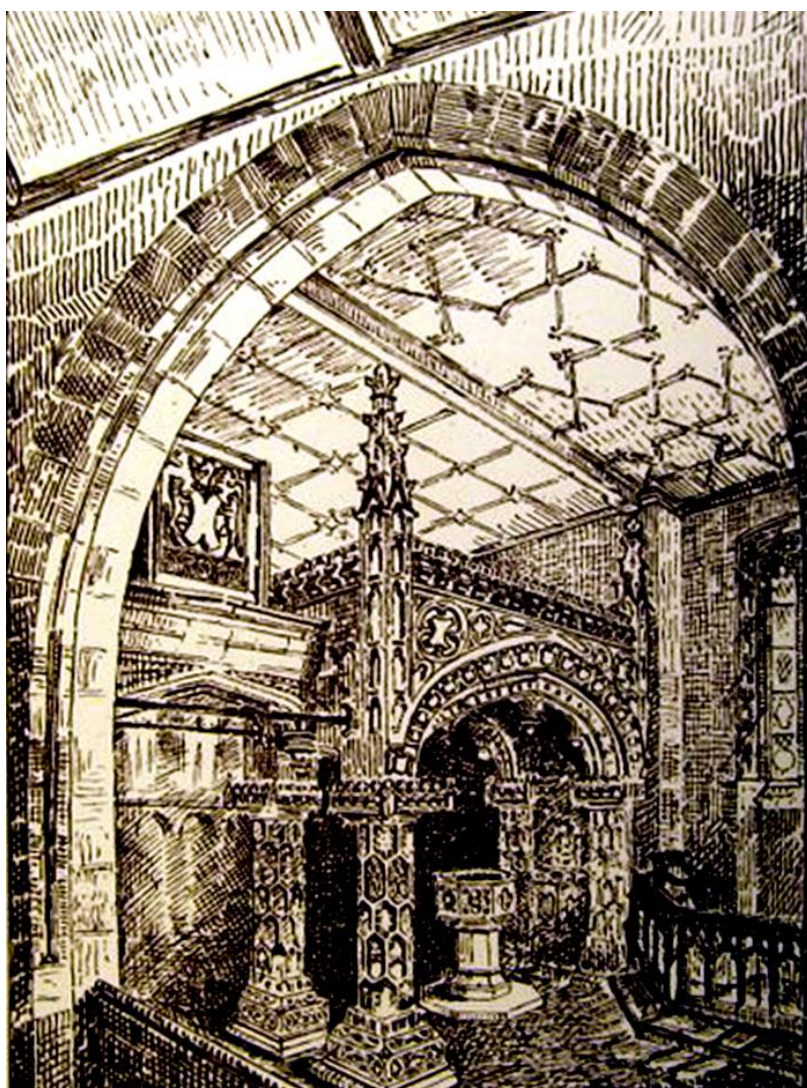


THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

THE COUNTY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1897

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2016



The Babington Monument – Kingston on Soar

**THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OFFICERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016**

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St Winifred's – Kingston on Soar

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016

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

TRUSTEES

The members of Council are considered to be the Trustees of the Society. Details of membership of Council are shown on page 2.

MAIN ADVISORS

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

FUNDS

The General Fund can be 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 income from the Maurice Barley, Nora Witham, Myles Thoroton Hildyard and Neville Hoskins Funds is used for lectures. The Coddington Fund is for the William Senior Record Series volume, the Centenary Fund for the Heritage Gateway and the Davis Bequest to digitise the Nottinghamshire Bibliography.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016

INTRODUCTION AND CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2016 Annual Report reveals that, once again, the Society has been busy with its own events, and active in the pursuit of many activities through the city and the county. I am grateful to everyone who has served to drive the Society forward.

During the year I gave two keynote lectures. The first was in April on the 200th anniversary of Bromley House Library, and a version of that talk will appear in *Transactions*. In November, I gave the keynote lecture to the first Nottingham Heritage Partnership event held in the Council House. This was a means of engaging with a far wider range of local interest groups. Richard Gaunt reports more fully on this later in this Annual Report. It is important that we have a voice locally and can carry the flag when the opportunity arises and, to that end, it was also good for the Society when

Richard Gaunt and Philip Jones were elected to the Board of Inspire, the new organisation running the library and archive services.

As always, writing this introduction to the Annual Report is tinged with sadness. We know of several members and partners of members who have died this year, and I would like to pay a particular tribute to Jean Nicholson, who died on 29 December. For many years Jean was the Society's lecture secretary, and for part of that time her late husband Joe was in charge of the slide projector. After she resigned from the position she continued to be a regular attendee at Society events, and she has, as it were, passed on the baton to her granddaughter Hannah who is a member of Council.

We also have to replace two of our long serving officers. David Bagley has been in charge of Circulations for as long as I can remember but, after a prolonged spell in hospital, he has decided that the time has come to relinquish the position, although with his usual thoroughness David has provided copious notes for his successor. Meantime, John Wilson, our treasurer, will tell the AGM that he will be retiring at the end of the current financial year. John has done sterling work, and he will be difficult to replace. Fortunately he is continuing his work editing the newsletter.

Membership may be down slightly, but the Society goes forward with an excellent lecture and excursion programme, and a particular commitment to promoting the heritage and culture of Nottinghamshire. Founded in 1897 we are now 120 – and rising!

John Beckett, Chair of Council

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

The Society's Council met three times in 2016, meeting as usual at Lenton Grove, courtesy of the University of Nottingham. Council has responsibility for overseeing the Society's business, finance and development and the Council's officers, and those representing the Society on various organisations, report to Council at each meeting. The Standing Committee, appointed by Council and consisting of the officers, meets on a regular basis and reports to Council at each meeting. It has responsibility for day to day business of the Society, the planning of its programme and detailed consideration of initiatives such as the Geoffrey Bond Research Grant. Members of Council and its officers are elected at the AGM 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, most of them take on specific roles and attend all meetings of Council.

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary

HONORARY TREASURER'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2016

Members will note a change in the format of the Accounts this year. I have offered my resignation from my position as Treasurer after over eleven years in post, and I wished to simplify the accounts for the benefit of my successor. The main change, which was

agreed with the Standing Committee, is to incorporate all the small funds, such as those for the named Lectures, into the General Fund. The only restricted fund now is that for the Records Section, which is truly restricted as subscribers to the Records publications pay separately. This makes the accounts clearer, and will be much less work for the Treasurer at the year-end.

