

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

(Year ending 31st December 2024)

AND THE SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



A recent reconstructed bridge in 2024.

Connecting Hardy's and Hanson's brewery buildings. A reminder of the history of the brewing industry in Kimberley.

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

OFFICERS OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

PRESIDENT

John Beckett BA PhD Hon DLitt FRHistS FSA

VICE-PRESIDENTS

**Barbara Cast BA, Sir Neil Cossons, OBE FSA FMA, Keith Goodman BA FCA,
Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS, Alan Langton BEM BA**

CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Richard A Gaunt BA MA PhD FRHistS FSA

COUNCIL

David Needham BSc MA MIFireE

**Mark Dorrington MA DAA
RMARA**

Trevor Foulds BA PhD FRHistS

Judith Mills BA MA PhD

David Knight BA DPhil FSA MCIfA

Pete Smith FSA

Penelope Messenger BSc Med

Ruth Strong

Hayley Cotterill BA MA

David Barton BSc (Econ) PGCE

**Andrea Moneta MArch PhD PGCAP
FHEA**

Margaret Trueman BSc

HONORARY SECRETARY

Barbara Cast BA *

HONORARY ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY

Rosemary Muge BA MA PhD *

HONORARY TREASURER

David Hoskins IEng MICE

HONORARY TRANSACTIONS EDITORS

***History and General Editor* – Richard Jones BA DPhil FSA ***

***Archaeology* – Christopher King BA MA PhD ***

HONORARY RECORD SERIES EDITOR

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS *

HONORARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Paul Baker BSc MA FRGS Chartered Geog

HONORARY DISTRIBUTION AND SALES SECRETARY

Robert James BA BPhil DipCG *

HONORARY EVENTS SECRETARY

David Hoskins IEng MICE *

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Hannah Nicholson BA MA PhD *

**Ex-officio members of Council*

TRUSTEES FOR THE CHARITY

Richard A Gaunt, Barbara Cast, David Hoskins

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Richard Jones BA DPhil FSA

Richard A Gaunt MA PhD FRHistS (Chair of Council of the Society) *

Barbara Cast BA Hons (Hon Secretary of the Society) *

Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS (Hon Editor Record Series)

Robert James BA BPhil DipCG (Hon Distribution and Sales Secretary)

Paul Baker BSc MA FRGS C Geographer (Hon Newsletter Editor)

David Crook OBE BA MA PhD FRHistS FSA

Mark Dorrington MA DAA RMARA

Lee Elliott BA PgDip (Archaeol Sci)

Trevor Foulds BA PhD FRHistS

Christopher King BA MA PhD

Hayley Cotterill BA MA

Gavin Kinsley BA

Hannah Nicholson BA MA PhD

** Ex-officio members of the committee*

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS FOR ENQUIRES

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

Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administrative Secretary, 37 Sidney Road, Beeston NG91AN, 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 are shown on pages 2-3.

MAIN ADVISORS

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

FUNDS

The General Fund is used 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 2024

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIR'S REPORT

After five years in the role of chair of Council, it is my pleasant duty to start with my customary thanks to Council for its support in the work of the Society during the year and to single out for praise the officers who comprise the Standing Committee. As a political historian, I always liken this committee to the cabinet, which deals with most of the executive business (and debates the controversial issues!) before taking items to Council (or Parliament) for approval. This year, I have the additional pleasant task of formally recording our gratitude to several long-standing officers, who have given more of their time, dedication, and expertise than one might have a right to expect. Barbara Cast has continued to be Honorary Secretary of the Society since she retired from some of her other duties in 2020 and is now retiring as 'Hon Sec' at the 2025 AGM. She has also steered the Society's Response Group since 2008 and has been single-handedly responsible for drawing up detailed, informed but sensitive responses to some of the more egregious planning proposals affecting sites of historical and archaeological significance in the county. Fortunately, Barbara has indicated a willingness to continue her work with the Response Group for the time being. The Society has already made a formal acknowledgement of its gratitude to Barbara, at the Annual Lunch at which John Beckett was also celebrated. Here, one can only echo and amplify the many positive sentiments which were expressed on that occasion. We hope that Barbara will not be a stranger to the Society, of which she is a Vice-President, as she retires from the frontline of overseeing the Society's affairs. Adrian Henstock has been involved with the Society, in more different roles, than almost anyone else in the Society in the recent past. Having already retired as President, last year, he now formally relinquishes office as General Editor of the Record Series at the AGM. We know that Adrian will continue to be an important source of advice and counsel for our incoming General Editor, Hayley Cotterill, but he can happily cast off the very many hours of close editorial work and attention to detail which he has applied to his role over several decades in post. Our thanks to Adrian, and to his wife Valerie, for the support and commitment they have dedicated to the work of the Society. Similar thanks are due to Chris King, our retiring Archaeology Editor, who has now finished a decade of service to *Transactions*. Thanks to Chris for all his editorial endeavours in sustaining the high quality of our archaeology submissions. Another long-serving member of Council, Penny Messenger, is

retiring at the 2025 AGM after 35 years' service. Penny will continue to help run the Thoroton bookstall at our Saturday lectures, but this is an appropriate moment to thank her for all she has given to the Society, not least in organising and leading some highly successful Thoroton Society excursions. Our thanks go to all these dedicated officers.

As we close of the first quarter-century of the 2000s, we can look back on a successful period of adjustment after the difficulties of COVID and perhaps reflect that this episode is already becoming part of history. Though the Society continues to seek ways of retaining and expanding its membership, we remain committed to ensuring that our loyal members continue to feel valued and that they will enjoy the same Thoroton fare which they have become used to receiving over many years. To maintain our usual services, we have had to increase subscriptions this year, but after delaying this as long as possible by relying on our general funds. We have also limited the subscription increase to the Record Series, in recognition of the delayed appearance of several volumes. We hope that this situation will rectify itself in the future, not least through embracing different models of publishing material. With my customary thanks and acknowledgements to all members of the Society, without whose support we would not exist, I hope that the year ahead will furnish us with more enjoyable memories and good companionship.

Richard Gaunt, Chair of Council

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL 2024

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 of three years; 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 2024 on 16th February, 10th May and 11th October, at the University of Nottingham. During 2024, Standing Committee held online meetings on 10th January, 20th March, 28th June, 2nd October and 27th November.

Rosemary Muge, Hon Administration Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership for 2024 is lower than 2023 partly because several members decided not to renew their membership. A few also changed their membership from Record Series to Individual. We welcomed a number of new members over the course of 2024, and with a new membership leaflet being placed in various locations including local libraries and museums we hope to raise greater awareness of the Society as well as welcoming more members in 2025.

