

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

Caring about the town's environment

Issue 72 | December 2015



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Front cover photo courtesy of Teresa Martin



A few words from the Chairman

I have now been Chairman of the Newark Civic Trust for just over a year and recently, rather nervously, chaired the AGM. Since last year's meeting we have managed to appoint a Treasurer and the Vice-Chairman, Kevin Winter, continues to take on the responsibilities of Secretary. The Committee would, however, like to see someone take on the reins permanently.

In issue 71 of the magazine I announced that the Trust would be applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to refurbish the Town Pump, install bollards to prevent further damage to the stone trough and to install an information board. I'm glad to announce that our grant application has been accepted. We will be working alongside Newark and Sherwood District Council and the Town Council on this project, and by doing so help to preserve this small but important part of our town's environment.

Since the last magazine was published Newark witnessed the opening of the National Civil War Centre-Newark Museum. Its opening weekend will live long in the memories of this town. The wide range of events that weekend, and the huge numbers of people that attended them, as well as the success of the National Civil War Centre, has reinforced my views that there are many people in town who are interested in their past; we need to attract these people to strengthen the Trust.

This year we decided to issue the magazine after the AGM, so that our members who couldn't attend will be able to keep up with the Trust's business. As always please provide feedback on the magazine and everything the Trust is doing; it would be great to hear from you.

I would like to remind our members that annual membership of the

Newark Civic Trust is £15 for an individual and £10 each for individuals in the same household. Please can you check your Standing Orders to make sure you are paying the correct amount for your membership.

Finally a big 'thank you' to Teresa Martin for allowing us to use her wonderful photograph of the Corn Exchange on the cover of the magazine. Teresa was one of the winning entries in the Newark Advertiser 'Photographer of the Year 2015' competition, in the 16 years and over bracket.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Knapton', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Chairman of Newark Civic Trust
Michael Knapton

Lead Theft and Heritage Crime

The Newark Advertiser reported (*Church lead targeted in early hours – 25/06/15*) that one man had been arrested, after being disturbed while stripping lead from the roof of St Wilfrid's Church, North Muskham at 3am on the 22nd June this year. It was later discovered that the man was part of a gang of three men from Manchester.

The damage caused is likely to cost the church in the region of £11,000. Insurance will cover some of these costs, but the church needs to raise up to £6,000 of its own money. The church has already raised money from events, such as its flower festival, but also through the generosity of its parishioners and the wider village.

It is common practice to replace stolen lead roofs with terne-coated stainless steel. This material is more costly than lead to install, but has a relatively low scrap value, therefore making it unattractive to thieves. However, as the building is a listed structure the church needs to apply to Historic England for permission to change the materials. Permission will also be required from the Diocese. The paperwork involved in putting-in these applications is a demanding process for volunteers, who already give so much of their time to the church.

Lead theft from a church is classed as a 'heritage crime'; defined by Historic England as "any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations." This can range from graffiti and petty vandalism to ploughing ancient monuments or unlawful demolition of a listed



St Wilfrid's, North Muskham
(photo courtesy of Nicola Talbot)

building. Although heritage crime is not new, its true extent has only recently been examined in detail. In March 2012, an English Heritage report showed that in 2011:

- Some 70,000 listed buildings – 18.7% of the entire stock of listed buildings in England were physically harmed by crime. For some 30,000 listed buildings – or 8% of the entire stock – the damage was substantial.
- 22.7% of grade I or II* buildings were subject to heritage crime, compared with 18.3% of grade II buildings. 15.3% of scheduled monuments were affected.
- Churches and other religious buildings face the greatest threat, with 37.5% (three in eight) damaged by crime.
- Metal theft is the biggest single threat. Around 5.3% of listed buildings were affected by it, but this nearly trebles for churches,

with 14.3% affected.

- Anti-social behaviour around heritage assets are commonplace, with 12.3% of heritage assets affected. Anti-social behaviour is the single most common heritage crime facing scheduled monuments.

Various steps have been taken to understand the extent of heritage crime and to seek options to prevent it. In April 2015 English Heritage launched an e-learning module for police forces in rural areas, to improve training in heritage crime.

In July 2015 the Church Buildings Council (CBC) launched two initiatives to help churches protect their treasures. This included the establishment of a helpline for churches, to report the theft of treasures. The second initiative was guidance for parishes on how to record treasures and how to take steps to protect them, while still keeping their churches open for the public to use. See http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Protecting_your_churches_treasures.pdf for more details.

Historic England have also published guidance for Civic Trusts and Societies, to help prevent heritage crime by establishing networks and partnerships with other local groups to help monitor historic assets. Historic England has also advised that local groups contact their police forces to see if they have a police officer who is responsible for heritage crime.

Taking part in heritage: DCMS data for England released

The latest figures for heritage participation have been released by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and cover the period of April 2014 to March 2015, noting that '74.4 per cent of adults had engaged with heritage in some way in the last year'.

The data covers regional and national cultural participation data across England, and also looks at regional trends in each sector (arts, heritage, museums and galleries, libraries, archives, volunteering and special events), as well as equalities data

relating to trends in visits and digital participation.

Key findings:

- In the year to March 2015 over seven in ten adults (73%) had visited a heritage site at least once in the previous 12 months. A statistically significant increase since the survey began in 2005/06 (70%) and since 2010/11 (71%), but a similar rate to all years since.
- Participation rates for heritage, across most of the nine English regions, remained at a similar level to 2005/06, with the exception of the North East, North West and West Midlands where attendance increased from 69 per cent, 68 per cent and 66 per cent respectively in 2005/06 to 77 per cent, 73 per cent and 71 per cent respectively in the latest results.
- Nearly three in five adults belonging to black and minority ethnic groups (56%) visited a heritage site at least once in the past 12 months. This was a similar rate to 2013/14 and an increase of almost 6 percentage points since 2005/06 (51%).

HLF Award

It is with great pleasure that the Newark Civic Trust can announce that we have been successful in our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for grant money to refurbish the town pump. This project will also include installation of bollards to prevent vehicular damage, the installation of an information board as well as a dedicated page on the website documenting the work.

The pump and trough are in a poor state, so the grant will help to restore these important features, but also protect them from future damage. We have also decided to install an information board, as we feel that many people who use the Market Place walk by the pump



Newark town pump

(and adjacent bear baiting post) without giving them a second glance. The information board will contain information on the history of the pump, bear baiting post and the role

of these objects in the town through the years.