I am pleased to report that the Society's finances seem still to be in good shape. In January I transferred £5,000 from the current account to our reserves in National Savings and Investments (NS&I). This gave us a total of £67,311.78 in our NS&I account throughout the year. At year-end we received £402.99 in interest (which is now at 0.45% gross/AER) to make a final total of £67,714.77. The Gift-Aid refund amounted to £1,247.56. Receipts during the year amounted to £27,270.04 and expenditure was £23,710.59. Although this appears to be a considerable surplus of receipts over costs, I wish to point out that we had several 'windfalls' during the year. One of these consisted of three publication grants for articles published in '*Transactions*', which came to £2,995.00. The other, rather unexpected, windfall was from the Publishers' Licensing Society, who informed us that they had a sum of money for us from the licensing of copying of articles from Thoroton publications - in August we received £1,121.82 in 'back' licensing fees and for 2016 the fees amounted to £44.47. Had we not received any of these monies, our surplus of £3,559.45 would have turned into an operating loss of £592.43. However, the cost of printing '*Transactions*' at £5,801 was considerably higher than in 2015 (£3,926).

Highlights of our financial activities include a surplus of £469.15 on our excursions, and I would like to thank my colleague Alan Langton for his successful organisation of these excursions. The AGM and Spring Meeting almost broke even, with just a small deficit of £30, and the Annual Luncheon broke even as we did not have a guest speaker in 2106. Sales of Record Series books were good, and raised £593.70. The Newstead Abbey book, by Rosalys Coope and Pete Smith, continues to sell. Around half of the second print run has been sold to date. The Bookstall raised a net sum of £119 - thanks to the 'staff' of the Bookstall for their hard work.

This year, the Society increased the amount of the Geoffrey Bond Research Award, adding £1,000 to the generous gift of £1,000 from Geoffrey Bond. We also increased a small grant received from the Victoria County History Trust for Philip Riden by £200, making £500 in all. This grant is for the continuing work on the Nottinghamshire volumes of the Victoria County History. A grant of £250 was made this year to the publishers of the free journal '*East Midlands History and Heritage*'.

Amongst the expenditure I must report an increase in postage from £3,271 in 2015 to £3,588 this year. We purchased a new microphone system for use by the speakers at our Lectures at a cost of £461.68. Our public liability insurance through the British Association for Local History remained unchanged at £65.

The General Fund of the Society at 31st December totalled £29,078 and the Records Section £45,099. Hence, the Society's total assets at the start of 2017 financial year amount to £74,177.

John Wilson, Honorary Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Overall, as the analysis below shows, membership of the Thoroton Society has fallen slightly during 2016. This reflects a trend in some recent years. This is due to the recruitment of new members not keeping pace with the loss of some members, which is often for very obvious reasons.

Comparative membership numbers	2015	2016
Individual members	213	198
Individual members with record series	88	83
Associate members	57	58
Life members*	7	5
Student members	6	5
Honorary members	5	4
Record series only	3	3
Total individual members	379	356
Institutional members	10	11
Institutional members – with record series	58	59
Institutional members – record series only	1	3
Total institutional members	69	73
Final total	448	429

Total record series	150	148
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*For some years, the number of Life Members has been reported as 7 but a more careful analysis has revealed that this is a historical error which has been corrected in this report.

Judith Mills, Honorary Membership Secretary

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions

Volume 119 (2015) of *Transactions* was published and presented at the Annual General Meeting on 30 April 2016. Once again, the layout and printing was undertaken by 4word of Bristol who continue to provide an excellent and supportive service to the two editors during the publication process. This edition was the first in which the

archaeology contributions were marshalled by Dr Chris King and it proved to be a bumper issue as far as his section was concerned and it saw a large number of archaeology articles, no less than four important archaeological articles as well as Chris's review of county archaeology. There were a range of five history articles to match, covering recipe books local authors and a provocative article on Robin Hood.

The history and managing editor would like to record his thanks to the publications committee for managing without him at its November annual meeting, due to his continuing illness, when it discussed a range of affairs including the potential for 400th anniversary commemorations of the departure of the 'pilgrim fathers' to the low countries. The committee continued to discuss the printing arrangements, taking the decision to retain 4word for *Transactions* whilst looking for an alternative printer for the *Record Series*.

By the end of the calendar year, the *Transactions* editors had received a wide range of articles for Volume 120. These were in the final stages of preparation for submission to 4Word for 12 January 2012.

Martyn Bennett, Honorary History Editor

Record Series

The long-awaited Volume 47 - *The Welbeck Atlas: William Senior's Maps of the Estates of William Cavendish Earl of Newcastle 1629-1640* - is finally being published. In addition to a printed edition it includes an interactive digital memory card containing full colour reproductions of some seventy maps of the Earl of Newcastle's estates - mainly in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Northumberland but some in Gloucestershire and Somerset. The volume contains detailed catalogue entries listing the names of all tenants, settlements, farms and fields, etc recorded on the maps, a transcript of the surviving fragment of a lost written survey, and a scholarly introduction by the editor Stephanos Mastoris. It is well illustrated with full colour enlargements of details from the maps.

An additional future volume – *The Nottinghamshire Churches Notes of Sir Stephen Glynne 1825–1874* – is also in active preparation. This is an edition of the architectural notes compiled by Glynne (1807-1874), a landowner and dedicated antiquarian from North Wales, on his extensive travels throughout England.

Important note to Record Series Subscribers. The William Senior edition forms Volume 47 in the Series but because of its delayed publication it was overtaken in the programme by Volume 48 which appeared in 2015 - *Newstead Abbey : a Nottinghamshire Country House : its Owners and Architectural History 1540-1931*.

Adrian Henstock, Honorary Record Series Editor

Newsletter

I have now edited the Newsletter since the summer issue of 2015, no 80. The Newsletter seems to have gone from strength to strength since I have received many excellent items

to publish. I have tried to keep the costs down by limiting each issue to a maximum of twenty-four pages. This has not been easy, and the summer 2016 issue did run to twenty-eight pages. I hope that the format has now settled down, with a major picture or pictures on the front cover and a double-page spread with colour pictures across the centrefold. Since setting up a 'Members' Research' section, I have been delighted with both the number and the quality of members' contributions. The task of reading and (mildly) editing the various contributions gives me great pleasure and I hope to continue to develop our Newsletter in the future. Contributions by members and others are always warmly welcomed!

John Wilson, Honorary Newsletter Editor

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

After Brexit and the American Presidential Election the third item of contention for discerning City residents was the shambolic report of the intended closure and replacement of Nottingham Central Library. Without any apparent consultation or exposure on the property market, the library was sold to a developer for a very modest sum considering its city centre location. The official information reveals the main reason for development being the shortage of "Grade A" offices in Nottingham and Council Leader, Jon Collins, believes the development is an opportunity to make Nottingham a more attractive city centre. There is worrying vagueness in that there have been, apparently, no decisions made about the library being part of any new building on the current site or where it might be relocated to – an unknown already chosen site? The promised "state of the art" library would surely entail a hefty loan, unless the developer offers the Council the opportunity to rent the premises. So much for the "City of Literature"!