The total membership figures are as follows:

	2024	2023
Individual members	111	150
Individual members with Record Series	57	81
Associate members	28	47
Life members	4	4
Life members with Record Series	4	4
Student members	9	9
Student members with Record Series	1	1
Honorary members	11	2
Record Series only	2	2
Total individual members	227	300
Institutional members	10	11
Institutional members with Record Series	42	46
Institutional members: Record Series only	2	2
Total institutional members	54	59
Final total	281	359

Hannah Nicholson
Hon Membership Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2024

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Charity number 237755									
Receipts and Payments Account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024									
General Fund					Draft - Not yet inspected				
Receipts	Fund	Records Section	Total	2023	Payments	General Fund	Records Section	Total	2023
Subscriptions 2024	6,363.00	1,053.00	7,416.00	8,996.00	Print & Post - Transactions	7,013.12	7,013.12	6,329.65	
Next year's subs in advance	1,010.00	342.00	1,352.00	1,727.00	Print & Post - M/letter (Inc Ann Rep)	3,519.82	3,519.82	3,152.44	
Sales - Record Series		96.00	96.00	0.00	Printing - other and stationery	105.00	105.00		
Sales - Bookstall	36.70		36.70	443.68	Printing - Record Series	-	303.00	303.00	0.00
Sales - Transactions	102.00		102.00	37.00	Record Series expenses		1,818.00	1,818.00	0.00
Sales - other	113.00		113.00	51.00	Cost of Lectures	1,406.14	1,406.14	1,000.17	
Excursions	4,324.00		4,324.00	1,859.00	Cost of Thoroton Excursions	4,137.15	4,137.15	3,731.00	
Geoffrey Bond Research Award	1,033.43		1,033.43	1,000.00	Bookings for next year	-	-	-	
Spring Meeting and AGM	525.00		525.00	489.20	Cost of Spring Meeting and AGM	372.72	372.72	0.00	
Annual Lunch	1,290.00		1,290.00	990.00	Special Event: Remembering Miners	930.99	930.99		
(Interest NS&I)				153.16	Cost of Annual Lunch	1,269.00	1,269.00	976.20	
Not allocated					Geoffrey Bond Research Award	1,600.00	1,600.00	2,000.00	
Maturity Refund United Trust	-	-	-		Postage &c	109.80	109.80	2,926.60	
Interest United Trust	-	-	-		(Inspire Cataloguing)			2,625.00	
Gift-Aid	-		-		Retirement Gifts	385.00	385.00	0.00	
PLS fees	90.52		90.52		(U of York Digitisation)	-	-	3,662.40	
Donations - Retirements	385.00		385.00		Website, NHG, Online Bibliography	207.44	207.44	473.54	
Publication grants	-		-	735.00	Authors' Book Royalties (bookstall)			-	
Miscellaneous incl. donations	637.00	-	637.00	1,240.00	(Equipment purchase)			450.36	
VCH Grant held on a/c	-		-		VCH Payments				
Totals	15,909.65	1,491.00	17,400.65	17,721.04	Inspection of 2023 accounts	600.00	600.00	390.00	
Chair of Council					BALH including Insurance	90.00	90.00	90.00	
Dated					Honoraria	250.00	250.00	100.00	
Treasurer					Membership fees other bodies	-	-	-	
Dated					Equipment hire	-	-	-	
Independent Examiner					Bank charges	124.80	124.80	125.60	
Dated					Miscellaneous	60.00	60.00	65.75	
					Refunds of subscriptions	-	-	6.00	
					Totals	22,180.98	2,121.00	24,301.98	28,104.71

Account Summary		Draft - Not yet inspected		
	General Fund	Records Section	Total	
At 1 January 2024				
HSBC current account	538.60	21,183.93	21,722.53	
United Trust Bank	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	
	538.60	41,183.93	41,722.53	
less uncleared 2023 cheques			-	
opening balance =			41,722.53	
Receipts into HSBC a/c	15,909.65	1,491.00	17,400.65	
United Trust Bank Interest	-	1,048.86	1,048.86	
UTB Maturity Withdrawal			-	
UTB Transfer Rec to Ord	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	
Payments ex HSBC a/c	22,180.98	2,121.00	24,301.98	
Surplus/deficit	- 6,271.33	418.86	- 5,852.47	
At 31 December 2024				
HSBC current account	- 5,732.73	20,553.93	14,821.20	
United Trust Bank	5,000.00	16,048.86	21,048.86	
less uncleared 2024 cheques				
Closing balance =	- 732.73	36,602.79	35,870.06	

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS 2024

LECTURES

2024 began with the *Maurice Barley Lecture*, delivered by Fiona Lewin of the National Trust. Fiona gave us an insight into the occupants of the Southwell Workhouse and Infirmary using contemporary records and images. In February, Fabrice Bensimon used the *Rosalys Coope Lecture* to tell us of the emigrants and immigrants between Britain, Belgium and Northern France as the lace industry evolved from hand-made to machine-made production. March then saw Prof Richard Dance finally give the *Norah Witham Lecture*, on Viking language influences, that he had had to abandon when the first lockdown hit us in 2020. An additional event was held in March to mark 40 years since the miners' strikes of 1984. An open forum was chaired by John Hess, with panellists from both sides of the community, concluding with a reading from contemporary poet, Sarah Wimbush. Our Spring Meeting & AGM was held at the end of April in the Village Hall at Colston Bassett. The usual formalities of the meeting were followed by afternoon tea and a presentation by member Denise Amos on the

theme of cheese. The day concluded with members of Colston Bassett History Group explain some of their displayed artefacts and documents and leading a visit to St John's church.

A full programme of visits took place in 2024 and are reported below by their organiser, Ruth Strong.

The new season started in October with the *Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture*, given by Denis Readhead, a RNLI Community Presenter, celebrating 200 years of bravery and rescue since the formation of the voluntary lifeboat service in 1824. In November we held our Annual Lunch in the Belgrave Rooms, Nottingham, enjoying good food and good company, with John Beckett's introduction and Geoffrey Bond's presentation both marking the bicentenary of the death of Lord Byron.

November also saw Frances Potts deliver the *Nottinghamshire History Lecture* on a theme of Nottingham Castle Museum and its place in the history of the British Empire. The 2024 season closed with the *Neville Hoskins Lecture* with Graham Woodward telling us about cinemas in Nottingham, with many pictures of long-gone sites that brought back a lot of memories.

