

The AGM



Thank you to everyone who came to the AGM on 19th March; in total there were 21 individual/family members, representatives from two of our 'institutional' members and two visitors, who helped with the post-AGM entertainment.

The business of the AGM was dealt with as efficiently as possible, while being informative and thorough. When it came to electing the new Committee, there was one nomination from the floor, in addition to those listed in the AGM papers. So the Committee now comprises:
 Judith Mills: Chairwoman
 David Anderson: Treasurer
 Committee Members: Cherry Knight, Miriam Jackson, Ruth Strong, Sian Trafford, Karen Winyard.

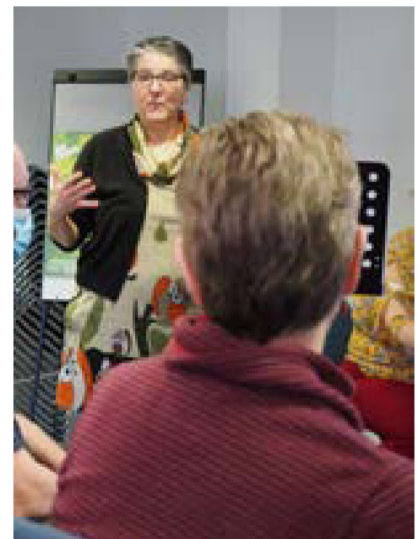
There was one item under Any Other Business. A few days before the AGM, FONA had successfully purchased the Diary of Dr Ringrose (1869-1959), an eminent physician from Newark who had a long and very effective career. Nottinghamshire Archives already holds a collection of Dr Ringrose's papers and Judith was delighted to be able to present Ruth Imeson with his diary.



Tucked into the pages were a photograph of Dr Ringrose as an old man and a photograph of

the Ringrose Theatre at Newark Hospital.

After the AGM, the new Podcasts of *Our Green and Pleasant Town* were launched by Karen Winyard, the author and director of the dramatisations.



Karen Winyard introduces FONA's series of podcasts.

There was a short video by Katie-Jane Clancy who did the technical work on the podcasts and a countdown to the launch of the first episode. This was followed by an extract from the 2nd episode, performed 'live' by members of the voice-cast. You can read more about the Podcasts on pages 4 and 5.

Judith Mills

Chairwoman and Newsletter Editor **1**

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Celebrating Heritage Together

9 -16 July 2022

The full programme for our events in July to celebrate FONA's 10th Birthday has been published. You can now book your seat for the talks on-line through Eventbrite, using the links below or by contacting the Archives (archives@inspireculture.org.uk).

Don't Forget - in addition to the advertised programme on Saturday 16th July, there's a Members' Only Birthday Party at 11am at The Archives - do put this date in your diary. No booking needed.

Saturday 9 July - Opening Event Nottinghamshire Archives - its Friends and Partners

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebrating-heritage-together-at-nottinghamshire-archives-tickets-317482006227?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

A series of talks to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives and the 125th Anniversary of the Thoroton Society. These will explore both traditional and innovative ways in which Archives and Archival sources can be used.

The afternoon will be hosted by Nottinghamshire Archives which is part of Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries.

Programme

1.45pm Introduction/welcome.

1.50pm *The first 10 years or What are Friends for, anyway?* Judith Mills, Chairwoman, FONA.

2.10pm *The Thoroton Society: the first 125 years.* Richard Gaunt, Chairman, Thoroton Society.

2.30pm *A History of Nottinghamshire in 20 Archives.* Ruth Imeson, Heritage Services Manager.

3.00pm Break.

3.20pm *Documents to documentaries: using archival sources to inform factual video content.*

Paul Bradshaw. Paul is an online video content creator, podcast producer, videographer and trainer with a specialism in public history. After 13 years in BBC News, he left to create the online history resource Viral History, sharing the work of dozens of historians, writers and researchers.

Followed by Questions.

