

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

Caring about the town's environment

Issue 85 | September 2022



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Front cover photo:
Newark Castle viewed from along the river

Rear cover photos:
Various images of the Trent and the castle



A few words from the Chairman

Welcome to issue 85 of the Newark Civic Trust magazine.

As many of you will know, I recently asked our Secretary to forward our members a message informing them that I have taken the difficult decision to not seek re-election as Chairman at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

I have found it increasingly difficult over the last year to be able to dedicate enough time to the role. I feel the Trust is able to play an increasingly important role within our community, but I simply am unable to drive this change.

As many of you will know, I have a job that, although very enjoyable, keeps me very busy. I also have two young boys who now take part in various clubs and activities outside of school. As a result, the amount of spare time I have is minimal, and the spare time I do have will increasingly be spent with them and my wife.

I ask everyone to seriously consider if they would like to take on this role, or one of the others on the Committee (see the notes on the 2022 AGM later in this issue) as I'm sure many of our members have the skills, knowledge and passion

required. You don't have to have experience in doing something similar before and the more volunteers we have, the less the burden on the existing Committee, so feel free to let me or Kevin know if you are interested in helping out.

I want to end by saying thank you to all our members for their support over the years and I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming AGM.

Michael Knapton - Chairman of Newark Civic Trust

David Marcombe 1947 - 2022

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing away of David Marcombe on the 11th June. Many of you will know David as he, and his wife Ann, were regular attendees at our Thursday night talks at the library. David also delivered a fascinating talk in November 2014 – 'Continuity and Change at a Lincolnshire Sacred Site' and focused on the acquisition and refurbishment of the chapel of St Edmund at

Spital-in-the-Street, Lincolnshire as well as the establishment of the chantry trust. The story of this chapel and the dedication shown by David, Ann and their daughter in lovingly restoring the building was remarkable and led to the Civic Trust visiting the chapel and the adjacent gardens for one of our summer tours the following year (see issues 71 and 72 for more on the talk and visit.)

David was Director of the Centre for Local History, University of Nottingham and also wrote and contributed to a number of works including *English Small Town Life: Retford, 1520-1642*, *Newark's Riverside Heritage: Millgate, a Guided Walk and Leper Knights: The Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem in England, c. 1150-1544*.

He was for a long time Chair of Millgate Conservation Society, living in and researching the history of the area. He was always willing to contribute his extensive knowledge of not just Newark, but the wider area, if asked and gave many talks about local history matters. His loss will be felt amongst all those who have an interest in the history of Newark and local history more widely.



The Civic Trust at the chapel of St Edmund at Spital-in-the-Street with hosts David and Ann (far right)



The chapel of St Edmund at Spital-in-the-Street



Update on Don Smith

Those members who attended the walk around Gainsborough and its battlefield on Thursday 30th June, would have been shocked when our tour came to an abrupt end in Aldi carpark, when our guide Don Smith suffered a cardiac arrest. Don is a good friend of mine, and he has led tours of both Gainsborough and Winceby battlefields for the Battlefields Trust for a number of

years. He had appeared fit and healthy prior to and during the tour, so it came as a complete shock when he collapsed. Good luck played a part on that night and if you can say that he was in as good a place as any to suffer a heart attack, then this was it. Luckily, first aid training kicked in and myself and Helen, a bystander were able to administer CPR

until an ambulance arrived. The ambulance had just got back from a shout and had seen us walking through the town. Just before they arrived a defibrillator was brought over from B&Q opposite, but we decided to wait for the ambulance crew to use their defibrillator. This was enough to restart Don's heart as the Air Ambulance circled above us. It decided to land on Foxby Hill rather than in the car park, so one of the paramedics picked the doctor up and brought him to attend to Don. After stabilising him as best

they could he was taken to Lincoln Hospital. He was sedated until the Monday when they attempted to bring him round, but it was putting too much strain on his heart. On Tuesday a scan was done, and two stents were fitted. On Thursday he was brought round and on Friday I heard from his daughter, Kate, that he seemed to recognise her and her two brothers. I was then on holiday, but getting regular updates from Kate. When I got back I rang Don, who was then at home, and apart from his voice being very croaky

he seemed to be recovering well. Since then we have been in regular e-mail contact and he appears to be making a remarkable recovery! The day after the walk he had been due to fly to Seattle to visit his son. Who knows what may have happened if he had his cardiac arrest mid-flight. My thanks go to everyone whose quick reactions on the night meant that Don survived until medical help arrived. I look forward to more walks around battlefields with him once he has fully recovered!

VAG launch new building glossary

The Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG) has issued its new building glossary. The Glossary identifies terms used for vernacular buildings, in particular the components of

timber-framed structures. It's a wonderful resource for anybody who has an interest in our vernacular buildings whether you're an expert or someone with a passing interest

in the subject – there are some wonderful technical illustrations too.

The glossary can be found here - <https://www.vernacularbuildingglossary.org.uk/>

Heritage and Civic Pride... Voices From Levelling Up Country: Public First report for HE

<https://www.publicfirst.co.uk/heritage-and-civic-pride-public-first-report-for-historic-england.html>

Public First has published a new report for Historic England (HE) on 'Heritage and Civic Pride: Voices from Levelling Up Country.'

Public First writes:
Intrigued by a conclusion from our Levelling Up poll last autumn, that found that residents rated local heritage more highly than many other aspects of their town as a driver of civic pride, Historic England came to us at the turn of the year and asked us to find out more. And that is exactly what we did, through a fascinating focus group study into the views of working-class residents in six towns and small cities in the North and West Midlands.

Our project found a strong, palpable, desire to foster a

connection with their industrial history. More than that, we found that people instinctively understood that developing that link could play a very important role in rebuilding a distinct sense of civic pride in the places that they live – be it steel in Sheffield, the potteries in Stoke or the railways in Darlington.

A warehouse worker in Stoke memorably put it like this: "I'd just say personally it is part of the culture of that area. And I relate to that as part of my identity, because that's where I'm from. So, to me, the history feeds into the culture and the culture feeds into identity. So, for me, I can see it all linked in. Home, it's part of my identity."

But often the people we spoke to

worried that this connection was becoming frayed or had even been cut altogether. They were desperate that that connection be maintained.

"If you go to London and there's plaques up about different buildings and everything – I think that should be in every town,' a Darlington childminder told me. 'We should have a row of houses with a plaque saying, 'here stands the houses that used to be the houses for the railway workers', it's got a bit more sort of oomph to it."

The report makes fascinating reading and can be found here - https://www.publicfirst.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Public-First_-_Historic-England.pdf

Newark car park saga: Council's tree felling U-turn cost £500k

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-62254792> - images courtesy of Protect Newark's Green Spaces

A council U-turn on plans to fell trees for a car park extension in Nottinghamshire cost the taxpayer £500,000, a report has revealed.