David Hoskins
Vice-Chair & Hon Events Secretary

EXCURSIONS

The Excursion year of 2024 started with a visit to Laxton in May followed in June by tours of the 1620s House and Garden at Donnington Heath, and Beauvale Priory and the DH Lawrence Museum in July. Southwell Workhouse and Southwell Minster in August and finally, in association with FONA, the Museum of Timekeeping and Upton village in September. (It was sad to hear shortly after the Thoroton/FONA visit that the Museum of Timekeeping is looking for a new home due to the sale of Upton Hall.)

In addition, in September there was an experimental venture, an excursion weekend spent in Oxford. Descriptions of these excursions were in the appropriate 2024 Newsletters. Some of the places have been old favourites based on the 2022 survey. Some have been new ideas, such as the visit to Lowdham village and the signal box museum in 2023.

Excursion numbers have been smaller than in previous years before Covid. The cost of coach hire has risen steeply especially over the last two years. Nottingham

as a starting point is not appropriate for some members living across and beyond the county boundaries, so some members have opted to make their own travel arrangements.

The social element of the excursions has been preserved by arranging for lunch and group tours. So to echo Lord Reith: we endeavour to inform, educate and entertain.

There have been some unexpected moments such as mud and lasting rain which led the coach driver to voluntarily take the group on a coach tour of the accessible fields which, given the superior height of the coach allowed a better view.

Ruth Strong

PUBLICATIONS

TRANSACTIONS

Volume 128 of the Transactions is now at press. It contains nine articles treating subjects from the articles treating subjects from the medieval to the nineteenth century. Prehistorians and Romanists need not despair since they will find much of interest in the annual roundup of archaeology in the county, and reports of finds entered into the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

As always, anyone wishing to submit an article or shorter notice for inclusion in future volumes is encouraged to get in touch with me at the earliest opportunity. The submission deadline for volume 129 is the end of September; but early birds are particularly welcomed.

After many years as co-editor, overseeing archaeological submissions, Chris King has decided to hang up his red editorial pen. I should like to express my personal thanks to him for all his hard work. He was already at the helm when I came onboard and helped enormously in bringing me up to speed with various processes and timings. Few will know just much work goes into compiling the annual archaeological round up, a task that has fallen to Chris necessarily done at speed, hard up against a deadline to keep to our publishers' schedules. His successor has a hard act to follow. From me and all members of the Thoroton Society thank you for the years of hard work for so many years on providing members with the yearly volumes of Transactions.

Richard Jones
Hon 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 ranged from apprehending criminals to providing overnight accommodation for passing strangers such as vagrants, soldiers (often ‘maimed’) and victims of disasters and piracy. Unfortunately, publication has been delayed by issues with the original manuscript and the necessity to find a new printer, but it should appear during 2025.

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.

Please note that from April 2025 Adrian Henstock will be standing down as the General Editor and be replaced by Hayley Cotterill as General Editor of the Record Series.

Adrian Henstock
General Editor

NEWSLETTER

The past year has seen three copies of the individual Newsletter and one copy as part of the Annual Report published. As Editor, I would like to thank all the contributors for their support. We have produced copies that have included a variety of topics, but it would be good to have a few more archaeological articles in the future, to add to the many contributions made by Scott Lomax who over the years.

The Newsletter is of course a vital source of information, dates of events and reviews of events for members. As Editor I also welcome historical and archaeological contributions. A thank you to some authors who have sent me regular contributions throughout 2024. Once again, I do urge authors to let me

know if the article has appeared in other publications. I am keen to also to publish short articles by students on Historical and Archaeological topics. 2024 has been a good year for the Newsletter. Yet again, we have had extremely good service from Adlards helping us keeping postal expenses as low as possible. This year we have changed our publication team too with Cherry Knight becoming our sole Proofreader and Judith Mills doing the final print set up. The 2024 Winter Newsletter was especially an example of the success of the teamwork, and I would like to thank them for their time in supporting me as editor in providing you over 2024 with four Newsletters and the Annual Report.

Paul Baker
Hon Newsletter Editor

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE

Website statistics for the period January-December 2024 show that every month an average of 2813 unique visitors viewed 12,031 pages. The number of visitors is up considerably from last year but they are viewing fewer pages.

The most popular pages are Events, Publications, About Us and News but in February an article on the lost manor of Kirkby Hardwick was viewed a large number of times and, in August, an article by Terry Fry on the murders of a Wyvill School pupil and her parents was very popular.

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

Andy Nicholson
Thoroton Society Website Manager

THE THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP

For many years now the Society has undertaken to respond to planning applications which are considered to have damaging or detrimental outcomes for conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments etc. Recently I reviewed such representations over the years that this part of the Thoroton's activities has undertaken – the resultant report will be available on the Society's website sometime in the future. I have been pleased to lead the group on this

activity and have been well-supported by the team of three, especially by one of our archaeologist members.

In the years since we have been responding to concerning proposals, some brought to the Society's attention by members, there have been a great variety of cases.

The function undertaken does take a great deal of research but has been of use in a good number of cases – there have also been some real disappointments in outcomes for our special buildings and places.

The case of the Halloughton/Cotmoor Solar Panel application was an example of one which took a great deal of background work and the representation made by Thoroton was one of those which led to the project being turned down by Newark and Sherwood DC. However, the applicants appealed and after a well-attended public hearing with some very good cases against the project made, the Inspector decided in favour of the application despite their planning officers advising against it.

This is a reminder that if you are seriously concerned about a planning application, please let me know. We may not be able to follow all matters through, but serious consideration will be made as to whether the case is something on which we could make a representation.

A report on the cases on which the Response Group have been active has recently been compiled and can be viewed in due course.

Barbara Cast
Hon Secretary

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

2024 saw the inclusion of just two places on the website: Upton Hall and Radcliffe on Trent. It is always good when someone who has expert knowledge on a particular subject is prepared to write for the Gateway as happened for both these entries. I am always looking for new entries and people to write or assist me in compiling an entry, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch. As always Andy Nicholson makes a fine job of presenting the material and has an archive to fill in any gaps. He also monitors enquiries and updates the entries when material is found as in the case of the Black Community when I found a mural by the Nottingham Canal on Eric Irons, Nottingham's first black magistrate.

Denise Amos
Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway Project

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY 2024: Highlights

Brief details of the most significant archaeological investigations conducted in Nottinghamshire during 2024 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 128 of the Society's *Transactions*.