We will also be creating a web-page, dedicated to the project, diaring the work. This will create a record of the work and those involved in the project, as well as the results of research into these important pieces of Newark's street furniture.

In April 2016 our final talk of the season will be 'The History of Papplewick Pumping Station and Nottingham's Water Supply', to continue the theme of public health in the Victorian period. This will be followed in the Summer by a visit to the pumping station (keep an eye on the website for more details.)

Civic Trust Award

Kevin Templeman of Oak Tree Homes was presented with the Newark Civic Trust Award at the 2015 AGM, for the refurbishment of 33 & 35 North Gate.

The award recognises the contribution of a company, group or individual whose work has significantly enhanced the environment of Newark. Recent winners include; Thorpe's Warehouse and the former Blue Man Pub conversion.

These buildings represent an important part of Newark's brewing past and are one of the earliest



(left to right) James and Kevin Templeman of Oak Tree Homes
(Image courtesy of Newark Advertiser)

surviving examples of a small independent brewing complex consisting of two sections. The first section, No. 33 Northgate, consists of

a stable and house dating to the late 18th century, but which underwent various alterations in the 19th (when a wooden shop front was added) and 20th centuries. The second section, No. 35 Northgate, consists of a house, malthouse and stable, all also dating from the late 18th and early 19th century with various alterations up to the late 20th century.

The buildings have been sympathetically converted into residential properties.



Rodney Cousins
(Image courtesy of Newark Advertiser)

Rodney Cousins

1944-2015

Rodney (Rod) Cousins was a long-time friend, fellow local historian and member of Newark Civic Trust. He was also a long serving, and very much respected, member of the Newark Scouting Community and the first to receive the Silver Wolf Award, for over 50 years of dedicated service.

Growing up in Farndon Rod was educated at Barnby Road School, Newark and Newark Technical College. He started work at Worthington Simpson's, but soon secured a job at Newark's Appleton Gate Museum. From there he transferred to Gedling House, Nottingham, to work for the Nottinghamshire Schools Museum Service. In 1979, Rod was appointed as Assistant Curator of the Museum of Lincolnshire life and Church Farm Museum, Skegness. He became Curator in 1984 and remained there until his retirement in 1998. He was also a member of the East Midlands Earth Structures Society and, in later years, an avid family historian.

Rod's first publication, in 1977, was *Newark's Inns and Public Houses*, a

very popular local read, which was reprinted by the County Council in 1991. He was also the author of *Lincolnshire Buildings in the Mud and Stud Tradition*, the culmination of 18 years of research, and *A Basketful: Willow Growing and Basket Making in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire*. He was much in demand, as a respected speaker, at club and society meetings over a wide range of the East Midlands. Topics ranged from *Moving House - the moving and re-erection of a mud and stud cottage at Church Farm Museum, Skegness, to Dutch Links - the legacy of the Dutch in the East Midlands*, and *Granny's Attic - a quiz about former everyday objects long forgotten*.

From 2000 to 2006, I had the pleasure of working alongside Rod, running a number of local history courses for the Workers' Education Association in Newark, Balderton, Syerston, Norwell and Upton. These helped to engender interest in local history and heritage, resulting in local history societies being established in both Coddington and Norwell.

I was also privileged to see Rod at work in his Scouting role. As District Commissioner for Newark, he approached me in 1993 to ask if I would consider becoming District Secretary. As I could not muster a valid reason to decline, I soon found myself engaged in many different aspects of scouting, including fund raising and trips to the Czech Republic and Switzerland. I shall always be very grateful to Rod for the opportunity he gave me and for the many friends I have made, and continue to make, through my involvement.

Rod's untimely passing has left a void, not only in the lives of his wife Gwen, daughters Alison and Jill, his wider family and Newark's Scouting movement, but also the many members of the clubs and societies who looked forward to his unique brand of talks and presentations. We have all lost a dedicated local historian who will be sadly missed.

By Mick Gill, Executive Committee Member

The Newark Civil War Centre opening weekend

On Sunday 3rd May, to a background of musket and cannon fire, the doors of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum opened to the public. Fortress Newark, an event staged to coincide with the opening of the new museum, drew huge crowds to Newark. Over 1000 re-enactors, from the Sealed Knot, re-enacted scenes from the three sieges of Newark at the Queens Sconce, probably the best surviving 17th century earthwork in the country. Meanwhile, in and around Newark castle, their compatriots from the English Civil War Society provided the sound and spectacle for the thousands of spectators on Sunday and Monday. On Monday both groups mustered in front of Newark Town Hall, whilst a wreath was laid to all the victims of the Civil War, at the memorial stone in St Mary Magdalene church yard.

The re-enactors were incredibly positive about the National Civil War Centre and it was fantastic to



Re-enactors inspecting the armour on display in the Sieges section of the Civil War Gallery (Image courtesy of National Civil War Centre/Sam Kirby)

see so many of them walking round the new galleries and spending time talking to visitors and staff. Many remarked how good it was to see the original weapons that led to their replicas. Members of Grey of Groby's Regiment, (Thomas Grey was eldest son of the Earl of Stamford), were

pleased to learn that their regimental standard would soon be amongst those already hanging from the lighting raft above.

The exhibition is split into five themes: Lead up to the British Civil Wars; Newark as a Strategic Location; The Sieges, Newark during the Civil War and finally Legacy of the Civil Wars. There is also a theatre showing two of six high quality films per day that bring events alive. As the First Civil War began 18 miles down the road at Nottingham, when Charles I raised his standard on 22nd August 1642, and ended with his surrender to the Scots outside Newark in May 1646, the town was at the centre of national events.

Re-enactors from the Sealed Knot & English Civil War Society muster in Newark Market Place on Monday 4th May (Image courtesy of National Civil War Centre/Richard Darn)





Visitors in the Civil War gallery on the opening weekend (Image courtesy of National Civil War Centre/Sam Kirby)

This and the surviving buildings and earthworks help to support the National Civil War Centre's unique role in providing a focus on events that shaped the way our nation is today. Modern technology helps to bring some of these locations alive, through an augmented reality app that triggers high quality short films relevant to each location around the town.