Four trees were set to be chopped down by Newark and Sherwood District Council to make way for the extension in London Road, Newark. The council reversed its decision following pressure from campaigners. Now, an independent review has found that the environmental impact of the plans was not considered.

According to the report by Assurance Lincolnshire, seen by the Local Democracy Reporting Service, the council "did not always conform to good governance principles expected in local government nor clearly demonstrate value for money".

It adds: "Whilst we acknowledge the commercial sensitivity of the matters under consideration - key stakeholders had very little opportunity to effectively engage with the council in the early stages of the process."

"In our view, the council could have developed an effective consultation plan to support the process without compromising commercial sensitivities."

"The situation the council found itself in at the end of the transaction for the London Road car park extension meant that it was in a position of moving forward with a 'least worst' option - which was not necessarily the best value option in financial terms."

The council entered an agreement with Dutch Properties Limited to take over the land in 2019.

The agreement committed the council to building the car park and to pay the company £30,000 per year in rent for 25 years, following an initial two-year, rent-free period. The council reversed the decision in November last year, agreeing to buy back the land for £450,000 and not build the car park extension, ensuring the trees escaped being felled - though one has since been chopped down after being found to be diseased.

Campaigners now want the land to become a community garden. A statement from Protect Newark's Green Spaces said: "We expect that NSDC officers and members... will publicly and sincerely apologise to council taxpayers across the district for their failures of governance and due diligence, which have wasted so much of their money."

The report found the sale of the municipal building and adjoining land, the lease back of the land and the subsequent buy back of the land has cost the council more than £500,000. John Robinson, chief executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council, said: "Quite rightly, questions were asked about how the council found itself in this situation and this has been the focus of the independent review."

"The review highlights things that we got wrong and things we should have done better. We need to hold our hands up to these things and learn from them."



Civic Trust Tour of Ancaster – 2nd June 2022

Ancaster House

By Richard Tyndall

On the evening of Thursday 2nd June Civic Trust members were given a guided tour of Ancaster in Lincolnshire by local expert Richard Tyndall. Richard is chairman of FARI Archaeology based at Farndon, and when he moved to Ancaster from Newark in 2009, he commenced a series of excavations of the southern fringes of the Roman settlement of Ancaster that continue to this day.

The village of Ancaster sits in a gap - to which it gives its name - in the Jurassic limestone ridge which runs roughly north - south through Lincolnshire. The gap was formed by the River Trent which cut through the ridge some 450,000 years ago on its way to low lands now covered by the North Sea.

Already the site of an Iron Age settlement, the gap was a potential weak point on Ermine Street, the

main route North from London to Lincoln, and on to York, in the Roman period and, as a result, it became the site of first a Roman fort and later a fortified town, the remains of which can still be seen in the village to this day.

The tour commenced at Ancaster House, a Grade II* listed, late 17th century building, which was extensively remodelled in the Georgian style in 1810. Skirting the southwestern corner of the Roman town it was possible to see, in the grounds of the old vicarage, some of the earthworks from the extensive ditches and banks, which were put up around the centre of the settlement in the early 3rd century. These were created with little regard for the edges of the town and excavations have revealed that much of the Romano-British settlement was destroyed during



St Martin's church, Ancaster

their construction.

The tour passed the 12th century church and graveyard of St Martin's and continued to the new cemetery, opened in the early twentieth century, a short distance to the north of the Church. When this



One of the carved sarcophagi in the churchyard



The replica of Dea Matres

new cemetery was created, it was found that the land had already been put to a similar use almost two millennia earlier, and an extensive Romano-British cemetery was uncovered, with over 200 burials eventually excavated. These were in many different forms including carved stone sarcophagi, two of which can still be seen today, one at each end of the cross path at the centre of the modern cemetery.

Passing through Angel Court – a sheltered housing development which was, until the 1960s, the site of an 18th century coaching inn – the tour stopped at the remains of the medieval village cross. It was here that Richard explained one of the mysteries of Ancaster. For all its wealth of Roman remains, almost nothing

is known of, or survives, from the thousand years or so after the end of Roman occupation. The village is not included in the Domesday Book and does not appear at all in any document until the reign of Henry II, at the end of the 12th century. Apart from the church, the oldest buildings in the village – Ancaster House and Ancaster Hall – both date to the late 17th century. He also mentioned that until the early 20th century the parish boundary between Ancaster and the neighbouring Wilsford Parish had run down the middle of Ermine Street, through the centre of the village, so that everything to the East of the Roman road was not actually in Ancaster parish, even though it was part of the village. This was corrected by the

time of the 1932 OS maps, with the boundary being moved further east to ensure the entire village was within a single parish.

Returning south along Ermine Street to the Church the tour passed one of a series of pubs that had once graced the village. Indeed, at the end of the 19th century there were no fewer than seven inns and beer houses in the small village. Most are now private residences, including the Red Lion, which displays some very fine 18th and 19th century graffiti, carved into its external walls.

At the church Richard spoke briefly about what we know of religious practices in Roman Britain. On display on the wall of the graveyard is a replica of the Dea Matres,



Ancaster's medieval cross



A Roman 'T-Shaped' brooch with enamel decoration, c. 1st/2nd century AD



Fibula brooch incorporating animal figure

a representation of three female deities that have been found on sites across much of the Northern portion of the Roman Empire. These were found as part of a small altar or temple in the graveyard in 1831. Additionally, Ancaster is the only known location of inscriptions to a local Romano-British deity, *Viridius*, with two references being found, both as linings or caps for graves of Romano-British burials in the nearby cemetery.

The group returned to Ancaster House where they were able to take a look at the ongoing excavations and some of the finds that have emerged over the last decade of investigations, as well as looking at some of the features of the house itself accompanied by teas, coffees and home-made chocolate chip cookies.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the history and archaeology of Ancaster we have a

website which is being continually updated - <https://sites.google.com/view/ancaster-archaeology/home>

We would like to say a huge thank you to Richard for the tour of Ancaster and the hospitality provided by him and his wife Liz at Ancaster House. Some of the artefacts we were able to handle were amazing, as were the home-made cookies!



Roman masonry uncovered during the excavations at Ancaster House



Norton Disney's Roman Villa, an honorary part of Nottinghamshire?

The next time you drive up the A46 from Newark to Lincoln, keep an eye out for where the road bends around Brough and the scheduled ancient monument of the Roman settlement of Crococolana. As you look further towards the right you will see the ridge of Potter Hill and where the sculpture of a Lancaster bomber is being built by the Bomber Gateway Trust.

As you reach the crest of the hill, just on the right, will be the junction to Folly Lane on the opposite carriageway. Within a few yards of that junction, you cross the ancient



Map showing the locations of the Roman Villa and other sites mentioned in the article

21.2^d

Prospect of Crocolana from Potter hill. Sept. 7. 1722.
A. Brough the Roman City. B. Newark. C. the cliff by the Trent. D. Potter hill.