Bingham: St Mary and All Saints Church: Matt Hurford, Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and All Saints to carry out archaeological recording at this Grade I listed church. This followed the exposure of three brick burial vaults at the west end of the nave when timber platforms supporting the pews were removed. Excavation revealed a formation layer and brick courses relating to the current tile and stone flag floor, probably dating to a restoration in 1846, and beneath these at the east end three brick burial vaults dating to c.1750. A grave marker or incised ledger stone dating to 1727 and commemorating the deaths of Elizabeth and Ann Markham was also discovered, but it is unclear whether this is associated with burials within the vaults.

Clipstone: Mercian Archaeological Services CIC continued its annual training field school at King's Clipstone in July and August. Excavations focused on the site of one of the village plots shown on William Senior's map with the aims of locating the dwelling shown on the map, retrieving evidence for activities taking place within the plot and obtaining dating evidence. All the features recorded so far relate to relatively recent agricultural activity. An interesting collection of post-medieval artefacts was recovered from overlying deposits, including pottery, vessels and window glass, a Nuremberg jetton, a copper farthing of William and Mary and clay pipe fragments. Excavations will continue in 2025.

Clumber Park: Allen Archaeology was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake archaeological monitoring during the installation of charging stations at Clumber Park. This followed previous investigations that had identified nearby a stone sett yard surface, foundations of a late-20th century building, and stable floor surfaces dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, but no additional structural remains were recorded.

East Leake: 1a Station Road: An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in advance of a proposed

housing extension. A ditch containing two sherds of medieval pottery was uncovered, together with a thin layer containing post-medieval pottery.

Newark On Trent: Bowbridge Road: Archaeological evaluations by University of Leicester Archaeological Services revealed in several trenches a thin scatter of truncated archaeological features. These included two shallow ditches and a post hole in one trench, a shallow ditch terminal and intercutting small pit in another, and in one other trench two other features that may represent the remains of shallow ditches. None of the archaeological features produced any finds or dating evidence and the extent and character of the activity represented remains uncertain.

Normanton On Trent: Holly Crest, Brots Road: Allen Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a historic building survey prior to the demolition of farm buildings. The survey uncovered interesting evidence for the development of the farmhouse and outbuildings from the 17th to 20th centuries. -The original farmhouse and its roof structures were modified in the 18th century, with the walls rebuilt using brick-tax bricks. This period also saw the addition of a single-storey extension to the associated granary. A lofted cowhouse or stable and an open-fronted cattle shed were built in the late-18th to early 19th century, together with additional outbuildings (later demolished) in the 19th century. Major alterations were made in the 20th century, including a new lobby extension, partitions and blocked openings, while agricultural structures were modified for domestic use.

Southwell: 9 and 11 Church Street: Southwell Young Archaeologists' Club, led by members of Southwell Community Archaeology Group, undertook a Summer School excavation in the gardens of two houses in Church Street on the site of Norwell Overhall, one of the first medieval Prebendary buildings in the town. A trench in the front garden of 9 Church Street uncovered a layer of building rubble above a feature interpreted as a possible beam slot for a demolished building, was demarcated. Excavations of the front garden showed that it had been levelled with building rubble and subsequently topsoil. The rubble included post-medieval roof and floor tiles plus brick fragments, together with small pieces of medieval pottery and more abundant fragments of 17th to 18th century pottery. The building was reported to be in a ruinous state in 1690 and substantially rebuilt around 1784, and it is possible that the garden was landscaped during the rebuilding.

Southwell: The Vineries, Lower Kirklington Road: York Archaeology was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Cameron Homes to conduct an archaeological evaluation prior to housing development and landscaping to the rear of the Vineries. Eleven trial trenches were excavated across two fields, but no archaeological features or finds preceding the modern period were recorded.

Sturton Le Steeple: Station Road: Allen Archaeology was commissioned by Martin Sheldon on behalf of SNSD Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Station Road. Four evaluation trenches were excavated, revealing two ditches associated with later medieval finds.

Sutton Bonington: Baptist Church, 28 Main Street: A Level 2 historic building survey of the church was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services prior to partial demolition of the building and construction of a new annex and extension of the building to provide additional accommodation and facilities for the church community. The brick-built building was constructed in the late 18th century and had its roof raised and an internal balcony added in the 1820s. A large school room was added to the rear of the building in 1901, followed by large extensions to the side of the existing buildings in the 1970s.

Willoughby-On-The-Wolds: The Bungalow, Chapel Lane: An Archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services within the footprint of two single storey building plots. Excavations of the north-western plot revealed a post-medieval wall parallel to an existing street frontage brick wall with similar stone foundations. Modern phases included a quarry tile floor and an exterior brick yard surface. A single large post-hole of post-medieval date was found within the surrounding footings. The south-eastern plot included three phases of post-medieval ditch and a single post-medieval pit, associated with pottery and animal bone.

David Knight

CITY ARCHAEOLOGY 2024: Highlights

Archaeological fieldwork in the city has been relatively quiet this year. However, 2024 has been an exceptionally busy year for archaeology overall, driven by pre-application advice and ongoing discussions, particularly concerning high-profile projects such as the demolition and future redevelopment of the site of the former Broadmarsh Shopping Centre.

Maid Marian Way roundabout: In July 2024, works to remove the traffic island at the northern end of Maid Marian Way uncovered a brick-built basement, which revealed an entrance to a previously unknown cave. Due to the cave's depth (the entrance was approximately 5.5m below ground level) and ground stability concerns, the basement and cave could not be accessed. A 3D laser and a drone video survey, conducted by Vertex Access, were commissioned by Thomas Bow City Asphalt in liaison with myself, and I am currently preparing a full report.

The cave, approximately 17m long and 4m wide, consists of a single chamber with a blocked stairwell, likely leading to the basement. A later addition provides a vertical drop, with no signs of a ladder. A cylindrical shaft, likely used as a barrel drop, was present. The cave's location indicates it was once used for beer storage by the Bass, Ratcliffe, and Gretton brewery. A 1940's Air Raid Precautions (ARP) card and a Nottingham Evening Post article indicated that the basement was used as an air raid shelter during the Second World War and it seems likely the cave was also used as a shelter. Metal pins and lighting elements inside the cave are of a type seen in other caves used as air raid shelters.

8 Goose Gate: In June 2024, PCAS Archaeology Ltd. undertook an excavation at the rear of 8 Goose Gate. The work allowed for further excavation of a large medieval pit previously identified during an earlier evaluation, along with two postholes, likely contemporary with the pit. The pit contained seven sherds of pottery, including Nottingham Splashed Ware, Nottingham Coarse Sandy Ware, and Light-bodied and Reduced Green glazed wares, dated to the late 13th to 14th centuries. Environmental analysis of the fill of the pit and one of the postholes provided evidence of small-scale crop processing and/or food preparation and domestic waste (including old fodder/bedding and floor sweepings).

