

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2021 AND THE SPRING NEWSLETTER



Photograph Paul Baker

Display in the Craft Gallery at Nottingham Castle which reopened in 2021

Visit the Thoroton Society website at
www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OFFICERS

January to December 2021

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Keith Goodman BA FCA
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Richard A Gaunt, Barbara Cast and John Wilson

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THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER** **2021**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

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

ADDRESS FOR ENQUIRIES

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

barbaracast@btinternet.com

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

rosemarymuge@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

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

MAIN ADVISORS

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

FUNDS

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

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIR'S REPORT

The Annual Report provides an opportunity for reflection upon the events of the past year, as well as for acknowledging the contribution of all those officers of the Society, including members of Council, without whom our activities would not be possible. Although 2021 did not witness a return to 'business as usual', the Society nevertheless maintained its usual range of activities. Whilst face-to-face meetings proved largely impractical, from a combination of COVID uncertainties and post-pandemic changes in provision by our usual meeting venue, the programme of online lectures and events, facilitated by David Hoskins and run by James Wright on Zoom, were a notable success. Our online presence, ably maintained by James on Twitter and Andrew Nicholson on the web, kept us connected with existing members, as well as with new audiences around the world. The year also saw the online digital publication of every past newsletter (over 100), and we look forward to releasing the digitised *Transactions* in the

near future. The Society welcomed a number of new officers, including Richard Jones as History and Managing Editor of *Transactions*. Richard now chairs the revamped Research and Publications Committee, which meets twice-yearly, offering more opportunities for co-ordination between the different aspects of the Society's research and publication activity. Paul Baker continues to produce excellent newsletters, with the active involvement of his assistant editor, Hannah Nicholson. Both Hannah and Paul have also kindly agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary, with Hannah taking the lead, and began a succession process with John Wilson at the end of 2021. We remain indebted to John for all his work as Membership Secretary and for continuing as our Treasurer, as well as for coordinating the Thoroton Research Group (now largely operating online). Ruth Strong and Pete Smith led the Society's first excursions since the pandemic, which provided welcome opportunities for personal interaction, and David Hoskins masterminded an absolutely splendid Annual lunch, which was a welcome opportunity to meet together and acknowledge the long service of John Beckett and Barbara Cast. Barbara continues to be a crucial part of the Society's business, not least in heading the Thoroton Response Group (which has been more than usually busy of late), and co-ordinating the Geoffrey Bond and Thoroton Society Research Award. We remain grateful to Geoffrey for his generous financial support, which is matched by the Society. Rob James continued to promote (and sell) the Society's publications throughout the year, and Adrian Henstock, in addition to being our President, continues to oversee the Record Series, with several important new volumes scheduled to appear within the next few years. Throughout the year Rosemary Muge kept the business of the Society – including meetings of the Standing Committee and Council – in good order. She has kindly taken on the Society's representation on the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, and willingly responded to calls to help in new areas of Society business – including negotiations for a new deposit agreement with Inspire, maintaining the newly introduced Register of Interests for members of Council and Society committees, and taking a leading role in the working group which has written the proposed new Safeguarding Policy for the Society. I remain very grateful to Rosemary – as to all members of Council – for their continued hard work, good cheer, and willing support, throughout the year.

Richard A. Gaunt, Chair of Council

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

The Society's Council has responsibility for overseeing the Society's business, finance and development. The Council's officers, and those representing the Society on various organisations, report to 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 it has done so in 2021. The first meeting on 12th February 2021 was held online via zoom, due to pandemic restrictions. The second was also held online on 14th May, 2021. The third was held in person at Bromley House Library, Angel Row, Nottingham on 16th October 2021. The Standing Committee met five times in 2021, in February, March, July, September and November; these meetings were all online.

Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administration Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions

The 124th Edition of *Transactions* was the final volume edited by Martyn Bennett. We welcome Richard Jones, the new Editor to The Annual Report with his first *Transactions* report. Perhaps it is best to begin by introducing myself. I took over as General Editor of the *Transactions* after the AGM last year. As a Nottinghamshire lad, I was delighted to be invited to become editor of my county journal.

After some years away, I moved back to Nottinghamshire in 2006 buying a cottage in the delightful village of Upton near Southwell. Professionally, I am based at the University of Leicester, holding the position of Associate Professor of Landscape History in the Centre for English Local History where I was Director between 2017-2020.

Since my combined honours degree in History and Archaeology, I have

always been drawn to interdisciplinary approaches to the past. Whether I am a historian or an archaeologist might be questioned; in truth, I am probably a historical geographer with an interest in the environment. My work focuses on the medieval period, exploring such matters as place-names, the origins and development of English villages, concepts of the natural world, flooding and river histories, the genetic legacy of Scandinavian settlement, and manure. My interests are nothing if not eclectic, then, and I trust that this puts me in a good position to encourage the widest possible range of papers for future volumes of the *Transactions*. I am sure that you all enjoyed this year's volume. It seems rather invidious to pick out my favourites, but it will not come as much surprise to learn that I was drawn to the two Cuckney papers: David Budge's analysis of the wall painting at St Mary's, Cuckney; and Andy Gaunt's survey of the water meadows. Cuckney contains the Old English element *ĕg* 'island, dry land surrounded by wet ground', an element that has featured large in my own recent work on early medieval flood histories. I would like to put on record my thanks to my predecessor Martyn Bennett for passing on the *Transactions* in such good order. I am delighted, too, that Chris King has agreed to remain the Archaeology Editor and to take me by a reassuring hand as I learn the ropes. As I write, we are just in the final throes of putting together volume 125. It will be slightly slimmer than last year, but I am sure that you will find much of interest within it, including contributions that might be considered heretical. Once again we have a good range of papers covering subjects spanning the Roman through to the modern period. Some iconic Nottinghamshire sites are treated including Laxton and Newstead Abbey. Other more obscure, lost, and forgotten places are also brought to light. It goes without saying that I would be delighted to receive submissions for future volumes, and am very happy to discuss potential contributions at any stage in their development with authors. Do get in touch.

Richard Jones, Honorary Transactions Editor.

Record Series

Future Publications :

Stapleford Constables Accounts of 1650 – 1685. A full transcription of the financial accounts of the village constables of Stapleford during Cromwell's Commonwealth and the royal Restoration is being prepared by Graham Crisp. Such accounts are comparatively rare and provide insight into the wide variety of constables' duties, ranging from apprehending criminals to raising taxes and troops for the army, providing overnight accommodation and refreshments for passing strangers - vagrants, soldiers (often 'maimed') and victims of disasters and piracy, etc as well as rewarding villagers for killing moles, pole cats and other 'vermin'. This should be published during 2022. *Nottinghamshire Surveyed: a Descriptive Catalogue of pre-1700 Maps and Plans of Nottinghamshire Estates.* This is being compiled by Stephanos Mastoris, editor of the recent edition of *The Welbeck Atlas* (vol 47), and will be a detailed catalogue of over eighty early manuscript maps held by archives repositories throughout the country. This is expected in 2025.

Adrian Henstock

Newsletter

Four editions of the Newsletter were published (Spring, Summer , Autumn and Winter editions). However, 2021 will see the last of four editions of the Newsletter, and Spring 2022 is included in this Annual Report and the Spring edition will be also included in future Annual Reports. During 2020/2021, I carried out research into printing costs and mailing costs and I presented my research to the Thoroton Standing Committee and then to the Thoroton Council. This research formed the conclusion that we believed it to be in the interest of the Thoroton Society to combine the Spring Newsletter with the Annual Report. This will allow us to both reduce printing costs and especially mailing costs, as the quote by Adlard Press confirmed for this Annual Report. A reduced Spring Newsletter as part of the Annual Report publication is the norm for the future. This was approved by both the Thoroton Society Standing Committee and then by Council. Over the past year Hannah Nicholson has taken on the role of Assistant Editor. We met up twice face to face over the course of 2021, after she was appointed to this role. This allowed us to discuss editions and

Hannah's important role of providing ideas and support. The aim being to allow us to continue to provide members with interesting and informative

Newsletters. The variety of topics covered by articles from our members during 2021 has allowed us to do this. We feel that this has provided a variety of both interesting historical and archeological topics for the reader, but also importantly has kept members in touch with the Society during the year, where events have been curtailed by Covid. We are always happy to receive relevant contributions from members and thank you to those members who have been in touch and contributed over the past year.

Paul Baker, Honorary Newsletter Editor

GEOFFREY BOND AND THOROTON RESEARCH AWARD

The Research Award has now been active for seven years and continues to attract some interesting and worthwhile applications. The Society is most grateful for Mr Geoffrey Bond's generous support in funding this award and he has kindly agreed to support the awards again in 2022. The Society will continue to make provision for an equal amount from its own funds.

In 2021 there were two applications. One was for a project entitled "Nottinghamshire: Becoming Christian in Midland Britain AD500-1050" which was awarded the sum of £500. The other one was from Southwell Community Archaeology Group for a project to research and conserve the painted wall-plaster from Southwell's Roman site; this was also awarded the sum of £500. Previous award recipients, having faced Covid access difficulties, were given a further period to complete their projects. There is a requirement for those receiving grants to provide articles on the outcomes of their research for the newsletter and, subject to editorial processes, these may develop into papers for the Transactions. Applications from members undertaking research are most welcome.

Richard Gaunt, Barbara Cast and John Beckett, adjudicating panel

THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP

It has again been a busy year dealing with planning applications and other matters of concern requiring Society consideration. An ongoing matter of considerable concern is the Halloughton (Cotmoor) Solar Farm proposal on land around the conservation village of Halloughton: the application was refused by Newark and Sherwood District Council. After this the company

behind the scheme, Pegasus, appealed against the refusal, adding what the company itself called “minor amendments”.

Many respondents noted the fact that the “minor amendments” were indeed very minor. A representation addressing the appeal on behalf of the Society was prepared and sent to the Inspectorate and I subsequently took on the task of speaking at the appeal hearing - the outcome of the appeal is awaited. The association of Sir and Lady Stenton with Halloughton is well known to members and recently the memorial to them in St James’ churchyard has been restored. As members will recall, the Society made a number of recommendations regarding ways of showcasing the Broad Marsh area’s rich history: this included a greater emphasis on the Caves and on lost local features such as Drury Hill. A number of the proposals coming out after the consultation include these. We look forward to seeing the results on the ground. Another major concern this year was an application for an “animal rendering plant” at Villa Farm, Norton Disney, just over the border in Lincolnshire – this is the site of a Roman villa. The alert came from one of our members asking for support for the case for refusal being made by Norton Disney History and Archaeology Society. This was done with a strong representation sent to Lincolnshire County Council, the authority which is responsible for such applications. The site lies less than two miles from the settlement of Brough, Roman Crococalana, which, like the villa site in question, also features continuous Iron Age and Roman occupation. The Thoroton Society, interestingly, was one of the major financial contributors to the excavations of this Roman villa discovered at Norton Disney back in the 1930s, in the then very generous amount of £21. But although just outside our county, because of our Society’s early connection with the discoveries made and as it is today recognised as an important site, it was agreed that the Society had an interest in this application. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

There was some short-lived concern that Southwell Minster was going to lose its title, held since the 10th century, and become known as Southwell Cathedral, but thankfully that did not happen. In October Sainsburys made an application for a foodstore on a site at the entrance to Southwell.

The Thoroton Society strongly objected to the proposal to build on this elevated site; the supermarket would be readily seen from the undulating road into the town, an intrusion into this well-loved view of the town and Minster. It is the Minster with its beautifully constructed architectural mass which dominates this small town and it is the Minster which dominates, rightly, the scene as one approaches the town. The application also has implications for the archaeology almost certainly to be found on the proposed site. We await the outcome.

Finally for 2021, the Society was requested to support objections to planning applications associated with the childhood residence of the 19th century illustrator Kate Greenaway. An appropriate representation was sent to Newark and Sherwood District Council and the outcome is awaited.

On other Response Group matters, the long-running saga of the Robin Hood Hotel in Newark has now hopefully been resolved by the opening this May of the new Travelodge hotel, which now has the frontages of the two listed townhouses restored and incorporated. Members are welcome to send in their concerns, with details, regarding the county's historic buildings and sites: these will be considered for representations to the appropriate body.