Tuesday 12 July - *The 3 Ws - Woodborough, Winkburn and a Wedding*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-3-ws-woodborough-winkburn-and-a-wedding-tickets-317484583937?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Three short talks about documents purchased by the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives, exploring how one document can add to existing knowledge and trigger new research.

Programme

10.00am Tea/coffee on arrival.

10.30am Welcome and introduction.

10.40am Three 20-minute talks:

- *Woodborough in 1660*, Mike Chapman, Woodborough Heritage Group.
- *Winkburn and its School Log Book*, Sheila Leeds, FONA.
- *A Wedding (an 18th century Marriage Agreement)*, Peter Duke, Nottinghamshire Family History Society.

11.45am Questions.

There will be an opportunity to view documents in the Exhibition Room before and after the talks.

Wednesday 13 July

Thoroton Day, Chaired by Richard Gaunt.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thoroton-day-tickets-317488686207?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Programme

1.30pm Tea/coffee on arrival.

2.00pm Welcome and introduction.

2.10pm Three 20-minute talks:

- Chris King (University of Nottingham) *City of Caves - regenerating the heart of Nottingham through hidden heritage.* Chris will present findings from a new University-led project working with local city partners, which aims to explore the archaeology and history of the caves associated with the Broadmarsh site, and what we know about how the caves were used in the wider landscape of the medieval city.
- Andrea Moneta (Nottingham Trent University). *Nottingham, the city of two towns: Mapping the wall of Norman and Anglo-Saxon boroughs through location-based technologies.* Andrea will talk about a research project to re-

create digitally the Market Wall in the Old Market Square using location-based technology to reveal Nottingham's hidden heritage and the unknown roots of the city.

- Graham Crisp (Thoroton Society). *The transcription of the Stapleford Constables Accounts 1650 to 1685.* Graham has transcribed the document, and is currently preparing it for publication in the Thoroton Record Series. He will briefly cover: how he came to transcribe the document, the process of transcribing it, the problems of understanding the transcription, and the interest that the publication may offer to readers and researchers.

3.30pm Questions.

Finish for 4.00pm.

Thursday 14 July

The FONA Research Group and the Savile Project.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fona-and-the-savile-project-tickets-317530069987?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

A look at three themes that emerged from FONA's work on a previously uncatalogued collection of documents relating to the Savile family and its Nottinghamshire Estates.

Programme

10.00am Tea/coffee on arrival.

10.30am Welcome and introduction to the Savile Project.

10.45am Two 20-minute talks:

- Sheila Leeds. *The Savile Estates - Land and People 1740-1840.*
- Ruth Strong. *The Savile Estates - Village and People 1891-1901.*

11.25 - 11.45am Short break.

11.45am *Augustus William Lumley Savile: A Forgotten Artist and his Circle.* Karen Winyard.

Throughout the week, there will be the opportunity to view some of the documents and manuscripts discussed in the talks together with other documents owned by FONA, the Thoroton Society and Nottinghamshire Archives. The exhibition will be open during the afternoon of 9th July and from 10am to 4pm from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th July. All events are free and will be held at Nottinghamshire Archives.

Our Green & Pleasant Town

“When life hands you lemons, make lemonade” as the saying goes, (although in my house we make G&T instead). And that’s just what FONA did when handed the giant lemon of the Covid pandemic. We started a FONA YouTube channel to host short videos, FONAbytes.

Now our latest batch of ‘lemonade’ is out. *Our Green & Pleasant Town*, the first series of The FONA Podcast, was launched at FONA’s AGM on 19 March. This radio-play type broadcast brings the story of Nottingham’s green spaces to life in a dramatic recreation over 4 episodes. The scripts were inspired by the community history project led by John Beckett, *The Social World of Nottingham’s Green Spaces* (www.ng-spaces.org.uk), and developed using a variety of first-hand contemporary accounts, ranging from the online newspaper archive

