



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Welcome to our first newsletter



At the Annual General Meeting of the Trust in September I shall be reporting on a healthy, successful year when we made grants to some 25 churches in all areas of Nottinghamshire. The website has been re-designed; we also have a new logo to help demonstrate our forward-looking approach to raising funds to help our historic churches in need of repair.

In helping to “spread the word” on behalf of the Trust I have attended various events within the county and elsewhere; I have talked to Rotary Clubs, and to Anglican church representatives about “Faculties and Funding”. I have been able to enjoy some of the Friends’ outings, and met many of the Trust’s loyal supporters, without whom the Trust would just not function.

We are in the process of re-invigorating the Ride+Stride, spurred on by knowing that some County Trusts are more successful than Nottinghamshire at this event!

In this Newsletter, which I commend to you, you will find more detailed reports on the important work we do. So, when you have read it, please pass it on to someone who may not yet know of the sterling work the Trust does for our county’s heritage.

Richard Brackenbury - NHCT Chairman

Summer Party at the Bishop’s Manor, Southwell

More than a hundred people enjoyed a June evening in the lovely surroundings of the Bishop’s Manor and Southwell Minster, at the Trust’s annual Summer Party. Old stone arches and narrow doorways appear in unlikely places in what is really quite a modest Arts & Crafts-style house built into the ancient walls of what was once the Archbishop’s Palace by the architect W.D. Caroe over a hundred years ago. The Bishop’s private garden was looking lush and peaceful in the pale sunshine which followed a wet start to the day.

The Trust’s President, Jenny Mellors, welcomed everyone and presented a beautiful framed print to Linda Francis, who many people will know as the helpful, encouraging voice who has guided church representatives through the process of applying for a grant from the Trust over the last eleven years. She has now joined the Friends of NHCT so we will be keeping in touch with her. Our new Grants Administrator is Peta Keightley and we welcome her to the NHCT.



The current Chairman, Richard Brackenbury, thanked everyone for their support for the Trust, and encouraged them to continue helping it to care for the historic churches in the county. He introduced Professor David Stocker, an architectural historian and archaeologist, and after drinks and canapés, we were shepherded across to the Minster to enjoy some of Professor Stocker’s fascinating finds and expert deductions which illuminated the history of the medieval Minster. The evening was once again a happy and interesting celebration of another successful year for the Trust, helping to conserve our historic churches.

About the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust (NHCT)

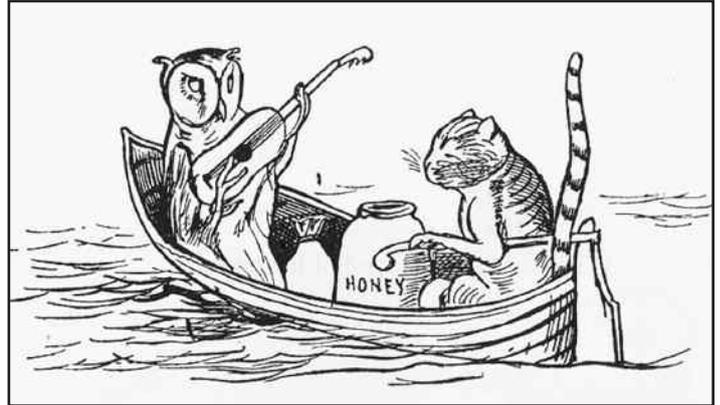
The Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1986 and gave its first grants in 1987. It raises money to grant-aid historic churches and chapels in Nottinghamshire. It is non-denominational and can consider making grants to any Christian historic church or chapel in need of support.

The Trust makes a major contribution to the preservation of our heritage by helping to conserve and repair ecclesiastical buildings of outstanding merit or of historic interest.