Colwick Hall: A field evaluation was undertaken by York Archaeology, working with Lanpro Services, in December 2024. The single trench revealed no archaeological features. Most deposits were of modern date but an earlier, undated, subsoil represented a historical garden soil. Further field evaluation is expected to take place in 2025.

79 Maid Marian Way: A field evaluation comprising four trial tranches was undertaken by York Archaeology between 5th and 9th February 2024. Brick outer walls and surfaces, significantly truncated by modern features, and demolition debris were found. These structural remains were found to correspond with

buildings shown on historic maps suggesting a late 19th century date. No earlier features were encountered on the site.

Wollaton Park: A training excavation was undertaken in partnership between York Archaeology, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham City Council.

Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 explored ditches identified in 2023, revealing medieval pottery and tiles that suggest the ditches probably predate the 17th century formal gardens. Above these ditches, landscaping layers and features, such as statue bases and stone paving, were uncovered, confirming elements of the designed landscape.

Trench 2 targeted structural remains of an orangery depicted in late 17th century paintings and indicated this was a 5m-wide structure. A stone lintel foundation matched a doorway shown in historic depictions, and a brick drain running along a terrace cut was further investigated. Repairs to the drain suggest it was functional during the orangery's use.

New Trent Bridge: Archaeological monitoring of ground investigations was undertaken by York Archaeology in advance of construction of a new footbridge crossing the River Trent. The work included recording five trial pits, six window sample boreholes, and ten cable percussion boreholes on both sides of the river. Made ground, contaminated with asbestos due to past industrial activity, was recorded to a depth of 3m on the north side, overlying oxidised alluvium and sand and gravels. No archaeological remains were identified. However, further monitoring will take place during groundworks for the construction of the bridge.

A52, Wollaton: Archaeological monitoring of ground investigations was carried out to inform proposals for the widening of the A52 and the creation of a new cycle path. The works aimed to establish the condition of the foundations of the Listed boundary wall of Wollaton Park. The monitored groundworks comprised three trial pits. Two of the three pits were fully excavated, with the third only partially excavated due to existing services running at the base of the wall. The pits did not exceed 1.00m in width or 1.30m in depth. The foundations were shown to be in a poor condition. No additional archaeological features or deposits were found during the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

The Green Heart, Broad Marsh: Allen Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks for the Green Heart project on the site of the former

shopping centre, specifically during deeper excavations for the creation of two ponds and a pit for the planting of a tree. Excavation for the ponds revealed rubble relating to demolition of buildings, including Collins Hospital, in advance of the construction of the shopping centre. The tree pit revealed a former boundary wall for Collins Hospital and parallel brick culvert.

Future demolition of the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre: By the time of the 2025 AGM it is expected that further demolition works at the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre will have commenced. I have been working closely with colleagues in the Council, as well as Homes England and a range of consultants to discuss what demolition is possible without causing harm to the legally protected caves. Before any demolition works commence, a demolition management plan, which ensures measures are implemented to prevent any damage to the caves, and implementation of a comprehensive scheme of monitoring (including monitoring equipment and visual inspections) will be required. Demolition works will not be carried out that involve removal of the ground slab or underground services. As such, there will be no impact on archaeological remains such as the two burial grounds which exist beneath the shopping centre, where human remains are known to still exist.

Future development of the site will need to take into consideration the extensive archaeological remains. Across the wider Broad Marsh site (which includes the college on Maid Marian Way) there are four burial grounds, a medieval friary, remains of medieval and post medieval industry such as tanning and a lead works, large numbers of caves and possibly remains of medieval and post-medieval housing. Paleoenvironmental remains of prehistoric date onwards are likely to also exist closer to the former course of the River Leen.

Scott C. Lomax
City Archaeologist, Nottingham City Council

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST REPORT FOR THE YEAR

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. To this end the Trust has continued to hold quarterly Council of Management and Project Management meetings overseeing projects, either online or in person, throughout the past year.

The Trust has continued its support and advice to the two projects ongoing in Tuxford: the Museum of the Horse and the Walks of Life Museum. The County Council is assisting with advice on the restoration of the timber framed cottage on the Walks of Life site. The Trust organises regular visits for members and this year a visit to the Clipstone Headstocks was well attended. Participants appreciated the work of the team there which have saved and is restoring one of the last remnants of the mining industry. The Trust has recently benefitted from a partnership with students at the University of Nottingham that produced a report looking at procedures and ideas to encourage applicants to the Harry Johnson Award which takes place every two years. This year was the year of the Award, and the Trust received a good number of applications. The judging took place over the summer, and the results and awards were given at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 24th October at Newark Library. The results were as follows:

Best New Build:	Middleton's Yard, Worksop
Best Restoration:	The Schoolroom, Wellow
Commendation:	King's Chapel, Newark
Commendation:	Moor Cottage, Bilsthorpe
Commendation:	Story's Yard, Kineton

The Trust continues to seek to enlarge its membership and to encourage volunteers to take part in projects. New trustees would also be welcome. Alan Wahlers continues as Secretary and David Atkins as Chair. Further details are available on the website www.nbpt.co.uk, where there are membership forms and where it is now possible to make donations to the Trust online.

Rosemary Muge
Thoroton Representative on NBPT

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

During the year the Nottingham Civic Society website was updated and is now more welcoming to new members. It now contains a wealth of historical resources from photographs to articles from past Newsletters and information about prominent local architects. The intention is to develop the website explaining the Civic Society's objectives of not only promoting Nottingham's distinctive heritage but also safeguarding it from unsympathetic change. To

demonstrate this there will be connections to Nottingham's 'Local List' database, a resource that aligns with the Society's ambition to obtain more protection in the planning process for local heritage buildings at risk.

During 2024 the Society worked with the City Council resulting in a number of buildings being added to the Local List database, as demonstrated by the following examples.

Aspley Library is a dignified 'modern' building with its wonderful green glazed skylight illuminating the main interior space, is a good example. Whilst the 'listing' cannot ensure that library use continues, it can help in safeguarding these features. Other buildings now recognised as heritage assets include the former **Cavendish Cinema** on St Ann's Well Road, which still has a recognisably Art Deco cinema front elevation.

