

## **FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING AND PRESERVING THE RICH DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

An organisation dedicated to preserving Nottingham's rich documentary heritage is celebrating its fifth birthday. The Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives (FONA) was established on 24 March 2012 in order to support the work of the Nottinghamshire Archives service. FONA acts as an advocate for the service, holds events which cast new light on the Archives' rich collections of original manuscripts dating back over 800 years and raises funds which support the work of acquiring and preserving archive collections. In the course of the past five years, the organisation, which is run by a small team of dedicated friends and volunteers, has raised funds to acquire important collections of material. Notable highlights include the acquisition of a set of committee minute books which offer invaluable insights into Nottingham's history during the First World War. FONA has also helped the Archives acquire a rich resource of images relating to the River Trent as well as providing funds to buy essential conservation equipment. Membership is open to all individuals with an interest in preserving Nottingham's documentary heritage, together with local history societies, depositors and corporate sponsors. FONA's birthday has been commemorated with a celebration cake, skilfully crafted by Ruth Strong, and the unveiling of a FONA wall in the Archives building at Castle Meadow Road in Nottingham. Chairman of FONA Richard Gaunt commented that 'in five years, FONA has built itself up from a fledgling organisation into a responsive, active body of friends and volunteers which acts as a consultative body for the Archives service whilst maintaining a strong programme of members' events and activities. We look forward to building on this success and recruiting more friends, in future years'.

For more information, and an archive of past activities, please see the FONA website at [www.fona.org.uk](http://www.fona.org.uk)

Press comment or interviews: contact [chairman@fona.org.uk](mailto:chairman@fona.org.uk) or telephone 0115 951 5930

Picture contents:



**FONA Treasurer and Membership Secretary Judith Mills cuts the cake crafted by her sister Ruth Strong for the fifth anniversary**



The FONA Wall installed at Nottinghamshire Archives