The Newark galleries are also themed with; 'People & Place', looking at why people came to the Newark area and how it developed over time and 'Conflict & Resolution', looking at the role that people from the area have played in conflicts at home and abroad over more than 2000 years, in the first room. The second room includes; 'Poverty & Prosperity', looking at what made the area prosperous and the other side of this; 'Status & Power', looking at how people have shown their status and power throughout history and 'Progress & Cultural Change', looking at how culture has changed through

technological progress. Upstairs there are four temporary galleries. The first temporary exhibition was in partnership with the Magnum photographic agency, looking at contemporary civil wars and the role propaganda played in them. On 17th November, the second temporary exhibition opened. 'The Art of War' is a series of illustrations, of British Civil War scenes, by artist Graham Turner, who illustrates Osprey Publishing's

series of books. The Tudor Hall currently has a spot loan of two Celtic mirrors, on loan from the British Museum and the Magnus Room tells the story of the buildings and the school.

There are a series of events, talks, temporary exhibitions, etc. planned throughout the year, so keep an eye on the website <http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/> to find out the latest.

Downloading the App, to make Charles I come alive and for the eight trail panels around the town (Image courtesy of National Civil War Centre/Sam Kirby)



AGM September 2015

The Newark Civic Trust Annual General Meeting was held at Newark Library on the 24th September 2015. Forty-five members attended.

After the Chairman's welcome, the meeting was addressed by Peter Duncan, Vice-Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Buildings Preservation Trust. He updated the attendees on the recent publication of a feasibility report into the future of the Robin Hood Hotel (see 'The Robin Hood Hotel – an update...' later in this magazine.)

The Chairman then presented a Civic Trust Award to Kevin Templeman of Oak Tree Homes Ltd. The Chairman explained that the Trust presented a yearly award to developments that have enhanced the local environment. Last year two committee members, George Wilkinson and Michael Hawes, had accepted an invitation to look round the redevelopment of the former maltings at 33-35 Northgate (see 'News' section) and were extremely impressed by the redevelopment into accommodation. The suite of buildings were important historically because, as well as the malting buildings, they included the foreman's house, stables etc. As with last year's award, for Thorpe's Warehouse, this year's award was for another significant part of Newark's

industrial heritage. After accepting the award, to warm applause, Kevin said that, as a company, it was nice to get praise for their work and thanked the Trust for the award on behalf of all involved in the project.

Chairman's Address

The Chairman started by recalling the opening weekend of the National Civil War Centre and the huge numbers of people who attended the various events across town. He stressed that this new attraction was a great credit to the town and would help to promote Newark's' heritage across the country.

He continued by thanking Peter Duncan for addressing the AGM and the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust for their work so far. There was still a long way to go, but at least there was progress. He continued by saying how long it had been since the town had had any positive news on the Robin Hood Hotel. The people of Newark, and members of the Trust, should be encouraged to contribute to the project to collect peoples' memories of the hotel. He emphasized how important the project was, because buildings were not just important due to their bricks and mortar but, more significantly, the memories and stories they held for people, whether

of national importance or just fond personal memories.

The Robin Hood is an example of how buildings can deteriorate if they are not occupied and therefore not maintained and one of the aims of the Trust is to keep an eye out for buildings that may become under threat, through our conservation watch programme, co-ordinated by Mick Gill. This cannot just be left to Mick, as there are a lot of streets and yards to cover; therefore any members who see something of concern should alert a committee member or use the contact details on our website. Mick is in regular contact with NSDC, in order to alert them and pressure them to act before buildings deteriorate. The Chairman drew attention to a number of historic buildings that are currently unoccupied including; 11 Barnby Gate, formerly the White Horse public house, which is a Grade II listed early 18th century building that has been vacant for a number of years and now has roof tiles missing. Not only is the building at risk, but it also does not paint a good picture of Newark. The Corn Exchange still lies vacant, despite George Wilkinson announcing a year ago that a new licence had been granted and it would shortly reopen. However, the district council had refused a change to the licence and therefore the future of the

building was uncertain. Members would also have read that the Charles I Coffee House on Kirk Gate was also now vacant and he hoped the owners of the property would soon find new occupiers and take the opportunity to make repairs to the property, in particular to broken windows. Lack of maintenance is obviously damaging to buildings, but if they are unoccupied and appear uncared for they also attract further vandalism.

As members would no doubt be aware NSDC invites the Trust to comment on planning applications in and around the town. Although this year had been quiet, some significant applications had been; for the refurbishment of St Marks Place, which had been broadly supported and conversion of the former piano school into residential units, which was opposed by the Trust. On a larger scale was the submission to build a new Sainsbury's store on the former council depot on Kelham Road. This concerned the Chairman on a number of levels; firstly he thought there was already ample supermarket provision within the town and didn't want shoppers to be drawn out of town, with consequent effects on local businesses. Of greater concern was the effects on traffic, with more frequent train services also having an adverse effect in the same area, although Sainsbury's claim they will put measures in place to alleviate any traffic problems. There are also plans for housing developments to the north and east of Fernwood and in the growth point to the south of the town. Whilst the appearance of the town can be affected by minor changes to existing structures, it is these proposed larger developments, with provision of local services such as shops and schools, that constitute the biggest threat to the character of the town and is why the Trust needs to stay involved in the planning process. This is not an easy job, as Michael Hawes would no doubt agree. Michael puts in a huge amount

of work in reading and commenting on planning applications. He needs help, as do the committee in general, to spread the load of the work we do and also to bring fresh ideas to the committee. Whilst we have filled the role of Treasurer, Vice Chairman, Kevin Winter, is doing an excellent job of combining the Secretary's role as well. We still have vacancies, especially on the planning side. No previous experience is required and you do not need to have worked in either heritage or planning, although that would obviously help. All you need is a passion for the town and a desire to see it maintain its position as a fantastic place to live and work. Contact a committee member or come along to a committee meeting to see if you would like to join us. You may know someone who is not currently a member of the Trust, but might like to help. If so please put them in contact with us.

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman introduced Louise Knapton Carter as our new Treasurer. Copies of the Treasurer's Report had been placed on the chairs.

On the income side, money from subscriptions had increased by £335. This was partly due to a small increase in members, but also to chasing up the difference between the £10 and £15 subscription increase. There had been a lot of work done to contact members, whose subscriptions were either outstanding or were in need of updating to the new amount. Members now include; 9 corporate members; 23 Life members; 87 single and joint members, including 2 children; however there are still 34 subscriptions outstanding for this year, which we are trying to collect. Whilst donations have fallen again this year, income from ticket sales for the 50th anniversary event has led to a total income of £2,519, an increase of £584.77 on the previous year.

