this work has only recently been completed and detailed information is not available. Archaeological deposits and features of post-medieval date were found, in addition to residual pottery of medieval date.

King Edward's Court

Redevelopment at the site of the former Central Market, on land between King Edward Street and Glasshouse Street, necessitated archaeological works. This had been the site of St John's Hospital (founded by 1208), a poor house (by 1601) and later the House of Corrections and Nottingham Prison. During the construction of the Central Market in 1928, a very substantial cave system was found. Records of the cave were produced at the time, including a detailed description and survey. Evaluation of the site by York Archaeology revealed a brick-built shaft shown on the 1928 survey. The shaft had been filled with a cementitious material and was known to extend to a significant depth. Due to the depth of the cave, which was beneath more than 7m of made ground, the cave could not be accessed or surveyed. At my request, probing took place to establish the accuracy of the 1928 survey and this was used to inform a foundation design which would pile around the cave and bridge over the chambers, ensuring preservation. The archaeological evaluation also revealed walls and yard surfaces from the 19th century prison.

The Former Fruitmarket site

During work at the former Fruitmarket site in Sneinton, a large void was identified. Subsequent investigation by the developer revealed this to be a cave with rock-cut thralls. My research demonstrated that a beerhouse named the Flying Horse had stood on this site and that the beerhouse had a cave. The earliest reference found so far for the beerhouse dates to 1837, but historic mapping suggests it was probably built between 1825 and 1831. This means the cave was a beer cellar and was likely hewn between 1825 and 1831. A shaft found by Nottingham City Council's Highways team in 2011 is now interpreted as a barrel drop for the cave. The cave was surveyed by York Archaeology who have produced a record. Unfortunately, due to major collapse which had taken place in recent times, poor structural integrity of the roof, and the cave's position under a new road, the cave was filled with concrete following recording.

15-17 Stoney Street

Works at this site have exposed a large cave system. Archaeological fieldwork and research continue at the time of writing, and so interpretations are very preliminary. Documentary evidence suggests part of the cave system was used as a beer cellar for the Black Horse Inn which stood on the site until the 20th century. It is possible a small part of one chamber dates to the medieval period or, more probably the 17th century. The cave was then enlarged, perhaps during the 18th and 19th centuries, with multiple chambers hewn. Discussions between myself and the developer are continuing to ensure the preservation of this important cave system.

18 Forest Road

Groundworks Archaeology carried out a programme of building recording and archaeological monitoring on the site of 18 Forest Road, where a curving wall on the boundary of the property was interpreted as representing a retaining wall for a mill mound, upon which one of the windmills of the Forest was positioned.

Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist (Scott.lomax@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST REPORT

This year the trustees of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust (the Trust) have continued to hold the quarterly Council of Management meetings mainly on zoom but with one being held in person, in Southwell. The aim of the Trust is to encourage sympathetic treatment of historic buildings of local significance in Nottinghamshire. The Trust seeks to do this by commenting on applications for Listed Building Consent for alterations or repair; by monitoring lack of maintenance of prominent buildings and advising on improvement; by advising members or those who consult the Trust on suitable treatment of buildings and fixtures; and by undertaking projects to save the vernacular buildings of the county.

The Trust awards the bi-annual Harry Johnson Award, which is jointly sponsored by the NBPT and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). This was awarded in 2022, and so competition will be opened early in 2024 for the award to be made at the end of the year.

The several buildings in Tuxford that were a focus last year have continued to be so this year, with Alan Wahlers overseeing all developments here. The Walks of Life Museum has received a grant from Bassetlaw District Council for work on the sheep barn; work has also commenced on the house with the help of volunteers. The Museum of the Horse has also secured a grant from Bassetlaw DC to reinstate the ballroom in the building. The Old Grammar School, which is an Asset of Community Value (ACV) has been sold, its future not known.

