

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

Caring about the town's environment

Issue 75 | August 2017



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Newark Civic Trust Magazine

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Front cover image – Newark Castle



A few words from the Chairman

In Newark, we have recently celebrated several anniversaries. In May 2016 we had the 370th anniversary of the surrender of Newark at the end of the Civil War. Last year the town also hosted events to commemorate the death of King John in October 1216. Nationally the 100th anniversary of Passchendaele has also recently been commemorated.

Historic milestones such as these help us connect to our past and give us the opportunity to reflect and sometimes reassess those events.

This year there are two anniversaries that I would like you to celebrate even though they are much less 'glamorous' than the death of a medieval monarch. The two anniversaries that you may wish to celebrate are the 70th anniversary of the Town and Country Planning Act and the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act.

You may be wondering why I'm asking you to celebrate these pieces of rather dull sounding legislation. Well, the Town and Country Planning Act introduced the system that established listed buildings; a reaction to post-war urban development. There were concerns that there might be widespread destruction of historic buildings that had survived bombing but may not survive the bulldozer. Historic England are marking the anniversary by introducing 5 new

listings including a Cabmen's Shelter and a wireless station; both buildings from the early 20th century. Sometimes I'm asked why a building is listed if it isn't very old. I try to explain that buildings are listed due to their historic and architectural importance, their uniqueness. The buildings that Historic England has listed as part of this anniversary are all from the 20th and late 19th century. One of Newark's most 'important' listed buildings is Winthorpe Bridge that carries the A1 over the Trent. A Grade II* Listed building that was only completed in 1964.

The second piece of legislation which I ask you to celebrate is the Civic Amenities Act of 1967. This Act created the concept of conservation areas; an area of special architectural and historic interest. The Act places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to pay special attention to preserve or enhance the character of the area. The first conservation area in the country was Stamford and of course much of the centre of Newark is classified as a conservation area. Unfortunately, as we have reported before, Newark's conservation area is classified as being at risk with its condition classed by Historic England as 'very bad'. Something which isn't worth celebrating but definitely worth remembering.

These pieces of legislation help protect our heritage but of course

they are only as effective as the individuals and organisations who work tirelessly behind the scenes. The Newark Civic Trust certainly does its bit in trying to uphold the principles of the legislation as well as working alongside Newark and Sherwood District Council to encourage them to enforce the legislation.

There will always be challenges when it comes to conservation; economic pressures to develop, cuts to local authority staffing levels and even the weight of public opinion. These factors, and many more, make it much harder to enforce the legislation and protect our environment. However, as we celebrate these anniversaries, it's worth remembering without these Acts we could be living, working and enjoying a substantially poorer historic environment.

Finally, many thanks to all those members who have paid their subscription for 2017/18 and can we remind those who have not yet paid to see Louise at the AGM. Alternatively send her or me a cheque at the addresses on the inside of the front cover.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chairman of Newark Civic Trust
Michael Knapton

Funding boost for Newark Castle Gatehouse project

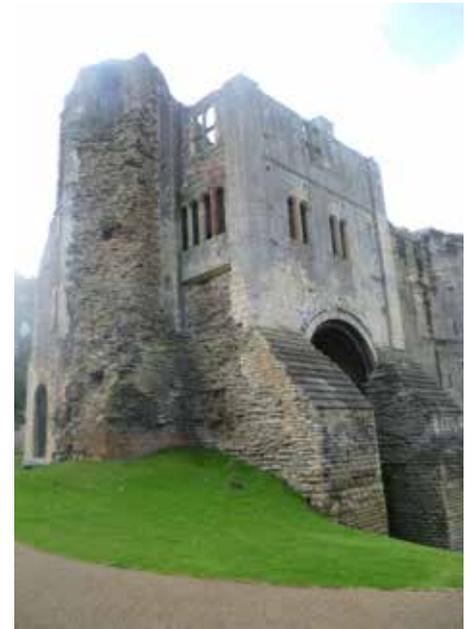
Posted – 22/06/17 - <http://newarkadvertiser.co.uk/news/2017/05/05/funding-boost-for-newark-castle-gatehouse-project>

Plans to turn Newark Castle's Gatehouse into a major visitor attraction have moved forward thanks to an £84,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The development funding means Newark and Sherwood District Council can progress its plans to a stage where it can apply for a full grant at a later date.

The scheduled ancient monument is one of the finest surviving Norman gatehouses in the country. The project aims to restore the Gatehouse area of the castle - where King John died 800 years ago - with the addition of a roof, floors and windows. It will open-

up new rooms which will allow for exhibitions. A new entrance into the gatehouse via the castle's North-West tower will allow for a separate, paying attraction to be developed. The project will also house an educational resource featuring King John, Norman crime and punishment, the outlaw sub-culture that surrounded Robin Hood, and the castle's role in Newark's Civil War history.

