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FONA's AGM and Fifth Birthday

FONA held its AGM on 18 March. It was an especially important occasion, because it marked our fifth anniversary as an organisation. We celebrated with a cake, skilfully produced by Ruth



Strong, sister of our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Judith Mills.

We also enjoyed a presentation from Ruth Imeson, updating us on



the achievements of Inspire in its first year of operations.

The AGM was also a chance to mark, publicly, the considerable

service offered to the organisation by two retiring officers. Cherry Knight has retired from the post of Secretary, having served for five years. We are pleased that



Cherry remains a committee member but we are still looking for someone to fill the vacant position of Secretary. If you have any interest in the role, please do get in touch. My thanks to David Anderson for acting as temporary secretary in terms of circulating information electronically to members. We also paid thanks to Sheila Leeds, our erstwhile



Programme Secretary. Sheila has made an immense contribution to the health and functioning of FONA over its lifetime and, though she has formally left the committee, we are delighted that she will continue to be as active a member of the organisation as time and circumstances allow. The committee offered personal gifts of flowers, chocolates and gift cards to Cherry and Sheila and enjoyed a celebration lunch at The Malt Cross afterwards. I am also delighted that Sheila's contribution to the Archives service will be recognised with an 'Honourable Mention' at the first Inspire Awards this summer. Our thanks also go to Peter Hammond for stepping up as Programme Secretary at short notice.

Friends of the National Archives

As the following transcript of an article from *Outreach*, the newsletter of the Friends of the National Archives, informs their members, we have recently entered into an honorary reciprocal membership agreement with that organisation.

Building links and making Friends

Simon Gregor, Outreach Coordinator, updates on our efforts to establish a network of Friends from local record offices and other archives.

FTNA and the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives (FONA) have recently entered into a reciprocal honorary membership. This is a new scheme launched by FTNA aimed at building links with the friends of local record offices. It is a simple arrangement which allows us to exchange information, newsletters, and details of events; as well as to keep a watchful eye on opportunities for collaboration or partnership working. If you live in the Nottinghamshire area, or use the archives there, then you might like to check out the FONA website at www.fona.org.uk. We are also placing some FONA newsletters and membership forms in the Friends' Lounge at Kew.

FTNA is keen to establish links with the friends of other record offices, so if you have any contacts who might be interested in entering into a similar arrangement to share information and expertise, then please ask them to contact Simon Gregor, FTNA Outreach Coordinator, via outreach@friendsofthenationalarchives.org.uk

This means that we exchange newsletters and information of interest to one another and look for partnership opportunities where practical. As part of this agreement, FONA members will receive electronic copies of their newsletter *Outreach* but, as this is a members' benefit for Friends of the National Archives, we will not be able to post it for free download on our website. Please respect these conditions when receiving your electronic copy of *Outreach* and do not pass it on to any third parties.

Albert Ball's centenary



FONA members will know that 7 May 2017 was the centenary of the death of Albert Ball, Nottinghamshire's World War One flying ace. Amidst much media interest in the occasion, news emerged that Albert's war diary, long thought to have been lost, has resurfaced.

Ruth Imeson of Nottinghamshire Archives comments,

“ I am incredibly excited about the discovery of Captain Albert Ball's war diary, which was with his family all the time. It has been “lost” for decades and those of us who have researched Albert had given up hope that it would be found. The Nottingham Post article on the discovery comments on some of its contents and that the family have not decided where to deposit the diary. How amazing would it be for a researcher to be able to consult Albert's letters and cross-reference to his diary? Albert was a local lad and I believe his diaries should be safe, protected and well-loved by the people of Nottingham – by his people. Nottinghamshire Archives is the obvious repository.

Please can you and FONA support

Nottinghamshire Archives as we try to secure these amazing diaries for the county? I would like to see all those in Nottingham who love history talking about this: in the streets, on social media, everywhere. I want the family to know that we care about Albert's story and want to showcase it for our city and county. Albert was a freeman and his dad was Mayor. I would appreciate any support you and the rest of FONA can provide to us. ”

See <http://www.nottinghampost.com/take-a-peek-into-the-diary-of-nottingham-s-victoria-cross-hero-100-years-on/story-30313265-detail/story.html>

On behalf of FONA, I have pledged our support for Ruth's endeavours to secure the future of the diary in Nottinghamshire.