Other projects for the trust this year have included Warsop Old Hall where a Heritage Lottery Grant has been awarded and Historic England are considering putting it on the Building at Risk Register. At Ollerton Hall work has been temporarily paused but will continue when discussions over the type of plaster have been resolved. Regarding the Alexandra Lodges at Bestwood Park, the trust has sent a preliminary report to Nottinghamshire County Council, since management has reverted to them. At Welbeck Park work has taken place to convert existing buildings to holiday lets and to improve the main venue. A potential project is the Old Manor House at Bingham where the trust is supporting the proposal for a residential scheme with 4/5 units. Good progress has been made on repairs to the north range at The Saracens Head, Southwell, with funding from Greene King. There has been considerable concern and representation against plans for the Willoughby Almshouses in Cossall but after re-submission, and now conforming to the rules for submission, the developers' plans have been accepted, to the disappointment of those (including Thoroton, the NBPT, Historic England and the SPAB) who have objected.

For the future, the trust will be involved in the University of Nottingham's Sustainability Challenge in 2024, taking part in a six week project which will involve students choosing to work with an organisation as part of their course. The buildings which are entered for the Harry Johnson Award are likely to be a focal point in this area of work. There is now an equivalent organisation to the NBPT in Nottingham, the City of Nottingham Historic Buildings Trust, which was set up in 2020, with which the trust will expect to work closely. It has been a busy and productive year for the trust. New trustees would be very welcome to enable the trust to continue its work and spread the load a little wider. Alan Wahlers continues as Secretary and carries the burden of much of the work, and David Atkins as Chair.

Rosemary Muge ,Thoroton Representative on NBPT

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

During 2023, Nottinghamshire Local History Association (NLHA) held two History Forums. Both were very well attended with audiences of over 50 people at each meeting. In March the speakers were Richard Gaunt, Rowena Edlin-White, Denis Hill and Adrian Gray, and there were eight bookstalls or displays of research. The speakers for the October Forum were Rebecca Gergory, William Ruff, Mo Cooper and Richard Parker. Bookstalls at this event included Bookshelf (Lowdham) and there was an exhibition of work on the Sherwood Estate.

The Thoroton Society book stall was at both events. The 2024 History Forums are scheduled for April 13th and October 26th.

A number of applications for publication grants were received and £200 was paid to one organisation. NLHA grants are intended to support the dissemination of research on subjects pertinent to the county. Normally they help with the cost of publication but can also be used to help with the cost of permanent displays or even attendance at a relevant conference or other event. Continuing discussions have taken place on ways we can support the county's local history societies, including on their work with schools.

Judith Mills and David Barton.

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

Members of the Civic Society were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Elaine Harwood, a renowned architectural historian, champion of twentieth-century architecture and proud of her Nottingham (Beeston) roots. She was a most engaging speaker who brought enthusiasm to the most erudite of subject matter. She did not shy away from trying to help us appreciate, if not love, Brutalist architecture (quite a big ask for many people!). She was a great friend of the Civic Society and will be sadly missed. We are intending to commemorate Elaine by naming one of our regular lectures in her honour. The Civic Society made a contribution towards an urgent repair at St Mary's Church in the Lace Market as it was found that there was a 'wobble' in the gable parapet of the South Transept when the bells were rung. The repair work, which stabilised the loose masonry and replaced eroded stonework, was successfully carried out so that the bells could be rung for the Coronation. In January we were congratulating ourselves for the Civic Society's part in getting the former Police and Fire Stations listed as buildings of special architectural interest, which safeguarded them from imminent demolition as part of the Vita student housing scheme. However, the City Council's Property department, together with the student developer, challenged the listing decision in an appeal to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. To our great relief the appeal was finally rejected in August. Consequently, the buildings remain listed and in urgent need of conversion to another use which would respect the extraordinary Art Deco staircases and landings. As the Guildhall Hotel scheme is not proceeding now either, the future of that listed building is also uncertain.

Nottingham Civic Society has continued to follow closely proposed changes which affect Nottingham's historic environment. More than 250 planning applications have been commented upon during 2023 including many schemes that would have affected the character of listed buildings. Some notable conversion schemes of former banking halls, where our views may have helped conserve interesting details include 6 Victoria Street (formerly the FCUK shop) which has now opened as Rudy's Pizza Neapolitana and 3 Thurland Street, (the Watson Fothergill-designed former NatWest Bank) which has become the Box Bar. In both cases something of the grandeur of the former banking halls with decorated ceilings and statuesque columns remain. At the former TSB Bank 11-13 Low Pavement, part of the ground floor is to be retained as a retail unit whilst the rest of the building is converted into student flats. At our suggestion, the internal layout was modified to keep intact the panelled boardroom created in the 1920s refurbishment of the Victorian building.

