



Chairman's Welcome



Welcome to another newsletter giving you a flavour of what the Trust has been up to in the last six months. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at Caunton Manor in June for the annual Summer Party; we are most grateful to Sir John and Lady Peace for inviting us to use their beautiful garden on a wonderful summer evening, and to the Dean of Rochester, Dr Philip Hesketh, for coming to speak about his predecessor, Dean Hole, and his roses. It was a really lovely evening, although we were sad to be saying goodbye to Jenny Mellors and Keith Goodman who have been such stalwarts of the Trust. Jenny has been with us almost since the Trust was first set up, and Keith Goodman has given us many years of diligent and expert advice as Trust's treasurer, and latterly as Ride+Stride Administrator. However, we expect to be welcoming new trustees shortly who will bring their own individual knowledge, passion and expertise, moving the Trust forward as times change. We are already benefiting from the help of a social media volunteer, Andy Platt, and we would love you to "like" and "follow" the Trust on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where we now have a presence, thanks to Andy.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge, but it is encouraging that we have managed to get one of our key grants renewed once again. Change is always challenging, but the trustees are very determined to move forward to find new ways to continue to help care for the county's historic churches, which link us to our past like anchors in the rough sea of endless change.

Your support for this work is greatly valued, and if you feel you would like to be more involved, we would love to talk with you.

Richard Brackenbury - *NHCT Chairman*

NHCT Summer Party - June 2018 Caunton Manor

On a warm June evening Friends and Supporters of the Trust enjoyed drinks and canapes in the delightful surroundings of the walled garden of Caunton Manor. The Manor was the setting for this year's NHCT summer party by kind invitation of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir John Peace, and Lady Peace. Caunton Manor dates from the early 18th century, was enlarged and altered in the 20th century, and in the 1920s it had its striking neo-Georgian front added. It is surrounded by beautiful manicured grounds and was a wonderful venue for the party.



The beautiful walled garden at Caunton Manor

After refreshments, guests took a gentle stroll to the village church, St Andrew's and after having time to look round the lovely church, a talk about Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole was given by Dr Philip Hesketh. Dean Hole was a noted horticulturist and a great rose grower of the 19th and early 20th century. He was born in Newark in 1819 and was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and after being ordained in 1844 he came to Caunton where his father was squire. Samuel spent 43 years at St Andrew's firstly as curate and then as vicar. He became nationally famous as a rose grower in the 1850s, and was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour. He became Dean of Rochester in 1887. After he died in Rochester in 1904 his body was returned to Caunton and he is buried in St Andrew's churchyard.

The speaker, Dr Philip Hesketh, is the current Dean of Rochester and is an enthusiastic rose grower himself. Dr Hesketh has written entertainingly about his predecessor's passion, and as Dean has been instrumental in re-introducing Hole roses to the cathedral precincts. The illustrated talk was entertaining and enjoyable, and it was fascinating to learn more about Dean Hole, a local man who changed the face of rose growing, and of course to see images of the rose he grew and which bears his name today.



Dean Rose - a hybrid tea rose

Friends' Visit to Skegby and Teversal Two Medieval Gems



Forester effigy, Skegby

There are three stained glass windows erected in 1877 as memorials for the late Dowager Countess of Carnarvon, who died in 1876.

The appeal of the church is 'the exceptional completeness' of its 17th century furnishings - box pews throughout and a squire's pew on large barley-sugar columns. There are altar rails with balusters, an altar table, a combined pulpit and reading desk, a 17th century timber roof and a west gallery, all completing the picture.

A group of more than 50 Friends of the Trust made their way west to within a stone's throw of the Derbyshire border to visit two churches with rather different stories to tell. St Andrew's, Skegby is a medieval church which was rigorously restored in the Victorian period by Stevens & Robinson of Derby (in 1869-70) when the north aisle, clerestory, organ chamber, porch and vestry were added and the south aisle rebuilt and extended. Unfortunately at that time the Norman chancel arch was destroyed during the restoration, but a fragment of Norman masonry remains at the base of the tower. In 1984 the chancel was entirely demolished and rebuilt due to mining subsidence.