New Acquisitions



FONA continues to support the Archives service through the purchase of appropriate conservation equipment. Our latest purchase is a set of tacking irons, which we agreed to purchase as a 'thank you' to David Ackrel for his presentation to the Friends last year.

The irons will help the conservators to continue their work of securing the precious heritage of Nottinghamshire Archives.

Local history fair launches Inspire Picture Archive

FONA was delighted to be represented at the Nottinghamshire Local History Fair at Mansfield on 7 May 2017. The fair was also the occasion where Inspire launched its Picture Archive. The Inspire Picture Archive (IPA) brings the best images from Nottinghamshire Archives and the county's local studies collections. Featured on the site are over one hundred photographs from the Raleigh Cycle company. You are able to browse through the images, help to catalogue and tag them, and share them on social media. Digital images can be bought from as little as £1 for personal use. There are also facilities to have your own photographs uploaded to the site. The site will be going live soon at www.inspirepicturerarchive.org.uk.

Congratulations

To Ruth Imeson on her marriage to Nigel. The committee were pleased to present Ruth with a personal gift to mark the occasion. Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to them as they start their married life.

Our next event

Emma Wilmot

the forgotten artist of the Dukeries



Richard Gaunt recounts the fascinating detective work which led to the re-discovery of an important, hitherto forgotten, artist of the Victorian Dukeries.

11.00am, Saturday 15 July 2017 at the Nottinghamshire Archives

Friends as depositors



Sixteen members attended the Friends' meeting on Saturday 21 January 2017 at Nottinghamshire Archives. Sheila Leeds welcomed everyone to the event, which was an opportunity for members to talk about items they had donated to the Archives.

Jim Chettle presented and talked about a Nominal Roll for the Home Guard from World War Two in which his father's name and rank



(Lance Corporal) is listed. There are no other details on the roll.

Pauline Chettle talked about a Removal Order from Warwickshire to Nottinghamshire, which was signed by the Overseer of the village or town. The Removal Order was for Pauline's great-great-grandfather and his three children, aged four years, two years and seven days, removing them back to Kersall. Pauline does not know why this order was made, but with the document is a Settlement

Certificate. Removal Orders were made when families fell on hard times and they had to go back to their home county to be looked after by the relevant authority. Although rail and canal travel was available, Pauline suspects her great-great-grandfather would have had to walk to take a cart ride back to Notts. Pauline's great-great-grandfather married a girl called Sarah Clamp from Grendon, near Nuneaton. Pauline's great-great-grandfather died before the full census in 1851.

Anne Makin's husband, David, worked in the County Architect's



Department at County Hall when he had the responsibility for advising the Council on the use and maintenance of Shire Hall (now the National Justice Museum) and for the Judges Lodgings situated opposite.

Anne showed members an old plan drawing of the 1949 proposals for the Judges Lodgings when it was to become the County Archives. This document was saved from destruction when the Architect's Department was cleared out.

Madeline Scott talked about her association with the Sutton in Ashfield Amateur Dramatic Society (S.A.D.S) for which Robert Warren directed the plays and designed the sets. The set designs that Madeline brought along were



superb and each one seemed to be in a totally different style. The Society started in 1928 and continued all through the war. Much of Robert Warren's time was devoted to amateur theatre. He never married, and had a brother who lived in Norfolk, with whom he was not close, so he lived alone. After Robert died in 1999, his house was cleared and some of his property was put up for auction. Madeline, who was then director of S.A.D.S, and two other members of the Society watched his smart WWII officer's uniform go under the hammer - and from that she suspects he was a high ranking

officer. The Society members were able to acquire the set designs for £43. They each chose something from the collection and Madeline stored the rest, until donating them to the Archives. Robert was an architect and his set designs reflect the architectural detail that he would have excelled in. There are pen and ink drawings and full colour art works.

Maureen Hurst showed members 20 exercise books from 1723 to 1890, from the Norman family at the John Bley school in East Leake. These books came to light



very late on Christmas Eve 2002. Maureen was so excited by the discovery but had to wait until the next day to let others know so that a decision could be made on whether to purchase the books for the East Leake & District Local History Society. The books were with a bookshop on Friar Lane in Nottingham. Maureen managed to contact Adrian Henstock to get his advice and also Mr Fox, who is an ex-Director of Education, for his opinion. In the New Year, the decision was made to raise the £500 that would be needed to make the purchase. A members' subscription list was started and donations received from members. Half of the books are donated to the Archives, the other half remain in the care of the Society. The John Bley school was free for poor children in East Leake, but open to paying pupils from the surrounding area. It assisted poor children from the area to go out into the wider world and gain a better quality of

life. This opportunity was offered to all children but only if their parents allowed.