Proposals for tall buildings, in sensitive locations, continue to challenge some of our cherished views and to crowd out familiar landmarks. Looking south from the Castle Terrace, the expansive view over the Trent Valley is gradually disappearing. Despite the best efforts of the Civic Society, amongst others, tall buildings are beginning to jostle for attention on the skyline, reducing the sense of the Castle's historic command over its immediate landscape. We are hoping that the latest

iteration of the Wilford Street / Traffic Street tower (at 17 storeys) is not approved as it would interrupt the view of Sharp Hill from the Castle Terrace.

The Corporation Oaks and Elm Avenue Conservation Area reaches up to the Bellevue Reservoir from which there are safeguarded views from the public open space on the hilltop down towards the city centre a mile away. This open space is part of the formally laid out land for public recreation of the Inclosure Award of 1845. Consequently, the Civic Society was one of the objectors to a proposed housing development, on the former Elms Primary School site, located at the top of the sloping site, as the new buildings would have blocked the safeguarded view. It is hoped that revised plans will be forthcoming which protect the lands to be retained as public open space and amend the housing layout so that views of the city centre skyline are still possible over the new housing further down the sloping site. The tree-lined Victoria Embankment is another landscape designed for public recreation.

A developer, as part of a public consultation, published plans of a proposed development on the site of the demolished Toll Bridge Inn (within the Meadows Conservation Area). The Civic Society observed that the proposals were for a scheme that seemed very dense and would have a negative impact upon the distinctive character of the Embankment. In the consultation response we suggested ways to change the layout to present a softer, more landscaped frontage to Victoria Embankment. The recently listed buildings of the former Inland Revenue campus at Castle Meadow have been acquired by Nottingham University. This has been welcomed by the Civic Society as a much better use for them than a residential conversion which would have put at risk many of the innovative sustainable features of Hopkins Architects' original design.

Looking forward to 2024 the Civic Society has a new Chair following the AGM in December. Graham Woodward has taken over from Joint Chairs Hilary Silvester and Kurt Hatton, both of whom are staying on the Board of Trustees. Graham is well-known in the Society as a local historian, renowned for his publications, his talks, as a supplier of lock-down historical entertainment and as a Walks leader of distinction.

Finally, the Civic Society has been invited to become an active partner in the relaunched City of Nottingham Historic Buildings Trust.

Hilary Brindley

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

For reasons beyond the control of either myself or Sheila Leeds, it has proved impossible to make any progress during the last twelve months towards the publication of Volume 111 for Nottinghamshire, the text of which was completed about ten years ago. Renewed efforts are being made to secure publication in 2024.

In the meantime work is continuing on parishes in the northern half of Rushcliffe hundred for a proposed Volume IV.

Philip Riden

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership for 2023 is lower than the previous year as several members decided not to renew their membership, reflecting trends seen in other local history societies from across the country. We did however welcome a number of new members over the course of the year, and with a new membership leaflet due to be printed early in 2024, we hope to welcome more members in 2024.

The total membership figures are as follows:

	2023	2022
Individual members	150	165
Individual members with Record Series	81	84
Associate members	47	51
Life members	4	5
Life members + Record Series	4	4
Student members	9	8
Student members + Record Series	1	1
Honorary members	2	2
Record Series only	2	2
Total individual members	300	322
Institutional members	11	14
Institutional members with Record Series	46	50
Institutional members - Record Series only	2	2
Total institutional members	59	66
Fine total	359	388

Hannah Nicholson, Membership Secretary

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTS.