Stukeley's drawing of Potter Hill, looking towards Newark

boundary from Nottinghamshire into Lincolnshire. You also cross through the Iron Age bank and ditch of Gallows Nooking Common which forms the county boundary. Not only have you just crossed a geographical boundary but one dating back to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Gallows Nooking Common was originally a long thin field, extending from Folly Lane to Hill Holt Wood. It is now much reduced due to the road widening in 2002.

The modern A46 follows a similar path in places to the Fosse Way, dating back to the earliest times, not long after the Romans invaded in 43 AD; a road that connects Exeter with Lincoln. A highway that is also an important piece of archaeology that can trace its origins back nearly 2000 years. As the modern road approaches Potter Hill, it enters a cutting created 20 years ago. Not much, if anything remains of the previous more ancient landscape at

this point. Hints remain, however. On the River Trent side of the road, before the crest of Potter Hill, lies South Scaffold Lane and North Scaffold Lane. North Scaffold Lane is marked on the Ordnance Survey map as another Roman road, which it is supposed ran from Cromwell to the Fosse Way. Not only was there a ford at Cromwell for crossing the Trent in Roman times, but also a Roman Villa.

It is within the context of this landscape that the noted Lincolnshire antiquarian William Stukeley arrived on 7th September 1722. Stukeley, at this point in his career, was a medical doctor who had started to travel the country, recording sites of historic interest and drawing them. He subsequently moved on in later years to become a Church of England cleric, with an interest in druids! In this period though Stukeley took a keen interest in Roman archaeology, both as a member of the recently formed

Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Society of Antiquities and Society of Roman Knights. Whilst the Society of Roman Knights have long since disappeared, the other two organisations still exist some 300 years later.

His journeys and observations were subsequently described in a later book "*Itinerarium curiosum: or, an account of the antiquities, and remarkable curiosities in nature or art, observed in travels through Great Britain*". His visit to Potter Hill, the Roman settlement of Crocolana at Brough at its foot and the onward journey to Newark gives a timely opportunity locally to reappraise the accuracy of his descriptions three hundred years on.

William Stukeley was undoubtedly the first person to describe finding Roman pottery on Potter Hill, giving a hint as to what was to be subsequently discovered two and a half centuries later. His drawing of the landscape and the notes of what

lies within also noted the Fosse Way, a large barrow in the middle of the Fosse Way, the cliff of the Trent and Newark in the distance. It is quite possible this is one of the oldest recorded landscape views in Lincolnshire and possibly THE oldest. The very fact it exists and can be compared with the modern landscape gives it relevance and importance today.

He also noted at Brough the archaeology still visible in the fields, of Roman masonry and the evidence of metal working. He also took an interest in the reported fairies in the local alehouse garden. Stukeley maintained a lifelong interest in spiritual things, particularly Druids, but also the supernatural. In later life his work was noted for making observations to fit his beliefs, particularly about Druids. To a degree some of his work does leave something to be desired. No one else noted a barrow in the middle of the Fosse Way, which conveniently looks like a lump of clay on a potter's wheel. This did not however stop archaeologists in the 1990s and 2000s from seeking evidence of the barrow, with somewhat inconclusive results.

After William Stukeley the story of Potter Hill's archaeology goes silent. When Newark Borough Museum opened in 1910 the museum started to receive items found in the area. Sometimes the find site was noted in the museum's records as Potter Hill, Potters Hill, Collingham or Norton Disney. All of which are correct but are problematic to later researchers documenting finds not recorded on Lincolnshire's Historic Environment Records. Those found on the Lincolnshire side of the county/parish boundary were never recorded in the county, until work was carried out in the last three years to properly record local archaeological finds, which revealed a much denser map of archaeology

locally than was previously appreciated.

Some of the finds were Bronze Age axes, giving an indication of the early people who passed through this landscape we now call Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The evidence of the Bronze Age is also close by within Collingham parish, with finds of antler picks. It's important to forget the later administrative boundaries when considering these find sites. It's clear that people were living on Potter Hill long before the Iron Age and Romano British settlement it is now better known for.

The story of Potter Hill and its links to the Roman period, hinted at by William Stukeley were suddenly revealed, almost by accident in September 1933. Fred Taylor, a local farmer at Hill Holt Farm, was out one day with a family member putting sheep stakes into the ground in Abbey Field, off Folly Lane, Norton Disney. Fred, when in the course of this activity, came across tesserae, the pieces of stone or tile that form a mosaic. According to newspaper reports of the time family members told Fred to pass on news of the discovery to a local museum. In a later account by Lincoln's City and County Museum curator of the time, Arthur Smith Sr., describes his encounter with Fred Taylor in Lincoln High Street. Fred asked Arthur Smith about what he had found in his field. Fred reached into a pocket and produced the tesserae. Recognising immediately what the find was, Arthur Smith hurriedly interrogated Fred. Arthur then described in his account of the encounter how he hurriedly cycled down the Fosse Way to Norton Disney.

Upon arrival he searched further and realised there were the remains of a larger mosaic, not far under the surface. Later he returned with