Castle warden Floss Newman said: "We are so excited to announce we have received this heritage lottery funding. It will bring a whole new dimension to the castle and enrich Newark's history even more."



The castle gatehouse

The Heart of Nottingham Heritage Action Zone - Revealing the city's history to secure its future conservation

Historic England's Heritage Action Zone initiative aims to restore historic buildings that have deteriorated through decades of neglect, improve conservation areas and recognise unsung places for their unique character and heritage, helping to instil a sense of local pride.

The objectives of the Heart of Nottingham Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) are to use the historic environment of Nottingham to reveal the city's history and help secure its future conservation. In 2015, Nottingham was ranked eighth for the proportion of its wards in the top 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Thirteen of its 31 conservation areas are at risk in the Historic England conservation areas survey. On the local register, compiled as part of a pilot survey

of Grade II listed buildings, 81 of its listed buildings are at risk.

To help reverse the situation Historic England will provide £1.6 million over five years to be matched by £1 million public and private capital and a further £902,000 in associated projects and in-kind contributions from Nottingham City Council.

There are four priority proposals under consideration:

Bromley House, the Georgian subscription library and shops situated on the Old Market Square, requires a substantial grant towards roof repairs, and Historic England is currently advising on making the grant application.

Another project involves research for a book about the Old Market Square which will tell Nottingham's history

through the key themes illustrated by this single area.

The Nottingham Caves Project has surveyed more than 550 man-made caves dating from the Saxon period to the 20th century. The most famous of the caves are beneath the Broadmarsh shopping centre and thanks to the efforts of a small number of individuals and societies in the 1960s the complete destruction of this vast network of caves was prevented. Today these are one of the city's most popular tourist attractions. The new project will provide invaluable information on the state of the caves and help find the best way to conserve and re-use them as tourist attractions, filming locations, art spaces, coffee shops, etc.

A heritage schools project will bring the city's heritage to the

next generation. Local schools will use it as a stimulus to explore wider themes, telling the story of Nottingham in a way that will help engage with the national curriculum.

To improve the recognition and understanding of the city's historic sites, the council have decided to refresh and re-launch the local list using the Civic Society as lead delivery partner. From this, Historic England will consider a shortlist for national listing.

Newark Heritage Forum will be hearing about the Nottingham Heritage Action Zone at their next meeting in September.



The market square, Nottingham c1885 (© Historic England Archive ref: op06298)

Newark Heritage Forum

In 2015 several Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bids were about to be submitted to the local team in Nottingham and there appeared to be no co-ordination between the local heritage organisations who were submitting the bids.

It was suggested by HLF that local heritage groups should be brought together in the hope that any future bids from groups in Newark could be better co-ordinated. There seemed little sense in different groups bidding against each other for funding from the same pot of money. Groups represented included the Town and District Councils, National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum, Town Hall Museum, Newark Air Museum, Newark Heritage Barge and others. Our Vice Chairman, Kevin Winter, represented the Trust, Newark Archaeological and Local History Society (NALHS) and the Hidden Heritage Group. Following the first few meetings it was decided that the group should be known as Newark Heritage Forum.

This followed the model of other

Heritage Forum's locally and nationally and there were discussions with Nottinghamshire Heritage Forum over whether the local Forum could be a member of the county Forum. However, currently the county Forum only accepts members who have some form of collection, although they are considering changing their constitution to widen their membership. The annual subscription to the county Forum is £25, for which members receive access to training and publicity.

Originally the local Forum was a loose arrangement, whereby the local heritage groups got together to find out what each group was planning and whether other groups could support HLF bids or other activities. Members of the Forum then decided that the group should be formalised and a constitution was formulated and agreed by members. It was decided to hold the first Annual General Meeting on the 24th April this year at which the constitution was accepted and a Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected. Kevin Winter was elected

Chairman with Barry Thompson as Vice Chairman. Alan Mellor, the Town Clerk, agreed to act as Treasurer and Andy Statham, from Newark and Sherwood District Council was elected as Secretary. Helen Crossland, from Newark Town Council, will act as Minutes Secretary. It was also agreed that the membership subscription would be set at £25.

Since the AGM there have been discussions regarding what members get for their subscription, with the Chairman proposing that the money could be used for publicity materials to promote Heritage Open Days. It was also decided that a limited programme of activities for Heritage Open Days would take place as part of the national programme between 7 – 10 September, with a bigger programme arranged for next year.

The Trust was the first group to pay their subscription and it is hoped that the Newark Heritage Forum will now provide a focus for local heritage groups to work together to promote the heritage of our town.

Town Pump project bonus

Although we announced at the 2016 AGM the end of the Town Pump project the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) hadn't officially closed the project. There was an underspend on the project and so the HLF asked the Newark Civic Trust if we wanted to produce some more publicity items with the money.

We kindly accepted the offer and so produced 2 banners that can be used at our future events. The banners were designed by SoLogo (www.sologo.co.uk) and produced by Marqet Space (www.marqetspace.co.uk) and will be on public display for the first time at the AGM.