Incidentally, the library building was designed by Harry Gill Senior in 1898-9 as a furniture store for Henry Barker. It was converted into the Central Library in 1976-7 entailing a fifteen month project by the County Architects Department. Gill was a frequent contributor to the earlier Transactions.

During the year the police and fire stations on Shakespeare Street were vacated and relocated, the police on to Main Marian Way and the firemen on to London Road. This reorganisation, together with the discarded Guildhall, leaves another prime city centre site ready for development. The conversion of the former Guildhall into a top grade hotel has already been proposed on several occasions: however the police and fire stations have specialised rooms which would be likely to challenge developers.

Towards the end of the year news came that preliminary work on the refurbishment of Broadmarsh Centre had started and the long-neglected east side site had been sold to new developers who had plans prepared for mainly residential use.

It has been announced that the Council has offered to lend some £19m to the construction of the intended Education Hub, the amalgamation of New College and

Central College, on a site on Canal Street to the rear of Loxley House – it would cater for 40,000 students.

The height of new buildings is often a contentious issue. There are clear guidelines in the Council's commissioned "Nottingham City Centre Urban Design Guide", yet planning officers and/or City councillors sometimes choose to ignore them with the flimsiest of excuses. Most recently is the proposal for apartments on the former Sam Ward garages at the London Road/Canal Street junction where a central tower threatens the view from London Road towards St Mary's Church on the Lace Market cliff-edge – where the Saxon settlement originated. The guide describes it as "the iconic prospect of the Lace Market from the top of London Road" and grades the view as Vista B. Similarly a new development on Trivett Square could also block out views of the church. Rumour hints at excessive height for the Education Hub!

Ken Brand, City Planning Representative

THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP

The saga of the remains of the former Robin Hood Hotel in Newark rumbles on. Thoroton joined with the major conservation/historic organisations in opposing the demolition of the three listed town houses, all of which agreed that they should be retained as part of any redevelopment of the area and that the proposed Travelodge was an inappropriate building for this historic part of the town. A further amended plan late in 2016 received a similar response from the same respondents, including Historic England's comment regarding the substantial harm the demolition of these Grade II buildings and its proposed replacement would have on the conservation area. We await the outcome.

The other serious matter to exercise the Society is the selling off of the current Central Library premises in Nottingham and the unknown location of the library in the future and especially its most valuable local history collection – and the equally valuable and helpful staff.

Members of the Society are strongly encouraged to draw the group's attention to matters concerning them. There are instances where our input has made a real difference to the outcome for our county's heritage.

Barbara Cast, Coordinator, Response Group

THOROTON RESEARCH GROUP

The Research Group met once this year, in October, in the Thoroton Room at Bromley House. Unfortunately, the change did not meet with the approval of all members as there is no lift and the stairs are difficult for some. We decided to move back to the Boardroom at the Mechanics for 2017. Amongst the topics discussed at the meeting were:-

An article on 'How to write for *Transactions*' should be posted on the Thoroton website;

Should we have a Research Group blog on the website?

Should we have an email 'round robin'?

During the meeting, Keith Fisher described his studies on lead marks on church roofs and Elizabeth Robinson reported on a study of the paintings of John Theodore Heins. This artist was based in Norwich but did many portraits of Nottingham people.

It was agreed that we should meet twice in 2017. New members are welcome. Please contact John at the email address wilsonicus@btinternet.com

John Wilson, Coordinator, Research Group

THE THOROTON SOCIETY WEBSITE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE

Website statistics for 2016 show a steady growth in traffic over the year with 1,430 unique visitors viewing 8,899 pages in January, increasing to 2001 visitors looking at 11,273 pages in December. The most popular times for viewing the website in 2016 were the afternoon (2-5pm) and evening (8-9pm). The most viewed sections of the website continue to be 'Events', 'About us' and 'Publications'. The most popular individual page accessed was the article, *The General Lunatic Asylum, Nottingham, 1812-1902 (Sneinton Asylum)*, by Terry Fry. Most people found the website by using an Internet search engine such as Google. The most intriguing search phrase used on Google was 'enemas in asylums' – a very specific line of research!

The Nottinghamshire Bibliography Online continues to increase in size and now holds around 11,700 entries (Michael Brook's original bibliography published in 2002 has around 8,700). Apart from adding new entries over the year a substantial amount of time was spent on finding digital versions of publications on the Internet and providing a direct link to them on the database. It is remarkable how many of the older publications on Nottinghamshire history are now available online thanks to the digitisation programmes of Google, Microsoft and various universities.

Work has also started on adding details of the 386 entries on the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project website. For a number of the county's churches these entries are probably all that has been written about them so it is important to include them in the Bibliography.

Andy Nicholson, Thoroton Society Webmaster

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HERITAGE GATEWAY

The site has had a good year in 2016 with the following entries submitted - Nottingham Society for Organising Charity and Nottingham Day Nursery and Orphanage, a subject which I with other researchers discovered whilst following up material for the 140th anniversary of the Nottingham Community Voluntary Service. Other contributors

include Chris Weir and Terry Fry who wrote about districts of Nottingham including Sherwood, Forest Fields and Carrington, and Joan Knight and the 1919 Influenza epidemic. Hospitals was also researched by me, which took many hours and lots of help from others including Pauline Marples. The police and policing entry was updated as it was the centenary year for women joining the Police Service. Similarly the Sherwood Foresters entry was updated to include their part in the Easter Uprising in Dublin in 1916. The scope of the website is widening and we receive numerous enquiries throughout the year.

Three articles which have been written in 2016 but were not able to be put up in that year are on the bi-centenary of Bromley House, William Booth and the Salvation Army in Nottingham and conscientious objectors in Nottinghamshire who served in the Friends Ambulance Unit in 1917. They will all be included within the first few weeks of 2017.

Needless to say we are always wanting people to contribute and would appreciate anyone getting in touch with us.