On the expenditure side, the main expenses were for the anniversary

event, totalling £481. There was also an increase in the speaker's fees, leading to a total expenditure of £2,266.47, an increase of £695. Overall there was a surplus for the year of £252.53. Currently we have assets of £2,276.33.

During the coming year there will be a push to increase membership and also a claim for two years of Gift Aid from HMRC, once the paperwork has been received. The Treasurer thanked Duncan and Toplis for once again auditing the accounts free of charge.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected with unanimous approval of the meeting:-

Chairman	Mike Knapton
Vice-Chairman	Kevin Winter
Secretary	Kevin Winter
Treasurer	Louise Knapton Carter
Planning Chairman	Michael Hawes
Planning Vice-Chairman	Vacant. <i>The Chairman called for help to assist Michael Hawes in this role</i>
Membership Secretary	Neil Hinchley
Recruitment Secretary	Debby Smith
Conservation Watch Co-ordinator	Mick Gill
Awards Co-ordinator	Michael Knapton
Events Co-ordinator	Vacant

In addition to the officers elected above, the following were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee, as ordinary Committee members:-

George Wilkinson

The meeting was closed and following the meeting a presentation was given by Keith Rodgers on photographs from Guy Taylor Associate's archives of buildings in the town.

Barnby Gate Methodist Chapel

Maintaining an Historic Asset

We reported in Issue 71 (March 2015) that Barnby Gate Methodist Chapel had been included in the 2014 register of Heritage at Risk in the East Midlands. This register is published each year by Historic England (formerly English Heritage), with the aim of recording and managing those assets at greatest risk of decline or loss.



Barnby Gate Methodist Chapel

Shortly after the publication of the magazine we were contacted by Rev. Philip McDonald, of the Methodist Chapel, in regards to the building being added to the register, as he was concerned by the lack of consultation.

The information on the register stated that the Methodist Chapel was “judged to be in poor condition due to open joints in the parapet stonework and erosion to the underside of the cornice. Staining on the stone and brickwork may be caused by faults in the gutters, valleys and downpipes.” However, buildings manager Paul Swinney, explained

An overflow opening on the parapet as viewed from Bede House Lane



to NCT that these issues were not ongoing faults and could easily be explained.

The open joints in the parapet stonework are actually design features to relieve any build-up of run-off from the roof during heavy rainfall. These ‘open joints’ are lead lined openings and actually act as overflows. Mr Swinney explained that “We are very conscious of responsibility for the maintenance of the Church and its associated buildings, both as an asset of the Methodist Church and as a Grade II listed building.” However, despite opposition from the Chapel, Historic England retained it on the 2015 register.

A recent history of maintenance at the chapel

In 1995, the inside of the Church was completely refurbished and substantially remodelled. The majority of the Victorian box pews were removed and comfortable chairs introduced. New toilets, a foyer and a coffee bar were constructed, to modernise the facilities and enable the building to be used in new ways.

In 2001, a major overhaul of the roof was embarked upon. At some time, the pitch of the rear elevation of the Church had been re-roofed in an artificial material. This material had deteriorated badly resulting in water penetration. The area was therefore stripped and re-roofed with new slates. The lead lined gutter to this elevation was also stripped, the supporting structure refurbished and the gutter re-leaded. Over the next two years, as funds permitted, the remaining slated roof was also dealt with and the remaining lead lined

gutters stripped, refurbished and re-leaded.

The Church roof comprises a truncated hipped arrangement with slated pitches, capped with a felted flat roofed area. This flat roofed area was replaced in 2002 and had to be replaced again in 2013, as a result of issues with water penetration.

Cast iron rainwater goods on a building of this age are a constant problem, because of corrosion. Sections of downpipe are regularly replaced, as soon as any problem becomes apparent. The roof and rainwater goods have been subject to regular inspection for cleaning and maintenance by a roofing contractor since 2005. This currently takes place on a quarterly basis and repairs are carried out as necessary.

We have been fortunate not to experience many problems with timber decay. However, in 2002 decay was found in one of the major beams supporting the balcony. This resulted in a major structural repair having to be carried out.



The interior showing the balcony, new chairs and partition to the foyer

Time also takes its toll on drainage below ground. A thorough investigation of the drains in 2010 resulted in the replacement of some

drains and lining of others.

In 2011, it was decided that the external joinery was in need of overhaul. A contract was let to refurbish all external windows and doors. Some replacement of timber was required, involving cutting out of decayed wood and skilfully grafting in of new. The whole was then repainted.

Specific issues affecting the maintenance of a listed Church

The above is just a sample of the more major works that have been undertaken in the last 20 years. At all times we have to be mindful of the listed status of the buildings and obtain appropriate approvals. Materials have to be generally like for like. One cannot use modern materials for repairs, such as plastic rainwater goods in lieu of cast iron, or gypsum plaster where the original is sand/lime plaster. Inevitably, repairs are consequently more expensive.

In addition to the kind of major works described above, there is an on-going need for more minor repairs and maintenance. The buildings are well used and this is reflected in



Stained glass window in the chapel in memory of Garneta Hine, married to Hugh Fitz-Neville Hine mayor of Newark in 1937

the maintenance required. Heating systems, plumbing, lighting and internal decoration all need work from time to time and the buildings also need to be kept clean. Replacement of light bulbs in the church a few months ago cost around £1000, not because of the listed status of the building, but because of the access problems associated with its internal height.

In recent years regulatory changes have produced more work and expense, with five yearly electrical inspections becoming mandatory for churches and matters such as Health and Safety becoming a part of the everyday running of the buildings. Over the last five years the latter has cost the Church thousands of pounds, with the need to install a fire alarm system and to implement other specific measures to protect users from particular hazards. Whilst there can be no doubt that one cannot put a price on the safety of those who use the buildings, these kinds of expenditure are sometimes difficult to plan for.

The major problem for most churches is in finding the money to keep abreast of the work needed and Barnbygate is no exception. The funding of repairs and maintenance within The Methodist Church is the responsibility of the members of the Church concerned. With dwindling and ageing congregations this is an increasing problem. Grants are available from some sources and funds for major projects may sometimes be available from central Methodist funds and from Circuit funds. However, such assistance is usually very limited and the generosity of members in their weekly giving and their efforts in fundraising are fundamental to keeping the buildings in good order.