The remaining funds have now been returned to the HLF and the project is now officially closed.



Our new pull up banners

Planning

Robin Hood Update

On March 7th, Newark & Sherwood District Council Planning Committee met to consider the application by W F Strawson to demolish the Robin Hood Cottages and erect a 66-room Travelodge. Several Trust members were present.

It was clear from the start that the DC was in favour of demolition. Business Manager Matthew Lamb opened the meeting by talking for over an hour on all the finer points of what heritage is and the circumstances where a listed building can be demolished.

Peter Duncan, Devon Ward, Conservative and our former Chairman, spoke for 15 minutes against the development, pointing

out that a report by the Nottingham Building Preservation Trust proved that there is a viable, funded option for the cottages that could be completed by 2020. By far the best speaker against demolition was Maureen Dobson, Collingham Independent, who stressed the negligence of the Council in not bringing action against Strawsons for allowing the buildings to deteriorate.

The result of the vote was 9 to 6 in favour of demolition. But this is not the end of story. As a result of the decision the Trust, several Trust members and a number of heritage organisations, wrote to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of

State for Communities and Local Government, appealing against the decision and requesting that the application be 'called in' for consideration. We pointed out that if this is allowed to proceed it will set a dangerous precedent to encourage other developers to deliberately allow listed buildings to deteriorate in order to make spectacular private gains regardless of contractual obligations.

We are pleased to report that our MP Robert Jenrick wrote a personal letter to Sajid Javid protesting in the strongest possible terms regarding the decision. We cannot disclose the contents of the letter but perhaps the final paragraph will provide a

clue as to its content:

“Previous generations of politicians and local campaigners saved the historic core of Newark from such actions in the past. I will not allow it to happen on my watch and, in the 50th anniversary year of Conservations Areas, I look to you, Secretary of State, for support.”

We very much appreciate his support.

What happens next?

The Planning Inspectorate may confirm that an inquiry will be held and that it will follow a bespoke timetable which will be agreed with Strawsons and the District Council. The Inspector will write a report

which will contain conclusions and recommendation on whether planning permission should be granted (with or without conditions) or refused. The report will be sent to the Secretary of State to make the final decision taking into account the Inspector’s recommendation.

We can only await developments.

A New Era for Kelham Hall

Designed by the eminent architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, Kelham Hall was completed in 1863 for the Manners-Sutton family as a country house in the Gothic Revival style. A grand building of striking proportions, the Hall was built around an iron and concrete structure with red brick facings. This form of construction was intended to guard against fire which had destroyed the earlier hall in 1857. It took four years to build and it seemed no expense was spared on the lavish interior decorations or the gardens.



The former main entrance to Kelham Hall at the Lodge



The proposed new reception entrance



The proposed new bespoke bar area

John Henry Manners-Sutton died in 1898 and shortly afterwards the holders of the mortgage foreclosed and the trustees ordered the sale of the contents. In 1902 the family moved to nearby Kelham House, now known as the Red House, and the Society of the Sacred Mission came to the Hall in 1903, adding an additional wing and, in 1928, a domed chapel. Kelham Hall was used by the Society as a Theological College until 1972, and Newark & Sherwood District Council bought it in 1973.

A planning application involving a multi-million-pound development to transform the Hall into a luxury hotel, health spa and conference centre has been made by Jonathan Pass, who currently holds the lease for the ground floor to host events and will complete the purchase of the estate later in the year. Mr Pass, Managing Director Kelham Hall Limited, has many years of experience in creating 5-star amenities with such hotels as Nent Hall in Cumbria and the Charlotte House in Lincoln.

Local architects Guy Taylor Associates, together with several other local consultants with

expertise in heritage projects, are involved in the extensive refurbishment and development work. Historic England are being consulted to ensure the Grade 1 building is both preserved and modernised to the highest standards with many original architectural features being restored.

The Hall will remain open to visitors and events next year, and our aim is to include the Hall as one of our visits next season before it closes for a year for the transformation to be completed. So, what are the plans?

A New Grand Entrance

To set the scene and give visitors an idea of the grandeur they are about to enjoy, new ornate gates will be installed at the entrance to the main driveway. At the end of the driveway, business, wedding and conference guests will see a new reception, complete with landscaped frontage to the Gilbert Scott Hall including a turning circle, drop off point and a central fountain.

Research shows that the next generation of hotel guests will

be looking for a hotel experience that provides more emphasis on a relaxed atmosphere, distinctive style and service with public areas where guests can relax, congregate and interact. To provide this a new double height reception will have gallery seating areas to offer space and comfort.

The Great Hall (Dome and Restaurant)

The existing 70s/80s bar area will be removed from the original Narthex of the Great Hall to enable the original large doors to be opened-up and provide direct access to the Rose Garden courtyard.