Denise Amos, Heritage Gateway

SOCIETY EVENTS IN 2013

Excursions

Members have supported our excursion programme very well this year. There has been enthusiasm and participation as we have not only visited new places but also discovered new things about places we thought we knew well. This has been very encouraging. Our first outing on 12th May was quite a local one, commencing at the church of Saint Martin of Tours at Bilborough, a building which in recent years has experienced a period of traumatic change. This ancient parish church originally set at the heart of a small village was overwhelmed in the fifties and sixties by the creation of a large housing estate. Decay and vandalism nearly led to its demise, but an attempt to make the medieval building appropriate for the modern age saved it, although it was not an appropriate scheme. Fortunately in recent years the damage has been undone, and the church is once again a haven of beauty and calm, enhanced by delightful wall paintings in the chancel. From here we went to Southwell for lunch, followed by a tour of the recently reopened Archbishops' Palace buildings and gardens; we were also shown some significant features of the Minster itself. The day ended with a visit to the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd at Woodthorpe, opened in 1964 and an award winner for its architecture. The nave consists of two hexagons, each forty feet wide and each covered by an umbrella vault supported by a single column. The windows by Patrick Reyntiens create a blaze of colour.

On 16th June we went to the King Richard III Visitor Centre where we were firstly well entertained by Dr Mathew Morris of Leicester University describing in graphic detail his part in the exciting discovery of the skeleton of the king under the local car park. After touring the new Centre and the Cathedral where the tomb of Richard III now rests, we journeyed to Bosworth Field. Here the rain which had poured on us in the

morning had stopped and we were able to enjoy a guided tour in lovely sunshine. We were given the latest facts about the site of the battle and the likely positions of the opposing armies. The day ended with tea in the Visitor Centre.

On 14th July Penny Messenger and Margaret Truman led an excursion to Kimbolton Castle and Buckden Tower. Penny and Margaret do manage to find most fascinating places to visit, and these two places were no exception. There has been a castle at Kimbolton since the eleventh century, although the present house dates from the late Stuart period. Vanbrugh designed some of the buildings, and the most famous resident, for a time, was Queen Katherine of Aragon. The buildings are now used as a school, and one hopes that the historical atmosphere of the place ensures success for the scholars! Buckden Tower is also a medieval building, and was originally built as a palace for the bishops of Lincoln. Katherine of Aragon also stayed here for a time. In 1957 the buildings were passed to the Claretian Missionaries, a Spanish order founded in 1849 to care for the poor. We enjoyed lunch here, and afterwards a tour of the buildings and the garden.

Our last excursion was to Clifton Church and to Sheffield Manor. Clifton old parish church was closely associated with the Clifton family from 1272 and there are alabaster memorials to the family in the north transept. There are also some features in the church which survived the Reformation. In the eighties a major restoration was initiated which re-created a feel of a medieval building of great beauty and reverence. After coffee, we travelled to Sheffield Manor, another building overwhelmed by new housing around its borders. Very little of the original buildings remain, although ruins make it possible to see where they existed and to get some measure of the plan of the place. The Manor was one of the properties of Bess of Hardwick and both Cardinal Wolsey and Mary Queen of Scots stayed here, Wolsey for eighteen days and Mary for fourteen years. We were entertained by a performance of imaginary complaints by Bess of Hardwick in having to manage and pay for the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots here for so long. It was an entertaining and unusual excursion.

Members were also fortunate to be invited again on August 3rd to see the progress of the excavations in the grounds of Nottingham Castle which the archaeology group under the direction of Dr David Knight organised for us. So many members were interested in this that we had to arrange for three groups to visit the site during the day. As well as this Philip Jones kindly organised another extra excursion on 30th June to tour the gardens of Newstead Abbey. The Society is indebted to David and Philip for their time and enthusiasm in creating such local opportunities for us to enjoy.

Alan Langton, Honorary Excursion Secretary

Lectures and Presentations

Our year opened with Council member Pete Smith giving the *Maurice Barley Lecture* and sharing with us his thoughts on re-evaluating many of the architectural changes at Rufford Abbey. Following Pete's chance discovery of an old photograph, he used his

knowledge of the estate to better understand the sequence and dates of alterations originally thought to have been made much earlier. In February, Sophie Clapp from the Boots' Company archive used the *Nora Witham Lecture* to illustrate how Jesse Boot turned his parents' herbal medicine shop into an international chain of chemists' shops. Sophie then showed how Jesse, later Lord Trent, used his entrepreneurial skills, and the profits from the shops, to enrich the lives of both his staff and the people of Nottingham. We ended the winter season with the *Myles Thoroton Hildyard Lecture*, when Professor Charles Watkins told us how the trees of Sherwood Forest had supported the local population for many years as well as providing inspiration for generations of artists.

The *Spring Meeting* was held on a very sunny day in the village of North Muskham. The formal meeting was followed by the story of King John's last days, as told by Dr David Crook, and another excellent tea. The day concluded with a visit to St Wilfrid's Church in the village.

The new winter season began with the *Archaeology Lecture*, given by Gareth Davies of Trent & Peak Archaeology, highlighting the discoveries made during the construction of Phase II of the Nottingham Tram. This included some new excavations that enhanced the existing knowledge of the position and layout of Lenton Priory.

On another sunny day in November, the Annual Luncheon was held on board the river cruiser, Nottingham Princess. During the journey up and down the River Trent a very good lunch was served by the staff and a running commentary on the view passing by the windows was provided by yours truly.

In a change to our usual pattern, brought about by the booked speaker being asked to present a paper in Washington DC on the same day, our President, Adrian Henstock, gave us an updated version of his biography of Dr Robert Thoroton. Dr Thoroton published the '*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*' in 1677, one of the first documented county histories in the country, and became the inspiration for our own Society, founded in 1897 and named after him. The year ended with the *Neville Hoskins Lecture*, presented by Geraldine Gray, Assistant Librarian at the Nottingham Subscription Library, better known today as Bromley House. 2016 marked the bicentenary of the library's founding and Geraldine gave us a very interesting insight into its history, its collections and its operation, including the unique catalogue system still in use today.

David Hoskins, Honorary Lecture Secretary

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

During the year Sheila Leeds and I have continued to revise a draft volume on the southern division of Rushcliffe wapentake. This has reached the stage at which the text can be submitted to the new VCH general editor, Professor Angus Winchester. This will become the first volume of the History to be published for Nottinghamshire for over a century and will mark a further stage in the revival of VCH in the East Midlands. At the

same time, other members of the group have continued to work on individual parishes. VCH has recently begun the publication of short paperbacks on the history of particular parishes and it may be possible to include some Nottinghamshire titles in this series. The group continues to meet fortnightly at Nottinghamshire Archives and new members would be welcome. In particular, anyone who is working on a parish history and is interested in seeing it published in the new VCH paperback series is welcome to contact me and discuss this possibility.