Barbara Cast, Response Group Coordinator

THE THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP

The Thoroton Research Group having not met during 2021, due to Covid, the Thoroton Research group has gone online.

An online research forum was set up for those researching history and archaeology in Nottinghamshire. This provides a space for researchers to make contact with others and relay news and advertise events. More details can be obtained from me

Richard Jones, (ricj@le.ac.uk)

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2020

Lectures, Presentations and Excursions 2021

After the disappointing end to 2020 we began 2021 in the new virtual world of Zoom presentations with our recently retired Chair, Professor John Beckett, giving his valedictory presentation from the comfort of his study at home. John took us through a pocket history of Nottinghamshire through the lifetime of the Thoroton Society. In February we were treated to the deferred presentation by Anna Scott covering the trials and tribulations of the Pilgrim fathers and the Mayflower 400 celebrations, albeit two months late due to the pandemic emergency. March saw a celebration of the reopening of Nottingham Castle with Gareth Davies highlighting the discoveries and findings of all the archaeological work that had been going on during the restoration works and giving us a taste of how they would be presented to visitors. With the arrival of April, our hopes for a resumption of face-to-face meetings were dashed and we were reduced to holding our AGM virtually, without the usual Spring meeting and accompanying afternoon tea. We were, however, later delighted to be able to offer a limited visit to Creswell Crags in Derbyshire at the end of August with facilities provided for a picnic lunch! This was followed in September by a visit to the newly refurbished Nottingham Castle to inspect the new facilities and galleries that had been described in presentations over the previous three years. September ended with a small group being able to visit the house and gardens at Newstead Abbey.

The continuing uncertainty and restrictions over group gatherings meant that our regular meeting venue at the Nottingham Mechanics was not available to us and we had to cancel the scheduled presentation for October. November did give us new hope when we were finally able to mark the retirement of our two stalwarts, John Beckett and Barbara Cast, by making suitable presentations to them at our Annual Lunch. We then reverted to virtual presentations for the Nottinghamshire History Lecture, given by Richard Bullock and finally closed the year in December with Pete Smith giving us an entertaining tour of a number of country houses whose owners had adapted them to accommodate the new-fangled motor cars of the time.

Whilst the closures and restrictions have been a challenge, we have endeavoured to provide the best programme that we could and look forward to continuing into the Society's 125th Anniversary year of 2022 with more events and presentations as the situation hopefully becomes more manageable.

David Hoskins, Co-ordinator of the Events Committee

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE

Website statistics for the period January-December 2021 show that every month an average of 1,954 unique visitors viewed 18,677 pages. This is a slight increase from last year. The most viewed sections of the website continue to be 'News', 'About us' and 'Publications'. In February digitised versions of the *Thoroton Society Newsletter* were uploaded to the website.

At present Issues 1(July 1992) to 80 (Summer2015) are available online (<http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/publications/newsletters.htm>)and more recent issues will continue to be added later this year.

The Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online continues to increase in size and now holds around 12,560 entries (Michael Brook's original bibliography published in 2002 has around 8,700).

Andy Nicholson, Thoroton Society Website Manager

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

The Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway continues to attract attention and even as far away as Australia. We had a very nice email from someone in Brisbane complementing us on the website! A lot of people contact Andy Nicholson asking for more information about subjects which we try and answer.

This year has been quite productive with three subjects being added:

- 1.Berry Hill Rehabilitation Centre for Miners
2. Sutton in Ashfield
- 3.Nottingham's Deaf Heritage.

We are grateful to the writers of the last two as they voluntarily submitted the work! It shows as well that the website is not Nottingham centric and focuses on other areas of Nottinghamshire.

As well as trying to put new material on the site we are constantly updating

material and two were added during 2021.

1.Hospitals had the ENT department added by a retired ENT surgeon.

2.The Sherwood Foresters had an addition about those who were shot at dawn and are now commemorated at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Denise M Amos, Heritage Gateway Coordinator

HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY IN 2021

Archaeological investigations have been reported on comparatively few sites in Nottinghamshire in 2021, but these have nonetheless provided valuable additions to our knowledge of the County from the later prehistoric to modern periods. Brief details of the most significant of these investigations 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 125 of the Society's *Transactions*.

Clipstone

Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's annual summer training field school continued in the vicinity of the medieval settlement of Clipstone and the King's Houses royal complex. Investigations revealed post-medieval to modern cultivation soils and a modern brick-revetted feature, possibly a path. Key artefacts of interest included two post-medieval items of dress: a riveted copper alloy lace end and a hooked clasp.

Cromwell Quarry

Archaeological monitoring by York Archaeology on behalf of CEMEX UK continued at this quarry during soil stripping and aggregates extraction. More than 30 oak trunks were discovered within the gravel, along with a large palaeochannel containing organic silts and sands sampled for palaeoenvironmental assessment. Inspection of the sand and gravel surface revealed part of a carved wooden paddle, comparing closely with a Romano-British example recovered from Colchester – and thus potentially a rare survival for this area. The object is currently being conserved and will be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

East Leake Quarry

York Archaeology continued archaeological monitoring of topsoil and subsoil stripping on behalf of CEMEX UK under the guidance of Adrian Havercroft (The Guildhouse Consultancy). Extensive archaeological

remains, including a double pit alignment and an adjacent subsquare ditched enclosure with two entrances, were revealed during investigations of the underlying sands and gravels. The pits in this alignment yielded heat-affected pebbles and a single pottery sherd of possibly Iron Age date. Pottery associated with the enclosure also indicates Iron Age activity, but it is unclear whether the two monuments were in contemporary use. No features indicative of occupation were recorded within the enclosure, indicating perhaps an association with livestock rather than occupation. A seemingly isolated Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building, associated with pottery and loomweight fragments, was identified to the west of the pit alignment.

Gedling: All Hallows Church, Arnold Lane

Matt Hurford conducted an archaeological watching brief on behalf of All Hallows Church Parochial Council in advance of construction work, following recommendations by Dr Chris Brooke, the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) Archaeological Advisor. Excavations in the north aisle revealed a series of former floor deposits spanning perhaps the medieval to modern periods. The foundations of the early 14th century tower, truncating those of the 13th century north aisle, were also identified. Trenches through the churchyard revealed topsoil with grave earth above small quantities of skeletal material.

Langford Quarry

York Archaeology was commissioned by Tarmac Trading Ltd to monitor soil stripping and aggregates extraction, with particular focus upon the retrieval of environmental remains associated with a later Bronze Age palaeochannel revealed during earlier test-pitting. This preceded an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation in a western extension to the quarry. Soil stripping in that area revealed a high density of mainly Romano-British features associated with a complex of rectilinear and curvilinear ditched enclosures, some of which may have been used for the corralling of livestock. A wide range of finds was recovered, including a small quantity of largely residual prehistoric pottery and flintwork. Romano-British pottery was especially abundant, including a diverse range of domestic coarsewares, mortaria and samian vessels, and occurred alongside small quantities of Romano-British tile and metalwork. A relatively small amount of animal bone was retrieved, reflecting probably its poor preservation in the acidic soil conditions.

Retford: St Michael Church, Rectory Road, West Retford

Matt Hurford was commissioned by Ordsall & Retford St Michael Parochial Church Council to monitor ground disturbances associated with a replacement of the steps down to the Chapter House with a ramp to enable disabled access. This work followed recommendations by Dr Chris Brooke, the DAC Archaeological Advisor. Skeletal remains were discovered in two shallow west-east features that were interpreted as probably intercutting graves preserving *in-situ* burials, possibly of 18th century date. A single cast iron coffin handle was retrieved from one of the graves.

Sherwood Forest Archaeology Survey

Mercian Archaeological Services CIC continued the Sherwood Forest Archaeology Survey, discussed in several recent volumes of the Society's *Transactions*. In 2021, the project placed particular emphasis upon locating and recording the many World War II remains surviving within the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve. This was conducted as part of Sherwood Forest Trust's 'Spirit of Wartime Sherwood' project, which is being undertaken with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. More than 500 archeological features were discovered in the nature reserve, with recorded features including military bunker pits, probable building platforms and trackways. Further survey and recording work is planned for 2022.

Warsop Old Hall

A building survey and archeological investigations were conducted by Mercian Archeological Services CIC as part of a project entitled *Revealing Our Community Roots – Uncovering Warsop Old Hall's Origins and History*. This involves a consortium of local groups, including Warsop Parochial Church Council, Vibrant Warsop CIC and Big Warsop, with input from the Nottinghamshire Buildings Preservation Trust and the Old Warsop Society, and is supported by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aims to enhance understanding of this important medieval courtyard house and included a measured building survey of the Old Hall and fieldwalking, test-pitting and geophysical survey in its immediate vicinity. Details of this and the preliminary results are contained in the current *Transactions*. Additional investigations are planned for 2022.

David Knight, Archaeology Rapporteur

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE CITY 2021

A number of archaeological field projects have been undertaken this year, which has been very pleasing to see, although results have largely been somewhat disappointing. An evaluation at 149-169 Lower Parliament Street (by Trent & Peak Archaeology) was curtailed when it was realised that very substantial foundations had destroyed any pre-existing remains. Evaluations at Howard Street/Glasshouse Street (undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services) and 1A Montague Street in Bulwell (undertaken by Border Archaeology) also returned negative results. Monitoring of works at 11-19 Station Street has thus far failed to identify any remains of archaeological interest, but further work is due to take place early in 2022. An evaluation at a site on Derby Road, Lenton (undertaken by Salford Archaeology) revealed surviving remains of a 19th century mill which stood on the site of a mill shown on the 1609 Sherwood Forest Survey. Trenches excavated elsewhere on the site were negative in terms of archaeological remains. Monitoring of the groundworks for the development will take place where the remains of the mill were encountered, due to the potential for remains of earlier phases of the mill to survive. A small excavation in the formal gardens of Wollaton Hall (led by Trent & Peak Archaeology) revealed post-medieval and modern garden features. A 1m wide stone wall was interpreted as being the possible remains of an Orangery shown on a late 17th century painting by Jan Siberechts and an engraving by Johannes Kip, after Leonard Knyff (published in 1707). One notable project, which is due to start in December 2021, is the monitoring of intrusive groundworks associated with the demolition of the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre. Although the City Council was unsuccessful in receiving funding for demolition of the eastern part of the shopping centre, funding was secured for the demolition of the western part. It was here that the Greyfriars (Franciscan) Friary stood, from its foundation in the 13th century. An associated burial ground was present, with human remains demonstrably still present within the footprint of the shopping centre. In addition to the medieval remains, evidence of post-medieval use of the site (which included gardens and 18th century lead works) may also be encountered, as well as remains of a substantial Second World War air raid shelter (of the trench shelter type).

A 19th century burial ground, also within the footprint of the shopping centre and where human remains are also demonstrably still present, is just outside the area of the current demolition works. Allen Archaeology has been appointed to monitor the groundworks, and as City Archaeologist I am closely involved in all ground works. Several other projects were due to commence this year but due to ongoing difficulties largely arising from the pandemic, these have been delayed. It is a requirement that reports for archaeological work in the city are made freely available online, and so a number of reports are available (and more will become available once they have been completed and approved)

Reports can be found at:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/organisationDetails.xhtml?organisationId=4433>

Scott Lomax (City Archaeologist)

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION IN THE CITY/ THE NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

It has been another disrupted year for the face-to-face activities of the Civic Society, but summer guided walks and commemorative plaque unveilings have started again in addition to in-person talks. The most recent plaque commemorates the New Foresters in St Ann's Street for its importance to the LGBT+ community. However, irrespective of the pandemic, the job of being a champion for Nottingham's historic built environment has continued with year-round scrutiny of development proposals resulting in comments made to the Council on 235 planning applications in 2021.

BROAD MARSH continues to preoccupy us. The Civic Society recognises that many of the aspirations we raised in the City Council's consultation exercise (The Big Conversation) are now included in the 'Vision' put forward recently for discussion. The issues around the controversial suggestion of keeping parts of the former shopping centre's 'skeleton' should not be allowed to obscure the fact that there are some good ideas being presented that celebrate Nottingham's historic environment. A year ago, we were hoping to persuade the Council that the Broad Marsh re-imagining was the opportunity to capitalise on some of the city centre's

most cherished and distinctive historic assets. It does seem that someone was listening. The removal of the Arndale Car Park, along with a new surface level pedestrian crossing of Maid Marian Way, will reveal the hoped-for view of Nottingham Castle as seen from along Collin Street. This would focus upon the Ye Old Trip to Jerusalem nestling below the rock outcrop and the bastion walls of Nottingham Castle.