The former **Lenton Methodist Church** on Derby Road designed in 1914 by A E Lambert, the architect of Nottingham's Albert Hall was added. At the time the building was vacant and being marketed for redevelopment. However, the act of being added to the Local List implicitly indicated that complete demolition would be resisted. The building is now back in a church use – the best possible outcome for the community building.

The former **Central Tavern** on Huntingdon Street originally called the Market Tavern, was designed by WB Starr and Hall for the Nottingham Brewery. The building was associated with the Central Market which was relocated to the area in the 1920s. This has now been added to the Local List, effectively recognising a particular phase of the twentieth century history of Nottingham city centre, much of it already replaced.

There now appears to be some activity around what remains of the Broad Marsh area. The Civic Society is pleased that the new East Midlands Combined County Authority is providing £3m to complete the demolition of the former shopping centre, left in limbo when the shopping developer, Intu, failed. Proposals for the partial retention of the concrete structure had divided opinion and seems to have made developers nervous. Therefore, the clearance of 'the Frame', it is hoped, will pave the way for new developments on the remainder of the vacant Broad Marsh sites.

The opening of The Green Heart public space in September was wholeheartedly welcomed because now the new pedestrian route which directly connects Lister Gate to Carrington Street has provided an attractive backdrop to the route to the

station and encouraged more people into the area. The Civic Society had also supported the development of the Community Diagnostic Centre at the lower end of Lister Gate, as a new use for the former retail floorspace, whilst at the same time helping to bring activity back to the area.

The City Council's 'Broad Marsh Masterplan' is intended to guide the development of the remaining vacant sites. The Plan envisages about 1,600 new dwellings (mostly apartments), 20,000 sqm of offices/commercial and leisure floorspace. It is anticipated that about 2,000 jobs could result from the overall redevelopment. The Civic Society will take an active interest in the new buildings that will be built around the open space as it is important that the new "view corridor" which has been created looking towards Nottingham Castle will not be significantly affected.

The long-awaited consents to allow the construction of the Waterside foot and cycle bridge across the River Trent were finally secured during 2024. The Civic Society was pleased to give its support to Pedals and other champions of the project. Work is expected to start soon in 2025.

Throughout the year the Civic Society continued to take a close interest in the many Planning Applications, both large and small, that were submitted. This resulted in comments sent on about 180 schemes. Reviewing the final "decision notices" showed that in the majority of cases some changes were made that incorporated our suggestions. Sadly 2024 has been another year of 'tall buildings' being proposed all around the city impinging upon the long views and dominating Conservation Areas.

Most of the largest developments seem to have been for student housing. The Society objected to the tall buildings behind the Victoria Centre on Glasshouse Street (29 storeys) as concentrating too much regeneration potential in one place. We were also unable to persuade the Council to resist the 17 storeys new building on Wilford Street, standing directly in view from the Castle Terrace. Tall buildings housing more students can also be anticipated at the Manvers Street end of the Island Business Park. These will interrupt views towards the Lace Market from this south-east approach to the city centre. Closer to the Old Market Square, the Former Central Library on Angel Row has also been the subject of a student conversion scheme. The Civic Society was pleased, however, to support this scheme because it would retain all the existing buildings and not just the late Victorian front range – a more sustainable option than demolition of the rear portion of the former library.

The city's skyline will continue to change, even in conservation areas, if, for example, the new scheme to redevelop the Dancing Dragon at Canning Circus is approved. Here a six-storey student development is proposed which would tower over smaller listed buildings on The Ropewalk edge of the Park Conservation Area whilst also dominating Canning Circus itself with its listed Canning Terrace and the Sir Borlase Warren pub. Tall buildings are also jostling for position on Queen's Road in the Station Conservation Area, with an 18 story residential scheme awaiting a decision for the London Road corner site overlooking and looming over the Station site. It also seems likely that developers (Longmead Capital) will be bringing forward proposals for the conversion and refurbishment of the former Debenhams building now listed Grade II. We suspect that the scheme is likely to consist of more student accommodation above the ground floor shops. The developers are running a public consultation exercise starting soon, and they have asked the Civic Society for possible naming suggestions with historical connections to the prominent site. Our suggestion was the "Griffin Building" reflecting a previous use.

This year a few new Civic Society guided walks were added to the programme. These included an introduction to Nottingham during the Civil War, Fothergill covering some of the iconic Tudor Gothic buildings by the celebrated architect in the city centre, and Beer & Bible charting the ancient links many Nottingham pubs have with religious establishments. The walks programme has been very popular with both Civic Society members and the wider public. The guided walks are an excellent way to share our appreciation of Nottingham's rich history as rooted in its standing heritage buildings.

Hilary Brindley
Vice President

Nottinghamshire Local History Association

Forums: During 2024, Nottinghamshire Local History Association (NLHA) held two Local History Forums at Ravenshead Village Hall. Both were well attended. The Spring 2024 Local History Forum took place on April 13th and featured Martin Stott speaking on 'The Humour of Hole', Kate Foster on 'DH Lawrence, Jessie Chambers and the Haggs Farm connection', Jeremy Lodge on 'Stories of the Nottingham to Lincoln railway and its neighbours' and Adrian Gray on 'Worksop, witches and a place in American history: the life of Richard Bernard'.

The Autumn 2024 Forum was held on Saturday October 26th and featured Philip Jones on 'Historic Gardens of Nottinghamshire'; Karen Winyard on Rufford Abbey and its 19th century Savile custodians'; Keith Small on 'The River Trent in the landscape and history; David Barton on 'The regicide and the authoress: John and Lucy Hutchinson of Owthorpe'.

The 2025 Forums will be held on Saturday 29th March and Saturday 25th October.

Media: The NLHA website continues in operation.

The Association has two Facebook pages: 'Nottinghamshire Local History Association' and 'Nottinghamshire History'. The former has 3910 followers and the latter 2627. The numbers for both are increasing steadily.

Both have links encouraging people to sign up for the free e-mailed NLHA Newsletter; this newsletter is sent out every other month to 563 addresses, of whom 160 are members. We have been able to expand the number of societies whose events are covered within it, although not all have joined the NLHA itself.

Two issues of 'The Nottinghamshire Historian' have been published in 2024.

The Narrow Marsh Forum: Together with the Thoroton Society, the Nottingham Women's History Group and Nottingham Civic Society, NLHA is sponsoring the new Nottingham Central Library's Narrow Marsh Forum series of free public Nottingham History talks. Four have been held to date, with four arranged for 2025, tying in with exhibitions or anniversaries.