Philip Riden, County Editor, VCH

ARCHAEOLOGY

Highlights of Nottinghamshire Archaeology in 2016

2016 has been another productive year for archaeologists working in Nottinghamshire, with archaeological contractors and community groups investigating sites ranging in date from the prehistoric period to the 20th century. Brief details of many of these investigations are provided in this report, which has been compiled in consultation with Ursilla Spence and Emily Gillott of Nottinghamshire County Council and Dr Christopher King, Honorary Editor (Archaeology) of the Society's Transactions. Further details of many of the projects listed below will be found in the summary of recent archaeological work in the current volume of the Society's Transactions.

Barton in Fabis

A geophysical survey and evaluation excavations by Oxford Archaeology South for Greenfields Associates in advance of sand and gravel extraction revealed a group of rectilinear ditched enclosures associated with Romano-British and possibly Iron Age settlement features, set within a ditched field system. Geoarchaeological investigations revealed several ancient channels of the Trent, some yielding waterlogged deposits with potential for shedding light upon the changing valley environment.

Beeston: Boots Alliance Campus

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Blackwell to undertake a detailed record prior to demolition of a disused building (D13), erected in 1938 on the Boots Alliance Campus for the production of chemicals and converted later to a store. The original factory was a fine example of a reinforced concrete building in the Expressionism style. The survey provided a full record of the remains of the 1938 structure and later modifications.

Bingham: Test-Pitting Project

The Bingham Heritage Trails Association completed in 2016 the fieldwork stage of a Heritage Lottery funded project, *The Roots and Development of Bingham*, with assistance from Trent & Peak Archaeology. This included excavation of 62 test pits and two small trenches, mainly in the historic core of Bingham, with the aim of elucidating further the development of the medieval town (and in particular its rectilinear street pattern). Analysis of the finds and features recovered during fieldwork is currently in progress.

Bingham: Chapel Lane

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure, on behalf of Crown Estates, to undertake geophysical investigations, evaluation trenching and a borehole survey prior to development adjacent to the Fosse Way immediately north of Bingham. Trenching revealed a scatter of Romano-British pits and ditches, some of the latter possibly bounding fields. Finds included prehistoric worked flint and Roman and Early Medieval sherds. Boreholes through a shallow basin in fields just north of Bingham located peat and marl deposits indicating infilling of a former lake during the post-glacial period.

Clipstone: King John's Palace

Mercian Archaeological Services CIC conducted further fieldwork on the site of this medieval palace complex with the assistance of Heritage Lottery funding. Work included a trench in the grounds of the Tin Tabernacle: a mission church of timber and corrugated iron built in 1903. Finds relating to earlier activity on the site were found in spoil in the Tabernacle foundations and included Early and High Medieval pottery and metal finds.

Harworth: Bawtry Road

Evaluations by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services in advance of housing development by Persimmon Homes located a mixed hoard of 296 denarii and radiates dating from the first half of the third century AD. The coin hoard had been buried in a ditch interpreted as part of a Romano-British field system, possibly in an organic container that had decayed after deposition.

Kimberley Brewery

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Armac Group to record, prior to redevelopment, the complex of buildings associated with the Kimberley Brewery, constructed in 1861 on Hardy Street. This shed valuable light upon the site's built heritage, which included two late 19th century malthouses with interlinking storage, the brewery building and four maltkilns.

Segelocum Roman Town, Littleborough

Geophysical survey, fieldwalking and soil coring were conducted at *Segelocum* as part of a Heritage Lottery funded project led by Sturton Parish Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Geomagnetic and earth-resistance survey in collaboration with Trent & Peak Archaeology revealed numerous geophysical anomalies, indicating a high density of potential archaeological features. Fieldwalking led by Pre-Construct Archaeology uncovered a significant spread of Roman pottery, including greywares and small numbers of colour-coated and samian sherds. In addition, core sampling was conducted to investigate the subsurface stratigraphy and assist the development in 2017 of a programme of trial trenching focused upon geophysical anomalies.

Newark South: Housing Development

Over 12ha of an unusually extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlement was excavated by Oxford Archaeology North prior to housing development on behalf of

Urban and Civic Ltd. Early activity is represented by scatters of prehistoric lithic artefacts and an Early Bronze Age burial represented by collared urn fragments from a pit. The Iron Age saw the development of an extensive rectilinear field system, integrated with pit alignments and ditched enclosures associated with timber roundhouses, pits and four-post structures. Intensive occupation continued into the Roman period. Settlements of both periods yielded abundant evidence for craft and industrial activities, including iron-smithing and smelting debris and, on the Roman site, the foundations of four well-preserved pottery kilns. Both Iron Age and Roman features also preserved palaeobotanical remains with significant potential for elucidating the regional economy and environment.

Newark: Queens Road

Sewer improvement work by Severn Trent Water and North Midlands Construction exposed a length of the defensive ditch flanking Newark's Civil War defences. Excavations by Trent and Peak Archaeology revealed c.0.3m below the ground surface part of a substantial ditch at least 3.5m deep but of uncertain width, which had been recut at least twice. Associated finds included salt-glazed pottery from the fill of the most recent cut and a lead pistol or carbine shot, possibly dating from the Civil War, in the bottom fill of the ditch.

Nottingham Castle

Training excavations. A second season of excavations was conducted by Trent & Peak Archaeology in the Outer Bailey, again with funding from Nottingham City Council. This revealed beneath the turf a thick finds-rich layer redeposited during landscaping in the 1870s. This sealed a humic layer interpreted as 19th century allotment soil and the brick foundation of a probable greenhouse; beneath this, an unknown depth of soil cut by features that may relate to the Ducal Palace gardens was recorded. A large quantity of redeposited finds ranging in date from the Early Medieval to recent periods was recovered from these layers.

Test-pitting. 31 test-pits were dug by Trent & Peak Archaeology to investigate the character and degree of preservation of archaeological deposits and structures in areas to be affected by proposed development work. A wide variety of cut features, structural remains and floor surfaces of medieval and later date was recorded, including the deep ditch dividing the Middle and Outer Baileys, remnants of a possible masonry bridge across the ditch, the foundation of a possible stone building running parallel to the Ducal Palace basement and part of the 17th century carriageway connecting the Outer and Middle Baileys.

Nottingham: Pre-Conquest Borough

Work was completed on the second stage of the project aimed at securing and enhancing the documentary and material archives compiled during excavations directed by Charles Young in the Lace Market between 1969 and 1980 at Boots Garage, Drury Hill, Fisher Gate, Goose Gate, Halifax Place and Woolpack Lane. Digital archive data have been submitted to the Archaeology Data Service and can be viewed by visiting their website. Funding has been provided principally by Historic England, with additional support from Nottingham City Council.