A new purpose-built restaurant will be sited at the west end of the Rose Garden courtyard and provide facilities for 100 guests. The remaining area will be re-landscaped with the addition of formal planting, water features and seating, to provide a sheltered tranquil environment for public enjoyment.

A modern extension to the west elevation of the Great Hall will provide an arrival point for larger functions and events and

accommodate a new bar area. A function space in its own right, the extension will be used independently or to provide 'break out' space for conferences.

Formal Gardens and Pleasure Grounds

While a great deal is known about the history of the buildings, much less is known about the history of the 42-acre parkland. What we do know is that William Nesfield (1793 – 1881), one of the most eminent Victorian landscape gardeners at the time, who worked both at Kew Gardens and Regent's Park, was commissioned c.1860 to prepare plans for the pleasure grounds of the Hall. There were three key elements to his design: a set of steps on the Bastion of the 'South Garden', a 'long walk' and a parterre with central fountain in the eastern Geometric Garden. Evidence of the parterre can be seen in old photographs and extensive research has revealed Nesfield's original planting list which was used for its creation. As part of the site's redevelopment, the lost parterre on the east lawn will be reinstated using original drawings and Nesfield's planting list as far as possible.

Hotel Accommodation / Holiday Lets

In addition to the 68 bedrooms to be created within the Hall there will be 44 high quality 1 and 3-bedroom holiday lets built on the site of the former Monk's workshops which were demolished in 1974.

Comprehensive leisure facilities will be provided in the Salvin wing, originally designed as the Service range. A new glazed roof structure will enclose the courtyard to accommodate a spa pool, with treatment rooms in the rooms adjacent. Anthony Salvin (1799-1881) was a prolific and highly regarded architect who worked at Harlaxton Manor, considered to be

his most important early domestic work.

The application (17/01021 FULM) will be considered by N&SDC later in the year, but anyone interested in looking at the proposals can find

the documentation on the Council's website:

<https://publicaccess.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>



The proposed landscaped courtyard



Nesfield's Parterre will be recreated using the original plans and planting scheme



Grantham visit



The interior of the Old King's School

A leaden sky threatening rain, a cool wind and a temperature of around 11 degrees C! Despite the inclement weather our visit to Grantham was successful, enjoyable and very interesting!

Those brave enough to make the journey gathered at the Old King's School where we were met by Courtney Finn, Marilyn Campbell and Graham Cook from Grantham Civic Society, our hosts for the evening. The Society had been to see Newark last year so this was something of a 'return match'.

It was here at the Old King's School that one of Grantham's many celebrities, Sir Isaac Newton, was

a pupil between 1655-61. While a student he lived at the Apothecary's shop of William Clarke where he could read books and carry out experiments – things which significantly contributed to his future scientific career. Grantham Museum's Newton exhibition features a recreation of the Apothecary's shop, complete with things to touch, smell and taste. An interactive map will show you the places Newton knew, still visible in the modern town.

Although an exceptional pupil, Newton was not averse to dallying in the activity of most students by scratching his name on the stonework! However, he was to leave his mark in many other ways.

In the adjoining garden, there is an old apple tree. The variety is known as Sir Isaac Newton's Apple tree – actually the Flower of Kent variety discovered in 1629 and, supposedly it was one of these that fell to the ground at Woolsthorpe Manor inspiring Newton's gravitational laws. It is large, blocky, red, sour and soft - a traditional English pie apple, which dissolves into a puree when baked.

Our path was now to the Angel & Royal Hotel, said to be the oldest hotel in the country dating back to 1203. Originally the Angel Inn, it was built as a hostel for the Chivalrous Brotherhood of the Knights Templar. It stands on the route of the ancient Roman road, Ermine Street, and would have been a popular stopping point on the long journey from London to Edinburgh.

As the Angel Inn, it had plenty of royal visitors. King John held court here in 1213, and, over the centuries, so did Richard III, Edward III, Charles I and George IV. 'Royal' was added to the name of the hotel in 1866 following a visit by Queen



The frontage of the Angel and Royal Hotel



Elaborate carvings to the oriel window



One of the 18th century maces kept at the Guildhall



The Guildhall viewed from St Peter's Hill

Victoria's eldest son, Edward the Prince of Wales.

We were allowed to climb the stairs to visit the famous King's Room Restaurant and admire the open fireplace and oriel windows with their elaborate carvings. In a corner of the room is an intriguing staircase that used to lead to a lookout spot on the roof, from where the innkeeper and his staff could keep an eye out for stagecoaches, giving them just enough time to dash back down and form a well turned out welcoming committee at the door!

Continuing to the Market Place we saw the modern Orrery sculptures by Paul Lewthwaite – the larger representing the Earth and Moon, the smaller Venus. Also, the restored market cross and the conduit (well head) built in 1597 to bring fresh water to the town.

On our way to the Guildhall we passed through the George Shopping Centre which, as a hotel until 1989, had guests such as Tom Paine and Charles Dickens, who mentioned it in his novel Nicholas Nickleby.