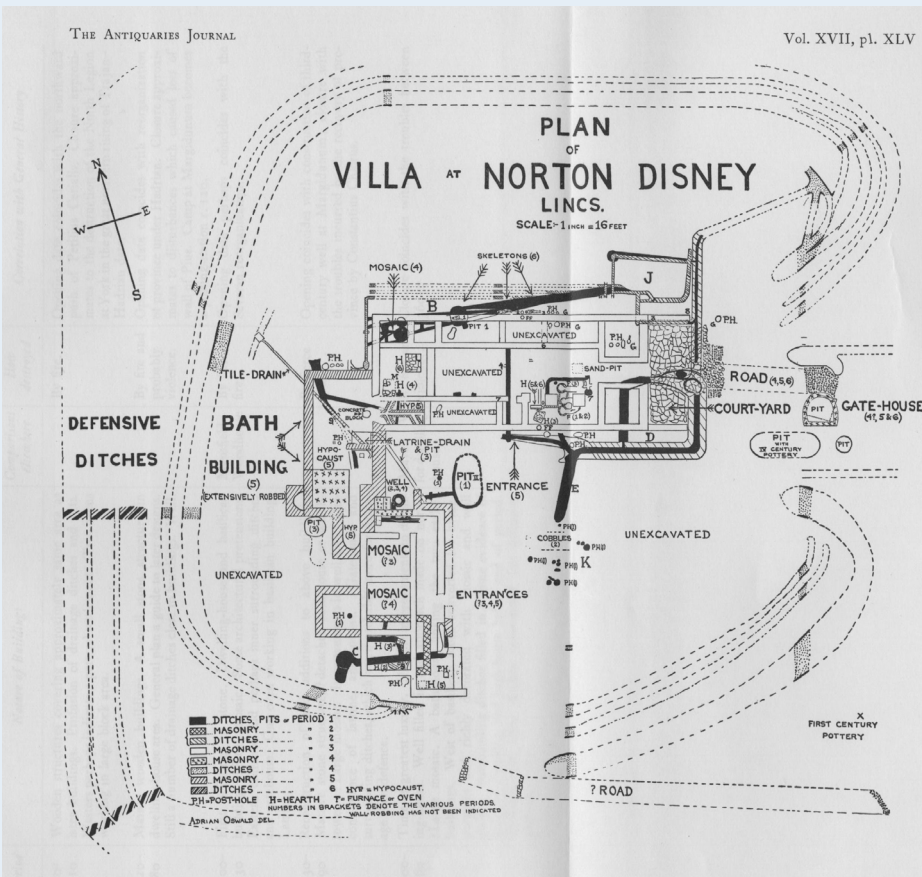
other museum workers to uncover the full extent of that mosaic floor. News of the discovery later "leaked" to the Lincolnshire Echo, who described the discovery of a Roman Villa near Collingham. It's clear from reading accounts of the time that many thought a grand Roman palace had been discovered. Word also started to spread in the wider archaeological community, to the extent that various leading figures wanted to know more. The Norton Disney Roman Villa has its own file at the National Archives at Kew in London. Within it lies the letters to the Inspector of Scheduled Ancient Monuments at the time that he received them in 1933 and 1934. One archaeologist wrote saying he was going to "send spies" out to identify the site, such was the interest and frustration at not being given access by Arthur Smith.

The story then takes an interesting turn. Arthur Smith Sr. had a son, Arthur Smith Jr. who also happened to be the curator of the museum at Newark. Newark being nearer to Norton Disney than Lincoln. Arthur Smith Sr. was nearing the end of his career, and at some point in 1934 passed responsibility for the subsequent excavation to his son. This seems to have enraged many archaeologists of the time, who questioned the ability of Arthur Smith Jr. to lead the planned excavation of the Roman Villa.

Arthur Smith Jr. wrote in early 1934 to the Inspector of Scheduled Ancient Monuments at the Ministry of Works to say he would "fight to his last drop of blood" for the right to lead the excavation team. By this stage the Inspector must have been somewhat sick of all the representations he was receiving about the unexcavated villa. He decided that the most sensible thing to do was to appoint his own archaeologist to lead the excavation. Newark Museum



Image of the mosaic floors uncovered in the 1935 excavations (looking south)



Plan of the excavated villa complex – note the two mosaics from the previous image at the south of complex

had, by the spring of 1934, been fundraising for just this eventuality. So later in 1934 Adrian Oswald, a local Nottinghamshire archaeologist, took charge with Arthur Smith Jr. as his deputy.

Adrian was the son of Felix Oswald. Felix was well known in archaeological circles, having set

up the museum at the University of Nottingham. An expert in Roman Samian ware he had a reputation for pottery expertise, which would subsequently be used to evaluate the pottery found at Norton Disney. So, the initial excavation in 1935, in Abbey field, involved two sons with well-known fathers, one from Lincolnshire and one from

Nottinghamshire in the borderlands of both counties.

That initial "dig" outlined the basic structure of the villa and produced enough finds to be used for another fundraiser for a second dig in 1935.

An interesting side detail at this point in the National Archives file further reveals an argument between Adrian Oswald and the Ministry of Works over the payment of his travel expenses. The Ministry wanted Adrian to travel from his home in Radcliffe on Trent by bus, whereas Adrian wanted to use his car. Adrian won!

Over the winter in 1935 Adrian was also busy seeking help from Newark Corporation. Unlike today when excavations in the initial stages have large mechanical diggers to remove the topsoil, all the work then had to be done by hand. He wanted road diggers to be made available for the 1935 dig. Now it's not entirely clear who was on site in 1935 to do the excavation, but the suspicion is that one of those road diggers subsequently cut the feet off one of the three skeletons found on site. An unfortunate accident which by today's standards would never happen. The photos of the 1935 dig show some very roughly dug trenches, none of the clear edged trench work we are used to seeing today. The excavation pre-dated the famous 1939 Sutton Hoo dig, which very much set the standard for on-site work in modern archaeology.

The 1935 excavation revealed an L shaped villa building, all the mosaic floors, a gatehouse, the well, skeletons and a vast range of pottery and other finds giving information about the diet and lifestyle of its inhabitants. The two excavations were subsequently written up in a paper by Adrian Oswald for the Society of Antiquities. One of the claims made by Adrian Oswald was



The remnants of the Roman steelyard



A section of reassembled mosaic floor – currently on display at NCWC

that the villa was a fortified one, because of the ditches he thought surrounded it. A rare thing indeed. This claim was quietly questioned by the Inspector of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the correspondence in the National Archives file. In fact, looking at the ditches that Adrian drew, modern re-evaluation would draw the conclusion the villa was built within an Iron Age enclosure. A re-use of the site, which is not an uncommon occurrence. Adrian described the villa in 1935 as being lonely upon a hill. In somewhat isolation without reference to Stukeley, the Fosse Way or Crococolana at Brough. He also believed the villa had several phases, having been burnt down on more than one occasion. He even went as far to claim the skeletons were the villa's inhabitants, who were murdered by marauding Saxons marching up the Fosse Way. Some of this detail was passed on at local gatherings and reported in newspapers at the time. Evidence was claimed for this by a dagger being apparently found within the ribs of one of the skeletons. After many centuries of burial, it is difficult to know the original position of the dagger, but in any event we now know that the end of the Roman period in Britain was less of a bang, more of a whimper and the events he described are unlikely

to have occurred.

The finds from the two excavations were subsequently processed and catalogued by the museum in Newark, now the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum. Some of the most intriguing finds were the small metal finds, such as a beautiful Roman steelyard (a set of weighing scales) or the shells of Roman snails, which are bigger than the British domestic ones. We have no idea what was being weighed, but as the scales are very small it's likely to be something small and probably precious. The villa field itself has over the years been found to contain a large number of Roman coins, so it's entirely possible some forms of commercial activity could have taken place. The snail shells and the other finds of oyster shells gave rise to Adrian Oswald describing lavish feasts by the villa's inhabitants, even though the number of finds were tiny. A couple of other clues were revealed about the Bronze Age. During the excavation Bronze Age flints were also found, as were scrapers from that period. So, it's entirely possible the site of the villa could have been in continuous occupation over many hundreds of years, especially if the site does indeed contain an Iron Age enclosure.