To the west end of the church, standing upright against the wall, are two ancient stone effigies, one of which is said to be a forester as he appears to be dressed in a forester's costume and has a horn at his belt. There is a medieval piscina in the south aisle and a stone pulpit. The church stands slightly apart from its extensive suburban surroundings and is clearly well-loved and well-maintained.

St Katherine's at Teversal is scarcely a mile away, but in a different world. It is approached by narrow leafy lanes and forms a tight group with manor, farm and rectory and little else. Its medieval origins are revealed by the remarkable south door which is probably 800 years old. One lancet window in the chancel is from the 13th century, but many windows were renewed late in the 17th century when the interior was re-done.



Friends enjoying exploring St Katherine's, Teversal

NHCT Trustee Profile

Jenny Mellors DL

Jenny Mellors was a trustee from 1987 until she stepped down in 2018. She also served terms of office as Chairman of the Trust and as President. Professor John Beckett (trustee) caught up with her at her home in Southwell where she has lived since she and her late husband Peter moved there from Nottingham in 1986.

Both Jenny and Peter were natural historians and, for some years before the Trust was set up in 1986, she had been on the Diocesan Advisory Committee. She learnt about churches and church buildings from Keith Train, who was chairman of the DAC in those days but could not drive. Jenny acted as his chauffeur and in return was schooled from the passenger seat of her car in how to read a church. Her other mentor was the late Norman Summers. But it was Peter who was involved with the Trust at the beginning. He was Diocesan Registrar, and as a contribution to the Trust he prepared the legal paperwork. He turned down a request to be a trustee, so Jenny stepped in, bringing with her the wealth of knowledge accumulated while serving on the DAC.



She still recalls the early days when the Trust had no money and struggled to make an impact. The first summer party was held in Halam, becoming peripatetic and moving around the county at the invitation of generous hosts who opened their houses for the event. The ladies found the food for these occasions, and the men made themselves responsible for the wine. It was hard work raising money, and very little seemed to be forthcoming, at least in relation to the very real needs of many church communities desperately trying to maintain the churches and chapels of the county.

Jenny is remembered by trustees as an effective chairman who put her heart and soul into running the Trust. It was during her time as chairman that the WREN connection was brokered, with a temporary influx of funding from waste recycling. She was involved in the original set up meetings and, bravely, in her words, asked for £50,000 a year for NHCT, only to be offered £150k annually! She was happy to go to the meetings and report on the activities of the Trust, and she persuaded the trustees of the need to use some of the money to support a programme of building lavatories into churches around the diocese - 'Mrs Mellors' loos' as they were colloquially known at the time. Not surprisingly, she was disappointed when the WREN grants were eventually withdrawn.

Apart from her work for NHCT Jenny developed a range of activities which have taken her around the world. In particular, she became national chairman of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS), and in that role visited Australia, South Africa, Japan, New Zealand and much of Europe. The Association has been responsible for all sorts of educational programmes, notably in horticulture but also in other aspects of flower arranging and forestry. Jenny was a judge at the Chelsea Flower Show, and met many well-known garden people, among them Alan Titchmarsh - who recommended a pair of secateurs which she is still using - and the author and broadcaster Roy Lancaster.

After Peter died, Jenny became a force in her own right as a member of the Cathedral Chapter, a Deputy Lieutenant for the county, and a long-standing Member of the Cathedral Council. She continues to give hospitality to visiting choirs and speakers, and is generally involved in the life of the Minster.