This would help both visitors and locals to orientate themselves and draw their attention to the commanding presence of the Castle Rock which has, for too long, been hidden behind mundane, if not downright intrusive, 20th century development. This will draw attention to the Castle which is an aspiration that should be pursued vigorously.

Opening up the remnant of the exposed sandstone rockface below the garden to Willoughby House (now Paul Smith's shop in Low Pavement) and possibly incorporating those additional caves below Willoughby House - would improve access to the Broad Marsh Caves and make the attraction much easier to find. This could also be used to illustrate the medieval industrial uses of the Broad Marsh caves as the features found would now be visible in their original setting at the foot of the rock outcrop. Prior to the Broadmarsh closure the caves could only be reached by descending through levels of the multi-storey shopping centre to reach a subterranean level so it felt like being in a mine. The published ideas for the future of Broad Marsh also meet the Civic Society's aspirations for direct open-air routes connecting Lister Gate to Carrington Street and Greyfriar Gate (north-south routes) and also west across Maid Marian Way to Castle Road and east to Cliff Road and the Lace Market. This will re-establish the street connections lost when the shopping centre subsumed the whole area within its monolithic embrace. Substantial public open space is also proposed although its design and character would be greatly influenced by the debate about the retained structure. We will be watching closely how the proposals progress during 2022 and joining in the debate to promote the historic features that make Nottingham city centre a distinctive place. Prior to the relatively recent rebranding, the original name for the area was "Broad Marsh". We are pleased to see that the City Council appear to be reverting to the historic name - as evidenced by the sign on the new car park and in the Heatherwick presentation. Although Broad Marsh has been one of the most discussed developments, there have, during the last year, been some major developments which have challenged the ideas of what new building might be acceptable in a conservation area. The Civic Society was very

disappointed about the decision to approve Nottingham Trent University's School of Art and Design, a tall nine storey, bulky building to be squeezed onto a small site on the corner of North Sherwood Street and Shakespeare Street next to University Hall (Grade II listed former Synagogue) and opposite the Arkwright Building (Grade II*). The Civic Society's strenuous objection to the overbearing effect that the new building would have upon four of NTU's listed buildings nearby and the damage to the Arboretum Conservation Area, did not sway enough of the Planning Committee members, although the decision was frustratingly close when the vote was taken.

There have been a number of other major developments around the city centre where the Civic Society has raised concerns. Sadly, if all of the recently-approved student housing schemes east of the city centre are constructed, there will be a wall of tall buildings in Huntingdon Street and Lower Parliament Street which would interrupt views of the city centre's iconic buildings from further east. Some marginal improvements were made to schemes close to the Art Deco, 20th century motor-related buildings in Huntingdon Street but, nevertheless, all the tall buildings were approved. St Mary's Rest Garden, where Bendigo is buried, is an open space falling within the Sneinton Market Conservation Area. We tried hard to achieve a reduction in the height and bulk of the 'Bendigo Building' proposed on Brook Street overlooking the Rest Garden. This overlarge building would sit where caves which would once have been located coalesce with other tall and bulky structures in views towards the landmarks of the city centre skyline, detrimentally affecting a Key View, recognised by the Council, from the St Mary's Rest Garden towards the dome of the Council House. The existing layered view of buildings dipping down respectfully around the civic landmark would be replaced by a sheer, unrelieved wall of tall building, stopping just short of the dome itself, so that rather than obliterating the landmark, its significance is diminished and undermined. Unfortunately, neither the Civic Society nor the local residents could sway the council's decision to grant permission for the building. However, before we become too gloomy about our chequered record trying to safeguard historic buildings and places in Nottingham from the depredations of looming tall buildings, we have had some success in ensuring that potential archaeology on a number of sites is taken into consideration, seriously investigated and recorded in accordance with national legislation and local guidance. The site of the former pub, the

Nottingham Legend, built in the 1960s and adjacent to the Nottingham Arena on Lower Parliament Street, is perhaps an unlikely location for archaeological interest. However, the vacant pub occupies a site which includes the eastern outlier of the sandstone outcrop, identified further west as the 'Lace Market Cliff', an acknowledged feature of historic and archaeological interest. The long flight of steps adjacent to the application site and the abrupt ground level change within the site itself, are evidence of the vestigial rock outcrop which is much more obvious as the abrupt southern edge of the Lace Market further west. When the adjoining Carter Gate housing was built in the early 1970s, caves were discovered at the foot of the remnant cliff feature. The Civic Society stressed the potential archaeological interest of this unassuming site in our comments to the council. As a result, we were pleased that suitable planning conditions safeguarding any archaeology have been imposed. The former M&S Satellite store on Lister Gate is another site where the Civic Society has drawn attention to the potential for cave archaeology under the service yard. A large extension for student accommodation (six storeys high) is proposed on top of the listed Art Deco shop, extending back into the service yard at Stanford Street. In addition to trying to get the size of the extension reduced, we also wanted to ensure that potential archaeology on the site was dealt with appropriately. This is an important edge at the foot of the sandstone escarpment which originally crossed the site, and may still be present below ground. Thirty years ago, not far from this site, part of Stanford Street collapsed into one such cave. The remnant cliff outlier can still be identified west of Stanford Street below St Nicholas Churchyard. Once again, appropriate planning conditions have been attached to the permission to ensure any archaeology is investigated properly and the results recorded and published. It is a pity that the Civic Society was less successful in influencing the height and bulk of the upward extension itself which will be very visible from the open-air route from Carrington Street into Lister Gate now that parts of Broad Marsh site have already been cleared of building. I am concluding with some good news though. In October 2020 a number of people, including some Thoroton Society members, were alarmed to see signs festooned over the Victorian former Radford Schools buildings at the junction of Ilkeston Road and Radford Boulevard. The signs proclaimed 'All Demolition Ltd'. The Victorian building is important both architecturally and for its association with Alan Sillitoe. The building has been added to the Nottingham Local List because

it was designed by the son of T.C.Hine in what Pevsner describes as 'extrapolated Baroque'. The school building has a large and commanding tower and the whole composition makes a positive contribution to its surroundings at the busy street intersection. So, the idea of its possible demolition was worrying. Luckily, the demolition contractors were only being employed to remove some twentieth-century extensions at the back of the Victorian building. A sensitive conversion scheme to student accommodation has subsequently been approved. The Civic Society supported this conversion and restoration of the prominent former Radford Schools into student accommodation. The building is a vacant heritage asset at risk so its sensitive refurbishment is welcomed, giving new life to the range of buildings which have stamped their personality upon the streetscape, creating an architectural focus for the busy junction. The design of the Stansfield Street wing is considered to be an appropriate response to the streetscape, creating a modern building but one which references the historic Board School architecture of the Ilkeston Road and Radford Boulevard elevations which are typical of many other Nottingham Board schools regrettably since demolished.

Hilary Brindley

NOTTINGHAM HERITAGE PANEL

The future of the Broadmarsh site continued to occupy the attention of the panel during its virtual meetings in 2021. Interesting plans for the redevelopment of the site and its surrounding area were published towards the close of the year (one wit commented that the design resembled 'the hanging gardens of Nottingham') and the panel will undoubtedly continue to keep a close eye on developments in this crucial part of the city. The panel also heard presentations regarding the heritage and history of the city's historic caves system (the focus of a successful grant application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council) and reflected on the successful re-generation of shop frontages along Carrington Street, as well as in other parts of the city. The departure of Alice Ullathorne, the City Council's Heritage Officer, after five years in post, means the existing connection between the panel and the City Council must be in some doubt, but we must remain hopeful that 2022 will bring continuing signs of commitment in this regard. I remain very grateful to David Knight, for attending a number of meetings of the panel when other commitments prevented me from doing so. It is important that the Society continues to be represented in

discussions which affect the future of Nottingham's built and heritage assets. **Richard A Gaunt, Nottingham Heritage Panel Representative**

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Over much of the last year Dr. Alan Thacker, who until his retirement was Executive Editor of the Victoria County History, has been helping with revisions to the text of the projected VCH Nottinghamshire Vol. III. It is hoped that this process will be completed by the end of 2021, with a view to the publication of the volume in 2022. As well as Dr. Thacker's help, the History in Nottinghamshire is very heavily indebted to the work of Sheila Leeds, who has borne the brunt of repeatedly revising a text that was largely completed in 2015. The other development that has made it possible to continue work is the decision by Inspire to re-establish a normal service at Nottinghamshire Archives, for which it is to be strongly commended.

Philip Riden

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST (NBPT)

The trustees have held quarterly Management Committee meetings this year in Zoom mode, which has also been the way for both the Projects and Communications Committees although these have met on a monthly basis. This way of meeting looks like being the norm for the immediate future at least.

The annual Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair, going since 2013, went digital and was resurrected under the guise of video presentations from the 50+ groups this year and this new process appeared to work well. The NBPT was able to put together three short YouTube presentations as its contribution to the event in May. No trips or visits took place this year, just like last year. Entries were accepted for the bi-annual Harry Johnson Award which recognises the contribution of new and renovated vernacular buildings in Nottinghamshire. It was decided, in view of the small number of entries this year, to hold judging of these over to 2022 when the Annual Award will be back to its normal schedule. The Trust acknowledged the work of Dr. Peter Holland, who retired as the representative of the Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) this year and we look forward to welcoming his replacement in due course.

The CPRE jointly sponsors the Harry Johnson Award with the NBPT. The NBPT continues to support the work at the Museum of Life in Tuxford, where the trustees, with the help of volunteers, continue to make good progress in securing the future of the extensive collection of handcars and other rural artifacts. It was possible to re-open the museum to visitors and a number of one-off events have also taken place. As a result of the original invitation to Tuxford, the NBPT are involved with the Grade II* Old Grammar School building there. The building is in a poor condition and mostly empty and unused. The existing trustees of the Reads Exhibition Foundation have decided that the building is no longer required.

I understand that the building has been registered as an ACV (Asset of Community Value). Funding is being sought for asbestos, structural and tree surveys and also a feasibility study. Tuxford has much going for it, mostly little known but includes the splendid Museum of the Horse with one of the best collections of all things horse in the country and an excellent art gallery, bookshop and tearoom in the courtyard.

Auld Cottage in Norwell was at risk of demolition for a number of years, as reported in the 2019 Annual Report, but this has been successfully saved and renovated by the new owners and this small cottage is now available for holiday lets.

Ollerton Hall has now again been under the control of Newark and Sherwood District Council for a few years. It is understood that a preferred partner has been appointed to develop a scheme to save the building and develop it for residential use. A planning application was expected earlier this year but to date this has yet to be received.

The Annual General Meeting was, as in 2020, held by Zoom and after the general business had taken place, Jason Mordan from the Nottinghamshire County Council gave an illustrated talk on the timber-framed buildings of Nottinghamshire.

The Trust continues to answer requests for assistance, the latest from a lady currently living in Canada whose late brother was involved many years ago in a joint publication between the Trust and County Council entitled "At Home in Sherwood". We were able to provide a copy of the publication with further details. We welcome and thank Thoroton member and Honorary Administration Secretary, Rosemary Muge, as the new Thoroton Society representative on the Management Committee of the NBPT and look forward to her contributions at the quarterly meetings.

Alan Wahlers, Hon. Sec. NBPT (and former T.S. Rep.)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Like many other organisations, Nottinghamshire Local History Association encountered some problems during 2020 and 2021; in particular both the Spring and Autumn Day Schools were cancelled as it was considered unwise to hold such large meetings, however, some on-line talks were arranged and supported by James Wright.