The Inspector of Ancient Monuments within his office at the

Ministry of Works in London also influenced the protection of the site. He took the view that the site needed national protection due to its importance. He subsequently wrote an order that directed that the "Roman remains, west of Hill Holt Farm" be protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the highest level of protection, on par with Stonehenge. The major difficulty with this is it subsequently had to be defined on a map, which in the years to come did cause an issue. The museum in Newark had rented Abbey Field in 1934 and 1935 for £5 per annum. The receipt can still be seen in its archives. The excavation area was a large square, not the entire field. The Inspector did not draw the protected area on a map, so it was assumed for official purposes that the villa was confined to this excavated square. However, what is clear from reading the excavation report is that large parts of the villa were never excavated. No thought was given to defining the area of protection on a map as the field boundaries. In later years the site failed to have the boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument properly marked on the ground, so it became vulnerable to more modern agricultural practices such as deep ploughing.

No further excavations ever took place at the villa site in

Norton Disney. The finds from the excavation were subsequently placed in the museum store. There appears to have been no re-evaluation of them in later years. Understanding and knowledge of archaeological finds are forever evolving. So those items, particularly the pottery found in the 1930s, would still benefit from re-appraisal. Some of the mosaic floor was taken to Newark and many years later a small section was reassembled so it could be displayed. Much to this day remains in boxes in the Resource Centre store at Brunel Drive. As with all museum items, not everything is on display, but they do remain available for study.

The villa, its location and story of discovery lay very much in the mists of time over the subsequent decades. Then in 2017 plans emerged for a gigantic animal rendering plant on the opposite side of the road to the villa at 'Villa Farm'. The developer made an application to Lincolnshire County Council for its construction

and were required to submit a heritage statement and identify all the relevant archaeology on its development site and around the site. In addition, they were told to carry out investigations, such as geophysical surveys, both on Villa Farm and the villa site itself. As a consequence, a number of local people became concerned about the threat to the historic environment and decided to challenge the narrative of the developer; that the villa was not significant, and it was perfectly acceptable to build an industrial site next to it. The Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group was formed, and subsequently even more archaeology started to be revealed.

The official database of information planners refer to when assessing local archaeology and heritage is called the 'Historic Environment Record' (HER). Run by the county council these online, publicly available, records give details of many things, providing they have been recorded! It was realised

early on in the local campaign to save the setting of the villa from development, that the local Lincolnshire HER was incomplete. As has been described earlier the details of the finds made on or around the villa were all held in the museum at Newark but were not on Lincolnshire's HER. So, some laborious and systematic searching of the museum's database, together with looking at the finds they recorded, then sending details to Lincolnshire's HER, resulted in a larger number of archaeological finds being recorded. This then gave a different understanding of the wealth of archaeology present.

Then by chance an online conversation with an Irish archaeologist, who was friends with an expert in Roman Villas who was helping the campaign, produced the star find! Rena Maguire, a PhD student at Queens University, had written a paper about a Roman rider god, which was found in 1989. She had been researching and specialising in equestrian archaeology and was intrigued when he appeared in an exhibition in Edinburgh. It turned out that this Roman rider god, aka *Mars Thingsus* was found by metal detectorists just inside the Lincolnshire boundary in Norton Disney. He had been spirited away to the British Museum and subsequently bought by them, without being recorded locally. On closer examination of a 1990 paper the find site turned out to be close to the Fosse Way, just inside the Lincolnshire boundary and conveniently close to the Roman Villa! Rena assumed people knew locally of the Norton Disney rider god. Of course, nobody did until that point and thanks to Rena not only did the campaign to save the local archaeology gain an ally, but also an emblem and archaeological star!

The developer of the site began



Image of the rider god statue – courtesy of the British Museum

their own investigations, both of the development site and the Roman villa field, which they also owned. Their geophysical surveys revealed, on the Villa Farm development site, likely signs of Iron Age 'Round Houses'. A subsequent excavation very much confirmed their presence and signs of settlement. The geophysical survey of the Roman Villa field revealed that the villa remains were spread over the entire six hectares of 'Abbey Field' and not confined to the smaller 1930s excavation area.

More desktop research of the Nottinghamshire HER confirmed the William Stukeley connection to Potter Hill, which, just like the Roman rider god Mars Thingsus, was unknown locally up until that point. This only underlined the nature of the historic landscape that the developer wished to introduce a giant animal rendering plant into.

The Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group started their own field investigations too. Initially, with field walking, they quickly revealed some unexpected evidence of Iron Age iron smelting taking place, surrounding the villa site and Villa Farm. Once their field walking started, they kept coming across more and more evidence that Potter Hill was once a vast multi period industrial site. The source of the iron they smelted was 'bog iron', a type of naturally occurring iron that permeates through the water courses to form accumulations on the surface, from the Scunthorpe mudstone ridge beneath. These early iron smelters built small clay furnaces, used locally produced charcoal as a fuel and turned out both the 'bloom' (rough lumps of malleable iron), but also the tell-tale iron slag (the waste material left over), which was much in evidence on the surface of many fields. Using contacts built up within the archaeological community, the

group were able to get scientific analysis carried out, which gave a date back to the Middle Iron Age.

The group also managed to fund raise to commission its own geophysical surveys of the fields surrounding the development site. These also produced more evidence of Iron Age and Romano British fields and possible settlement. Their investigations also extended to looking at historic aerial photos. One, from the Historic England aerial photo archive, at Swindon, identified one in the 'OGS Crawford' collection. 'OGS' was the original pioneer of the use of aerial photography to identify archaeology. Often initially seen by crop marks during dry periods. He established a large collection of pre-war aerial photos, often sent to him by interested airman. One was taken in June 1933 of the Fossey Way showing Folly Lane and Abbey Field. It shows a landscape with original field boundaries, Gallows Nooking Common (the thin field in Collingham, but on the Lincolnshire side of the Fosse Way) and a landscape with the subsequent development following World War Two. It is also three months before Fred Taylor decided to put up sheep stakes and uncover evidence of the villa.

When eventually the planning committee of Lincolnshire County Council met in February 2020, they also received submissions from Historic England and the senior archaeologist at the council. Both concluded that Potter Hill was indeed a historic landscape, overlooking the linked archaeology of Crococolana. The plant itself would harm the historic setting of the Roman Villa. It subsequently turned out that the plans were rejected, in part due to the harm to the setting of the Roman Villa. The irony of this planning application is that it stimulated a huge interest

in the area and better knowledge and understanding of the historic environment, which in part proved the undoing of the planning application.

In one further plot twist, an application was made to Historic England, after the planning application failed to extend the boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman Villa from the original 1934 one, to instead cover the whole of the six hectares of Abbey field. Evidence to support this being the developer's own geophysical survey. In August 2020 those boundaries were indeed extended to the whole of Abbey Field.

It would be true to say that despite the threat of development, Norton Disney's Roman Villa and surrounding associated archaeology is now better documented, and recorded, and enjoys a far higher level of protection. There is also an active archaeology group, who are effective guardians and friends to the local heritage.