Use of the buildings

At Barnbygate we are fortunate in being able to add to our income from members' giving and fundraising

efforts by letting the buildings for other uses, when not required for Church purposes. The Hall and rooms are in use daily by 'REACH', a charity that works with adults with learning disabilities. We are the meeting place for charitable organisations such as Homestart, Foodbank and Alcoholics Anonymous. The buildings are also used by a number of other groups that meet for leisure activities.

The Church itself is a popular venue for concerts, seminars and similar events. The acoustics of the building are excellent for musical performances and we have a fine organ. These factors, together with the warm environment, general ambiance of the building and comfortable seating have brought people back to us for their events time and time again.

This additional income, from lettings and events, goes some way towards keeping on top of the maintenance costs, although the unexpected and unplanned maintenance problems can still cause us some heartache.

On a recent visit from the Building Surveyor, commissioned to carry out the Quinquennial Survey, it was pleasing to hear his observation that the building appeared to be well cared for. Unlike a Building Surveyor, few members of the general public who enter the Church will appreciate the hard work and expense that keeps it in good order. However, when someone visits for the first time it is always rewarding for us to see them pause, look around and then exclaim 'What a beautiful building!'

The Church is open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am, when coffee is served. Sunday Worship is at 10.30am every Sunday, with a monthly Shoppers' Service, usually at 11am, on the first Wednesday of the month and evening services as announced on the notice board outside the building.

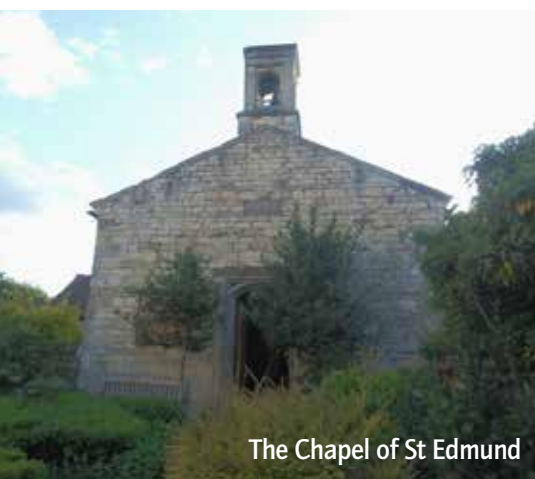
Many thanks go to the Rev. Philip Macdonald and Paul Swinney for their contribution to this article

Two Treasures – The Chapel of St Edmund and Thurgarton Priory

To conclude our season, visits were arranged to the Chapel of St Edmund at Spital-in-the-Street and the Priory Church of St Peter at Thurgarton.

The Chapel of St Edmund

Our hosts at Spital were Ann and Dr David Marcombe. David had given us a talk on the Chapel, and members expressed an interest in visiting the site to see the building for themselves. What none of us had grasped was the extensive restoration work carried out by Ann, David and Dr Katie Holland over the years since they purchased the building in 1995, to prevent it falling into an unrepairable ruin. As Trustees they set up the Spital Chantry Trust of St Edmund and began the daunting task of restoring a unique Grade II listed building.



The Chapel of St Edmund

The restoration is meticulous in every detail and brings colour, light and a presence to this truly remarkable example of mediaeval architecture.

During his talk David explained that the Spital has been a religious site since pre-Christian times and the Trust aims to adopt an ecumenical approach which reflects this. Chantry Masses, according to the traditions of the Old Roman Church, take place four times a year, utilising a traditional form of the Mass.

Situated on Roman Ermine Street, the site provided a convenient resting place for travellers between London, York and places north, and the building opposite the Chapel provided accommodation for those seeking a night's rest.

Founded in 1165, the chapel was dedicated to St Edmund, a king of East Anglia, who was killed in 870 by pagan Danish invaders. He was only 30 when he died. Between 1395 and 1397 the chapel was reconstructed and for many years, during the English Reformation, the chapel was used as a meeting house for the Lindsey Quarter Sessions. The hospital, called 'spital on the street', was built in 1396 for a warden and seven poor persons, and the two cottages on the site are all that remain of that building.

The chapel was rebuilt in 1616 and continued to serve the alms-houses and local community. In 1830 John Pretyman rebuilt the chapel, taking the unusual step of re-orientating the building West/East. Another refurbishment, in 1889, involved raising the sanctuary and installing a perpendicular style roof. The chapel continued to function until the 1970s, but a dwindling congregation and the closure and sale of the alms-houses caused the chapel to be declared redundant and the pews were removed. However, the Trust managed to acquire some of the original pews and suitable replacements.

Examples of restoration and refurbishment undertaken include the west window, repainting of the walls and ceiling, and the provision of eight shields with the arms of those closely associated with the chapel. A tryptych, which matches the colour, size and style was found in 2015 and now adorns the altar.



The restored interior

The old chapel yard has been remodelled as a physic garden and, following the purchase of additional land, Ann is developing an orchard containing 20 varieties of Lincolnshire apples, which will provide a gene pool for some rare local species. There are also five trees grafted from Newark Castle Station Orchard, which was destroyed in 2001 to provide additional car parking spaces.

The Trust is committed to keeping the chapel accessible and available for a wide range of activities, including Day Schools, concerts and seminars on a variety of subjects.

Further information can be obtained by emailing David Marcombe at spitalchapel@gmail.com and anyone interested in supporting the work of the Trust can make a donation to: SCTSE, 72 Millgate, Newark, NG24 4TY.



Ann Marcombe showing members the variety of plants in the physic garden



The Priory and Georgian mansion today

Thurgarton Priory

Our second treasure was a visit to the Priory at Thurgarton. Tucked away behind the village is the most glorious ancient monument with a long, intriguing history.

We were greeted by our host for the evening, Ellis Morgan, who gave a short illustrated talk on the history of the Priory. Founded around 1140, in the reign of Henry 1, it was built as a priory for regular Canons of the Augustinian Order.



The Priory how it may have looked before the Reformation based on research by Dr Jenny Alexander

A Canon was not the same as a Monk, although to the casual observer their lives appear very similar. There were, however, fundamental differences, one of the most noteworthy being that while a fully professed Monk was strictly confined within the four walls of his cloister, a Canon could, and very frequently did, undertake outside work, such as performing the duties of a parish priest.

The Priory was founded by Ralph d'Ayncourt, whose father came over with William the Conqueror, and was given extensive lands that included Thurgarton. At its peak, it covered a large area and included a church, cloisters and kitchen. The site was chosen for its sheltered position and the availability of fresh water from a stream. The stream fed an artificial lake, used by the Canons as a fish and duck pond.