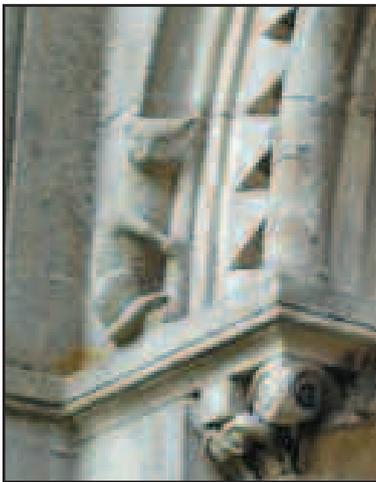
The Nottinghamshire Origins of Owl and the Pussycat?

Scofton Church and Edward Lear

Joining the Friends of Nottinghamshire Historic Churches for trips around the county's buildings is always a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, and focusing the attention of a group of interested people on a church often reveals fascinating new thoughts about its architecture or its history. Scofton church, however, produced something quite unexpected, we found ourselves looking at images that seemed strangely familiar but not in a church context. Carved around the doorway of the main entrance to the church are a splendid pair of creatures, an owl and a cat, and immediately Edward Lear's nonsense poem on the owl and the pussycat who went to sea in a boat sprang to mind, followed by the question, was there any connection between Lear and Scofton? Did the 19th-century architect of the church have a soft spot for the poem, or was it the other way round, did Lear get his inspiration from Scofton?



The church is a fine estate church, built of ashlar in a neo-Romanesque style with round headed windows and carved capitals to the doorways. The west door, on which the carvings are, has a series of cockle shells in the arch, and the architect, Ambrose Poynter, gave the tower extra height by adding massive pinnacles to the corners. It is dated by an inscription on the east wall to 1833, and was built by the owner of Osberton Hall as a memorial to his wife. Edward Lear's poem was first published in 1870, and had been written in 1867, so clearly the church came first, but did Lear know about it, had he perhaps seen the carvings?



It is just possible that he might have done so. Edward Lear was a superb artist and draughtsman, as well as a writer of verses, and started his career making detailed drawings of birds for ornithologists to study. George Savile Foljambe, who built the church, was a keen ornithologist and his library contained books which Lear had illustrated. Foljambe was friendly with the leading ornithologists of the day, including John Gould, for whom Lear provided the drawings that were published in Gould's books during the 1830s.

One of the features of Osberton Hall was the extensive collection of British birds in cases which was acquired by the first ornithologist in the family, Francis Ferrand Foljambe, who also founded the library to which his grandson,

George Savile, added Lear's books. It would be fascinating to know whether the young Edward Lear was taken to Osberton to see the collections and meet with Foljambe, certainly John Gould stayed there. If so, then perhaps Lear saw the carvings on the church, and in later life when his thoughts turned to subjects for verses to entertain children, the image of the owl and the cat popped into his mind and the tale unfolded. The evidence has yet to be uncovered, Lear's papers are in archives in this country and in the United States, and there are 55 boxes of papers in the Nottinghamshire Archives Office relating to the Foljambe family, so the answer may well be out there.



Dr Jenny Alexander

Dr Alexander is a Trustee of the NHCT. She is Principal Teaching Fellow in the History of Art Department at the University of Warwick where she teaches medieval art and architecture

The St Michael Memorial Window, Halam Church

In Memory of James Sidney Stubbs

In this year of the centenary of the start of WWI it is interesting to discover the number of memorial windows across the county. Some commemorate whole regiments, some remember all the residents of a particular village or town that were killed in the war. Others, like the St Michael window in Halam, are memorials to one particular individual.

James Sidney Stubbs was born in Halam in 1889 and worked on the family farm. In 1915 he married Alice Margaret Jordan and moved to Southwell. In August 1916 they had a daughter, Alice May.

However, this family life was disrupted when James was conscripted into the Sherwood Foresters in 1917, and then transferred to the 42nd Machine Gun Corps mid-October 1917. After training he was sent to France in early 1918.