The Guildhall is a fine example of an early Italianate/ Jacobean revival style with stone dressing and florid Corinthian columns surmounted by a four-sided clock tower that dominates the town. It was commissioned in 1866 and designed by Lincoln architect



The Mayor of Grantham, his wife and members of the Trust and Grantham Civic Society in the Mayor's Parlour



The view eastward down the nave of St Wulfram's; the font and cover are to the right

William Watkins.

It was originally designed as three separate buildings – the main building, which housed a ballroom and courtroom, a governor's residence and a jail for up to 18 men and women on two floors. The work was carried out by Mr William Wartnaby, of Little Gonerby, for £7,260. In 1991, it was redesigned by Sleaford architect, Tim Benton and re-opened as the Guildhall Arts Centre at a cost of £1.2 million.

Courtney had arranged for us to view the Mayor's Parlour and waiting to welcome us were the Mayor, Councillor Mike Cook and his wife Marjorie. We were invited to view the various exhibits which included two 18th century maces,

an Arnhem painting by David Shepherd and photographs of all the town's mayors over the past 25 years.

Grantham is very proud of the fact that it was home of Britain's first policewoman with full powers to arrest, Edith Smith, who joined the local force during the First World War. Such is the regard for her in the town that the walkway leading into the Guildhall bears the name 'Edith Smith Way' and a life-sized cut-out of Edith stands in front of the box office door and the entrance to the cells. There are now over 35,000 female police officers in England and Wales – 28% of all officers, with nearly 50 female chief police officers. Grantham Civic Society has placed a

commemorative Blue Plaque on the street wall of the former jail.

Grantham Museum, next door, is a charity run entirely by volunteers and dependent on donations from visitors. Christine Roberts and her husband had the urn on for a welcome cup of tea! The museum is laid out in a number of 'corners' one of which, the Newton exhibition, features a recreation of William Clarke's Apothecary shop. Newton's home was eight miles away at Woolsthorpe Manor but during school time he boarded with the Clarke family and their ten children by two marriages each. And he still managed to formulate the laws of motion and universal gravitation and build the first reflecting telescope, among his other achievements!

One of Clarke's step sons, Arthur Storer went to America and was the first colonial astronomer. In 1662, he recorded data about a magnificent comet that was known as Storer's Comet until Edmund Halley later predicted its return in 1757. It is now known as Halley's Comet.

Other areas give information on the famous Dambusters Bouncing Bomb, for which training was undertaken at RAF Scampton for the daring raid on Germany's Ruhr Valley in 1943. Other displays feature The Home Front and, of course, Margaret Thatcher.

Now it was time to visit St Wulfram's Church, one of only two churches in the country so dedicated. Wulfram was born around the middle of the 7th century in France and became Archbishop of Sens in 682. He died in 720 and was canonised after numerous miracles had been attributed to him.

Built on the site of a Saxo-Norman church the tower and spire were constructed in the 1300s and, at 282 feet, the spire is one of the highest of any medieval church in the country. A 14th century crypt and the Trigge chained Library

are among its many fascinating features. The medieval font c1496 is surmounted by a tall ornate spire-shaped cover designed in 1899 by Sir Walter Tapper to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Opening the doors of the cover reveals three carved figures depicting Edward the Confessor, St Hugh of Lincoln and St Wulfram.

Of particular interest are the stained-glass windows, many being excellent examples of geometrical tracery from the Early Gothic period. Virtually no glass survives from medieval times but there are ten Victorian windows by Kempe and others, and four contrasting modern compositions including John Hayward's 1970 Christ Walking on the Water.

In 1863, George Gilbert Scott began three years of restoration work and one of his achievements was the oak chancel screen. The organ, built in 1906, is reckoned to be one of the finest in the country.

The chained library is a great treasure of the church. It was established in 1598 when Reverend Francis Trigge, Rector of Welbourn gave £100 for the purchase of books to set up the library. The books, mostly printed in Latin with elaborate patterned leather covers, are on a variety of topics including theology, medicine, history and law. There are 356 separate items including a book printed in Venice in 1472, four years before Caxton introduced printing into England. Over 80 volumes are still attached by chain to the shelves.

Our grateful thanks to Courtney and all those who helped make our visit such a pleasant and interesting event. We tend to ignore towns in the vicinity so if you haven't visited Grantham recently we are sure you will find your visit as fascinating, informative and pleasant as we did.



The south aisle looking east; the flowing style of the tracery is indicative of the first half of the 14th century



The George Gilbert Scott chancel screen



Chained books in the Trigge Library



Winkburn Hall - History, Hard Work and Hospitality

Tucked away in a small village off the A617 is Winkburn Hall, a beautiful Grade 1 Listed country house built in the reign of William and Mary. The visit was the first of our summer season outings and was a most enjoyable experience supplemented by our hosts Jane and Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes.