Sheila Leeds brought out a large book which held programmes, newspaper cuttings and photographs which told the story of the Nottingham Junior Harmonic Orchestra (JHO) and the concerts it gave. The orchestra was



part of the Nottingham Harmonic Society, the established choral society in the city. The JHO was formed in 1943 with players from local secondary schools. The first conductor was Stanley Nolan, from High Pavement school, assisted by Percival Leeds (Sheila's father) who ran the West Bridgford Grammar school orchestra. When Mr Nolan retired through ill health, Mr Leeds became the conductor. The log book is a record of the JHO since its beginning until 1976 when Mr Leeds retired. Sadly, the orchestra only continued for a short time after that as the Harmonic Society could no longer support it. The orchestra usually gave three concerts in a year. One main one was in the Albert Hall, when a professional soloist was engaged to play with the orchestra. The other concerts were in local churches or schools and were in aid of charities. Sheila also has an autograph book which records the soloists with the JHO as well

as some signatures from various other concerts she attended in Nottingham.

Sheila joined the JHO at the age of 10 and remembers going with the orchestra on an exchange visit to Essen in Germany and on two visits to Copenhagen in Denmark. Originally, the players had worn their own school uniforms for concerts but, before the overseas visits, a uniform of white shirts and grey trousers for the boys and white blouses and grey skirts for the girls, together with City of Nottingham ties for all, was introduced. As well as the items played, the concert programmes in the log book contain the names of all the members who took part. Sheila felt that it was important that this record should be donated to the Archives as it is a small part of Nottingham's history.

Thanks were given to all members who spoke about their donations and the documents talked about were then put on display for members to examine in more detail, which they all did with relish.



The (continuing) search for Stanley



Have you ever thought you had completed some research, and then found more? In March 2016, I produced a completed version of the life of Henry Stanley. In the January 2017 issue of the FONA newsletter I wrote an article about him based on that research. Meanwhile, in the Autumn of last year, Find My Past added a new Nottinghamshire newspaper to their collection – the Nottingham Journal. In that I discovered a new court case about Henry which changed the ending of my original story.

Everything I had found before went up to about 1860, with a reference to him being moved to the Nottinghamshire Asylum (at Sneinton) in 1869. He died there in 1870 – according to the UK Lunacy Register.

From 1860 to 1869 I had assumed he had been in the Southwell Workhouse and had been moved from there to the Asylum. The Guardians Minutes also stated that some money was 'paid to T J Jackson for Stanley'. I assumed that was for transporting Henry from Southwell to Sneinton. In fact, things turned out differently.

The new court case involved Henry stealing food in Arnold in 1869. He was arrested, and tried at the Quarter Session at Nottingham. The jury found him 'not guilty due to insanity'. He was detained at 'Her

Majesty's pleasure'. This was confirmed from the Minutes of the Quarter Sessions.

In the Sneinton Asylum Medical Superintendent's Case book 1857 – 1887 (NA: SO/HO/1/9/2) there was a brief comment that the Secretary of State issued an order for him to be placed in the Asylum at Sneinton.

By chance, I also came across an image of The Calendar of Prisoners from the Quarter sessions – both on Find My Past and at Nottinghamshire Archives (NA: QSP/2/17/1) This was a sheet about A3 in modern size. Each criminal was named, with age, occupation, crime, sentence, dates, and court officials.

HENRY STANLEY
IN SOUTHWELL.—Retford Sess., July, 1859, Larceny, 1 cal. month.—Once damage.—Twice disorderly pauper.—18th Nov., 1863 (C.J.A.) Larceny, 2 cal. mons.

The left column showed recent court appearances. Henry had been in court three times in the period between 1859 and 1868, and put in gaols in Southwell and Nottingham, for periods of three weeks to two months.

It became clear that he had been in the workhouse, but kept getting out and committed these offences in Ollerton, and Arnold. So he got about a bit!