Rufford Abbey

Several small-scale investigations were conducted by Nottinghamshire County Council community archaeologists at Rufford Abbey to inform future site investigations and management. These focused upon the former northern gates at the end of the Broad Ride, areas by the abbey night stair and Abbey Meadow, and a possible mill site in the gardens. The most notable find was part of a rare monastic metal scourge similar to one found at Rievaulx. Work in the gardens has identified fragments of Roman sculpture which were installed by former owner and archaeologist Lord Savile, as well as recording parts of the gardens that it had been assumed had been lost.

Southwell: House Of Correction, Burgage Green

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Burgage Homes Ltd to undertake recording of the 19th century House of Correction and adjacent buildings before redevelopment of the site for residential use. This revealed an interesting sequence of building development which culminated in the construction between 1884 and 1900 of a lace factory adjacent to the former prison.

Southwell: Little Green, The Burgage

Southwell Community Archaeology Group, in partnership with Trent & Peak Archaeology, continued their Heritage Lottery funded investigations in the Burgage Green area of the town. Excavations uncovered interesting evidence for activity from the medieval period, including cobbled surfaces, a stone-lined well, pits containing medieval pottery and other domestic refuse, and a circular bloomery iron smelting furnace.

Stapleford: Whiteley Mill, Nottingham Road

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by William May Developments to produce a building record of Whiteley Mill in Nottingham Road, Stapleford. The work was undertaken prior to, and during, the building's conversion into 24 apartments, hotel offices and a restaurant. The mill was constructed between 1835 and 1885 in the classical style popular during the latter half of the 19th century. It was probably built by the firm Whiteley, Ward and Company, originally for the manufacture of silk and subsequently for lace production. Despite this change of function, the core elements of the mill were shown to have undergone little change since the late 19th century.

Thynghowe, Hangar Hill: Budby, Edwinstowe And Warsop Parishes

This possible Viking assembly site, placed prominently on an elevated location in Sherwood Forest where the boundaries of three parishes converge, has been extensively investigated over several years by the Friends of Thynghowe and Mercian Archaeological Services CIC with Heritage Lottery funding. Excavations focused in 2016 upon a circular embanked enclosure adjacent to the summit of Thynghowe, with the aim of investigating its character, relationship to other features and date, and are summarised in the Society's transactions.

Worksop: Gateford North

A watching brief and excavations by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of housing

development revealed extensive evidence for Late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, including a multiphase enclosure complex of these periods and part of a Romano-British rectilinear 'brickwork plan' field system (possibly with Iron Age origins). One Romano-British enclosure contained a post-built structure, a probable corn drier and several pits with charcoal-rich fills.

David Knight, Archaeology Rapporteur

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The NLHA held two Day Schools during 2016, both at Ravenshead. The Spring Day School and AGM held on 19th March was on the theme of 'Unearthing the Past' and included presentations by Steph Mastoris on the Welbeck Atlas and Chris Brooke on remote sensing. The Autumn Day School held on 22nd October was entitled 'The History Feast': as well as presentations on food and drink in Nottinghamshire in the 16th century (Mark Dawson) and school meals in the 20th century (Denise Amos), there were shorter presentations from across the border into Derbyshire (on Ilkeston and Heanor). Also a number of local history forums were held throughout the year at the Local Studies Library on Angel Row, Nottingham.

Philip Jones, NLHA Representative 2015

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

The NBPT has been very busy during the past year in the run up to 2017 and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Trust....again in 2016 the development of the Robin Hood Hotel site in Newark has occupied much of the volunteers' time. The NBPT have received the results of a viability study, the conclusion of which showed that the buildings were worthy of retention for a range of different uses. Despite the possible availability of a conservation deficit grant through the HLF the developer is still seeking full demolition of the three listed buildings on the site. In addition to the NBPT, opposition to the developer's planning applications has come from Historic England, the Georgian Group, SPAB, SAVE, the Newark Civic Society and individuals. The current application is due for determination in February 2017. Approval by NSDC would seem to set a worrying precedent for the demolition of any listed building in the District.

The dovecote at Thoroton was opened to the public during the National Heritage Open Days in September.

The 2016 Harry Johnson Award attracted a good number of entries and the awards to winners and runners up were presented at the AGM in December. The new powerpoint presentation about the work of the NBPT was also presented at the AGM and will be used in 2017 with talks to local groups.

Projects in the pipeline include digitisation of the Nottinghamshire Vernacular Building Study, comprising some 5000+ index cards/photographs and the organisation of celebrations of the 50th Anniversary in 2017. A Celebration Lunch is planned for June

and a Traditional Building Crafts Fair at Southwell Minster in September. The last Craft Fair of 2012 attracted a good number of visitors to view over 50 exhibitors displaying traditional works including stonemasons, ironworkers, lime plastering, leadworking, slate roof work, bell making, church organ makers, embroidery, glass working, mediaeval tile making, mud walling and furniture makers.

Funding continues to be a concern to the charity with the NBPT currently relying upon subscriptions and donations. This was one of the items addressed at a Special Conference held in June at Hodsock Priory. Capital reserves continue to decrease and ways to resolve this situation continue to be explored."

Alan Wahlers, NBPT Representative

NOTTINGHAM HERITAGE PANEL

The most significant development this year was the announcement, during the autumn, that Nottingham Castle has been awarded £12.9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its major transformation project. Work will now progress towards the redevelopment of the Castle site (including parts of Brewhouse Yard) and the creation of a number of new galleries, including two devoted to the themes of Rebellion and Robin Hood. It is unclear, at the time of writing, whether, when and for how long, the Castle site will be closed to enable this work to progress. The newly refurbished attraction is scheduled to open in the spring of 2020.

The Castle Transformation project was one of many initiatives considered by Nottingham's Heritage Panel, now completing its second year of operation. The panel is comprised of a range of stakeholders and local interest groups, including the Thoroton Society and the Civic Society, and is tasked with overseeing the delivery of the City Council's Heritage Strategy. The strategy gained national acknowledgement during the course of the year, as an innovative development worthy of emulation by other local authorities. The Panel held its first Heritage Partnership event in November 2016 as a means of engaging with a far wider range of local interest groups. The results of this, including future action to develop the Partnership, are currently being considered by the Panel. Other developments included an application to create a Heritage Action Zone, encompassing Nottingham's existing Conservation Areas. The zone will allow the City Council, in partnership with Historic England, to address a number of long standing preservation and aesthetic issues in the city centre, including disused retail units and properties at risk. During the year ahead, the Heritage Panel will be working on the Local List and on the establishment of a Buildings Preservation Trust for the city.

Richard A Gaunt, NHP Representative

NOTTINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

The Civic Society continues to be an important voice on the Heritage Panel, as in all matters relating to preservation and planning in the city. During the course of the year, the society instituted an electronic newsletter to keep members updated on its activities.