Jenny was born in Cleethorpes and brought up in Lincolnshire, although at the age of eight she went off to an Anglican convent boarding school in Whitby - travelling by train, unaccompanied! She was offered a place at St Hugh's, Oxford, but had to turn it down for family reasons. After some years of teaching she contracted tuberculosis in 1956, and had to postpone her wedding. She and Peter were eventually married in 1959, they had two sons and an adopted daughter, and then became legal guardians to a second daughter. Peter died in 1990, and today Jenny has eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren, and she does her best to keep in touch and to follow their lives and careers.

Jenny will be missed on the Trust, but we wish her well in retirement and expect - of course - to catch up with her at future summer parties.

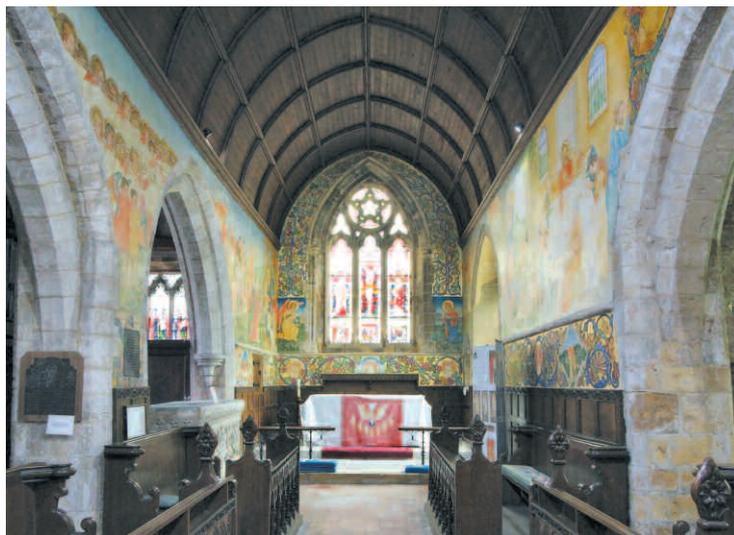
Professor John Beckett - *NHCT Trustee*

Clayworth, Church of St Peter

Repairs to Chancel Floor

Clayworth, referred to as Clavood in Domesday Book and Claworth in Thoroton's Antiquities of Nottinghamshire, lies along a stretch of the Roman road from Lincoln to Doncaster and today is bounded on the south side by the Chesterfield Canal. The ancient church, dedicated to St Peter, is a captivating image of grey walls and roofs, a timber front porch and a line of windows six centuries old, surrounded by trees.

The church houses one of the rarest mural artworks in England, a scheme by Phoebe Anna Traquair, a key painter in the Scottish Arts and Crafts movement and only one of two schemes she undertook in England. The decoration was executed in 1904-5 and depicts various biblical scenes, some using village children of the day, all intertwined with decorative foliage and a



Clayworth, Church of St Peter - the chancel



Grave marker discovered during floor repairs

riot of gilding. The painting was a commission by Lady D'Arcy Godolphin Osborne to celebrate the safe return from the Boer War (1899 - 1902) of her son, Captain Joseph Frederick Laycock. Sadly, in the 1960s, parts of the mural were destroyed, but thankfully in 1996 a restoration by Hirst Conservation recreated the lost artwork.

The architecture and archaeology of the church are puzzling. The base of the tower appears early in date, perhaps even pre-Conquest. The nave arcades have an odd form with a mixture of style and fabric indicating dates throughout the span from the C13th to the C15th. There is a handsome oak screen between the nave and the chancel, and a heavy stone parclose screen between the south aisle and St Nicholas' Chapel. The church has much stained glass, including several windows by C E Kempe, London. There is a monument to Humphrey Fitzwilliam (1559), and a brass with a half-effigy of John Tonstall, rector 1630; also a fine monument to Francis Otter (1813) by Sir Richard Westmacott.

In 2017 the tiled floor of the chancel where the murals are located was found to be in a dangerous condition with broken tiles and trip hazards. The repairs were costed at £4500 and the Trust awarded a grant of £1100 towards this essential work. In the process of the works, which have now been completed, two previously unknown grave markers were uncovered (pictured).

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