At the bottom of the Calendar the governor of Nottingham Gaol was named as Thomas James Jackson. So it turned out that the money given by the Guardians at Southwell to T J Jackson was not for taking Henry from Southwell to the Asylum, but to the Governor of the Goal for some unspecified reason.

Sneinton Asylum Register of Admissions goes from 1812 to 1919 (NA: SO/HO/60/5/1), so cannot be viewed until 2019. The Archives did allow a paid researcher to extract information regarding Henry.

The Earlier years

I mentioned these new finds to a volunteer researcher colleague at the Southwell Workhouse, and she said she had seen references to Henry in the Guardians Minutes in the 1840s – pre-1853 when I picked up my original information.

At every Guardians' meeting, people who asked for out-relief gathered outside the workhouse and were interviewed by the guardians. Between 1837 and 1847, each person was recorded in the minutes, including their parish, their problem, what they wanted in money or kind. The decision of the guardians was also recorded – to grant the request, offer other help, or state that they had to go into the workhouse. Some days, up to 60 names were listed. After April 1847, they stopped recording these details, though the interviews went on for many years.

I had known about these records but didn't think anything of importance would be there. How wrong I was!

In the Guardians' Minutes from 1841 to 1845 (NA: PUS 1/1/3) were a number relating to Henry, including:

19 September 1843 (picture 1) Henry had received 3/- per week for 2 weeks and 12/- for attendance (visits by medical men). He was offered 6/- per week until he was well again.

19 March 1844 (picture 2)

The implication here is that Henry had been in the workhouse as early as 1844 (and not 1853 as I had assumed). This request is unusual in that, as an inmate, he was asking for 'out relief' so that he could go out of the workhouse and work at home – he was a framework knitter. This was agreed and he was paid 1/6 for 2 weeks.

2 April 1844 (picture 3) Henry's mother had asked for help after her husband died in 1842, but this was refused. It was suggested her son living in Salisbury should pay towards this. This minute suggests he did contribute 1/- weekly, and the parish of Southwell would pay 1/-; note that the name Joseph should be Robert.

There were other references too during the period. These new findings put a different slant on the story of Henry Stanley. Initially, he seemed to have been mistreated for one with a mental illness. Indeed, some of the ways the authorities dealt with him were

Southwell Henry Stanley ill of a fever has had 3/ week 2 weeks and 12/- expenses in attendance during derangement – 5/- weekly to continue during illness

Southwell Henry Stanley 25 applies for out door relief to leave the house to go to work 1/6 weekly for 2 wks –

Southwell Joseph Stanley, resides at Salisbury is willing to allow his mother 1/- weekly – 1/- allowed by the Parish of Southwell –

very harsh and would certainly seem to show little compassion for his condition. The extra information could indicate that he was scheming and maybe used his brain in quite devious ways. Modern psychiatrists could possibly identify his illness even from these rather sketchy episodes.

What does all this teach us as researchers?

Always assume there may be more to find, even when you think you have completed a project. Keep an eye open for new material that may appear online, or become available in Archives having been closed for some years, or newly discovered. Talk about it to other researchers. They may point you to other resources. Look at the obvious – it may contain more than you think!

Nefarious Nottinghamshire

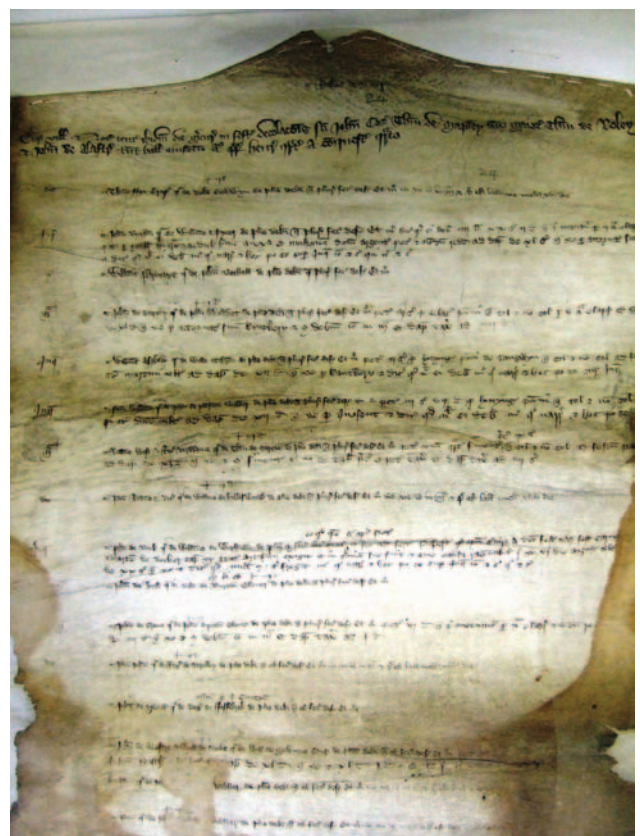
As part of the 'Nefarious Notts' series of talks at Nottinghamshire Archives, FONA's Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Judith Mills, gave a talk about a series of 'Trespasses, rebellions, insurrection and unlawful conventicles ... committed within the town of Nottingham ...' at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Judith explained that she'd first come across the report of these events as part of her PhD work on the people and administration of Nottingham between 1400 and 1600, but this had been her first opportunity to return to them for several years - and she had greatly enjoyed returning to and re-examining the evidence.