Potter Hill is not just a place you drive through on the modern A46, but a historic crossroads between counties. Perhaps it should be given an honorary status of being partly in Nottinghamshire as well as Lincolnshire? A heritage gem that both counties can share with pride!

If you would like to find out more visit - Home - Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group (nortondisneyhag.org) and Home - Lincolnshire Heritage Explorer or visit the National Civil War Centre- Newark Museum, Newark

Tours are also available by request of the Norton Disney History and Archaeology Group

Battle of Gainsborough - 28th July 1643



ROBERT FITZROBERT EARL OF KINGSTON.

Newark and Sherwood District Council were awarded a £550k High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Project in 2020. The HSHAZ aims to unlock the potential of the historic high streets, fuelling economic, social and cultural recovery. Newark's HSHAZ is working to improve identified issues within the town, including heritage at risk properties and the issue of poor-quality shopfronts, which form part of historic buildings. Our shopfront project aims to engage local property owners within the HSHAZ area and encourage them to take up grants for historic shop front restoration. The objective is to restore and improve the appearance of traditional shop fronts and attract new visitors and businesses to the town centre. This project will provide funding grants for property owners to improve the visual appearance and usage of historic buildings. A Heritage Grant Scheme will be launched to incentivise owners to invest in the repair and renovation of historic shopfronts, and/or to create new uses for internal lower and upper floor space. Information from the property ownership mapping and conservation guidance is being used to engage the owners of target properties with the

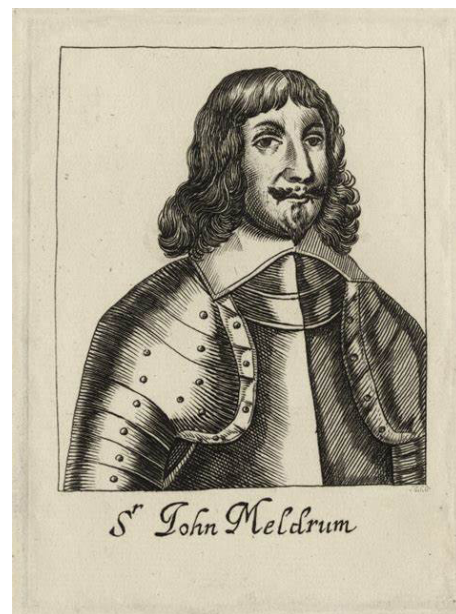
scheme. We will be seeking match investment from landlords in target properties. Criteria for funding has been developed using in-house experience, Historic England advice, and best practice from elsewhere.

We have been working proactively with owners of target properties and currently have three projects with a planning agent engaged. These properties are on Appleton Gate, Carter Gate and the Market Place. The properties are shown in the pictures below. The shopfront designs will be informed by historic photos, and where multiple shopfronts can be evidenced, we have been working with the owners to choose the most fitting reinstatement. We are also in discussion with other property owners and will be pursuing discussions with more target properties as the year progresses. Our budget for the shopfront scheme means our target is approximately 3 shopfront schemes being completed.

NSDC has previously administered similar grant schemes, notably the Historic Economic Regeneration Scheme and the Conservation Area Partnership Scheme. Both schemes focused on a wide area and did not specifically work to improve shopfronts, although some properties in Newark did undergo shopfront work as part of these schemes. The last grant scheme projects were completed by 2007.

The Battle

In the early hours of 28th July, the Parliamentarians set out along a sandy track from the village of North Scarle, which today is the A156 to Gainsborough. They encountered Cavendish's advance guard of 100 horse later in the



morning, a mile and a half to the south of Gainsborough, in Lea Parish. The Parliamentarian advance drove back the Royalists, although Colonel Francis Thornaugh was wounded and temporarily captured.

Deployment

The main body of Royalists was positioned at the top of a steep escarpment, known as Foxby Hill, with three regiments of horse in front and the Duke of York's regiment, commanded by Cavendish, in reserve at the rear. Cavendish had chosen his position well, as he knew that the steepness of the rise from the Lea Road would make it difficult for Meldrum to approach.

The Parliamentarians pushed on slowly, with their horses picking their way up the steep hillside covered by rabbit-holes, which formed part of the town's warren. They succeeded in gaining the top of Foxby Hill, an extensive plateau area of grassland. Meldrum had organised his force into three 'brigades', ascending the hillside in the order of the Lincolnshire troops as a vanguard, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire regiments in

the centre and Cromwell's regiment at the rear in reserve.

The Parliamentarians used carbine or musket fire, directed upwards at the Royalist horse. Royalist Captain, John Hussey, was struck by a ball in the chest, which ripped through the upper seam of his cuirass and through his buff coat, suggesting a fairly close-range shot. The Royalists' attempts to impede the Parliamentarians' progress up the hill proved to be ineffective and so the Royalist forlorn hope was pushed back upon the main body, the line held by the three regiments Cavendish had brought out of Newark.

Cromwell's letter to the Deputy Lieutenants of Suffolk (part of the Suffolk Committee), from Huntingdon on 31st July 1643, mentions that the vanguard of Lincolnshire troops were the first to get up the hill, followed by the rest of the horse.