Plans are in hand for an annual journal, in succession to the newsletter ably edited, for many years, by Ken Brand. The Society continues to hold its lecture series through the autumn and winter and to engage the wider public through its programme of well-attended guided walks and summer excursions. The society's website has been overhauled lately and it continues to sell its popular series of publications on Nottingham's iconic buildings. Connections between the Civic Society and Thoroton Society continue to be maintained through the annual Keith Train lecture, which is held every October. Membership of the Society remains excellent value for money – Thoroton members are strongly encouraged to join up!

Richard A Gaunt, Nottingham Civic Society Representative

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Charity number 237755
 Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

Receipts	General	Records	Total	2015	Payments	General	Records	Total	2015
Subscriptions 2016	8,034.00	1,672.50	9,706.50	10,015	Printing - Transactions	5,801.00		5,801.00	3,926
Next year's subs in advance	1662.00	1,062.00	2,724.00	1,654	Printing - Newsletter	2,169.00		2,169.00	2,036
Sales - Record Series		593.70	593.70	3,035	Printing - other and stationery	685.87		685.87	327
Sales - Bookstall	160.00		160.00	292	Printing - Annual Report +AGM	394.50		394.50	418
Sales - Transactions	46.00		46.00	576	Record Series expenses				3,059
Sales - other					Cost of Lectures	539.50		539.50	457
Sales - Churm bequest				502	Cost of Thoroton Excursions	4,575.85		4,575.85	4,902
Excursions	5,045.00		5,045.00	6,002	Excursion Bookings for next year	60.00		60.00	
Special Lecture J Foyle				990	Cost of Spring Meeting and AGM	537.00		537.00	525
Lecture sponsorship				75	Cost of Annual Luncheon	1,376.00		1,376.00	1,626
VCH award to Philip Riden	300.00		300.00	1,000	Special Lecture J Foyle				978
Geoffrey Bond Award	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000	Geoffrey Bond Award	2,000.00		2,000.00	1,000
Spring Meeting and AGM	507.00		507.00	522	VCH award to Philip Riden	500.00		500.00	1,200
Annual Luncheon	1376.00		1,376.00	1,544	Postage &c	3,588.42		3,588.42	3,271
Interest on NS&I account	123.78	279.21	402.99	464	Coddington Fund paid out				-
Gift-Aid	1,247.56		1,247.56	1,302	Michael Wood Award (Laxton)				750
PLS fees		1,166.29	1,166.29	-	Website, NHG, Online Bibliography	338.77		338.77	207
Publication grants	2995.00		2,995.00	-	Authors' Book Royalties (bookstall)	41.00		41.00	79
Miscellaneous Incl. donations				1,320	Research Group				37
Totals	22,496.34	4,773.70	27,270.04	30,292	Sponsorship EMHH	250.00		250.00	
					Honoraria				300
					BALH including Insurance	65.00		65.00	65
					Membership fees other bodies	50.00		50.00	75
					New Banner				108
					New microphone system for Lectures	461.68		461.68	
					Misc incl bank charges	88.00		88.00	129
					Refunds of subscriptions	189.00		189.00	144
					Totals	23,710.59	-	23,710.59	25,619

Chairman JV Beckett	
Dated 24-2-2017	
Treasurer JV Wilson	
Dated 24-2-2017	
Independent Examiner	
Dated 16/3/2017	

BALANCE SHEET

At 1 January 2016:	General Fund	Records	Total
HSBC current account	7,912		7,912
NatWest account (Secretary)	613		613
NS&I savings account	21,987	40,325	62,312
	30,512	40,325	70,837
less uncleared 2015 cheques			52
opening balance =			70,785
Receipts	22,496	4,774	27,270
Payments	23,711	-	23,711
Surplus/deficit	- 1,214	4,774	3,559
At 31 December 2016:			
HSBC current account	6,057		6,057
NatWest account (Secretary)	573		573
NS&I savings account	22,616	45,099	67,715
	29,246	45,099	74,345
less uncleared 2016 cheques			168
Closing balance =			74,177

THE THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016 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.

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.

	2016	2015
Sales	£	£
Record Series	594	3,035
Transactions	46	576
Books incl Churm bequest	-	502
Bookstall (net)	119	214
	<u>759</u>	<u>4,327</u>

Grants	2016	2015
Page grants for papers in <i>Transactions</i>	2,995	0
Excursions and other functions	£	£

	Receipts	Expenses	surplus/ <i>deficit</i>
2015 excursions and other functions	8,086	7,053	1,033
Excursions	5,045	4,576	469
Spring Meeting and AGM	507	537	30
Annual Luncheon	1,376	1,376	-
	<u>6,928</u>	<u>6,489</u>	<u>439</u>

2016 2015

Management and administration

	£	£
Printing and Stationery	686	325
Newsletter	2,169	2,036
Annual Report	395	418
Postage and other admin.	3,588	3,271
Insurance	65	65
Honoraria	-	300
Membership fees	50	75
Sundry expenses	88	237
	<u>7,041</u>	<u>6,727</u>

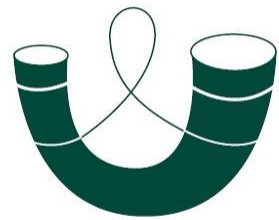
Trustees' remuneration

Four Trustees were reimbursed an amount of £2,718 (2015 - £3,154) 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 (includes Coddington Fund)

	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance at 31 Dec 2016 £
Balance at 1 January 2016			<u>40,325</u>
Subscriptions received	2,735		
Sales	594		
Interest (NS&I)	279		
PLS fees	1,166		
Balance at 31 December 2016			<u>45,099</u>

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



SPRING MEETING AND AGM

Kingston on Soar Village Hall, Kegworth Road, Kingston on
Soar,

NG11 0DB

Saturday, 29th April 2017, 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 The History of Kingston on Soar, talk by Ray State, local
historian and author

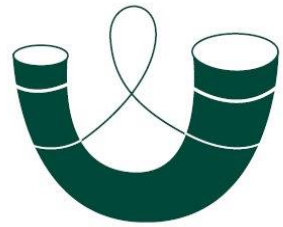
3.45pm Tea

4.30pm Visit to Winifred's Church (Grade I listed) by courtesy of
the Revd Richard Coleman and the Churchwardens (within walking
distance)

6.00pm Visit and meeting concludes

The Transactions will be available before the meeting

Barbara Cast, Honorary Secretary



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 120th Annual General Meeting of the Society, as part of the Society's Spring Meeting, to be held at Kingston on Soar Village Hall, on Saturday, 29th April 2017, commencing at 2.00pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome by our President, Adrian Henstock
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 119th AGM held at Muskham Community Hall, North Muskham, on 30th April 2016
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2016, 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 2018
7. Chair's remarks
8. To elect officers of the Society and members of Council
9. Other business