The details of these insurrections are described in documents held at The National Archives (C145/292/24-26). The original documents were, of course, written in Latin, though fortunately a translation is published in Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous, Vol 7, 1399-1422, No. 469. They began in September 1411 when a 'great multitude of evildoers', armed with baselards (long daggers/short swords), poleaxes and partially dressed in armour, objected to the election of the new mayor and one of the town's two bailiffs. A group of 49 burgesses – all of whom were former mayors or bailiffs – were held in St Mary's Church for two hours before escaping. In the scuffles that followed, the mayor was severely

injured. When he later tried to make a speech, the mob refused to obey him, calling him foolish and empty-headed. Similar outbreaks, sometime violent, occurred over the next few months. On one occasion, 18 men were arrested but were released when the mob threatened to murder the bailiffs; on another day, the mayor was forced to give up the town's official seal. Eventually, the crown stepped in; men were imprisoned in the Fleet prison in London and Henry V commissioned an Inquiry into the riots. Unfortunately, while the events are reported in great detail, the motives behind the insurrections are not mentioned.

In total, the documents name 65 men who lived in Nottingham in the early years of the 15th century. These include the newly elected officials, twenty rioters and forty-four men who were summoned to act as jurors (though not all served on the jury). Judith has cross-referenced these men against information recorded in documents held at Nottinghamshire Archives, including the Borough Court Rolls, Mickletorn Jury and Decennary presentments, and list of newly enrolled burgesses.



Nottinghamshire Archives, CA 1300, Borough Court Roll, 1401-2.

Through this analysis, she was able to identify the social status of many of the protagonists and suggest some of the motives behind the events. For example, the newly elected mayor, Henry Wilford, had been

mayor twelve years before, and in 1377-8 had been town Chamberlain (that is the town treasurer – an important role often held by men a few years before they were elected as Bailiffs). His son, John, had been Chamberlain in 1409-10. As a man would have to have a certain amount of maturity to hold any civic office, Henry could have been comparatively elderly – which may be why he was accused of being foolish. Henry was an ironmonger which meant he traded in metal goods; his son is described as a merchant. In contrast, many of the objectors are identified as working in manufacturing trades such as weaving, baking or fishing and, as a group, they do not hold any senior civic office, so the riots may have been caused by some social tensions in the town. Some of

the men arrested may have simply been young men caught up in the excitement of the moment as they do not appear in any Nottingham records (though their relatives do).

After a short break, many of the documents used by Judith in her research, including Borough Court Rolls, Mickleton Jury and Decennary presentments together with copies of two of Nottingham's charters, were brought up from store for the audience to examine.

Judith's talk was part of a series of talks organised by Nottinghamshire Archives under its 'Nefarious Nottingham' theme, and it's understood to be their first 'sell-out' event.



THOS. FORMAN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Preserving the history of printing

Annual reunion

Thos. Forman Preservation Society, who are institutional members of FONA, recently held their annual reunion.

The links of friendship and memories of happy times while working at Thos. Forman's Printing Company were shared by former employees at the reunion which was held at Welbeck Hall, West Bridgford.

Members enjoyed a meal and a prize draw, and a display of memorabilia and artwork produced by the company added to the occasion.

The society was set up in 2001 following the closure of the company in Hucknall Road and has over 100 members.



You can sign up or renew your membership at any time!
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