When completed, with twin early English towers, the building was so impressive that it rivalled Southwell Minster in size and magnificence. All went well until the Dissolution of the Monastery's in 1538, when the priory buildings and surrounding land were surrendered and sold to William Cooper, a member of a Derbyshire family and a servant of King Henry

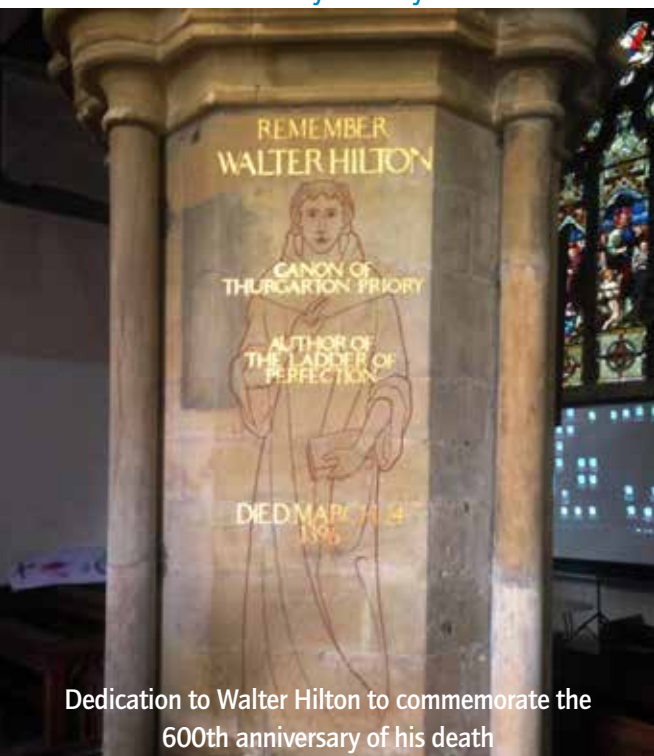


An early 18th century drawing of the Priory, Tudor mansion and kitchen

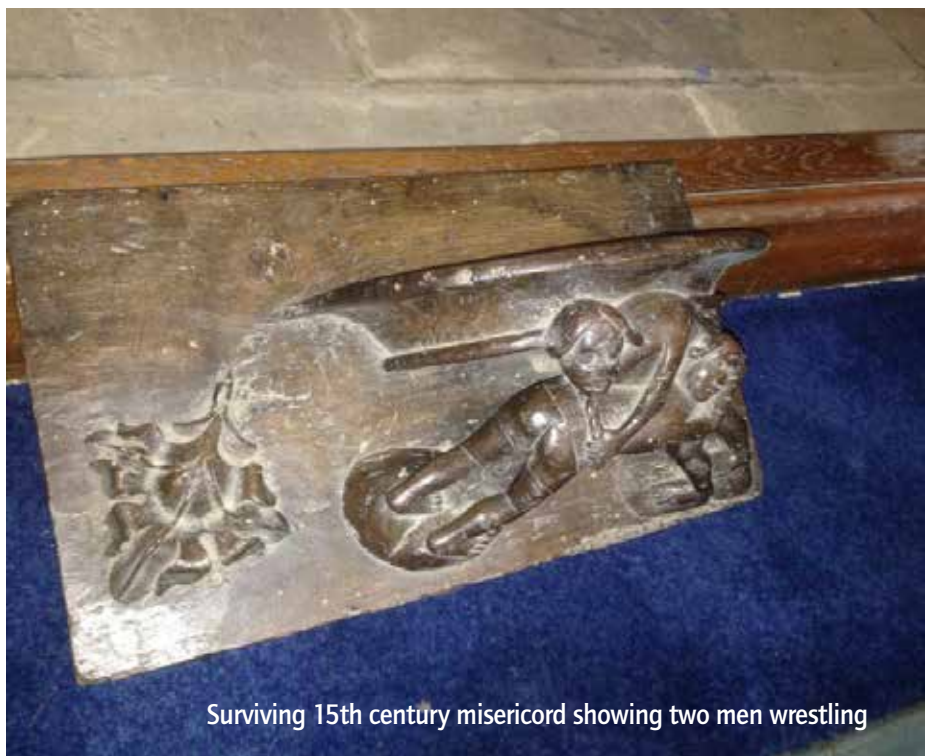
VIII. From him was descended Sir Roger Cooper, who played a prominent part as a Royalist in the Civil War.

The extensive buildings were dismantled and the stone widely distributed for use in other structures. Much of the stone was, at first, used to build a Tudor mansion for the Cooper family, but by 1777 it was replaced by a brick Georgian mansion that remains today. Pieces of stonework, from both the Priory and the Tudor mansion, are still being discovered in the grounds. The next owner, Richard Milward, commissioned the Nottingham architect T. C. Hine, who designed the Adams Building in the Lacemarket, to restore the dilapidated church in 1854, so that it was able to provide the facilities of the parish church it is today.

We were then given a tour of the church, which included a look at a



Dedication to Walter Hilton to commemorate the 600th anniversary of his death



Surviving 15th century misericord showing two men wrestling

rare example of a pre-reformation altar stone. The stone might have been lost forever, had it not been discovered during restoration work in 1854 at the bottom of a nearby well. Another interesting object was a set of 15th century misericords. The misericord, or mercy seat was a hinged seat which, when raised, provided a ledge on which the canons could perch during services to take the weight off their legs, but still appear to be standing. Hardly surprising, since they rose at 2am for the first of their eight daily services – Vigils, Lauds, Prime, Tierce, Sext, None, Vespers and Complin.

Another rare feature was an excellent example of 'seaweed' carving of the intricate niche and tracery above the altar. The Early English west door,

built during the Thirteenth Century, is perhaps one of the loveliest in England.

A recent dedication, on one of the church pillars, is to Walter Hilton, to commemorate the 600th anniversary of his death on the 24th March 1396. While at Thurgarton he wrote the renowned book *The Ladder of Perfection*, which made an important contribution to the development of the mystical tradition. Printed in 1494, it was the first exhaustive work of ascetic and mystical theology written in the English language. Despite copies of the book being burnt at the Reformation it is available today as a paperback.

To complete the tour we were escorted to the mediaeval crypt

of the east cloister. This survived demolition to become the cellar of the Tudor mansion and, now, the Georgian mansion. Finally, we were shown the walled garden built for the Georgian House. And what a wall! A magnificent brick structure that must be a quarter mile long.