While fighting on the Western Front in France, he was killed on 21st October 1918 at the Battle of the Selle. He was 30 years old when he was killed, and is buried in the British Cemetery at St Aubert.

His parents Aram and Elizabeth, commissioned a memorial window from Morris & Co in James' memory; the window inscription describes them as his "stricken" parents. It is fitting perhaps that the window depicts St Michael who is known as a protector and the leader of the army of God against the forces of evil.

The Trust made a grant to Halam Church in 2005 for the conservation, repair and cleaning of the church's stained-glass windows.

Andrew Paris - *A Trustee of the NHCT and a local historian*



13th September 2014

On the second Saturday in September across the country there will be riders and striders visiting churches and raising funds to be shared between their church and their County Trust. Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people from all over the country walk, cycle and even ride their horses between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. The money they raise helps to preserve some of Britain's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses which are at risk of falling into serious disrepair.

Overall, this is an amazing national event, organised in different ways by individual County Trusts but with the united aim of raising funds to help support the historic churches whose care we have inherited from previous generations.

Ride+Stride is a great way to raise money for your local church and for the NHCT, and is a great day out - visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with friends and family!

If you would like to take part in this year's Ride+Stride in Nottinghamshire on 13th September and help the NHCT raise money, please contact nottsrideandstride@gmail.com or ring Keith Goodman on 0115 972 6590 or Anthea Moat on 01909 472324.

Notts Historic Churches Trust to the Rescue!

St John's Methodist Church, Standhill Road, Carlton

Our first contact began several years ago when Mike Woolley, a Friend of NCHT and one of our congregation, asked the members of the church to sponsor him on a bike ride one Saturday in September. We agreed to open St John's Methodist Church, Standhill Road, Carlton, Nottingham and found enough volunteers willing to show visitors around and provide refreshments for the thirsty ride (and later stride) participants. It became an annual event.

In 2013 we were informed by the gas service engineers that our late-1990s boiler had developed faults, which meant that it had to be replaced by a modern condensing boiler. At the same time our electrical system required updating. The total cost of these two items was approximately £10,000.

I received a letter in early September informing me that the trustees had decided to offer St John's £2,000 towards the cost of the work required. By November our boiler appeal had raised just over £6,200 which together with the grant from the Trust and very careful control of church spending enabled us to meet our target.

Thanks to the assistance from the Trust our small, aging congregation was able to continue worshipping through the winter of 2013 in a warm, safe environment and continues to do so.

John Hatton - St John's Methodist Church



Friends of Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust - you can help continue our vital work by becoming a Friend of the NHCT. For a small annual subscription you will have priority booking and a special Friends' rate for the annual Summer Event, concerts, etc., receive the NHCT newsletter, and enjoy several Friends' events, lectures and visits throughout the year.

Regular Friends' visits are made to notable churches in the County; these are a chance to find out more about the fascinating history and striking features of these historic buildings, and to enjoy a wonderful afternoon tea and chat afterwards. Friends' visits in 2014 have included the Historic Chapter Library in Southwell Minster, and Kelham and Averham churches. This visit included the privilege of a tour of the newly restored and now re-opened Robin Hood Theatre at Averham, which rounded off an historically wide-ranging visit, full of variety and interest of every sort. The next visit will be to Bilborough and Strelley churches on Saturday 11th October.

To find out more about becoming a Friend please go to the Trust's website or contact the Trust Secretary.

The Trust can be contacted via:

The Secretary, Mrs Anthea Moat on 01909 472324 or email: nhct@hotmail.co.uk

The Grants Administrator, Peta Keightley on 07757 800 919 or email: info.nhct@gmail.com

The Fundraising Co-ordinator, Mrs Maureen Hallam on 01636 812580 or e-mail: maureenjhallam@googlemail.com

The 'Ride+Stride' Administrator, Keith Goodman, NHCT Treasurer on 0115 972 6590 or email: nhct@keithgoodman.com

www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk

Registered with the Charity Commission No. 518335.