Grants: Grants of £200 were each awarded to one organisation and an individual author. NLHA grants are intended to support the dissemination of research on subjects pertinent to the history of the county. Normally they help with the cost of publication but with the cost of permanent displays or even attendance at a relevant conference or other event.

Committee membership: Three long-serving Committee members (Jeremy Lodge, Judith Mills and Chris Weir) have stepped down from the Committee; we are pleased that Ruth Strong has joined us.

David Barton, Secretary, NLHA

The Narrow Marsh Forum

The Thoroton Society, Nottingham Civic Society, the Nottingham Women's History Group and Nottinghamshire Local History Association are sponsoring the new Nottingham Central Library's Narrow Marsh Forum's series of free talks on the history of Nottingham, which area held on four Saturdays each year.

Those held this year have been:

- Saturday 11th May, Chris Weir on 'Down the Marshes'.
- Saturday 13th July, Graham Woodward on 'Nottingham cinemas'.
- Saturday 5th October, Mo Cooper on 'Nottingham's Lace Market: the workers and notables'.
- Saturday 25th January, Simon Brown on 'Nottingham and Byron'.

All were well attended.

The draft programme for 2025/6:

- April: Anniversary of the opening of the Victoria station, also taking in the suburban rail network.
- July: Nottingham's Blitz and Women and the Home Front in World War Two.
- October: Early Nottingham photographers and photography.
- January 2026: Anniversary of the opening of the Bath Street baths and Nottingham sanitation.

Financial arrangements: It has been agreed that there be no charge for attendance, and that, while to date three of the four booked speakers have not requested payment, when there is a fee for the speaker, that cost (which we would expect to be around £60) will be shared between the four organisations. All four sponsoring organisations are happy with that arrangement.

David Barton
Co-organiser

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Work has continued collecting notes and drafting text for a projected Volume IV, which will include the fourteenth parish (of which Keyworth, Ruddington and West Bridgford are the largest) making up the northern division of Rushcliffe hundred. Meanwhile, revisions by Dr Alan Thacker are awaited to the text of Volume III, which was otherwise completed some years ago. When these have been incorporated a new version of Volume III will be submitted to the London office of the History with a view to publication as a 'Red Book'.

Philip Riden
Editor

SPRING MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The Spring Meeting and AGM 2024 was held at Colston Bassett Village Hall on Saturday 27th April. After the formal part of the AGM, the new President, John Beckett, gave an address which was published in the Summer 2024 newsletter. The talk on *Cheese* by Denise Amos and the presentations to Alan Langton, David Crook and Adrian Henstock were also described in the account of the day which was published in the Summer 2024 newsletter. What follows here is, therefore, just the Minutes of the AGM.

Minutes of the 127th Annual General Meeting of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, Colston Bassett Village Hall, 2pm on Saturday 27th April 2024

- 1 **Welcome:** The Chair of Council, Richard Gaunt, opened the proceedings and welcomed everyone, including new members and those who were attending a Spring Meeting and AGM for the first time. Richard remarked that it was good to be at Colston Bassett at last, as this was the venue that the Society had intended to visit when Covid-19 intervened, so it felt like catching up with unfinished business and an opportunity to reflect upon how much has changed in the last four or five years.
- 2 **Welcome:** Adrian Henstock, as President of the Society, welcomed everyone.
- 3 **Apologies for absence** were received from Judith Mills, Trevor Foulds, Sue Groves, Barbara Cast, Sarah Hoskins. The meeting was attended by 49 members.
- 4 **The Minutes of the 126th AGM** held on 29th April 2023 were accepted as a true record, Proposed by Rob James, Seconded by Kevin Powell, carried unanimously.
- 5 **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.
- 6 **To Receive the Annual Report including the Accounts** and to appoint an Independent Examiner of the Accounts

The Vice-Chair, David Hoskins, directed the attention of members to the papers that had been handed out to everyone, which represented the up to

date and examined accounts. He pointed out that the Society no longer held any money in NS&I but has invested in United Trust Bonds instead. David asked the meeting to accept the accounts, and to appoint Andy Hodges as the Independent Examiner. This was Proposed by Adrian Henstock, Seconded by Paul Baker, and carried unanimously.

7 To set subscription rates for the next membership year: 2025

The Chair thanked David Hoskins for stepping in to handle finance temporarily. David explained that Alan Marshall will remain as the named treasurer until replacement arrangements have been made, which is expected to be later that year. David said that the finances were in a healthy state, but that subscriptions had remained at the same level for eight years during which time many costs had increased. Council felt that subscriptions should now be raised. It had considered whether to raise them gradually, over a two-year period, but decided that it would be better to make the increase during one membership year. The proposed rises were shown on the back of the finance papers already handed out, to take effect from 1st January 2025.

Type of Membership	2024 rate	2025 rate
Ordinary	£27	£32
Associate	£6	£9
Student	£6	£9
Individual Record	£16	£17
Ordinary with Record Series	£38	£42
Ordinary, Associate and Record Series	£44	£53
Institution Ordinary	£27	£32
Institution Ordinary with Record Series	£49	£55
Institution Ordinary Overseas	£27	£34
Institution Ordinary Overseas with Record Series	£53	£62

The proposal that the above increases should take place from 1st January 2025 was Proposed by David Hoskins, Seconded by Penny Messenger, and Carried unanimously

8 Chair's Remarks

Richard addressed the meeting as follows:

I am delighted to have the opportunity of publicly expressing my sincere thanks to all those who keep the Society operating and in good order – in particular, to the members of Council and especially its officers, and to you all, our members. I'd also like to thank those locally in Colston Bassett who have helped with our arrangements for the Spring Meeting and AGM, and Dr Denise Amos for coming to speak to us this afternoon on an appropriate dairy-related subject. Many of you will know that Denise has, since its inception, managed the Society's Heritage Gateway – and it is good to have the chance to thank her publicly for the very many years of hard-work and commitment which she has given to this role. The Gateway continues to be one of the most valued by members of the Society's website, and we are grateful to Andy Nicholson, not only for his work on the Gateway, but for all he does to present our activities to the world in a professional and attractive way. If you have material which you think would be of interest to the Gateway, please contact Denise for a chat. Many of you will know that Andy was responsible, almost single-handedly, for the digitisation of *Transactions*, which was completed during the last year. The first run of volumes from the Society's formation in 1897 down to 1950, are now freely available for consultation on the Archaeology Data Services website. It offers a feast both for the specialist researcher and the occasional reader. I hope that, within the near future, the volumes from 1951 to recent times, will be released.