(Draft not yet Audited)

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire Charity Number 237755

Receipts and Payments Account for the period from 1st January 2023

\Receipts	General Fund	Records Section	Total	2022	Payments	General Fund	Total	2022
Subscriptions 2023	7689.00	1095.00	8784.00	10,064.00	Printing - Transactions	6329.65		4,775.00
Next Years Subs in Advance	1521.00	55.00	1576.00	697.00	Printing - Newsletter	2140.44		1531.80
Sales Record Series				234.00	Printing – other and stationery			17.45
Sales Bookstall	51.00		51.00	17.00	Printing – Annual report and AGM	658.00		
Sales - Transactions	37.00		37.00	621.50	Cost of Lectures	845.17		380.00
Sales - Other	417.38		417.38	25.00	Cost of Thoroton Excursions	1375.90 Net		
Excursions				-	Cost of Spring and AGM	---		390.00
Geoffrey Bond Research Award	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	Summer Event			
Spring Meeting and AGM	460.00		460.00	430.00	Cost of Annual Luncheon	76.00Net		1,138.95
Summer Event				630.00	Geoffrey Bond Research Award	2,000.00		1371.00
Annual Luncheon				1,025.00	Postage	2101.20		3,596.30
PLS Fees				119.46	Website, NHG, Online Bibliography	963.90		345.46
Miscellaneous incl Donations	1240.00	All relating to John Wilson	1240.00	65.10	Accountant 2022 Accounts	390.00		372.00
Sundry Receipt	100.00		100.00		BALH Including Insurance			75.00
Oxford Archaeology	735.00		735.00					
TOTALS	13250.38	1150.00	14,400.38	16,605.59	Membership Fees other bodies			25.00
					Equipment Hire			276.74
					Bank Charges	125.60		130.40
					MISC – Inspire University of York	2625.00 3662.40		146.12
					TOTALS	23293.26		16,088.00

Alan Marshall , Treasurer

NOTES TO THE DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The draft 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 open (September 2100) 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 the specific fund. 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.

Income 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.

Trustee remuneration Four trustees were reimbursed an amount of £ 188.71 (2022 dash £ 938) in respect of expenses that they had paid out on behalf of the society. These expenses consisted of postage, stationery, meetings and miscellaneous expenses.

Record section

Balance on 1 st January 2023	£ 39,915
Incoming Resources	£ 1,150
Outgoing Resources	-----
Balance on 31 December 2023	£41,065

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

Alan Marshall, Treasurer

SPRING MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The Spring Meeting and AGM 2023 was held at Flintham Hall. The 2023 Summer Newsletter contained an account of the day, a brief history of Flintham Hall and the connections of the Flintham family with the Society, and also published the speech made by the President, Adrian Henstock as part of the proceedings. So these matters are not reported again here. The minutes of the 2023 AGM follow.

Minutes of the 126th Annual General Meeting of the Society Sat 29th April 2023, 2pm, St Augustine's Church, Flintham Hall

1. The Chair of Council, Richard Gaunt, opened the proceedings, noting that our previous visits to Flintham had been in 1997 and 2011, so we were returning in cycle! It was thus especially appropriate to be at Flintham not only because of Flintham's historical and family links with Dr Robert Thoroton, who was born 400 years ago this year, but because of national events. Dr Thoroton was born at the transitional point between two reigns – the reign of James I ended in 1625 and that of Charles I began thereafter. Dr Thoroton lived during the age of the civil wars, the Commonwealth and the Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II in 1660. Today, we are living in the reign of Charles III, and on the eve of his coronation.

2. President, Adrian Henstock, as President of the Society, welcomed everyone. (Speech as reported in the Summer 2023 newsletter).

3. Apologies for absence were received from Judith Mills, Ruth Imeson, Sue Groves, Keith Goodman, Valerie Henstock, Ted and Gillian White, Steph Mastoris. The meeting was attended by 44 members of the Society.

4. The minutes of the 125th AGM, held on 30th April 2022 were accepted as a true record, Proposed Ruth Strong, Seconded Penny Messenger, passed unanimously.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

5. To Receive the Annual Report including the Accounts and to appoint an Independent Examiner of the Accounts

The Chair presented the Annual Report to the meeting, as recording the activities and undertakings of the Society for the past year, and put the proposal to accept the annual report, the accounts and the appointment of the independent examiner (Andy Hodges) to the meeting. Proposed Adrian Henstock, Seconded Paul Baker, passed unanimously.