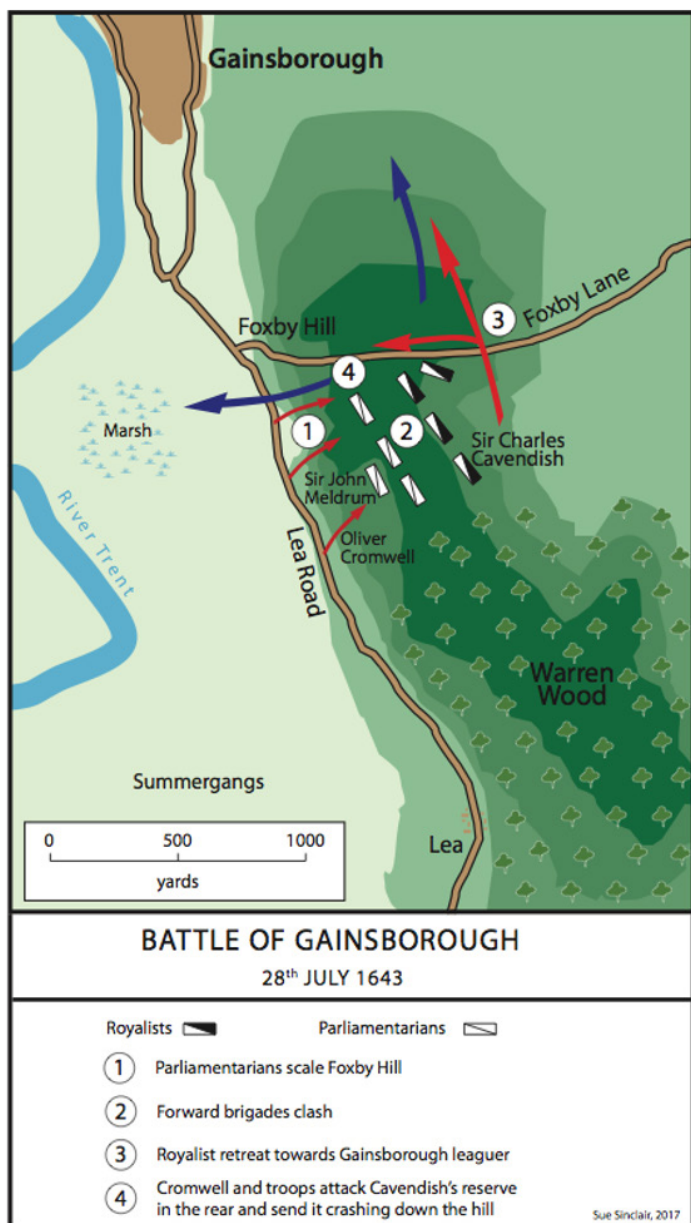
The Action

As the Parliamentary horse arrived near the top of the hill they began to form into battle array, seemingly able to dress their lines unimpeded. At this time Cromwell took command of the right wing, which was the place of honour, usually led by the senior commander of horse. The Royalist front line advanced upon them, but were counter

charged by the Parliamentarians, though they were not fully formed-up. The Royalist forces, or at least some of them, were possibly caught moving more slowly than the Parliamentarians, but put up a strong fight. Cromwell said that neither side could break the order of the other but, after some time, the Parliamentarians, noticing the Royalists were 'a little shrinking' in their resolve", pressed them again and caused them to rout. The Royalist main body left the field, dividing both to the right and left

of Cavendish's reserve. Many of the Parliamentary troops followed the fleeing Royalists, including some of Cromwell's regiment. The Royalists fled as far as six miles from the battlefield.

In his report to the Suffolk Committee Cromwell states that he had noticed that the intact reserve, commanded by Cavendish, for a time faced his remaining troops and then faced towards the four troops of Lincolners. After facing them for a while, Cavendish charged the Lincolnshire troops and routed them. With the rear of Cavendish's cavalry exposed, Cromwell, with his three remaining troops, charged into the Royalist rear, scattering the Duke of York's regiment and sending it down, the almost precipitous, western edge of Foxby Hill, to cross the Summergangs and into the marshy meadow ground towards



Map of the battle from Cromwell at War by Martyn Bennett



Charles Cavendish – Commander of the Duke of York's Regiment

the river. Cavendish and his troops became trapped in this area of ground, described by Cromwell as a "quagmire". Cavendish was mortally wounded by Captain-Lieutenant James Berry, with a sword-thrust under his short ribs and Lieutenant-Colonel Markham was unhorsed and shot on the ground. Around three hundred Royalists in total were killed in the marshy ground. The marsh became known locally

thereafter as "Candish bog."

The Royalist regiments had now all left the field, leaving Meldrum able to re-supply Willoughby's garrison. Later that day, when the re-provisioning of Gainsborough was done, Cromwell reported that news came of another Royalist force approaching from the north, about a mile away, comprising six troops of horse and three hundred foot. The Parliamentarians sallied out with their cavalry and 400 of Willoughby's infantry and followed two or three of the Royalist troops, before reaching the top of some low hills to the east of the town, probably at Morton, where the Parliamentarians were shocked to see Newcastle's main Northern Army. Cromwell described "my Lord Newcastle's army" as comprising "fifty colours of troops and a great body of horse". Willoughby and his infantry retreated immediately back to Gainsborough, covered by their cavalry, but both were engaged by Newcastle's army. The cavalry, under Cromwell and Meldrum, withdrew from Gainsborough, leaving Willoughby to defend the town. Meldrum and Cromwell retreated with their forces, pursued by part of Newcastle's Northern Horse, eventually reaching Lincoln without any reported losses. Newcastle besieged Gainsborough for three days, until Willoughby surrendered, after the Royalist artiller, which was elevated upon the plateau to the east, was used to bombard and set fire to part of the town.

Parliament's victory at Gainsborough was short lived. Newcastle's recapture of the town allowed the Royalists to consolidate their position in northern Lincolnshire, and with their subsequent taking of Lincoln in August, they were able to resume their campaign of harassment of Parliamentarian

forces in the area. The control of the River Trent, that this allowed, also cut river communication between Parliament's forces in the East Midlands and Hull. In December 1643 Sir Thomas Fairfax and Sir John Meldrum attacked Gainsborough from both land and river and recaptured the town once more, thus weakening the Royalist presence in North Lincolnshire. Meldrum became governor of Gainsborough until the end of March 1644, when he had the town defences levelled to prevent any further attempt by Royalists to garrison the town. Undoubtedly the Parliament's Eastern Association position was strengthened in the whole of Lincolnshire as a result.

Gainsborough was not a major battle but did demonstrate Cromwell's military capabilities for the first time. He showed his ability to take advantage of terrain, maintained control of his troops and deployed them aggressively when the opportunity arose. These were the skills that would allow his success in subsequent actions at Winceby in October 1643, also part of the Lincolnshire campaign, Marston Moor and Naseby. The abilities that Cromwell displayed for the first time at Gainsborough would see him rise from an obscure Huntingdonshire MP in 1642 to



Oliver Cromwell – Colonel of Horse for the Eastern Association

Lieutenant General of the New Model Army in 1645, when he was in command of the cavalry and second in command to Sir Thomas Fairfax overall. He led the campaign in Ireland in 1649 and took overall command of the New Model Army in 1650, against the Scots in the Third Civil War. He went on to become Lord Protector of England between 1653 and his death in 1658 and his is the name that most people associate with the Parliamentarian cause.

The Royalists lost two senior commanders during the Gainsborough campaign. The death of Sir Robert Pierrepont, by friendly fire on 25th July, brought the loss of the second in command of Royalist forces in Lincolnshire and East Anglia. A more severe loss was that of Charles Cavendish, who was only 23 years old. He had distinguished himself at Edgehill before being given command of the Duke of York's regiment. He was appointed Colonel General in command of Royalist forces in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Basing himself at Newark he had been involved in the capture of Grantham, in March 1643, and the skirmish at Ancaster in April. He had escorted Queen Henrietta Maria's convoy from Newark on its way to Oxford, taking Burton-on-Trent on 2 July 1643. Following his death he was buried in Newark, before being reinterred with his family at Derby 30 years later. Much more would have been expected from such a young General and his loss would have been keenly felt by the Royalists.