If you are still short of reading in the meantime, please refer to your copy of the latest *Transactions*. Please collect your own copy, if you have not already done so, and, if you can conveniently do so, please take copies for members you may know or live near to, who are not able to be with us today. The volume offers another excellent range of subject matter, beautifully and carefully presented. For this we have to thank the editors, Richard Jones and Chris King, for their ongoing management of the journal, and of course to the contributors as well. It was a particular pleasure to see Rosemary Muge's article, based on her PhD research, being published this year. I remain personally very grateful to Rosemary for all she does to keep the Society's administration in order – and for her willing assistance with other activities, including arranging today's catering for us. Thanks are also due to those who are arranging this afternoon's tea for us – Ruth, Jane, Rob and Paul. We appreciate all your help with this.

Other contributors to this year's *Transactions* will be familiar to Thoroton Society members, not least our incoming President, John Beckett. We do not change President very often in the Society, so today is an important moment, as we thank Adrian Henstock for a decade of much-valued service as our President and welcome John as his successor. John hardly needs any introduction to members of the Society. However, he might be personally interested to know that he takes up his office in the 140th anniversary year since George Ridding was enthroned as the first Bishop of Southwell on 28th May 1884. Alas, we do not enthrone our Presidents in the Society, but as Ridding lasted in post for 20 years, we hope that John will continue a long and happy association with us all.

We also have other changes on Council with the retirement of Alan Langton and David Crook. David has been a member of Council for two lengthy periods with a gap in between. He was also general editor of the Record Series from 1986-97 and is intending to write more articles for *Transactions*. He is one of the few remaining Life Members of the Society and will continue to be part of our Research and Publications committee.

Alan Langton joined Council in 2008. As well as being a regular attender at our lectures and events, he was responsible for reviving and organising the Thoroton excursions programme for many years until Covid intervened. His calm and efficient presence at events belied the considerable work involved in organising these outings, which have become a much-loved part of our offering. Thankfully, the tradition which Alan did so much to establish is now being continued through the activities of Ruth Strong, to whom we are very grateful. We are also delighted that Alan has agreed to serve as a Vice-President of the Society.

Whilst Adrian Henstock is retiring as our President today, he will continue to be General Editor of the Record Series for the next year and become Consultant Editor thereafter. It would be foolhardy of me to try and list Adrian's many achievements and contributions to the Society, over a lifetime of dedicated service. All we can say is how grateful we are for all he has done – he has proved himself a worthy successor to Dr Thoroton himself in his commitment to advancing the history, archaeology and antiquities of Nottinghamshire. There can be no higher accolade than that!

We are delighted to be welcoming three new Council members today. David Barton has lived in Nottinghamshire for the past 50 years and has taught,

written on, and organized, Local History for many years. He is currently Secretary of the NLHA and a lynch-pin of Radcliffe on Trent Local History Society and Radcliffe U3A.

Andrea Moneta is an expert in architecture, scenography, and urban sustainable design. He is an experienced researcher, teacher and practitioner. Andrea has spoken at Society meetings previously and, in addition to all he personally brings to the Society, continues our important and historic links with Nottingham Trent University.

David Needham spent thirty years with Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, which led to his researching the role of Civil Defence and the Fire Service in Nottinghamshire during the Second World War. He led the project which resulted in the memorial for civilian services personnel being placed in St Mary's churchyard. He continues to document fire service history in the county and is currently leading plans to memorialise the 50th anniversary of the Fairfield air disaster at Edwalton.

We are delighted to have so many talented members on our Council and thank all those who continue to offer their time and expertise willingly. Without them, and without our members, the Society could hardly exist.

9 Vice-Chair's Remarks

David thanked the Chair for all his work over the year, and the officers for their work, as well as everyone present for attending.

10 An Amendment to the Constitution

Council proposed an amendment to the Constitution to make the re-election of elected members of Council more orderly. Rosemary Muge explained the reasons behind this was that elected members would now come up for re-election every three years in small groups of people who had been elected in the same year. New elected members of Council would join one of these groups.

The proposal was: 'That the words 'One third of elected members of Council shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election' be replaced with the words 'Elected members of Council shall normally be elected for a period of three years. At the end of this period they will retire but shall be eligible for re-election.'

Proposed by Rosemary Muge, Seconded by Paul Baker, carried unanimously.

11 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 Richard Gaunt, Seconded by David Hoskins, and were Elected unanimously.

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

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

Council Members elected for a term of three years commencing in April 2024: Ruth Strong, Ruth Imeson, David Barton, Andrea Moneta, David Needham

12 Other business

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

SPRING MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

The Spring Meeting and AGM is to be held at the Thomas Cranmer Centre, St Thomas's Church, Aslockton, NG13 9AL, on Saturday 26th April 2025.

Members are requested to please arrive at 1.45pm to collect copies of *Transactions* so that the AGM, followed by tea, can start promptly at 2pm. There will be a talk given by Pete Smith on the restored picture of Newstead which is now completed.

There is some parking in front of the centre, but otherwise on the street on the side opposite the centre and church.

AGENDA FOR THE 128th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 26th APRIL 2025

To be held at The Thomas Cranmer Centre, St Thomas's Church,
Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, commencing at 2pm

1. Opening of proceedings by the Chair, Richard Gaunt
2. Welcome by the President, John Beckett
3. Apologies for absence
4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 127th AGM held in 2024
5. Matters arising from the 2024 Minutes that are not on the agenda
6. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended December 2024, including the Financial Report and a Proposal from Council for the appointment of an Independent Examiner
7. To set subscription rates for the year 2026
8. Chair's remarks
9. Vice-Chair's remarks
10. To elect Officers of the Society and Members of Council, as listed below
11. Other business

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Council nominates the following officers for the year 2025-26:

President
Vice-presidents

John Beckett
Barbara Cast
Sir Neil Cossons
Keith Goodman
Adrian Henstock
Alan Langton

Honorary Secretary and
Honorary Administration Secretary
Honorary Treasurer

Rosemary Muge
David Hoskins

Honorary *Transactions* editors:

History and General Editor

Richard Jones

Archaeology Editor

TBC

Record Series Editor

Hayley Cotterill

Honorary Newsletter Editor and

Honorary Membership Secretary

Paul Baker

Honorary Events Secretary

David Hoskins

Honorary Distribution and Sales Secretary

Robert James

Honorary Publicity and Media Relations Secretary

Hannah Nicholson

Council nominates the following for election as members of Council for three years: Trevor Foulds, Judith Mills, Margaret Trueman



**The Cranmer
Centre**