16 Feb, Ladies of the Magna Carter w/ Sharon Bennett Connolly (464)

22 March, The Anatomy of Collecting w/ Marc Allum (184)

28 April, Conserving the Leaves of Southwell w/ Helen Bates (178)

The Speakers for the Autumn 2021 meeting are expected to give their presentations in Spring 2022. A 'virtual' AGM was held in April 2021 following which Bob Massey was appointed as Acting Chairman and David Barton became Acting Secretary (to be confirmed at the 2022 AGM). David Anderson continued as Treasurer/Membership Secretary and IT Support and Sarah Seaton as Editor of *Nottinghamshire Historian*. Despite the problems, five publication grants were awarded during the year, two editions of *Nottinghamshire Historian* have been produced, the NLHA Facebook page grew in popularity and the monthly electronic newsletter circulated. During March 2021, NLHA circulated a questionnaire to all its members and non-members who received the monthly newsletter. This was an extensive survey which examined the role of the Day Schools, Angel Row Forums, the *Newsletter* and *Nottinghamshire Historian*, as well as other more general areas. One hundred responses were received and were generally very positive, though several potential areas for improvement and/or development were suggested. One immediate change is that the title 'Day School' was felt to be misleading. It has been decided to re-title these meetings as 'Nottinghamshire History Forums', the first of which will be held in April 2022. Finally, until the end of 2021, NLHA's Facebook and monthly newsletter were managed by John Parker who has now moved away from Nottinghamshire. Adrian Grey has agreed to oversee the Facebook page and a successor is being recruited to handle the monthly newsletter, though David Anderson is providing interim support.

The Committee recognised John's important contribution to the Association as a former chairman as well as his other roles with a letter of thanks and a gift.

Judith Mills

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

Membership.

Total membership is slightly lower than 2020, with several members not renewing their subscriptions in 2021. However, over the course of the past year, the Society has also welcomed several new members, including one new institutional member.

The total membership figures are as follows:

	2021	2020
Individual members	181	187
Individual members with Record Series	85	89
Associate members	52	53
Life members	5	5
Life members + Record Series	4	4
Student members	6	3
Student members + Record Series	1	1
Honorary members	2	2
Record Series only	2	3

Total individual members	338	347
Institutional members	14	14
Institutional members with Record Series	52	51
Institutional members - Record Series only	2	2
Total institutional members	68	67
Fine total	406	414
Total Record Series	146	150

Hannah Nicholson, Membership Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DECEMBER 2021

I am pleased to report that the Society's finances are sound, in spite of our second year of reduced Society activity. No Records Series books were published, unlike in 2020, but Records Series sales brought in a useful £567. The Geoffrey Bond Research Award received £2,000 in the year, £1,000 of which was the donation from Geoffrey Bond and £1,000 because a person who had received the award previously was unable to carry out the research and returned the award. We also received £1,000 as a bequest from our former president, the late Dr Rosalys Coope.

Other receipts included interest of £368 on our reserves in National Savings and Investments; Gift Aid receipts of £1,545; and PLS fees of £136. It was not possible to have a Spring Meeting with AGM this year, but the Annual Luncheon took place at the West Bridgford Masonic Hall. Receipts for the Luncheon totalled £1,232 and the cost was £992. It should be borne in mind that the Luncheon was deferred from 2020 and we had paid a deposit in that year of £200 which was carried over to our re booking in 2021.

The Cust Lecture took place in 2021 and the cost was defrayed by a grant from the University of Nottingham. A limited programme of lectures was possible this year, using ZOOM. The expenses included speakers' fees and the cost of ZOOM support. Three excursions took place, albeit on a much reduced scale with members using their own transport instead of a hired coach.

The printing cost of *Transactions* was down a little, at £5,498 compared with £6,426 in 2020. Newsletter printing costs were also down, as we are now using an A5 format which is cheaper both to print and to post.

Reimbursements of incurred expenses made to five Trustees of the Society during the year amounted to £939, up from £298 in 2020. Part of this increase was because I had to use my personal credit card to pay £355 to Nottingham Castle for our excursion there, as the Castle authorities will not accept cheques. The honorarium paid to our Webmaster has increased this year. This is to reward him for the work he does over the year in maintaining the website and Nottinghamshire Bibliography.

This year it was agreed by Council that he should receive a single *ex gratia* payment of £1,000 in recognition of his work on digitising the Newsletter and the *Transactions*. This is to be paid in two instalments; the second will be paid in 2022. At the end of the financial year, the General Fund stood at £13,775 and the Records Section Fund at £37,814. The total assets of the Society amounted to £51,589 with one cheque for £162 not presented by 31st December.

John Wilson – Honorary Treasurer

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Charity number 237755
Receipts and Payments Account for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Receipts	General Fund	Records Section	Total	2020	Payments	General Fund	Records Section	Total	2020
Subscriptions 2021	6,967.00	1,289.00	8,256.00	9,173	Printing - Transactions	5,498.00		5,498.00	6,426
Next year's subs in advance	384.00	308.00	692.00	3,245	Printing - Newsletter	1,573.00		1,573.00	1,946
Sales - Record Series		567.40	567.40	3,801	Printing - other and stationery	132.07		132.07	274
Sales - Bookstall	-		-	71	Printing - Annual Report +AGM	423.00		423.00	371
Sales - Transactions	63.20		63.20	63	Record Series expenses	-		-	12,878
Sales - other	181.00		181.00		Cost of Lectures	250.00		250.00	270
Excursions	662.90		662.90	-	Cost of Thoroton Excursions	699.50		699.50	-
Geoffrey Bond Research Award	2,000.00		2,000.00	-	Bookings for next year	-		-	25
Spring Meeting and AGM	-		-	-	Cost of Spring Meeting and AGM	-		-	-
Annual Luncheon	1,232.00		1,232.00	-	Cost of Annual Luncheon	992.30		992.30	200
Interest on NS&I account	109.65	258.46	368.11	-	Geoffrey Bond Research Award	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000
Gift-Aid	1,545.21		1,545.21	1,220	Postage &c	4,512.84		4,512.84	6,732
PLS fees	136.49		136.49	60	Website, NHG, Online Bibliography	385.16		385.16	193
Rosalys Coope Bequest	1,000.00		1,000.00	-	Authors' Book Royalties (bookstall)	-		-	-
Cust Lecture	1,112.00		1,112.00	-	Research Group	-		-	-
Publication grants	-		-	-	Sponsorship EM/HH	-		-	250
Miscellaneous incl. donations	2.00		2.00	10	Cust Lecture	1,102.43		1,102.43	-
Totals	15,395.45	2,422.86	17,818.31	17,643	Accountant 2020 accounts	372.00		372.00	360
					BALH including Insurance	75.00		75.00	75
					Honoraria	750.00		750.00	125
					Membership fees other bodies	50.00		50.00	-
					Misc incl bank charges	257.49		257.49	105
					Refunds of subscriptions	-		-	27
					Totals	18,072.79	-	18,072.79	31,257

Chairman RA Gaunt
Dated : 11/2/22
Treasurer JV Wilson
Dated : 14/2/22
Independent Examiner A Hodges
Dated : 19/2/22

Account Summary

At 1 January 2021	General Fund	Records Section	Total
HSBC current account	2,848.89	3,858.81	6,707.70
NatWest account (Secretary)	63.45		63.45
NS&I savings account	13,377.75	31,532.19	44,909.94
	16,290.09	35,391.00	51,681.09
less uncleared 2020 cheques			
opening balance =			51,681.09
Receipts in HSBC a/c	15,285.80	2,164.40	17,450.20
NS&I Interest	109.65	258.46	368.11
Payments ex HSBC a/c	18,072.79	-	18,072.79
Surplus/deficit	- 2,677.34	2,422.86	- 254.48
At 31 December 2021			
HSBC current account	287.35	6,023.21	6,310.56
NatWest account (Secretary)	-	-	-
NS&I savings account	13,487.40	31,790.65	45,278.05
	13,774.75	37,813.86	51,588.61
less uncleared 2021 cheque			162.00
Closing balance=			<u>51,426.61</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting standards required by the Charities Commission for the Receipts and Payments method of accounting by charities.

The requirements of the Charities Commission document CC16b (September 2010) are complied with.

Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against 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

Incoming and outgoing resources are accounted for on the Receipts and Payments basis.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on the Receipts and Payments basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Management and administration costs are those costs incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Trustees' remuneration

Five Trustees were reimbursed an amount of £938 (2020 - £298) in respect of expenses that they had paid out on behalf of the Society. These expenses consisted of postage, stationery, Record Section, Excursions and miscellaneous expenses.

Records Section

	£
Balance at 1 January 2021	35,391
Incoming resources	2,423
Outgoing resources	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	37,814

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS / TRUSTEES OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

I report on the financial statements of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of this report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Signed: A. Hodges

Dated: 15 February 2022

A. Hodges FICB PM.Dip
A R & H Accountancy Services Ltd.
1 Buckland Drive
Woodborough
Nottingham
NG14 6EU



SPRING MEETING AND AGM

Epperstone Village Hall
Gonalston Lane, Epperstone, NG14 6AY
Saturday, 30th April 2022, at 2.00pm

PROGRAMME

Members are requested to arrive by 1.45pm in time to pick up their Transactions and to ensure a prompt start to the meeting

- 2.00pm** Spring Meeting and AGM
- 3.00pm** Update on the Newstead Abbey painting being restored in memory of Rosalys Coope.
Illustrated talk: *Hardwick Hall and its Loggia*
presented by Pete Smith
- 3.45pm** Tea
- 4.45pm** Walking tour of Epperstone village,
including a visit to Holy Cross Church
- 6.00pm** Visit and meeting concludes
The Transactions will be available before the meeting

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary
Rosemary Muge, Honorary Administration Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 125th Annual General Meeting of the Society,
as part of the Society's Spring Meeting,
to be held at Epperstone Village Hall on Saturday, 30th April 2020,
commencing at 2.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome by our President, Adrian Henstock
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 124th AGM held virtually by Zoom on 24th April 2021
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021,
including the Honorary Treasurer's report, and a proposal by Council
for the appointment of an Independent Examiner
6. To set subscription rates for the year 2023
7. Chair's remarks
8. Vice-Chair's remarks
9. To elect Officers of the Society and Members of Council
10. Other business

THOROTON SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

"Nominations for election to Council and for officers should be made in writing to the Honorary Administration Secretary not less than 7 days prior to the AGM. Each such nomination shall be signed by two members of the Society other than the nominee and shall bear the signed consent of the person nominated. Council shall have the power to make nominations for Council and for officers at any time before the Annual General Meeting" The Constitution, Rule 24. For the convenience of members, a nomination form is included with this booklet as a loose insert. Guidance on its completion and return are on the form.

Council nominates for the year 2022-2023 the following officers:

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

Council nominates the following for election to Council for a term of three years, commencing in April 2022

Trevor Foulds, Penny Messenger, Margaret Trueman, Judith Mills.

MINUTES OF 124TH Annual General Meeting of the Society (held online) at 2.30pm on Saturday 24th April 2021

The meeting was held online due to the Coronavirus restrictions in force at the time which prevented meetings in person. 31 members were in attendance. 65 members had earlier voted by post or email.

1 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President, Adrian Henstock, welcomed all members, and noted the differences caused by this AGM having to be virtual. He expressed the hope that members had avoided the worst possible events of the past year and said that it had at least given opportunities for catching up on reading. Regarding the changes in officer function, he said that it was his particular regret that the Covid regulations had prevented him for being able to thank people in person for their service: John Beckett for his 28 years as Chair of Thoroton Council; Barbara Cast for her years as Honorary Secretary carrying the many responsibilities that had previously gone with this post - though retaining the Hon Sec post she has been relieved of some of these responsibilities; and Martyn Bennett for completing 10 years as the Editor of *Transactions*, from which he is now retiring.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Jones, Martyn Bennett, and Janet Wilson.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 AGM

The Chair (Richard Gaunt) noted that usually the AGM and Spring Meeting would do three things: all the necessary business; learn something about the host venue from the President and a guest speaker; and socialise and catch up with friends and members over tea. He reported that the first has been achieved in that all members have received the Annual Report, the Hon Treasurer's Report, and the latest *Transactions* by post. But the talk on the venue, the guest speaker and the socialising have not been possible.

The Chair then took members through the section in the Annual Report, on pp. 45 and 46, which explained the actions taken by Council, in the light of guidance from the Charities Commission, to ensure that the changes to officers and the small change to the constitution had all been done with due process.

4. RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chair presented the Annual Report to the meeting. It recorded the activities and undertakings of the Society, its Council and officers over the past twelve months. For the past year it showed that the business of the Society had continued in all its aspects in spite of the difficulties of the

pandemic. The Chair particularly thanked Paul Baker for all his hard work in compiling the Annual Report for the first time, as well as the newsletters, with highly successful outcomes.

Particularly notable in the past year has been the work of Publications. The Record Section, overseen by Adrian Henstock, had published its 49th and 50th volumes. Both involved John Beckett; one as editor and the other as recipient. *Transactions* had also continued with another excellent volume with a strong range of Archaeology and History.

Sales of Society publications continue to be healthy thanks to sterling work by Rob James. The Chair thanked both the editors, Chris King and Richard Jones, University of Leicester, who had been nominated to succeed Martin Bennett as General and History Editor of *Transactions*. The Hon Treasurer, John Wilson, presented the accounts included in the Annual Report to the members. He apologised for a page which had gone missing in electronic transfer and was not printed in the Annual Report, but had been sent to members in the e-bulletin. He reported that the Society's finances continued to be in good shape despite the expense of three publications in one year.

5 SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE YEAR 2022

It was recommended by Council that there be no increase in subscription rates. The Treasurer explained that it had been decided to reduce costs elsewhere, in the way that the newsletter and the Annual Report are done. Members will be asked to indicate if they would be happy to receive the Newsletter as an e-copy, otherwise they will continue to receive a printed copy. The Chair thanked John Wilson for his work as treasurer and noted that he will be retiring at the 2022 AGM and there is thus an urgent need for a new Hon Treasurer.

6 CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dr Richard Gaunt, the Chair, began his remarks by noting that his first year in the post at the AGM was less interactive than he would have liked, and he hoped that the year ahead would see the resumption of opportunities to meet in person. He thanked the Council and the Standing Committee for their input and hard work during what has been a transitional year for himself. He noted that the Thoroton Society follows in the best traditions of voluntary service, exemplified by the Society's former President, Rosalys Coope. Under normal circumstances we would have been meeting at Epperstone, where she lived for many years. He reported that later in the

year Barbara Cast would be remembering Rosalys, in her centenary year, in the Autumn Newsletter, and we can look forward to meeting at Epperstone in 2022 which will be the 125th Anniversary year for the Society.

The Chair reported that the Digitisation Project, started some years ago, had advanced in the past year with Andy Nicholson, who maintains the website, and James Wright, who looks after our social media, taking the lead. The Newsletter, *Transactions*, the Record Series and the Reports of the Society's former Excavation Section are all proposed to be digitised and uploaded onto the website eventually. The Newsletter remains essential to communicating with members and Paul Baker continued taking this forward. In order to maintain the Newsletter as a hard-copy publication, whilst keeping costs down, the format will be changed from Autumn 2021. This will entail adopting the A5 format of the Annual Report, keeping 24 pages for three issues and a longer format for the Annual Report. The Chair was also pleased to report that Hannah Nicholson will become assistant editor to help with the production of these publications.

The Chair reported that we were saying thank you to some long serving members. John Beckett, our Chair for 28 years from 1992-2020, remained as a Vice-President of the Society. Alan Langton had stepped down as Hon Excursions Secretary but had been nominated to remain on Council as an elected member; excursions will now be ably overseen by Ruth Strong and Pete Smith. Barbara Cast remained as Hon Secretary but with a slimmed-down role. She would continue to oversee the Geoffrey Bond awards and to head the Response Group, which has been very busy this past year ensuring that our views are listened to and acted upon. He also welcomed new Council member Ruth Imeson.

It was sad to have to note the deaths of some long-standing members of the Society. David Bagley, a former Circulation Secretary, had already indicated his wish to retire as a Vice-President, and died shortly after reaching his 90th birthday. Leslie Cram was formerly Hon Programme Secretary and died in February. Several other members have recently passed away and will be remembered in the next Newsletter. The opening of Nottingham Castle on 21st June will be a very significant moment. The Chair informed members that David Crook, whose work on the origins of the Robin Hood legend was widely recognised and appreciated, was due to be interviewed on Radio Nottingham as part of the opening events. The Chair finished his remarks by thanking all who contributed to the good health and solvency

of the Society, whose support is greatly appreciated. He particularly wished to thank David Hoskins, Vice-Chair since last year and invited him to make his own remarks. 7

VICE-CHAIR'S REMARKS

David Hoskins, thanked Dr Gaunt for his leadership during this difficult pandemic year, and members for their support throughout. He reported that in 2021 so far there had been three lectures given online via Zoom, which had all been very well attended, one with up to 300 people, and including attendees from South America and New Zealand. Particular thanks are due to James Wright for setting the society up for Zoom events, as well as for maintaining our twitter account. Up to 80% of members are receiving the e-bulletin as well as the newsletter, which helps keep them all up to date. On 26th June Prof John Beckett will be giving the Cust lecture online via Eventbrite. The programme of summer events had been further curtailed by Covid regulations, but by July some planned excursions should be able to take place. The Autumn Programme of lectures was in place but flexible in case it had to move online. It was hoped that the Annual Luncheon in November would be able to take place.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Chair announced the results of the voting, which had been conducted in advance by a voting form sent out to all members. Forms had been returned by post or email by the end of March. 65 members voted altogether:

For acceptance of the Annual report 65 in favour

For acceptance of the Treasurer's report 65 in favour

For 6 named people* to be elected en-bloc as Council members 64 in favour, 1 against (*David Crook, Alan Langton, Scott Lomax, Ruth Strong, James Wright, Ruth Imeson)

For the officers nominated for positions: to be elected en-bloc (see list below) 64 in favour, 1 abstention.

For the change to the Constitution to allow an Administration Sec to be elected: 63 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

Accordingly: Alan Langton and Ruth Imeson were elected to Council, and David Crook, Scott Lomax, Ruth Strong and James Wright were re-elected

to Council.

The following officers were elected:

President Adrian Henstock and Vice-Presidents Sir Neil Cossons, Keith Goodman, Barbara Cast, Professor John Beckett

Hon Secretary ,Barbara Cast

Hon Treasurer, John Wilson

Hon *Transactions* Editors, General and History Editor, Richard Jones
Archaeology Editor, Chris King

Hon Membership Secretary, John Wilson

John Wilson will send the revised Constitution
to the Charity Commissioners.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 3.40pm

HOLY CROSS CHURCH



Photograph provided by Epperstone News



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 107 Spring 2022



The Dovecot at Epperstone (Photograph Adrian Henstock)

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

The County's Principle History and Archaeology Society

Visit the website: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

THE THOROTON SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCH

6th NOVEMBER 2021

Long service, lamb shank & laughter: Thoroton's celebration of John & Barbara

In the rush to meet deadlines, catch the last postal collection or see off that urgent email, it's so important to pause, reflect and celebrate those people who make a big difference. Members of the Thoroton Society grasped that opportunity by toasting two of the Society's longest-serving stalwarts, Professor John Beckett and Barbara Cast. The annual luncheon at Welbeck Hall in West Bridgford gave members and friends their first opportunity since the Covid pandemic, to give a "big thanks" to John and Barbara for all their work for the Society.

For 28 years, John led the Thoroton Society as its chair from 1992 until last year, when he decided to hand over to Dr Richard Gaunt. Barbara remained as the Society's Honorary Secretary, but had also decided it was time to hand over many of her duties...including organising the annual luncheon. Would this year's event pass the Barbara Test? There was no cause to worry. David Hoskins was on the case.

Welbeck Hall and the dining rooms get mentioned in Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's architectural guide to Nottinghamshire's landmark buildings. Overlooking the River Trent, "it was built as a Masonic lodge by A.E. Lambert in 1909: A fruity baroque with a cupola," noted Pevsner and Elaine Harwood in her updated 2008 Pevsner guide.

Rounding off an excellent menu that included lamb shank or wild mushroom ravioli, the apple and blackberry crumble (with custard of course) maintained Welbeck Hall's well-deserved fruity tradition. The food and the Welbeck staff who served were excellent.

Before the formalities of the toasts and the speeches, I ventured a thought about the Society's namesake, medic and antiquarian Dr Robert Thoroton. What would he have made of the events of the past two years, if he was

alive today nearly 400 years since his birth? Would he be one of our exhausted hospital doctors working on the NHS frontline treating Covid patients? Would he have kept his own Covid diary for future historians and researchers to understand how we coped in this pandemic?

David Hoskins, the vice-chair of the Society, invited us to raise a glass for the Loyal Toast to the Queen, and Judith Mills, chair of FONA (Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives) proposed a toast to the health of the Thoroton Society. Judith stood in for our president Adrian Henstock. Both Adrian and his wife Valerie were unable to attend, but they sent their thanks to John and Barbara, and their best wishes “for the good heart and health of the Society”.

In the speeches, (reports follow) there were many kind and touching words about the contribution made to the Society by John and Barbara, as you will read in Richard Gaunt’s account. As a tribute to their contribution over many years, they were both awarded with the title of Vice-President. For John, there was also one of the highest honours from the Society’s Council presentation of the Thoroton Festschrift, a collection of some of his writings over his years as chair. (The book is now on sale to members)

Also from the Society, there was a gift to Barbara of flowers, bottles of bubbly and - for the garden - a shrub (Pieris Japonica Debutante). John then received a basket of local sourced “goodies”: including a mix of Notts and Vale of Belvoir cheeses, Nottingham ale, a liqueur from Clipstone Park distillery, wines, cereal from Tuxford Windmill ...all neatly covered in a Southwell Minster tea towel.

My take-away as a member “newbie” were the many accounts of John’s remarkable leadership in defending culture and heritage - locally and nationally - that had been in peril or under threat. But who knew about John’s musical and singing prowess, and his expertise on the church organ? Thoroton Council member and University of Nottingham colleague Rob James revealed some intriguing secrets. On this occasion, there was no rousing community singing to end the annual luncheon...but maybe on a future Thoroton coach trip, John can be enticed to lead the chorus!

John Hess, (Master of Ceremonies & Society member)

A TRANSCRIPT OF THE SPEECHES AT THE ANNUAL LUNCH

Rob James's tribute to John Beckett, Chair of the Thoroton Society Council 1992- 2020.

John Vincent Beckett - An Appreciation

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity on behalf of the Society to say 'Thank you' to John for all he has done and achieved for Thoroton and the study of history. It was a great surprise too! The person who Richard Gaunt thought was going to ask me, if I would deliver this appreciation, thought Richard was going to do the asking. Neither did. As the menu cards had been printed, with me named as giving this encomium, I was left with little choice but to agree. For the record, had I been asked, I would have agreed! There are many words which can be used to describe John Beckett - scholar, academic, teacher, research supervisor and mentor are just a few, and to these I would personally add that of 'friend'. I first met John about 30 years ago, on the cricket field, playing for the university staff team. I had recently purchased a copy of his book 'The Aristocracy in England' and had fallen asleep reading it on a train from London. During the course of the game I asked him to give me the 'gist' of the book, and thus save me from having to finish it. I recall he smiled at me with a look of humour - at least that's how I interpreted his expression! He suggested we had lunch, and, as I said to someone only recently, we have been lunching ever since.

In his Introduction to 'Church, Land and People', Richard Gaunt wrote in detail of John's life; his many academic achievements, and of his philosophy and thinking on History and what it should be.

I'd like to highlight a few aspects of that 'career in History'. John joined the Thoroton Society sometime in the 1980s, he assumes, since no one can confirm exactly when. It is known that 'Dr John Beckett' was welcomed as a member of Council, by the then chair, Rosalys Coope, in May 1988. The following year he joined the Editorial Committee, in those days responsible for producing 'Transactions', and on Rosalys retiring as chair of the Society, he was elected to that position at the 1992 AGM.

As the newly elected chair, John set out his vision for what he wanted to achieve for the Society. He wrote in the July 1992 Newsletter that he wished:

'to make the Society truly a County Society, to maintain the scholarly standards of Transactions, to improve communications with members and to try to attract some young members'

I'll leave you to judge if these objectives have been met. I have no doubt that they have been. As Chair he has overseen the development of the Society and under his leadership and guidance, enabled Council members and the membership in general to play an active part in its evolution and growth.

