



Chairman's Welcome



Welcome to this 10th edition of our Trust's newsletter. In some ways, our activities over the last few months have been very much a continuation of our routine business of raising money and making grants to churches needing help with repair and conservation, although one significant development has taken place recently. The Trust, in partnership with Allchurches Trust Limited, has launched an exciting project whereby the NHCT receives a block grant of £30,000 from Allchurches to help with the provision of church roof alarms. Church roofs continue to be targeted for their lead, resulting in damage to the interior and expensive repair work to the fabric, and this scheme will go a long way to preventing this from continuing to happen. There are further details later in this Newsletter.

Even more positively, I am also delighted to welcome Martin Cooper as a trustee. With his background as a finance director in the charity sector, he is already proving to be an extremely valuable member of the Trust and I am sure will be an excellent colleague.

Our social programme continues to be highly successful due mainly to the organisational efforts of Anthea Moat. The church visit series for Friends of the Trust goes from strength to strength with several events being "sell outs", and we look forward to the Summer Party at Thrumpton Hall in June which promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

We continue to look for more help from volunteers in various roles. Our first volunteer, Andy Platt, is already doing an excellent job in increasing our social media profile, but other volunteers, particularly to help organise fundraising events such as concerts, would be really welcome.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and become even more enthused in your support for our activities!

Richard Brackenbury - NHCT Chairman

Friends' visit to Normanton-on-Soar and East Leake

The church of St James in Normanton-on-Soar stands on the east bank of the River Soar, and it was this "Boatman's Church" that the Friends of NHCT visited in March. Above the chancel arch is the royal coat-of-arms of Charles II, most unusually made of plaster. In the chancel itself are fine monuments to Frances Willoughby 1601, and W. Willoughby 1636.

For the second half of the afternoon a visit to St Mary's in East Leake was arranged. This church dates from the Norman period but was restyled in the first half of the 13th century in the Early English style. There is a fascinating 17th century clock mechanism preserved in the nave and also the shawm, or vamping horn, one of only eight known remaining in England. Made from wrought iron it is thought that this enormous horn - seven feet six inches long (228cm) and one foot nine inches across the bell mouth (53cm) - was used for church music during the medieval and Renaissance periods.

Trustees Michael Jones and Chris Brooke gave absorbing presentations about the history and archaeology at both churches, and it was most enjoyable walking around and admiring these beautiful buildings and their historic fittings. The afternoon was rounded off (as is traditional on Friends' visits!) with an ample and delicious tea provided by parishioners of East Leake.



Friends exploring St James' church

If you would like to find out more about the NHCT Friends' visits, please contact the Trust secretary, Anthea Moat.

NHCT Grant Aided Project

Cleaning the Lexington Memorial - St Wilfrid's, Kelham

St Wilfrid's church in Kelham dates mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries and is built in a typically "Midlands Perpendicular" style. The south chancel chapel dates from the early 18th century and appears to have been added as a funerary chapel to Lord Lexington, and his wife the Lady Lexington.

In the centre of this chapel is the impressive freestanding tomb of Robert Sutton, Lord Lexington (died 1723), and his wife, Margaret, Lady Lexington (died 1703). It also commemorates two of their children, William (died 1712) and Leonora (died 1715). The reclining figures are life-size and are dressed in the style of classical Rome. This impressive tomb is the work of William Palmer and it dates from 1726.



St Wilfrid's, Kelham



Cleaning in progress

Robert Sutton, 2nd Baron Lexington's father, was a Royalist MP who had been created Baron Lexington by Charles I in 1645 for his support of the royal cause during the English Civil War. The 1st Baron Lexington commissioned the building of the first Kelham Hall.

The 2nd Baron was appointed a "gentleman of horse" to the Prince and Princess of Denmark, (Princess Anne, later Queen Anne), in 1690, and he was a supporter in the House of Lords of William of Orange's claim to the throne. He was then employed by that king at court and on diplomatic business in Vienna and Madrid.

Recently, thanks to various grants including the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, the monument, which has evidently not been touched since it was erected, was cleaned and conserved by Michelle Pepper, conservator, of Newark.

The first thing that was established by chemical testing was that the monument is made of marble, so that the correct techniques could be used for conservation. The work then mainly involved removing over 250 years' worth of built up particulate matter, largely carbon particles from smoke (incense, candles, and probably smoke from internal 19th century heating), which was deeply engrained into the porous surface. Specialist cleaning materials were used that will not leave any residue or harm the monument following completion of the work.

During testing, portable microscopes were used to examine the dirt layers in minute detail. This revealed a largely random pattern of soiling and helped to establish which cleaning agents worked best by examining both before and after test swabs had been applied.

The work is now complete and the majority of the last two centuries' grime has been removed so that once again Palmer's creation of Lord and Lady Lexington stands proud in the chapel.