6. To set subscription rates for the next year, 2024

David Hoskins, who had been overseeing the accounts from September 2023 to the present, proposed that the subscriptions should be kept as they are for the moment. But he noted that funds are running down a bit and it might be necessary for them to be raised a little for 2025. This would be up to the new treasurer, Alan Marshall, who takes over from this AGM, to ascertain and recommend. The proposal to keep the rates as they are for 2024 was Proposed by David Hoskins, Seconded by Alan Marshall and passed unanimously. Alan Marshall then thanked David for all his help and co-operation during the transition period.

7. Chair's Remarks

Richard began by remarking that a lot can happen in a year. This time last year, not only were we still classed as Elizabethans, living in the age of Queen Elizabeth II, but we had the immense good fortune of having the company and wise counsel of our late Treasurer, John Wilson. It was naturally sad to reflect upon those steadfast members, like John, whom we have lost since we met at Epperstone, but we will always remember them and be grateful for their contribution to the Society.

Richard gave his usual but heartfelt thanks to all those who have served on Council this year, especially those in officer positions, who meet in standing committee, for the contribution they make and the talents which they put at the service of the Society. Time is the most valuable commodity that each of us has to give – and one which we cannot spend twice. Richard acknowledged the latest volume of *Transactions*, maintaining its usual high standards. Thanks to the editors, Richard Jones and Chris King, for continuing to attract such high-calibre work and for seeing the volume through all its many stages to publication.

Richard announced that the programme of digitising the past 125 years' worth of *Transactions* is now complete. The process of clearing copyright for images originally published in print is underway, and it is hoped to have a formal launch event later this year, at which to celebrate this major achievement. This digitisation was something which Richard was keen to pursue to completion when he succeeded John Beckett as Chair of Council in 2020. It could not possibly have been completed in the time that it has been without the single-minded dedication and commitment of our talented webmaster, Andy Nicholson. To give some sense of what he has done, Richard asked the meeting to consider the following:

Andy had some 109 volumes of *Transactions* to digitise. Thanks to the generosity of a Thoroton member, John Severn, 15 of these volumes were loaned, to provide a complete run of back-issues. Andy spent some 14 months scanning and cleaning up about 18,000 individual pages of text. He then imported this material into Optical Character Recognition software, in order to create searchable and editable digital image files. These were then organised as pages into some 1300 articles, before being exported as searchable PDF documents. These have now been deposited, along with a considerable amount of supporting documentation, with the Archaeology Data Service at York, who will be hosting this material and making it freely available to the world, through its website.

Equally significant has been the work on the archival and administrative records which the Society has accrued since its formation in 1897. The Society commissioned Inspire, which runs Nottinghamshire Archives, to sort through our various deposits of material, to create a new, fit-for-purpose catalogue and hierarchy. In addition, we brought the material up to date, depositing records which have filled important gaps in the series of papers relating to the Society's own history. For example, we now have a complete run of Hon. Sec. papers from the foundation of the society to 2020. The new catalogue structure should be complete by the early summer and will be publicised through a variety of catalogues. The project has revealed the depth and richness of the archival holdings which came to the Society before Nottinghamshire's County Record Office was established after the Second World War.

Between these two projects, the archival and the printed, the Society has a rich legacy of resources, which are now increasingly available. This offers us great possibilities for research and for attracting new members – the lifeblood of any Society – in the future.

For example, the Research group, which John Wilson led so ably for many years, could be oriented towards researching and publishing material from our own collections, or work on enriching the amount of information about individual items, especially photographs and slides of Society events, drawing upon the first-hand knowledge and memories of members. We could also utilise the wide variety of different types of publication – from the newsletter and e-bulletin to *Transactions*, the Record Series, and the online Heritage Gateway – to publicise our holdings, and research into them, much more fully.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our member, Geoffrey Bond, and the match funding provided by the Society, we will be continuing the Society's Research Award for another year. Members could consider applying for funds to work on some of the precious archives which the Society collected in its earliest days and bringing their contents to public notice.

Richard expressed his hope that members would actively consider ways in which they might benefit from the different activities we pursue, and the different opportunities we offer, for researching and publicising the history, archaeology and antiquities of Nottinghamshire. There are now opportunities for bringing together different elements of our activities in ways which Dr Thoroton could only have dreamed of, 400 years ago.