If I may - and you have no choice in the matter - I'd like to draw attention to just a couple of these developments. John has told me he felt that the lack of means of communicating with members was an early, key, issue for him as chair. He had previously suggested the introduction of a 'newsletter' - at first only two pages - before the introduction of which, Transactions and the annual programme card had been the only means of keeping in touch with the membership. He pushed the development of the 'Newsletter', which, under successive editors, has become a vital means of informing and engaging members. Also, through the invention of the Internet we have our website and eBulletin. The importance of which to the Society hardly requires stating. However, within the pages of the website are to be found two highly important resources. Namely the bibliography of published work relating to the history and archaeology of the County and the Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway, and he introduced the Notts History Lecture into the programme of talks, to be given by a recent Phd student. Just several examples, I feel, which demonstrate John's desire to make 'history' accessible to all. Under his leadership, the Society has embraced social-media. Will this help boost membership?

Highlights of John's time as Chair include the Society's centenary year celebrations in 1997. In which, as Barbara Cast has written, he was a leading and active participant. John told me that visiting the six wapentakes was a particular pleasure for him personally. Whilst all this was happening, he was overseeing, as Editor, the publication of *The Centenary History of Nottingham*. At the book launch of which, the then University Librarian, Peter Hoare, introduced John as 'our eminent historian'. John is rightly proud of the book. And it is not surprising that, as a result, he and the

Society were approached to contribute to the Notts Millenium activities. As chair he has been an active campaigner and champion for the City and the County's history and heritage. Wearing both his 'professorial robes' and his Thoroton 'hat' he has spoken out on behalf of numerous heritage causes. Just a couple of examples, in 1989 John published the definitive study of the village of Laxton. The following year he, together with Professor Maurice Barley, found themselves having to persuade the Society to support action to safeguard the village and its traditional farming methods. It will come as no surprise that the Society backed them 'unanimously'. As we know, John remains closely involved with the village and community through the Laxton Manor Trust and as an adviser on heritage matters.

He is also President of their History Society and annually attends the Court and the Leet. It was whilst surveying the buildings of Laxton, John once told me, that he was instructed by Maurice in how to gain access to ladies' bedrooms, and all in the interests of research! So he said! In 1997 the Society, City Council and Byron Society took up arms against a proposal to undertake mining under Newstead Abbey. John spoke at two public meetings, at one of which he recalls the presence of Michael Foot. To cut the story short, ultimately the plans were dropped, as a result of which, focus shifted to the restoration and maintenance of the Abbey grounds and buildings. During 1997-98 - so much appears to have been 'going on' during this time - Nottingham Museum Service came under threat. Once again, John was vocal in his support, speaking out on the service's behalf, promoting the vital importance of the city's history and archaeology.

1998-2020 Chair, History of Lincolnshire committee

2001-2020 Chair, academic board of Midland History

2001-2005 Chair, British Agricultural History Society

And in addition, he found the time and energy to lecture to local history societies and groups across Nottinghamshire and beyond its boundaries.

As Sir Neil Cossans wrote in his Forward to *Church, Land and People*

'John has been the mainspring of regional history studies, comfortably inheriting the mantle of his predecessors'

Therefore it can be no surprise that in 2005, he was invited to take up the post of Director of Victorian County History. Seconded from his role at Nottingham, John worked tirelessly over the next five years travelling extensively round England; speaking to groups; chairing meetings; encouraging local researchers and re-energising county projects that had stalled or were stalling. During his time at the VCH more of the 'Big Red Books' and numerous monographs were published. Whilst, locally, work stepped up a pace in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

And through all of this - and commuting to London four days a week - he found the time to continue with his own research, write, publish and supervise doctoral students as well as chairing Thoroton too! On returning to Nottingham in 2010, John's personal research interests were put on hold, when he was invited by the university to write its history. What resulted was a major work of scholarship, which set new standards in the writing of Higher Education institutional histories. This was then followed by his involvement with two major projects, as Principal Investigator - or lead academic. The *Hidden Histories of World War One*, nationally funded, ran between 2014 and 2019. It brought together many different groups of people, from across the Midlands region, made up of amateur and professional historians, each pursuing with enthusiasm, their interest in uncovering the 'hidden stories' of the Great War. With John's hand on the tiller, much was achieved. The second project was the research conducted into *Nottingham's Green Spaces*, from which a book is forthcoming.

Come 2020, John took the decision to retire fully from his post at Nottingham. At the same time, and after 28 years, he felt it appropriate to step down as chair of Thoroton. His valedictory professorial lecture - The Cust lecture - should have been delivered in June of that year, and would have been the occasion on which his Festschrift - *Church, Land and People: Essays Presented to John Beckett* - was to have been formally given. The pandemic put paid to that plan! And it was in 2021 that the lecture took place via Zoom. In recognition of his scholarship and contribution to the study of history, The University of Nottingham granted John the title of Emeritus Professor and conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Letters. Honours given by the university to exceptional people are not awarded lightly. The Thoroton Society have nominated him a Vice President and given him Life Membership, (which I believe entitles him to a free cup of tea at meetings) and of course, the Festschrift; a beautifully produced and

worthy volume to mark his dedicated service to the Society and contribution to the wider study of history. However, let me give the final words to Sir Neil Cossons, who wrote:

John Beckett is an outstandingly gifted historian, warmly perceptive and with the capacity to make the most recondite of historical issues come alive. This Festschrift marks not only the respect and high regard in which his many friends and colleagues hold him but reflects their real affection for an enlightening and amiable companion.

Rob James

John Beckett's tribute to Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary of the Thoroton Society, 1996-2020

Barbara Cast

The position of Honorary Secretary of the Thoroton Society should be viewed in the same way that we comment on politicians: Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, and so forth. It is more Chief Executive (unpaid) than Secretary. When the Society was founded in 1897 there were two secretaries. W.P.W. Phillimore took charge of administrative matters and the summer excursion, and Rev John Standish of Aslockton handled the Society's publications, which at that time consisted of *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*. These were the days when professional men saw it as part of their social responsibility to take on honorary positions. So John Crosby Warren, a solicitor, was elected as the honorary treasurer. Anglican clergy were prominent in the early days both on the Society's Council, and among its excursionists. The position of Honorary Secretary evolved over time and was split from the editorship of *Transactions*. Perhaps most notable was John Holland Walker, a distinguished scholar in his own right, but a businessman who fitted the required work into his crowded schedule. He was Hon Sec 1925-56. Holland Walker was followed by Keith Train, an extraordinary man who somehow combined a full-time post as a teacher of Chemistry at High Pavement School, with enough energy left over to sort out the Thoroton Society, and for a while he was also editor of *Transactions*. When I first joined Council the Hon. Sec was John Childs who, as I recall, worked for the National Coal Board. He was succeeded by Rev E Patrick Rowley, one of the last working clergy to play a significant role in the

society. Patrick was a lovely man, but he was quite incapable of taking a decision without consulting the chairman, i.e. me. The Society, with Rosalys Coope in the chair, had begun holding an annual lunch. It was quite a successful event in terms of numbers, and Patrick was happy to organise it but only if we went to the same place, the Archbishop's Palace in Southwell, with the same menu - salmon and salad every year! Fortunately for the Society, Patrick did not feel able to handle the tricky task of taking the minutes of Council, and that was where Barbara arrived on the scene. She joined Council in 1994 as Minutes Secretary and two years later succeeded Patrick as Hon Sec. This meant no return to Southwell, and no more salmon salad for the Annual Lunch! Instead, Barbara organised us to go on tour around the county, stopping for lunch at a different venue each year. I think we have only been to the same place twice since she became Hon Sec. Barbara also made sure that we were peripatetic with the AGM. That was a rather stiff and boring event when I joined Council, and most of you will probably say that AGMs always are. But we transformed it by turning it into a Spring Meeting so that an excursion was included with the formal business of the AGM and, of course, the traditional Thoroton tea. We even introduced an officers' lunch prior to the AGM, which Barbara would organise for a hostelry close to the AGM venue. For many years she would eat her food and then rush off to make sure the hall we were using was ready for us, leaving the other officers to follow at a more genteel pace. I should say that this genteel pace was determined by our late president Neville Hoskins, who always required a pudding!

Barbara brought energy to the position of Honorary Secretary. She came up with ideas and was ready to implement them. She kept me, as chair, under control. She insisted on 'chair' not 'chairman' to the annoyance of some of the more traditional members of Council, and no one, least of all me, raised any question about the wording of the minutes. She took on other roles too, especially after she retired from her work at Nottingham City Council. She took the lead in making awards under the Geoffrey Bond Research Awards scheme, and she led the Response Group which grew out of her interest in buildings which are in danger of demolition and where plans for new buildings are considered inappropriate. Through the Response Group she turned the society into a campaigning group. Local History groups and similar voluntary societies need someone like Barbara to make things happen, and I am personally grateful to her for all the effort she put into the

Society over the 26 years she held the position of Hon Sec. Only occasionally did she give us cause for alarm. One was when she did not turn up on time for a Council meeting. We were just about to dragoon someone on Council to take the minutes when she walked in ... she had arrived early and been reading a book to pass the time, only to omit to check how the clock was moving forward! And second, she organised a special lecture to take place in the Archbishop's Palace at Southwell, only to drop something rather heavy on her foot with the result that she was whisked off to hospital in Newark and missed the talk! Finally, as Hon Sec much of Barbara's work was unseen, out of the public gaze, including the time she spent compiling the annual report, but she was always on top of the Society's business as well as keeping in touch with members, most notably one of our previous presidents, Dr Rosalys Coope, who she transported to and from events such as the winter lectures when Rosalys had to give up driving. Barbara has done an excellent job over many years and as chairman through that period I would like members of the Thoroton Society to know that the success of the Society did not happen by accident. We may sometimes have been reluctant to change, but we have Barbara to thank for driving us onwards.

Professor John Beckett, (Chair of Council, 1992-2020)

(See the photographs on the back cover of this publication of the Annual Lunch)

The Story behind John Beckett's *Festschrift*

You may have noticed that it is the occupational hazard of historians and archaeologists to be constantly talking about dead people. The concept of a *Festschrift* offers a very welcome exception to that rule. A *Festschrift* is a volume of essays which honours a respected person, usually (although not always) an academic, and is presented to them during their lifetime. It generally takes the form of an edited volume, containing contributions from the honorand's colleagues, former pupils, and friends.

The origins of John's *Festschrift* was a conversation which I had with Rob James following the Thoroton Society's Spring meeting and AGM at Kingston-on-Soar in 2017. We were discussing ways of commemorating John's long service as an academic, and as Chair of the Thoroton Society, in

advance of his retirement from both positions. By the end of that conversation, I had managed to volunteer myself to edit the book!

Two questions immediately presented themselves – first, who to ask to contribute? Second, and more crucially, how to keep it a secret (given that we had determined upon the Record Series as the likely publisher).

Fortunately, there was no shortage of potential contributors – the real difficulty was to find the right balance of friends, colleagues, and ex-students to contribute without making the volume skewed in one particular direction. I have no doubt that there were others who could have been asked to contribute, or included, but the book needed a theme, and contributors who would deliver quality pieces to schedule – both lessons which John had inculcated in his students.

Fortunately, the breadth of John's work, the range of his interests, and the chronological spread of his publications, enabled a good coverage from the mid-1600s to the recent past. Finding a title proved problematic until I reflected that the core themes of John's work might probably be summarised as the Church (particularly the Anglican Church), relationships with and use of the land, and people (both collective and individual).

Maintaining secrecy proved a constant worry for me. I had heard all sorts of tales of honorands who had found out about the book as it was in progress, sometimes seeking to affect the outcome by editing its contents or inviting (or disinventing) contributors. Other volumes had been advertised in publishers' catalogues ahead of their appearance, thereby alerting the honorand before the volume was presented. And the occasional volume, regrettably, had turned from a *Festschrift* into a memorial volume by the time the publication appeared. I must commend my fellow contributors for the fact that they successfully maintained the secret, notwithstanding the fact that most communication was by electronic means. The only potential leak resulted when Michael Jones mistakenly wrote an e-mail to another Richard –fortunately, it was his own son, Richard Jones, who could be trusted to keep the secret. Richard is, of course, our recently appointed Managing (and History) editor of *Transactions*.