The Lexington Memorial after restoration

Visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with friends and the family!



14TH September 2019

Ride+Stride is a nationwide sponsored bike ride or walk in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside, towns and villages from Cornwall to Northumberland. The money they raise helps to save historic churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs.

In Nottinghamshire the NHCT organises the countywide Ride+Stride; plenty of local churches will be open for visitors throughout the day, some with refreshments available for weary riders! There are no set routes to follow, and those taking part are free to visit as few or as many churches as they wish and do whatever takes their fancy.



The idea is to visit as many places of worship as possible open near you and also to get sponsored for visiting them. In 2018 Ride+Stride raised over £15,600 for Nottinghamshire churches. The sponsorship money you raise is shared 50/50 between the NHCT and a church which you nominate. **In 2019 Ride+Stride for Churches takes place on Saturday 14th September.**

How it works – for Ride+Striders

Contact your local church taking part in Ride+Stride, or the NHCT organiser, and they'll provide you with a form to collect pledges from sponsors, and on which you can indicate the church that you'd like to receive half the money you raise. Why not get a group of friends and/or family together and make it a fun, social day out?

On the day of the event all the participating churches are open from morning to late afternoon. Cycling is the most popular way of travelling from church to church, but you can walk, run or use public transport or even go by car – whatever you feel most comfortable doing. We have had participants riding horses, driving tractors and even travelling by canal boat - it all counts! And even if the church you visit isn't actually open there will be a sign-in sheet available so that you can prove that you visited it.

How it works – for local Churches

Make sure there is someone on hand to welcome visitors. Some visitors may only stop by briefly, but some will want to look around. If you can lay on refreshments and organise events (say, a guided tour) then so much the better. There are no set hours for opening your church – 10am to 5pm works well, longer is even better if possible, but we appreciate whatever you can manage.

There's no need to restrict your welcome to Ride+Stride participants and it's a great opportunity for outreach and raising the profile of your church!

Why not give Ride+Stride a try this year and enjoy a great day out in the Nottinghamshire countryside with your friends? With your help, many more local churches could benefit from the work of the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, helping to preserve an important part of the county's heritage.

To register as a participant or to request a sponsorship form and a list of participating churches, or indeed to register your church as participating, please contact the NHCT Ride+Stride Organiser, Margaret Lowe, on:-

info.nhct@gmail.com or ring 07757 800 919

web: www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk/rideandstride

Alarming churches against lead theft Joint grants available - Allchurches Trust & NHCT

The theft of lead from church roofs is leaving some of Nottinghamshire's most ancient and beautiful churches at risk from the elements and the communities around them in dismay. The need to raise funds to make the roof watertight, and to repair the damage done internally can be a daunting task for such communities.

Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust is delighted to announce that it has been given a grant from Allchurches Trust to award on their behalf to churches for the installation of roof alarms. In the light of the ongoing spate of lead thefts from churches in the Diocese it would seem prudent to install a roof alarm where possible - prevention being better than cure.



The Allchurches Trust offer is a grant of £1,000 per church, and an application could also be considered for additional funding from NHCT to cover associated installation and repair work. The grants will be offered on the basis that the alarm contractor is recommended by the church's insurers, and that all the usual permissions are in place (faculty, etc.). An agreement must be made for the church to maintain the alarm system for a minimum of five years from installation.

For further information and help, please contact NHCT's Grants' Administrator, Margaret Lowe on:- 07757 800 919 or info.nhct@gmail.com

Leaving a legacy - a gift lasting generations

Leaving a gift in your Will to the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust isn't just a gift, it's an investment in the future of our heritage. Many of the county's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. We need to make sure that they get the repairs and renovations they need to remain at the heart of their local communities.

Leaving a legacy in your Will will help the Trust to preserve these precious buildings for future generations. A gift in your Will is one of the greatest gifts you can give to a charity. These legacies help care for the places that enrich our lives - supporting the historic buildings and irreplaceable history for everyone to enjoy.

You're never too young to consider leaving us a legacy to ensure that future generations will enjoy our county's rich heritage of churches and chapels. We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in protecting the future of the heritage of churches in Nottinghamshire. All legacy income is spent on direct project work and is never spent on general administration costs.

If you wish to leave a legacy to NHCT in your Will and would like to indicate your intention, please contact one of the Trust's officers, or contact the Trust's Fundraising Coordinator, Mrs Maureen Hallam on:-

e: maureenjhallam@googlemail.com t: 01636 812580

The Trust can be contacted via:

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

Treasurer - Jon Dawson on 0115 987 7291 or 07581 729 520 or email: jon@jndaccounting.com

Grants Administrator - Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919 or email: info.nhct@gmail.com

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

'Ride+Stride' Administrator - Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919
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