Richard began by relating the

history of the Hall and how he had become the owner in 1980. Under the Normans, Winkburn manor belonged to the De Tyson family until Adam de Tyson conveyed it to the Knights Hospitaller of St John of Jerusalem who held it until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Henry VIII promised the manor to a London merchant Thomas Burnell, but because both men died

soon afterwards, Edward VI granted it to Thomas's son, William. The Burnell family lived at the Hall for nine generations until 1931, when it passed to Richard's father, Ralph Assheton Craven-Smith-Milnes, a descendant of a daughter of Broughton Pegge Burnell. Due to two

lots of death duties the house was sold in 1934. By 1980 the house had been empty for 20 years and after a great deal of thought was bought by Richard who became the 15th member of the family to take up residence. Richard only told his father of the purchase after the deal was done. The news was greeted with great joy and admiration!

The house was in a very poor condition caused by neglect and water ingress. But Jane and Richard were determined to restore it to its former glory and contracted a plasterer to start the process. Jane took one look at the new plasterwork and decided that she could do it far better! And she did! The wall plastering and decorative moldings were all painstakingly restored and, wherever it was needed, the gilding on the woodwork, particularly on the oak doors of the dining room.



Trust members and our hosts



The restored dining room fireplace

As if restoring a large house wasn't enough of a challenge Richard and Jane were also running The Country Victualler, a highly successful gourmet food company supplying traditional 'Alderton' hams and top-class food to London's rich and famous and leading stores such as Fortnum and Mason and Harrods. Richard told us that many clients provided him with keys to their houses so that he could deliver produce straight to their fridge! Those were the days! When Richard decided to retire in 2013 the business passed to Mike Maloney Country Butchers and Bakers Limited, a family-run business just down the road in Tuxford which sells produce on line.

With the history explained we were invited to enter the Dining Room through what was the original



The group admiring the handmade African mahogany table

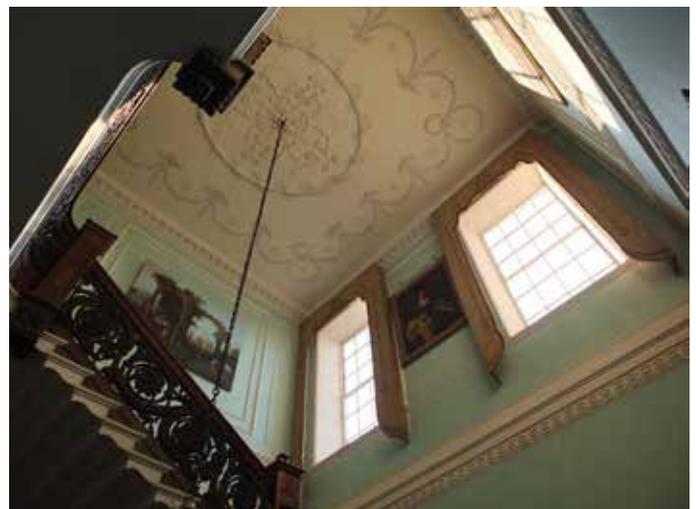
Entrance Hall. Besides the fine portraits the overdoor decorations are one of Winkburn's outstanding and possibly unique features. The plaster chimney piece, with its imposing eagle, was one of Jane's best restoration achievements. Before moving to the Library, Richard proudly explained that the 10-leaf African mahogany dining table was made by his father when he was over 80 years old.

A feature of the Library is the chimneypiece which was originally in the Drawing Room. It dates from about 1750 and shows sailors collecting fresh water at a tropical island from their three-masted barque. The portrait over the chimneypiece is of William Burrell, who built the Hall in 1695 on the site of an earlier Elizabethan house.

In the Entrance Hall Jane explained that water damage to the ceiling and walls was severe and we could not help admire the restoration work she had carried out to restore every detail to its original perfection. It took two years, much of the time working on scaffolding over thirty feet high. No grand house is complete without a grand staircase and Winkburn has a fine example. The stone cantilevered design dates from about 1750 with a cast iron balustrade added in 1837. We were invited to climb the stairs and view two of the bedrooms, each with a matching four-poster. One of the beds is on loan while the other was faithfully copied by Vietnamese craftsmen and shipped to Winkburn. Descending the back stairs, with turned spindles and thick oak treads, we arrived at the kitchen



The library



The restored ceiling in the Entrance Hall



The church located adjacent to the house

where we were pleased to accept a cup of tea and nibble from a selection of excellent biscuits.

Sometime in the twelfth century both church and village were given to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, one of the military orders who were introduced into this country about A.D. 1100. The Hospitallers took their name from a Hospital built in Jerusalem for the use of pilgrims coming to the Holy Land, and their duty was to provide for the pilgrims, and to protect them from injuries and insults upon the road. They followed the rule of St. Austin, and wore a black habit with, a white cross. Rich gifts were made to them, and they became in course of time a very wealthy and powerful body.

