

FRIENDS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES (FONA)
established 2012

www.fona.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

No.1

July 2012



Elain Harwood (fifth from the right), helps the committee of FONA inaugurate the Friends at Nottinghamshire Archives on 24 March [Photo: Kevin Powell].

WELCOME TO THE FRIENDS!

The official launch of the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives (which has already acquired the acronym FONA!) took place at Nottinghamshire Archives on Saturday 24 March 2012. After a short business meeting, at which a constitution was adopted, subscription rates set and committee for the year elected, Elain Harwood, the well known historical researcher and writer, who has worked on a number of projects for English Heritage, delivered a characteristically lively, well-illustrated and enthusiastically delivered talk to the assembled membership about the importance of archives for researching and understanding historic buildings. This drew upon Elain's published work as well as current research interests relating to the built heritage of Nottingham.

Purpose

The Friends has been created to act as a body with its own distinct identity and purpose – it does not seek to replicate the existing Archives Users Group (which is a representative and deliberative body that is consulted about the day-to-day operation of the Archives service), nor as another historical society of talks and walks. Membership will not only demonstrate tangible support for the archives service but help to accrue funds which the organisation will be able to commit to specific purchases which will enhance the collections and services which Nottinghamshire Archives offer. FONA will also act alongside the Users Group and other bodies as advocates for the Archives.

Membership Categories

FONA is clearly keen to gather as many members as possible and offers several categories of membership: individual, joint (two adults at the same address) family (two adults and children under 18), junior (16-18), institutional (for historical societies and groups) and corporate (commercial bodies, businesses and profit-making organisations). Individual members will be invited to attend the programme of events whilst Institutional and Corporate members will be able to help influence the direction of FONA through sending representatives to the group's AGM. A membership card, for accessing membership benefits (including discounts and bookings), is in active preparation.

Please pass on this information to any individuals, groups or societies who you think would be supportive of our aims and purposes – and please encourage them to join! The membership form is available to print off at the end of this newsletter.

Events

FONA's programme for 2012-13 is outlined below, together with a report on the group's first excursion – a privileged insight into the riches of Southwell's Minster Library. Further details of all events will be available in due course, through further mailings and newsletters. However, we would love to hear from anyone with offers or suggestions of archive-related events or visits to sites of interest. If you are actively involved with groups or societies which would like to collaborate on trips, excursions or joint-events with a strong archival element, please get in touch!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Whilst we construct our website and e-presence, please contact the chairman c/o richard.gaunt@nottingham.ac.uk. All postal correspondence should be addressed to FONA, c/o Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG.

GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in joining the committee, in particular as a potential newsletter editor, we would love to hear from you! Our thanks to Richard Gaunt for editing the newsletter for us upon this occasion.

FONA PROGRAMME 2012-13

NEXT EVENT! Thursday 26 July 2012, 7 pm, Nottinghamshire Archives

The next meeting of the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives will give members a chance to see the range of diocesan records formerly held at Southwell Minster but now at Nottinghamshire Archives. Mark Dorrington will give a short introduction to the collection and this will be followed by an opportunity to see examples of the records.

Refreshments will be provided and the cost of £5, payable at the door, will include a raffle ticket. Places are limited so early booking is advised. Please book by email to cherry@geenite.demon.co.uk or by telephone to Nottinghamshire Archives: 0115 958 1634.

Saturday 22 September 2012, 11am at Nottinghamshire Archives

Talk by Professor David Hey: 'Packmen and Carriers'.

Cost (including refreshments and raffle ticket) £5.

Saturday 17 November 2012, 2pm at Nottinghamshire Archives

Members' documents – bring a 'document with a story' to share with members.

Cost (including refreshments and raffle ticket) £5.

Meeting in January to be confirmed.

Saturday 16 March 2013, 2pm at Nottinghamshire Archives

1st Annual General Meeting: Papers and nominations for officers will be circulated in advance.



Nottinghamshire Archives, where meetings will be held in 2012-13.

A VISIT TO SOUTHWELL



[Photo: Richard Gaunt]

A dozen members visited the Southwell Minster Historic Chapter Library on 23 May 2012. We were met by Mr Brian Whitehouse, the Hon. Librarian, who gave a short talk about the history of the library. As the library is very small, the group was divided with half climbing the very old staircase to the library. Mr Whitehouse had very kindly set out a range of books for us to see. Although there are religious books in the library there are also many other subjects which are represented. We saw a first edition of Dr. Johnson's *Dictionary*, a set of Handel scores, and Raleigh's *History of the World*, among the various examples. Mr Whitehouse was also very willing to give more information and produce other works when requested. After an hour, the second group had their turn to visit the library, having spent the intervening period exploring the Minster and its environs, including the *Monarchy* exhibition in the Chapter House. The exhibition provided visitors with an opportunity to view miniature portraits of kings and queens from the Royal Collection which had been loaned by Her Majesty the Queen. A pair of gloves, with beautiful embroidered cuffs, worn by King Charles II, was also on display, along with various photographs of royal visits to Nottinghamshire and other memorabilia. A Book of Common Prayer from the Historic Library was displayed to mark the 350th anniversary of the 1662 edition of the prayer book. This was a most enjoyable and auspicious introduction to the Friends programme and we are most grateful to Mr Whitehouse and his wife for imparting their interest and enthusiasm about the collection in their care.

Sheila Leeds
Programme Secretary

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please complete this form and return (with your cheque, payable to 'Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives') to The Treasurer, FONA, c/o Nottinghamshire Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1AG.

Name (s)	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone No.	
Email address	

The subscription rates are:

Individual	£10
Joint	£15
Family	£18
Junior	£05
Institutional	£25
Corporate	£50

Data Protection Act 1998

The personal information that you give will be used for the following purposes:

- Administration of your membership of the Friends including notification of events;
- Used in a mailing list for the distribution of the Friends publications;
- Notification of events by Nottinghamshire Libraries, Archives and Information;
- Photographs taken at events may be published by the Friends or in the media generally;

If you do not wish your personal information to be used in this way, please inform the Treasurer in writing at the time of your application to join.