Having got the volume published on schedule, in spite of the COVID pandemic, we were prevented from presenting it to John, as originally intended. The plan had been to surprise John with the volume at the end of the Cust Lecture, which was intended as his valedictory lecture at the University of Nottingham in 2020. Rather like 'This is Your Life', I was

going to get the contributors to stand up as I revealed the surprise to him and presented the volume at the end of the lecture. COVID meant a rather more low-key presentation, at John's office, just ahead of a landmark birthday. Fortunately, John survived the shock – indeed he was rendered uncharacteristically speechless by it – and he has subsequently reflected on the volume in a recent issue of the Society's newsletter.

During this year, the Cust lecture was rescheduled and the Thoroton Society was able to act as host for an online event. This lacked the immediacy and ability to meet collectively, but it has been preserved for posterity on the Thoroton Society website as a video presentation and, thanks to a generous grant from the Cust Endowment Fund, we have been able to publish it as a special publication of the Society.

The Annual Lunch also marked the official launch of the Cust Lecture, a worthy sequel to the *Festschrift* and one which exemplifies the close relationship between the Society and the University which John has done so much to foster. We were delighted to finally – if rather belatedly – launch the two volumes together. They reflect our esteem and thanks for John's contribution over many years as an academic historian who has been actively involved in the world of regional and local history.

I hope that my editorial introduction to the *Festschrift* captured something of John's biography and his working methods as a historian. Whether or not John realised it at the time, he had made my life much easier by revealing far more about his life and career, than he was perhaps conscious of at the time. All that I will conclude by saying is how nice it was to work on a project regarding a living subject – and how nice it was to see that subject live to receive it!

Richard A Gaunt (Editor of the John's Festschrift)

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE TREASURER

Several people have contacted me to say that they have not received their subscription renewal letter. There seem to be problems with the postal service in some parts, so if you have not received your letter, please renew if possible by a bank transfer to HSBC Bank; account name Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire; sort code 40-35-18; account number 61818929. If you

do not use internet banking and would prefer to use a cheque, please contact me at treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk or ring me on 01159266175.

John Wilson

THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE

A detailed report on representations made to planning authorities in 2021 will be in the Annual Report. This year there has already been one request for support relating to a development proposed for the site of the former Elms School in Nottingham which would include 4-storey buildings on an elevated part of the site. Let me know of any concerns regarding developments associated with historic or archeological sites in Nottinghamshire – details of concerns required.

Barbara Cast, Response Group Coordinator

FROM THE HONORARY EVENTS COORDINATOR

Future Events

Saturday 12th March at 2.30pm in the Lecture Room, Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. NG1 4EZ.

Lecture: *Hunting for the meaning of a place name, the two Nottinghamshire Uptons*: Dr Richard Jones, Associate Professor, University of Leicester.

Richard is General Editor of '*Transactions of the Thoroton Society*' and he will be going behind the name to investigate the origins of two villages in Nottinghamshire with the same name, one near Southwell and one near Tuxford. It is hoped that the bookstall will also be available. There is no longer a legal requirement for the wearing of masks or for testing, but please feel free to do so if it makes you feel more comfortable.

David Hoskins

ZOOM LECTURE REPORT.

Nottinghamshire History Lecture 13 November 2021

"Elizabethan and Stuart revenue Collection in Nottinghamshire - and the noble and gentry vitriol it generated." Dr Richard Bullock

Dr Bullock worked on a doctoral thesis at Nottingham Trent University, and the subject was the role and office of the High Sherriff in Early Modern England, focussing on the late 16th and seventeenth centuries. This is the first study to focus so sharply on the office holders and their job. The paper

he presented was derived from his research work and focussed on the issue of petty and grander power struggles within the Shrieval community. Sheriffs only held their office for a year at a time. It was an onerous task with responsibility for keeping the peace, collecting taxes and assisting with the staging of both quarter session courts and the assize judges and their courts during their twice-yearly visitations. Even when assisted by a deputy or undersheriff (Dr Bullock himself served in the office for many years) the sheriff's work was difficult, potentially expensive, under-appreciated and often unrewarded. Moreover, it could be political; pricking – the arcane method by which a monarch indicated his/her selection of office holder from a list of those suitable men created by their county – could be used as a means of keeping perceived political opponents out of parliament for a sheriff could not leave the county during the term of his office. Dr Bullock showed that whilst the shrievalty could be used as a collective group of people from whom expertise could be drawn for special tasks, the individuals within that group were often allies but just as often foes. Rival aristocratic families sought at times to impose their choice of candidate and so the post became part of a string of rivalries over the decades. The office itself became more and more difficult in the period of Charles I's reign before the civil war. Their financial responsibilities involved them in the contentious non-parliamentary taxes and levies – the Benevolence, Forced Loans and of course, Ship Money. Not surprisingly this exacerbated rivalries and antipathy. Dr Bullock explained and illustrated all these facets of the officers and the office. He introduced the men (for in this region they were always men in this period) who held the office, their grievances, their friends and allies and those of whom they fell foul.

In a paper that was informed, in-depth and yet at times humorous, Dr Bullock did these hard put upon, occasionally unfortunate, men a great service by showing what difficult tasks landed upon their shoulders, allowing his listeners to understand their plight more fully.

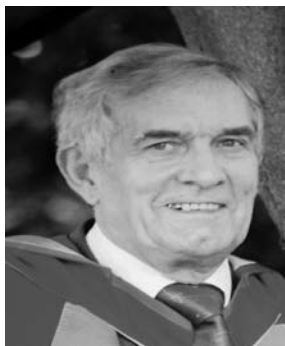
Martyn Bennet

NOTABLE PEOPLE

The Eulogy given by John Beckett at Ken Brand's funeral.

Ken Brand

(Ken died on Monday 17th January, 2022, aged 89. The photograph below, provided by his wife Patsy, was taken on the occasion of him being awarded an honorary degree by the University of Nottingham.)



Ken Brand was my friend, colleague and mentor. I can say this despite the fact that, during the whole of the time we worked together he insisted on telling people he was Baldrick to my Blackadder! I don't recall any cunning plans which went seriously wrong, but he was always keen to help with research, and to talk about his own interests. He was a bastion of the Nottingham Civic Society over decades, and for many years a Council Member of the Thoroton Society.

He was a lovely man. In the words of Hilary Sylvester, chair of the Nottingham Civic Society, he was 'a warm and welcoming person'. Ken was born in Southampton in 1932 and remained a supporter of Southampton FC throughout his life. After National Service and teacher training he moved to Nottingham in 1957. The whole of Ken's working life was spent teaching in Nottingham secondary schools, and he retired in 1991 as Head of Resources at Ellis Guilford School. He trained as a geographer but his teaching career was in mathematics. From the time he joined the Nottingham Civic Society in 1979 Ken's interests were moving towards buildings. He was largely self-taught although he acknowledged the tutorship of Professor Maurice Barley and Keith Train, stalwarts in their turn of both the Civic and Thoroton societies, and local architects who played a key role in Nottingham's development, among them John Severn, Robert Cullen, and Julian Marsh. Ken's output was mainly published through the Nottingham Civic Society. He wrote a series of booklets, which the Civic Society published, on The Park Estate, Mapperley Park, and the

Shire Hall, but is perhaps best known for his studies of Nottingham's two great Victorian architects, T.C. Hine and Watson Fothergill both of whom became household names.

The booklets were the tip of a considerable iceberg. He also published and wrote much of the Civic Society's newsletter, developing it from a stapled A4 sheet to an illustrated book. Ken edited 101 issues over more than 30 years and he wrote much of the content. As if this was not sufficient for a man who was technically retired, he gave talks to local groups, led guided walks, wrote articles for the *Nottingham Evening Post*, gave talks on BBC Radio Nottingham, organised photographic exhibitions and generally went to great lengths to share his interest and knowledge as widely as possible with students, descendants of Nottingham Architects, owners of historic properties, and architects.

In 1996 he was awarded the Eberlin Prize for lay help to architects in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, while in 2008 Elaine Harwood, in her volume for the Pevsner Architectural Guide to Nottingham, wrote of Ken that his 'generosity of time and knowledge has been exceptional'.

From 1985 Ken ran the Civic Society's 'Mark of the Month' scheme for building and environmental improvement. Despite his particular interest in Victorian architecture, he championed good modern development through the Mark of the Month awards. Local architects were grateful for such awards despite the involvement of an amateur. Ken became extraordinarily knowledgeable about Nottingham's buildings and landscape, and he was always happy to share that knowledge. For the Thoroton Society Ken was a regular attendee at winter lectures, and he reported regularly to the Society's Council on Nottingham City Planning issues. His last publication was an essay on enclosure and architecture in Nottingham in the 1850s, a theme he and I first addressed in an article published in 1997 in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*.

Beyond his involvement with the societies, Ken was a key figure in the Centenary History of Nottingham Project which led to the publication in 1997 of *A Centenary History of Nottingham*, and he and I wrote several other books and articles together designed to increase wider knowledge of Nottingham both locally and further afield. One of the books was a study of

the Nottingham Council House, designed by another of Ken's favoured architects, Cecil Howitt. It seemed a great shame that there were no obvious ways of rewarding Ken for all that he was willing and able to do. Eventually we found a way, in fact two ways.

In 1997 Ken was awarded the prestigious title of Citizen of Honour by Nottingham City Council in its Centenary Year, in recognition of his contribution to our understanding of the history and built environment of Nottingham. Dorothy Ritchie, for many years a local studies librarian, recalls Ken telling her that 'when he was made Citizen of Honour, he told me that somehow between the Council House and Radio Nottingham (on York Street in those days) the statuette was broken and the head came off. Ken was highly amused and did the interview with the broken award in front of him.' Five years later Ken was nominated for and appointed Doctor of Letters, an honorary degree awarded by the University of Nottingham, for his contribution to the community (2002).

Ken was local lay adviser to the Civic Trust, and played a key behind-the-scenes role in the awards granted in 2002 to the University of Nottingham's Lakeside Arts Centre, Jubilee Campus, and Millennium Garden. In the *Evening Post* he wrote that these awards represented 'an achievement which reinforces the university's position as the prime patron of architecture in the Nottingham area' (30 April 2002). Ken lived a full and enjoyable life and everyone here today who knew him at all well will recall his sign off phrases: 'just a moment'; 'while I have you here', 'just before I go' and 'one final point' - which usually meant another five. I do not begrudge him these foibles. They were part of his character, and in my experience those 'final points' were often the ones he really wanted to get over, and the most important. Ken was a lovely man, a good friend - despite his lifelong support for Southampton FC - and fantastically generous with his time - but you had to listen to those 'final points' to make sure you had not missed a gem!

John Beckett

JOHN WILSON CELEBRATED HIS 80th BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY

Postscript

2021 saw John Wilson, having already handed over the Editing of the Newsletter and Annual Review to me some years ago , relinquishing two more of the three roles he had continued with for 'The Thoroton Society', that of Membership Secretary and that of Chair of the Research Group. He has, for the time being, agreed to continue his excellent work as Hon Treasurer, which I know Council are very relieved about and that the Society's finances will continue to be well looked after.

Not many people would find the time John has done to serve the Society in so many roles at one time.

Without telling John, I asked his wife Janet to provide the Newsletter with a little history of John (see below). Thank you Janet.