The church is unusual in many respects, not least in that it contains a full set of box pews, a three-tiered Jacobean pulpit and a 17th century font. It is one of only three or four 'Temple' Churches that have survived in Britain.

The Norman tower is adorned with zigzag and cable moulding, while inside leading from the Nave to the Vestry is a fine example of a Norman Arch, again with zigzag decorations. Above the screen is the Royal Coat of Arms of George III dated 1764 which was restored with a grant from The Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

The memorials round the church are to the descendants and heirs of Thomas Burnell, his being the



Norman 'beakhead' ornamentation



Monument to Acton Burnell

earliest tomb, with a monument to his son Acton who died in 1609 shown as a life size figure in armour holding a metal sword. On the left of the altar is an elaborate monument to Darcy Burnell. The most recent memorial is made of oak by the 'mouse man' Robert Thompson*, to Lawrence Craven-Smith-Milnes, Richard's grandfather.

In 1901 the church was in a sad state of repair and a major restoration was accomplished, again with help from The Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

Visitors to the church can park in the drive of Winkburn Hall.

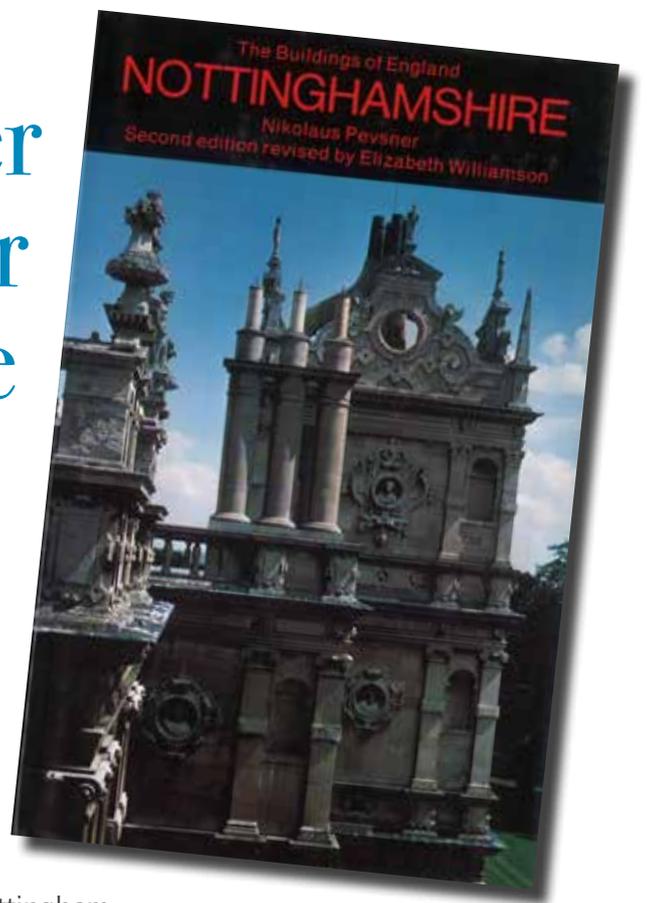
*(The Mouseman Visitor centre is the home of the Robert Thompson Museum at Kilburn, North Yorkshire showing some unique pieces created by Robert himself and is open April – October.)

A new Pevsner Guide for Nottinghamshire

Nikolaus Pevsner was a German citizen of Jewish extraction who arrived in England as a refugee in the 1930s. He had the idea for producing a series of county guides to the architecture and buildings of England, and embarked on a project which took him twenty years to complete. The fieldwork was done in the university holidays, and Nottingham was amongst the first few counties he visited, setting out in August 1948 and enduring rain, getting stuck in a quarry near Retford and noting a landscape of coal mines and 'deserted aerodromes and army camps'. It seems it was not until he got to Southwell that his spirits really improved. He found Newark's Market Place 'A joy to examine' and he described the White Hart as one of the 'paramount examples' of timber-framed architecture of the date, noting the 'sadly dilapidated

state crying out for restoration', which of course has now taken place.

Pevsner was always clear that his work would need revision as time went on and Nottinghamshire was revised by Elizabeth Williamson in 1979. In 2008 the Nottingham City Guide, a new initiative for the series, was written by Elain Harwood. Now it is time for the rest of the county to catch up and I have been lucky enough to get the job, which I began last year. This means visiting every building in the old edition, checking and updating the information, and adding buildings of interest for which space can be found. In many ways, the work is considerably easier, thanks



to the vast amount of knowledge which has been accumulated, and the availability of online resources. Projects such as the Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project (<http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk>), the continued research published by the Thoroton Society and the activities of local history groups has made the research element immeasurably easier. An example of this is the Town Trails produced by the Newark Civic Trust, which point out quite a few buildings Pevsner did not have room for, some of which can now find a place in the forthcoming edition. On the other hand, it is much more difficult to obtain access to buildings than it was, now that churches usually have to be locked, quite a number of private houses have electric or remote entry systems, and any attempt to visit or photograph a school while it is in use can be met with suspicion.