The Battlefield

In 1643 beyond the town, to the south and east, lay a low line of clay hills (in modern Gainsborough partly covered by housing development and bisected by a major road). Cromwell's account of the battle says that his force advanced from North Scarle, approximately



Foxby Hill, with Warren Wood in the background, before housing development

22km south of Gainsborough, and encountered a Royalist forlorn hope about a mile and a half outside the town. Having overcome the forlorn hope his force continued to the bottom of a steep hill, upon which the Royalist force stood. An approach to Gainsborough in this way would have placed Cromwell and his men at the foot of Foxby Hill. This steep escarpment from the Lea Road had to be scaled by the Parliamentarians, using what Cromwell described as tracks, before the full-scale battle commenced, and no doubt the main battle would have occurred over the more open grassland to the south of Foxby Lane, rather than to the north of Foxby Lane, which was laid out with enclosures in the 17th Century. This manorial land with enclosed fields lay south of a present-day major road (Thorndyke Way) extending to Foxby Hill, which is now mainly open land comprising playing fields and some educational buildings. The area now also contains some allotments abutting Foxby Lane. A map of the mid-17th Century shows this area to be arable land,

still subject to ridge and furrow (strip) cultivation with, in the main, ploughing carried out in an east-west direction. These enclosures followed the pattern formed in mediaeval times and included some permanent hedgerows. Such hedges could have presented obstacles that both fleeing Royalists and, later in the aftermath of the battle, Cromwell's troops encountered in their retreat from Newcastle's Northern Army. The mid-1600s map also shows that Foxby Lane did not exist then and, apart from a small area of enclosed land extending south of the modern lane, this area was grassland with ancient woodland to the south of the battlefield (in modern times the semi-natural Warren Wood), running eastwards to an ancient deer park. This area was 'disparted' and left as open land from the early 1600s, although eventually turned into pastures enclosed by hedges, possibly during the Civil War period. This non-cultivated expanse south of Foxby Lane was an area of sandy tracks set aside as a rabbit warren for the town - hence the difficult

progress for the Parliamentarian horse making their way up Foxby Hill. It is likely that the final clash between the reserves of both sides occurred in the area above the present-day Sandsdown Avenue, with the Royalists being forced down the steep hill which is still apparent today. An extensive area of waterside meadows lay between the foot of Foxby Hill and the River Trent, which were often flooded and marshy. This became the location of the so-called "Candish Bog" where Colonel-General Charles Cavendish was killed and his regiment founded.

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 52062) records the site of the battle, however the location identified is far to the east of Foxby Hill and within, what in 1643 was, manorial enclosed land, with the ridge and furrow system in use. The western area of the land south of Foxby Lane is most likely for the initial charge, resulting in the main body of Royalists fleeing. This is the western edge of the plateau at the top of Foxby Hill, described by



Battlefield Memorial on Foxby Hill

Professor Martin Bennett, following the ascent by the Parliamentarians and then their emergence onto the hill top. Professor Bennett has had a plan produced by his team at

Nottingham Trent University (shown above), suggesting that this is the area where the main charge would have taken place. In his 2017 email to the National Civil War Centre-Newark Museum he also referred to Dr. Peter Gaunt's (Chester College, University of Liverpool) article, in 'Cromwelliana' 1998, on the battle. Dr. Gaunt was responsible for the installation of the Gainsborough Battlefield monument present today, this being close to the top of Foxby Hill. Much of the likely main battle site has already been subjected to redevelopment under current planning proposals, either by new housing and other use buildings, or where the redevelopment nears the edge of the plateau, areas of landscaped open space would be created.

Archaeology of the battle

Artefacts associated with the battle, including cannon balls from the bombardment of the town during the sieges, are possessed by both the Gainsborough Heritage Association and Lincolnshire County Council. Captain Hussey's upper cuirass and buff coat, showing how a musket ball penetrated his armour is kept at Doddington Hall near Lincoln. 'The Collection Museum' in Lincoln has on display a basket-hilted broadsword, recovered from the former marshes near the River Trent, approximately a mile south of Gainsborough, in the area where Sir Charles Cavendish and his troops founded.

AGM 2022

Newark Civic Trust Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at Newark Library on Thursday 29th September 2022 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last year's AGM of 30th September 2021
4. Matters arising
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of Executive Committee
10. Any other business

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

- Chairman – Vacant
- Vice-Chairman – Kevin Winter
- Secretary – Kevin Winter
- Treasurer – Vacant
- Planning Chairman – Michael Hawes
- Planning Vice-Chairman – Paul Moore
- Membership Secretary – Debbie Smith
- Recruitment Secretary – Debbie Smith
- Awards Co-ordinator – Michael Knapton
- Events Co-ordinator – Paul Moore

A to Z of Architecture

by Michael Knapton, Chairman

We continue our look at a variety of common architectural terms and where they can be found in and around Newark. This issue – 'J'.

Jamb

A jamb refers to a vertical member that forms the frame of a door or window. The word is derived from the Middle English *jambe* meaning 'leg'.

Jetty

A projecting part of a building that overhangs the wall or section below. The term is most applied to the projecting floor joists and floor of a timber framed building. The image below shows the jetty of the Prince Rupert public house c.1452 on Stodman Street. The projecting joists support a large beam that runs the length of the wall and is called the *bresumer*. The two end joists are supported by curved jetty brackets.

The second image is of The Governor's House c. 1474, a building of higher status than the Prince Rupert. The projecting joists appear to be disguised by coving, giving the building a less rustic appearance.

The word is derived from the Old French *jetee* meaning a jetty or pier, itself derived from *jeter* meaning to throw out.

Jettying was introduced as a practical solution to solving the problem of how to increase internal floorspace in a building where extending at ground level wasn't possible. Jetties also help to provide shelter to the external wall below. Jetties were banned in London in 1667 as a response to the Great Fire.



Justice

The figure of 'Lady Justice' is a personification of the moral and legal justice system and is often represented with sword and scales, and later occasionally also blindfolded. The figure of Lady Justice originates from the Roman goddess Justitia, but similar deities appear in both the Egyptian and Greek pantheons.

The sword represents authority, the scales the weighing of evidence. The blindfold is a later addition from the 16th century and demonstrates the impartiality of the justice system. Unfortunately, you can see from the image below that Newark's Lady Justice, sitting atop the Town Hall, lost her sword when the exterior of the Town Hall was renovated in 2017.



Dates for the Diary

We are now aiming to hold all future events at Newark Library but we will continue to monitor the public health situation and inform you of any changes. Full details of the programme can be found on the website (www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk) but we will also contact members via email.

Talks take place in Newark Library and commence at 7.30pm. Free entry for members, £2 for non-members.

- 29th September 2022 – AGM
- 27th October 2022 - TBC
- 24th November 2022 – TBC
- 26th January 2023 – TBC
- 23rd February 2023 – TBC
- 30th March 2023 - TBC

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.

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

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