Paul Baker

John Wilson

Born in 1942, John spent much of his early life in The Meadows area of Nottingham, where his father ran a shoe shop, and attended the delightfully named Bluebell Hill Primary School before passing the 11 Plus and moving on to Mundella Grammar School. His academic promise was evident in the A Levels he achieved in chemistry, physics and mathematics; the breadth of his interests extended beyond the sciences to encompass history, short-wave radio and aircraft; it was not surprising therefore that he joined the Royal Observer Corps in the 1960s. On leaving school John went to work in the Standards Laboratory at Boots and during his first year was invited to train as a pharmacist; there was a shortage of qualified personnel at this time. As he required a biological qualification to start the training, he undertook botany A Level at night school and passed the two-year course in a single year. He then became an apprentice at Boots branch 11 on the corner of Shakespeare Street and Mansfield Road and here he enjoyed the work in general and especially the hands-on business of mixing medicines. It was not long before Boots encouraged him to apply for a degree course and his application to the School of Pharmacy at Nottingham University was successful. He finally became a qualified pharmacist after graduation, his apprenticeship counting as his professional training, but he worked for a further year at Boots in the New Products Development department before

moving on to the pharmacy at the General Hospital where he stayed for a number of years. During his time at the General Hospital John applied for a research scholarship at Nottingham University, was accepted and after two years part-time study completed an MPhil with a thesis entitled 'Some Aspects of the Ecology of Micro-organisms in a Hospital Environment'. He also got married. Then in 1975 he was appointed chief pharmacist at the General, with a view to eventually taking on the Pharmacy Department at the Queen's Medical Centre which was still in the process of being constructed. The QMC finally opened in 1978 and John remained there as its chief pharmacist until the late 80s. His final job took him away from the hospital environment to Sheffield, where he became a prescribing advisor for a large area of the East Midlands, using data collected from surgeries about the prescribing 'habits' of the doctors to assess where economies and rationalisation could be achieved, and visiting the surgeries to discuss the results of these analyses with GPs. The whole process proved to be so successful that it was rolled out across other parts of the country and John himself was made a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health in 1992. He finally retired from full-time work in 2001 but still put his expertise to use as a locum and wrote articles for professional publications.

Unfortunately he suffered severe angina in 2007, which necessitated an operation to insert stents and put an end to his part-time work. He recovered slowly and steadily and was able to support his wife in her busy life as an A Level chief examiner, until she succumbed to serious illness and died in 2012. He remarried in 2015. John joined the Thoroton Society in 1998 and immediately felt 'at home' there, enjoying its lectures and outings as well as the companionship of like-minded people. He has served the Society on Standing Committee and Council, and as Membership Secretary, Editor of the Newsletter and organiser of the Research Group; he is still the Treasurer, a post which he has held from 2005 although he now feels that the time has come for the office to be taken on by a younger member. He looks forward to participating in the Society's future programme, in the hope that it will not be too long before the country emerges from the Covid pandemic and functions can take place with members meeting in person instead of on a computer screen.

Janet Wilson

REMEMBERING SOME OTHER NOTABLE PEOPLE

Elizabeth Hooton of Nottingham, a dissenter and one of earliest quaker preachers, died on 8th January 1672. Elizabeth was the first woman to become a Quaker minister.

Francis Willughby, was an ornithologist, ichthyologist, scientist and linguist. Although born in Middleton Hall in Warwickshire, the family seat was Wollaton Hall. He was an avid student and scholar. He and his associates were advocates of a fresh way of studying scientific matters which involved relying on observations, extremely radical in a period when students still relied on the ancients and the Bible for knowledge. He is commemorated by a plaque in Southwell Minster – he died on the 3rd July 1672.

Helen Kirkpatrick Watts, daughter of the vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Lenton, died on 18th August 1972 aged 91. Helen was a militant suffragette who was inspired by a speech of Christabel Pankhurst and subsequently, in 1907, she joined the Women's Social and Political Union. During her suffragette activities she spent time in prison and was on a 90 day hunger strike in Leicester Prison, following which she received a Hunger Strike Medal. On November 22nd 2016, 100 years to the day after women were first able to vote in a General Election, a juniper tree was planted in her honour at Nottingham Arboretum.

Robert Parsons in 1572, 450 years ago, on 25th January, was drowned in the Trent near Newark. He was an eminent composer of the time and member of the Chapel Royal - a friend wrote of him "Parsons, you who were so great in the springtime of life, how great you would have been in the autumn, had death not come."

Barbara Cast

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHURCH HISTORY

Averham St Michael

The church of Averham St Michael has long been thought to be of Norman construction, The earlier *Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire* volumes, for example, speak of the masonry proving the whole structure to be of this period. However, as long ago as 1980, the author found evidence in the tower that indicated a possible earlier structure. Following the re-hanging of the bells in 2012 the first floor chamber of the tower was opened out, making both access and proper inspection possible. This confirmed that the east wall contained a blocked, rubble-headed doorway that formerly gave access to the high level of the nave at its west end, along with evidence of a pitched roof line above with the walls below covered in a light orange mortar. The upper portion of the blocking was removed to allow the examination of the doorway through the entire thickness of the wall and a corresponding rubble head was found on the east side. The orange mortar was analyzed using Raman spectroscopy and compared with the white mortar pointing found elsewhere in the tower, this established that it is also found on the internal south wall of the tower. A chance discovery of a section of timber embedded in the wall at the north side of the roof line showed that this was the stub end of a former timber that lay exactly along the slope of the former roof. Radiocarbon dating of the timber has yielded a date of AD 1000 \pm 33 years at 93.7 per cent probability, thus proving that this phase of the tower is of Anglo-Saxon date. Detailed analysis of the exterior south wall indicates that there is a lower phase that might be even earlier in its date of construction. It is hypothesized that the tower was either a former two-storey western porch (eg. as at Deerhurst St Mary in Gloucestershire) or a tower-nave (eg. St Mary Bishophill Junior in York), with a now lost portion of the church lying further west. A paper describing all the analysis and findings has been published open access in *The Antiquaries Journal* (appearing in print later this year) and is available for free download at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3K9cY9V>

Christopher Brooke



The Nottinghamshire Origins of The Owl and the Pussycat? Scofton Church and Edward Lear.

Created over 35 years ago the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust provides grant funding towards repairs and maintenance of local churches. While not large, NHCT grants help churches to obtain initial funding for projects or provide the final piece in the jigsaw of grants for works to be undertaken. The trust has aided works as diverse as roof replacements and stonework repairs to clock, bell and stained-glass window restoration. Along with grants from other charities and organisations, the trust relies on funding from the membership subscriptions of its "Friends". NHCT Friends pay a modest subscription and in return receive an illustrated newsletter twice a year and are invited to three or four visits to Nottinghamshire churches. These visits are hosted by trust experts who lead a tour of a couple of historic churches and give an interesting and informative talk about the building, its architecture and its history; it is a most pleasant way to spend an afternoon. A Friends' visit to Scofton church produced something quite unexpected, we found ourselves looking at images that seemed strangely familiar but not in a church context. Carved around the doorway of the main entrance to the church are a splendid pair of creatures, an owl and a cat, and immediately Edward Lear's nonsense poem on the owl and the pussycat who went to sea in a boat, sprang to mind, followed by the question, was there any connection between Lear and Scofton?

The Cat



The Owl





Did Lear get his inspiration from Scofton?

The church is built of ashlar in a neo-Romanesque style, and is dated by an inscription on the east wall to 1833. It was built by the owner of Osberton Hall as a memorial to his wife. Edward Lear's poem was first published in 1870, and had been written in 1867, so clearly the church came first, but did Lear know about it, had he perhaps seen the carvings? It is just possible that he might have done so. Edward Lear was a superb artist and draughtsman, as well as a writer of verses, and started his career making detailed drawings of birds for ornithologists to study. George Savile Foljambe, who built the church, was a keen ornithologist and his library contained books which Lear had illustrated. Foljambe was friendly with the leading ornithologists of the day, including John Gould, for whom Lear provided the drawings that were published in Gould's books during the 1830s. One of the features of Osberton Hall was the extensive collection of British birds in cases which was acquired by the first ornithologist in the family, Francis Ferrand Foljambe, who also founded the library to which his grandson, George Savile, added Lear's books. It would be fascinating to know whether the young Edward Lear was taken to Osberton to see the collections and meet with Foljambe, certainly John Gould stayed there. If so, then perhaps Lear saw the carvings on the church, and in later life when his thoughts turned to subjects for verses to entertain children, the image of the owl and the cat popped into his mind and the tale unfolded. The evidence has yet to be uncovered, Lear's papers are in archives in this country and in the United States, and there are 55 boxes of papers in the Nottinghamshire Archives Office relating to the Foljambe family. The answer may well be out there.

(Adapted from a Friends' article, written by NHCT trustee Dr Jenny Alexander.)

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Cameron Bonser

BOOKCASE

BOOK REVIEW

The Creation of a Civic University:

The Centenary Cust Foundation Lecture, 2021

ISBN 978:0-902719-29-3.

This book, as an occasional paper published by the Thoroton Society and the University of Nottingham is an exemplary record of how the role of the Cust Lecture was important in obtaining the University College of Nottingham a charter as a full University.

It is both an historical record but also a great tribute to John Beckett's variety of historical academic projects over his 41 years in the History Department of Nottingham University. As I read this written record of the Centenary Cust Lecture one could hear John's voice as he gave the lecture online in June 2021. It has been recorded for posterity but publishing the lecture, including an Introduction by Richard A Gaunt, Thoroton Society Chair of Council, and the Introductory note from John Beckett, has added to its relevance both presently and in the future. From the supper party for 50 people on the evening of 21 February 1921, John has described in detail and explained who Harry Cust was, the development of the Committee for National Patriotic Organisations and how the endowed annual Cust lecture developed and became an opportunity for getting the University College a University charter. The Cust Lecture event during the interwar years developed and was promoted by University College with not only visiting speakers but also international guests. John also explains the role played by Jesse Boot leading to the movement to Highfields and in time the two Universities emerging from 1948 when the University Charter to Nottingham was granted. He then explains how development of the University since then has taken place, including the continuation and survival of the Lecture.

Finally there is John's reflection on how Nottingham University has turned out 100 years after the 1921 Dinner Party. The written record now published in this book is both a history of the development of a Lecture and a University, but also can be seen as a tribute to all the detailed research work by John Beckett over many years.

Paul Baker

This book is on sale for £5 and can be purchased by contacting Rob James by email: sales@thorotonsociety.org.uk

Reminder too that the Society has a number of excellent books for sale that can also be purchased from Rob James.

Church, Land and People: Essays presented to John Beckett. Volume 50 of the Record Series at £22 plus £4 post and packaging.

The Nottinghamshire Church Notes of Sir Stephen Glynne 1825- 1874, edited by Lawrence Butler. Price £12+£3 post and packaging

Newstead Abbey: a Nottinghamshire Country House: its Owners and Architectural History 1540-1931, by Rosalys Coope and Pete Smith at £18 plus £4 postage and packing
Village Government and Taxation in Late Stuart Nottinghamshire: The Gedling 'Town Book' 1664-1714, edited by Edward White. At £5 plus £3 postage and packing.

From the Editors and Membership Secretaries

This is the first of the combined Annual Newsletter with the Spring Annual Report. We hope you enjoy the publication. May we also remind you that we would welcome contributions for the Summer Newsletter. These need to be sent to pb3448@gmail.com by May 1st please. Photographs are also very welcome too.

We would also like to encourage members to help us recruit new members for the Society. If you have any ideas about increasing membership , please contact Hannah by email: hannah.nicholson@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Baker: (Newsletter Editor and Assistant Membership Secretary)

Hannah Nicholson: (Membership Secretary and Assistant Editor)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES are: Individual Ordinary membership £27.00, Associate member (at the same address) £6.00, Student/Under 21 £6.00, Individual Record Section membership £16.00, Combined Ordinary and Record Section £38.00, Institutional Ordinary membership £27.00, Institutional Record Section £22.00 (non-UK £26)

RESEARCH GROUP ONLINE: :contact Richard Jones rhcj@leicester.ac.uk

RESPONSE GROUP: The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County. If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Coordinator, the Hon Secretary Barbara Cast - barbaracast@btinternet.com

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY: For information and to join the group contact the County Editor, Philip Riden : philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk

LECTURES AND EVENTS: Contact: dhoskins@talktalk.net -Lectures and Excursions will be notified prior to the Event in the eBulletins and Newsletters with booking details.

PUBLICATIONS:The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume which is distributed to all members.The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. The Spring Newsletter from the 2022 edition will be shorter and included at the end of the Annual Report. Deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter are: **1st February (and all reports for 1 for Annual Review), 1st May, 1st August, and 1st November each year** . Please send all contributions to the Editor by email. pb3448@gmail.com.

There is also the eBulletin which members can request to receive . If you do not already receive this you can sign up for it by contacting admin@thorotonsociety.org.uk .

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A selection of photographs
from the Annual Thoroton
Lunch in November 2021
Top left: John Hess speaking
to the Thoroton Society
Bottom left: Barbara Cast
Top right: John Beckett
addressing members of the
Thoroton Society
Bottom right: Presentation to
John Beckett

Photographs taken by John Wilson