**THOROTON SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COUNCIL**

Nominations for election to Council and for officers should be made in writing to the Honorary 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

(See separate slip for nominations to Council or as officers of the Society)

Council nominates for the year 2017-2018 the following officers:-

President	Adrian Henstock
Vice-Presidents	David Bagley Rosalys Coope Sir Neil Cossons Keith Goodman
Honorary Secretary	Barbara Cast
Honorary Treasurer	John Wilson
Honorary Transactions Editor - History	Martyn Bennett
Honorary Transactions Editor - Archaeology	Christopher King
Consultant Editor & Record Series Editor	Adrian Henstock
Honorary Newsletter Editor	John Wilson
<i>Assistant Secretaries as below</i>	
Honorary Distribution and Sales Secretary	Robert James
Honorary Lecture Secretary	David Hoskins
Honorary Excursions Secretary	Alan Langton
Honorary Membership Secretary	Judith Mills

Council nominates the following for election to Council for the year 2017-2018:-

Mark Dorrington, Richard Gaunt, David Knight, Hannah Nicholson, Peter Smith

**MINUTES OF THE 119th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
THOROTON SOCIETY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HELD AT MUSKHAM
RURAL COMMUNITY HALL ON SATURDAY 30th APRIL 2016 AT 2pm**

PRESENT 81 members

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President, Adrian Henstock, welcomed members to North Muskham and, as has become his custom, said a few words on the area in which the meeting was held. He saw the Muskham villages as places at which people rarely stopped but were within a few hundred yards of several major routeways and near to an important strategic crossing point of the River Trent. The ferry at North Muskham was in action until the 1940s, notably in 1802 carrying Abigail Gawthorn of diary fame from her country house in Holme across to dine at Muskham Grange. A version of the ferry was used by the President and his wife fairly recently, courtesy of a group of Sea Scouts.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from 33 members.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the 118th AGM held at the Thurgarton Village Hall on 25th April 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair, Professor John Beckett.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

5. ANNUAL REPORT AND HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chair presented the annual report to the meeting. It recorded the activities and undertakings of the Society and its officers over the past twelve months and illustrated well what a busy organisation Thoroton was.

John Wilson, the Honorary Treasurer, went through the accounts included in the annual report, explaining the items listed. He assured members that the Society's finances were sound. This year there had been significant increased book sales, including those from the Churm bequest, volumes available through the bookstall and, especially, the latest volume in the Record Series, "Newstead Abbey, a Nottinghamshire Country House" edited by Vice-President Rosalys Coope and Council member Pete Smith.

Professor Beckett thanked Mr Wilson for careful oversight of the Society's accounts throughout the year. He also thanked Peter Bloomfield who had once again been the Society's Independent Examiner. The President moved the adoption of the Annual Report.

IT WAS AGREED that the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2015 be adopted and that Peter Bloomfield be appointed the Independent Examiner for 2016.

6. SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Honorary Treasurer recommended that there be no increase to the subscription in 2016 and this was agreed.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Professor John Beckett, the Chair, commenced by thanking those who had contributed to another successful year for the Society. As members would have noted from the Annual Report, as well as the familiar lectures and excursions the Society was involved in many other activities including a significant role in heritage conservation and research. He was pleased to inform the meeting that the Research Group was to be relaunched and would be meeting at Bromley House. This would seek to ensure that one of the Society's aims to promote historical and archaeological research was supported. He spoke of the successful first year of the Geoffrey Bond Research Award through which two awards had been made to research projects in 2015. In view of its success, the Society's Council has agreed to increase the funds available. Andrew Nicholson continued to act as the Society's webmaster, still possible due to modern communications even though he had moved to North Wales.

The Chair mentioned the success of the Coope and Smith volume on Newstead Abbey which had gone to a second printing and was still selling well. The Chair also mentioned that Nottingham had been successful in becoming a member of UNESCO's Creative City Network as a City of Literature. There was also member involvement in the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of Bromley House Library. Professor Beckett was also pleased to announce that there was to be a third edition of Pevsner's Nottinghamshire under the editorship of Clare Hartwell who he had invited to write an article for the Newsletter.

It was with sadness that he informed the meeting of the death of Geoffrey Oldfield at the age of 95. Geoffrey had been a member of the Society for many years, including long service as a Council member, and he was a prolific local history

author and photographic recorder of the City. He had been awarded the MBE for services to local history.

The Chair also reported the deaths of the well-known local historian, Stan Smith, known by his penname of Ztan Zmith, and of Professor David Hey who had lectured to the Society, most recently on family names.

Keith Goodman, Vice-President, was not able to attend this year as his 80th birthday was the next day and he was attending a special family day.

Members' help was always welcome at special events and were asked by the Chair if they could help at the Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair and also at the Archaeology Day at the University. At present Council was seeking a Communications Officer to help with promoting the Society and its activities but it was hoped that all members would publicise the Society at any events with which they might be involved.

Highlights of the year for Professor Beckett included the Special Lecture given by Jonathan Foyle at Kelham Hall and he thanked Barbara Cast, David Hoskins, John Wilson and Alan Langton for organising this, and also Ted Cantle's outline of the Nottingham Castle Project given at the Annual Luncheon.

He concluded by thanking the officers for their work throughout the year.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The following were elected:-

- President - Adrian Henstock
- Vice-Presidents - Rosalys Coope, Sir Neil Cossons, Keith Goodman and Robin Minnitt
- Honorary Secretary - Barbara Cast
- Honorary Treasurer - John Wilson
- Honorary Editors - Martyn Bennett (History) and Christopher King (Archaeology)
- Consultant Editor and Records Series Editor - Adrian Henstock
- Honorary Newsletter Editor - John Wilson
- Honorary Circulation Secretary - David Bagley
- Honorary Lecture Secretary - David Hoskins
- Honorary Excursion Secretary - Alan Langton
- Honorary Membership Secretary - Judith Mills

The following members of Council were re-elected:- David Crook, Trevor Foulds, Philip Jones, Penelope Messenger and Margaret Trueman.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that Vice-President Rosalys Coope had been unable to attend this year as she had recently suffered an accident. Dr Coope asked for her greetings to be conveyed to the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting ended at 3pm and was followed by a very interesting talk by Dr David Crook OBE on the Last Days of King John which cogently illustrated the hectic time endured by the king during these last few weeks.

After tea members were invited to visit St Wilfred's Church in North Muskham, a Grade I listed building.