The work of revision in Newark has been an absolute pleasure – it is rare to visit a place with such a long history expressed through buildings, representing



The old Bowls Club pavilion (sometimes referred to as the green keeper's cottage)

almost every era from the twelfth century. As well as this, it has been very heartening to see sensitive conservation work such as the regeneration in the Mill Gate area, as well as restoration of individual buildings which has taken place since the last edition. Tree-ring dating techniques for timber buildings and excavations at the Castle have shed new light on the history of the town and its buildings – which include exceptionally early examples - however, there was still much research to do. It has been fascinating to unravel new aspects of the church history, which has suggested an earlier date for some of the building work than has sometimes been supposed. It has also thrown up architectural connections with churches at Grantham and at Raunds, Northamptonshire. The wonderful furnishings are of special interest, and the seats and desks with misericords in the chancel seem to show the influence of similar late medieval work in Ripon and in Manchester.

The chance to explore the Castle and its dungeons was a rare treat, and the charming pavilion at the Bowls Club was an unexpected pleasure – it would be wonderful to know who designed this little building. It has also been rewarding

getting to know more about some of the industrial buildings, and any further information on the large works on Victoria Street would be gratefully received.

There are also some good interwar buildings, such as the remains of a cinema on Middle Gate (of 1936 by Robert Cromie), the College buildings by the County Architect Leonard Maggs and the old Burton's shop on the Market Place, the best-preserved example of its date in England, in the Neo-Georgian architectural style of the time. Other gems include the lovely stained glass in the Barnby Gate Methodist church, including a window by Morris & Co. based on a painting of Sir Galahad by the Victorian artist G. F. Watts.

I am now nearing the end of my research in the town. Inevitably there is not room for everything, and there is not sufficient time to do as much research as I would like on some of the buildings, with a deadline in 2019 for coverage of the whole county. The aim is always to try and find a date for construction of the building and the name of an architect or designer associated with it, as well as giving a brief description. Sometimes it could not be easier, for example when the name appears on the building – such as

Henry Duesbury's on the old Corn Exchange. On other occasions, local knowledge is invaluable. Otherwise visits to the archives and trawling through newspaper reports can sometimes provide answers, and I have a list of buildings about which I would like to know more. This includes the architects of the former Methodist New Connexion Chapel (1848) on Barnby Gate (opposite the present Methodist Church), that of the Palace Theatre on Appleton Gate and of the Arcade leading from the Market Place, as well as the names of architects responsible for the two groups of Cottage Homes built for the St Leonard's Hospital on Sherwood Avenue. If anyone can help I would be very grateful!

Clare Hartwell is an architectural historian based in Manchester. She has been involved in Pevsner's Buildings of England series since 2000, and has revised several volumes, including those covering North Lancashire and Derbyshire. Full details of the books published in the series can be found on the Yale University Press website, <http://yalebooks.co.uk/>

If any of our readers have information on the buildings mentioned by Clare then please forward us anything you have and we will make sure it gets to her.



Former factory, Victoria Street

Dates for the Diary

* 28th September 2017: Annual General Meeting

* 26th October 2017: Jane Harrison – 'Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust'

* 30th November 2017: Matt Beresford – 'Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Medieval Graffiti Survey'

* 25th January 2018: Chris Perkins - 'Brunswick House – 76 Victoria Street; restoration and renewal - bought back to life'

* 22nd February 2018: Ian Morgan – 'Fosdyke – Whodunnit?'

* 29th March 2018: Richard Gaunt – 'Attorney at Large. Godfrey Tallent of Newark'

* 26th April 2017: Gareth Davies – 'Newark Archaeology Update by Trent & Peak Archaeology'

Full details of any changes to the programme can be found on the website (<http://www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk/events>) and will be announced at meetings as necessary.

The AGM and talks take place in Newark Library and commence at 7.30pm.

Newark Civic Trust Annual General Meeting

To be held at Newark Library on Thursday 28th September 2017 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's AGM of 29th September 2016
4. Matters arising
5. Civic Trust Awards
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of Executive Committee
10. Any other business

To be followed by a presentation by Allan Towler from the Friends of Newark Castle and the Friends of the National Civil War centre on the aims and achievements of both organisations.

The following officers offer themselves for re-election at the meeting:

- Chairman – Michael Knapton
- Vice-Chairman – Kevin Winter
- Secretary – Kevin Winter
- Treasurer – Louise Knapton Carter
- Planning Chairman – Michael Hawes
- Planning Vice-Chairman – Vacant
- Membership Secretary – Debbie Smith
- Recruitment Secretary – Debbie Smith
- Conservation Watch Co-ordinator – Mick Gill
- Awards Co-ordinator – Michael Knapton
- Events Co-ordinator – Dave Godney

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

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