He then made two further appeals. Firstly, to remember that our online Heritage Gateway co-ordinator, Dr Denise Amos, is always willing to discuss ideas for new articles for the website. This could be timed to commemorate an anniversary or major event, or to commemorate a local place of individual. Anyone should let Denise know if they have any ideas, however lightly formed. She will be very happy to work with you and guide you through the process of writing an entry for the website. Examples might include: Byron; Mining; Stapleford; Arnold; Lucy Hutchinson; Anne Enfield; Nottingham Castle.

On a different front, Richard reminded all present to please draw any matters of concern, relating to local heritage or planning in their area, to the attention of our Response Group, which Barbara Cast continues to lead on our behalf. It would be helpful if members could not only highlight matters of interest or concern, but also provide any relevant background information or context, which would help Barbara and the group when composing their letters of response. Though we cannot guarantee success in our efforts, we have had some success in drawing matters to the attention of sometimes influential opinion-formers, and in amplifying and drawing attention to matters which might otherwise slip under the net unnoticed. Do contact Barbara if you feel there is an issue of concern, or if you are willing and able to help with some of the background research upon which the Response Group relies for its effectiveness.

Richard then concluded by offering particular thanks to his Vice-chair, David Hoskins, who in addition to the many things which he continues to do on behalf of the Society, in organising lectures and events such as this one today, had taken upon himself the additional responsibility for minding our finances, in the period between John Wilson's death and the succession of our new Treasurer, Alan Marshall. Thanks to David, the Society has met all its obligations, and we look forward to working with Alan in ensuring that we continue to do so. Richard then made a small presentation to David in recognition of all his work.

8. Vice-chair's Remarks

David Hoskins, the Vice-chair, began by saying that he was looking forward to giving the accounts over entirely to Alan from today onwards. David then thanked all for attending today, and the Chair and Officers for their work over the past year.

9. To Elect the Officers of the Society and the Members of Council

The Chair asked permission of the meeting for this election to be conducted with those proposed to be voted for *en-bloc*, rather than having to attend to each name and post separately. All present had received the list of those proposed in the Annual Report previously and the meeting was

happy for this procedure to be adopted. The following were proposed by Cherry Knight, Seconded by Kevin Powell, and voted for unanimously.

The Officers were elected for the following year, and the members of Council for a term of three years:

President	Adrian Henstock
Vice-presidents	Professor Emeritus John Beckett Barbara Cast Sir Neil Cossons Keith Goodman Barbara Cast Alan Marshall
Honorary Secretary	
Honorary Treasurer	
Honorary <i>Transactions</i> editors:	
History and general editor	Richard Jones
Archaeology	Christopher King
Consultant Editor and Record Series Editor	Adrian Henstock
Honorary Newsletter Editor	Paul Baker
<i>Assistant Secretaries as below:</i>	
Honorary Administration Secretary	Rosemary Muge
Honorary Distribution and Sales Secretary	Robert James
Honorary Events Secretary	David Hoskins
Honorary Membership Secretary	Hannah Nicholson

Council Members for a term of three years commencing in April 2023:

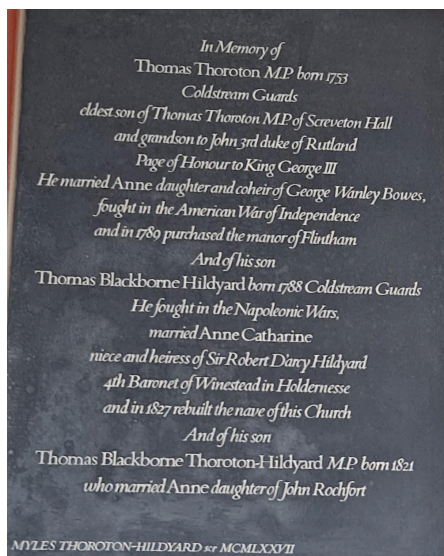
Richard Gaunt, Mark Dorrington, David Knight, Pete Smith, Hayley Cotterill.

10. Other business

There being no other business, the formal part of the meeting was declared closed.

Rosemary Muge.

The Thoroton family Memorial Board



Rob James with Transactions



(Photographs Paul Baker)