The visit was extremely enjoyable and our sincere thanks go to Ellis for a very interesting evening. If anyone is interested in supporting the on-going research project, information about the Priory and Thurgarton village can be found on a web site set up by Ellis Morgan at

www.thurgartonhistory.co.uk

Illustrations courtesy of Ellis Morgan and Trust members.

The Old Hall, Balderton - A Past and a Future

Researched and written by Cara De Angelis, Senior Architect at Guy Taylor Associates, Newark.

The Old Hall is a large period property, situated along the south side of Main Street in the village of Balderton. The Hall would have once formed an impressive residence, however a variety of different occupants and uses over the years led to numerous alterations, many of which were not sympathetic to the original building. It's most recent use was by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust as a care home, although it had been left vacant for the last three years.

The property has recently been sympathetically converted into eight high quality flats by Newark-based



Photo taken in 1935 (courtesy of Newark & Sherwood Museum Service)

development company, CAPLA Developments, to a scheme designed by local architects, Guy Taylor Associates. This has ensured a sustainable future for the Hall and enabled the restoration of many of its original architectural features.

Main Street is the primary road through the Conservation Area, which is part of the village often referred to as 'Old' Balderton. The road runs east to west and includes significant buildings, such as the Grade 1 Listed Parish Church of St. Giles, Balderton House (now the Working Men's Club) and Balderton Library. The Old Hall is not listed, although is considered to be a building of significant local interest, with the building and front wall contributing positively to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

A map of Balderton c. 1905, shows that the original site, within which the Hall stands, once extended westward, which explains the extent of the still existing boundary wall at the front of the property. An earlier map c. 1899,



Map of Balderton c. 1905 (Courtesy of Newark & Sherwood Museum Service)

refers to the area towards the south as 'garden field'.

It is believed that the house was originally built for the Chairman of Holes Brewery, possibly in 1803. From 1866 to 1899 its owners were Mr. John Scale Bakewell and Alice Bakewell. It is interesting to note that the Alms-houses, also on Main Street, were built and endowed at the bequest of Alice Bakewell.

When the Hall was then offered for sale, the sales particulars included stables, a coachman's cottage, yard and



Balderton Hall sales particulars (courtesy of Newark & Sherwood Museum Service)

barns, all sited on the opposite side of the road. A malt kiln was also featured and it is thought that this may have been the building to the east of the site. The property was then acquired by Edward Fairburn Milthorp.

It is believed that an archway, which still exists within the garden of the Hall, once led to the rear of property no. 92 and allowed the servants access to their quarters, without being seen from the street.

Following Mr. Milthorp's ownership, Mr. Charlie Jenkinson purchased the property, apparently following a record win on the pools. Unfortunately, little is known about the property during this period. The Hall was then sold to Mr. Henry Eyton Branston, who was a former Mayor of Newark. Again, sales particulars at the end of this ownership in 1935 give a further insight into the nature of the property at this time. The Hall is described as a *'desirable country residence containing 3 Reception, 10 Bed and Dressing Rooms, 3 Bath Rooms and Domestic Offices, pleasure gardens and lawn, rose gardens, rock garden with lily pond, three grass tennis courts, one hard tennis court, kitchen*



Previous internal modifications and alterations

gardens and orchard and paddocks'.

This sale then led to the end of the Hall as a single private residence.

During World War II, it is understood that Rolls Royce workers, employed at a nearby aerodrome, were stationed at the Hall. During this time the original railings and gates were removed to support the war effort.

Following this, the Hall was taken over by Nottingham County Council Welfare Committee and then run by the Social Services Department. From 1950 until 1976 the property was used as a Home for the Elderly and then later converted into a Community Home for troubled children.

The many various owners and type of occupancy of the Hall over the years inevitably led to numerous alterations to the building, many of which were not sympathetic to the original character and fabric. External modifications included the removal of original windows and unsuitable replacement. Two concrete escape stairs had also been added to the rear.

The Hall does however retain a number of attractive architectural elements. The principal frontage, facing west, includes large timber framed sash windows arranged in a regular symmetrical pattern around a large central main entrance doorway with overlight. A balcony also projects at first floor level, featuring a railing design that matches that within the Hall's front wall. Unfortunately, the decorative canopy on slender columns, which once provided shelter to this balcony, no longer exists. However, the line of where this structure once joined the building is still evident.

Internally the property contains a number of impressive well-proportioned reception rooms, featuring original details such as deep covings, tall skirtings, wide architraves, picture rails, timber panelling, window shutters, floor tiles and internal leaded glazing. The quality of these spaces have however, also been compromised due to many internal modifications. These included the removal of original doors and



The Old Hall prior to refurbishment



The Old Hall after refurbishment

replacement with fire doors as well as the creation of fire compartments using PVC framed partitions.

The Hall is set within an extensive south facing garden, containing a number of mature tree specimens. Additional structures on the site included an air-raid shelter, an icehouse and a row of adjoining single storey outbuildings. Unfortunately, as part of the conversion works, it was considered necessary to demolish the air-raid shelter, due to it offering no useful purpose. Due to its close proximity to the Hall its removal would however, significantly improve the amenity space of the new dwellings. Prior to demolition a full measured and photographic survey was undertaken, in order to accurately record the building for future reference. The icehouse and majority of the outbuildings have however, been retained.



The air-raid shelter prior to demolition

The Wellington Foundry and the Midworth Medallions

Have you ever wondered who produced Newark's distinctive street and yard name plates, or the ornamental gate piers at the London Road entrance to the cemetery? Newark is famous for many industries: brewing, malting, agricultural implements, flour milling, plaster, willow basket making, high-quality linen weaving, bleaching and dyeing, but there is little or no reference to its once famous foundry.

The Wellington Foundry, named after the famous Duke of course, was founded in 1814 by Joseph Midworth to satisfy the growing demand for machinery wheels, iron columns for building, domestic ranges and industrial boilers. It proved a lucrative business and played a leading role in Newark's prosperity in the Victorian age.

Joseph Midworth came to Newark from Mansfield after serving an apprenticeship with his uncle. The foundry, the first established in the town, was located on the west side of Northgate, immediately south of the former St. Leonard's Cottage Homes. Joseph built a house next to the works called, oddly enough, Wellington



Street sign carrying 'Wellington Foundry' above and 'Newark' below. Not all street name plates carry the same identification



Ornamental gate piers at Newark Cemetery

House, which became 75 Northgate.

The business prospered and by 1821 Joseph entered into partnership with Thomas Wilson, a coppersmith, in order to expand the business and provide local needs such as a range of household items including letter-racks, ornamental daggers, candlesticks, fireplaces, stair rails and street furniture. The Wellington Foundry name is seen

on many road signs around the town – for example on Magnus Street, erected in 1856, Stodman Street erected in the 1860s and at the entrances to yards such as Harston's Yard.

When Thomas Wilson died in 1844 Joseph was joined by his two sons, John and William and the business took the name J and W Midworth. A further period of expansion enabled the



Royal Coat of Arms on the Old King's Arms, Kirkgate



William Midworth 1817-1899

brothers to buy small local foundries. Ever with an eye to the future, the company diversified into fine iron castings for which it became renowned. Surviving examples of their work include the finely decorated fireplaces and barley twist iron balustrades on the main staircase at Kelham Hall and the iron gates of Fulbeck Hall and Harlaxton Manor.

Perhaps the most impressive of the work is the ornamental gate piers at the London Road entrance to Newark Cemetery, erected in 1856. They comprise six hollow supporting columns, surmounted by pierced finials

with decoration inspired by Gothic tracery. It is just possible that the imposing coat of arms on the Old King's Arms pub in Kirkgate was produced by the foundry. As some repair work is still visible, it is thought that this is perhaps a 'second' and that a perfect casting was produced to fulfil a commission.

The partnership of John and William was dissolved in 1867 and, after John's departure from Newark, the Wellington Foundry was sold to Thomas Bradley. By 1873 William is recorded as a Brass Founder and Finisher at the Top Lock. In 1885 William entered partnership with a Mr White at Lock Mills on Northgate. In 1888 when that partnership ended, William, now aged 71, moved from his villa in Spring Gardens to a house in Crown Street (number 41) before moving to Pelham Street.

At the age of 71, with failing eyesight, William was never one to idle his time and amused himself by designing a number of finely decorated ornamental ironwork medallions of famous figures. Newark & Sherwood Museum Service is fortunate in having a selection of these castings, including the coat of arms of Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Aristotle and, of course, the Duke of Wellington. Such were the renown of these pieces that the British Museum sent a

representative to Newark to examine them. In their report the Museum said "They were the most delicately and artistically moulded, and, indeed, formed a revelation in metal castings the like of which for exquisite finish and perfect detail had never been known or seen before".

The secret lay in the mixture of metals and the composition of the moulds, something for which other men would have achieved fame and fortune. But William had no such utilitarian thoughts, preferring to follow his art for its own sake and the pleasure he derived from his creative work.

William's final years were spent in North Muskham, where he was cared for by his two unmarried daughters. He died aged 82 in July 1899 and was buried in South Muskham churchyard.

This article was initiated by our member, Dennis Roy, who happened to be at an auction sale in Peterborough when he noticed a rather fine bell made by Midworth & Wilson in 1842. The bell hung in Peterborough Station and was rung to announce the arrival of trains. The photograph of the bell was taken by Dennis, to whom we are very grateful. Other photographs courtesy Tim Warner.

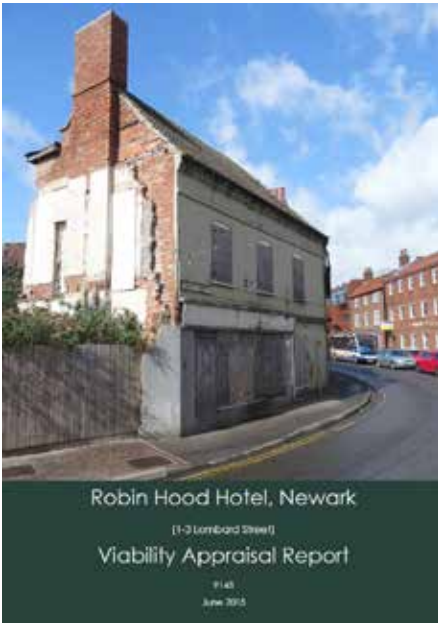


Finely decorated ornamental ironwork medallions crafted by William Midworth and said to be the finest examples of this type of casting



The bell from Peterborough Station rung to announce the arrival of trains

The Robin Hood Hotel – an update...



Peter Duncan, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, described the latest development in the long running saga of the derelict Robin Hood Hotel at our recent AGM. The good news was that, in the opinion of the Trust, the three cottages can be conserved and restored to use.

Peter explained that a viability appraisal had been commissioned by the Trust and had concluded that the

most practical option would be to see the buildings used for three suites, each containing three or four offices, with their own entrance from a courtyard at the back. This option was favoured, as it would have a limited impact on the significance and fabric of the building. The aesthetic appearance and communal heritage values of the building would also be significantly enhanced.

Peter cautioned that there was still a long way to go – particularly in terms of finance – before a proposal could be agreed and work commence. The project will depend on a successful bid to the Heritage Enterprise Trust for a grant to meet 70% of the costs. The remaining funds would be raised by a consortium and a development partner. To help progress the project, Peter asked

if any members could help the Trust to validate the application to HET or perhaps recommend someone who might enjoy the challenge.

Peter concluded his update report with a request to members to look out any photographs and memorabilia – anything from a menu to an ashtray - that could form the basis of an exhibition that could tell the story of this once proud and popular landmark of the town.

We will keep you up-to-date with progress, but if members wish to contact the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust they can do so by phoning 01636 819555 or writing to:

Mrs M. Edwards, Administrative Assistant, The Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HD

Dates for the Diary

28 January, William Jessop – Newark’s forgotten engineer and Mayor. Canals, harbours and early railways - Nigel Panting

25 February, Architecture and Archaeology of the Old Magnus Buildings - Jane Roylance

31 March, Footpads, Kings and Highwaymen - Ian Morgan

28 April, The History of Papplewick Pumping Station and Nottingham’s Water Supply - Ashley Smart

As usual we will arrange a visit to local places of interest on May 28th and June 25th. One of the visits will be to the Papplewick Pumping Station and we will advise date, time and travelling arrangements closer to the time.

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.

Talks take place in Newark Library and commence at 7.30pm

Back Cover picture

The National Civil War Centre in Appleton Gate officially opened by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, on Friday, September 25th, 2015
Photo courtesy Kevin Winter

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

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