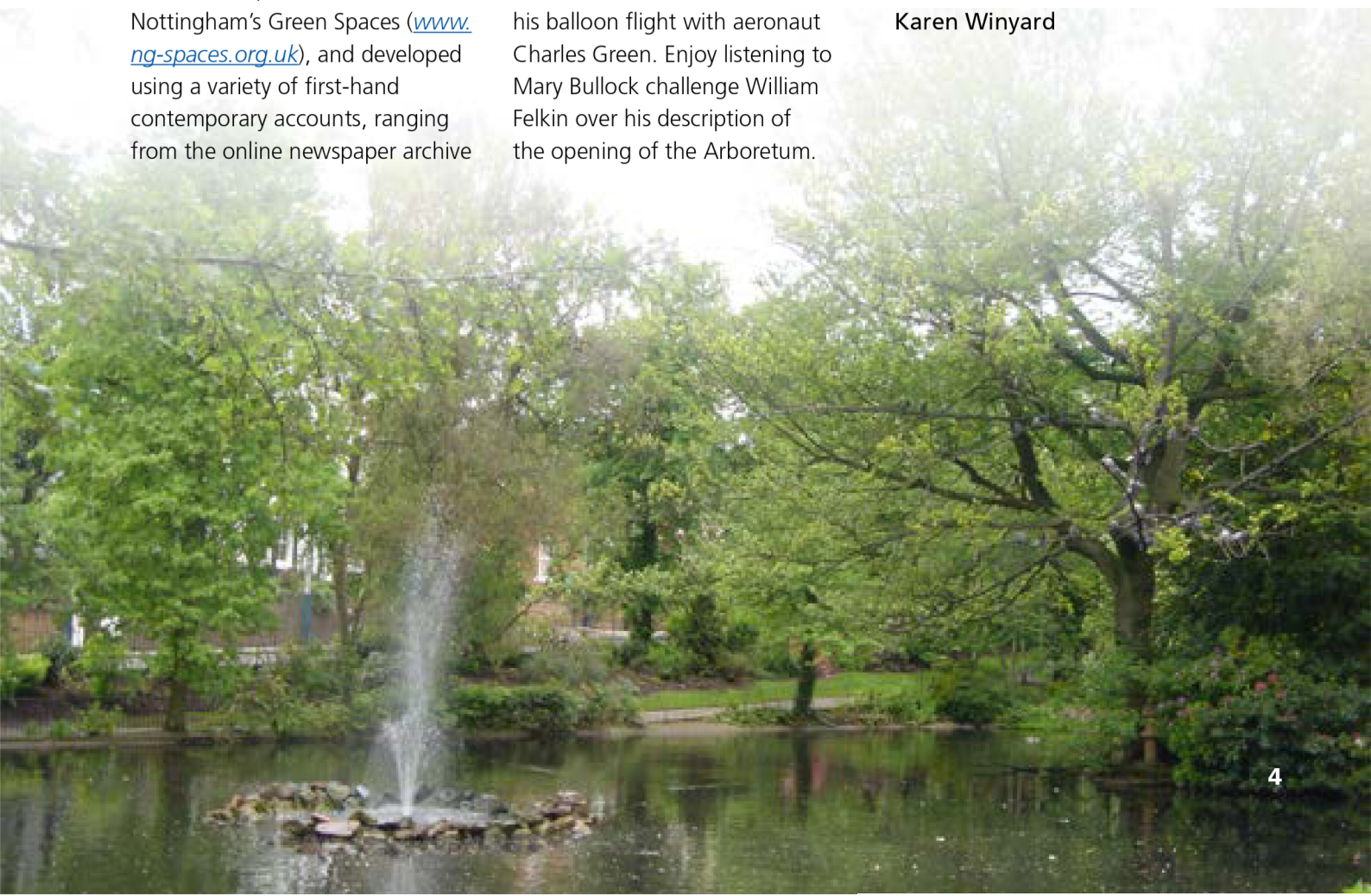
to personal documents such as the diaries of Samuel Collinson (Nottinghamshire Archives M382/1 & 2).

The origins and early history of Nottingham’s parks and promenades overflows with amazing stories of controversy, creativity and innovation. And wonderful people! Over the four episodes you will come to know men like William Felkin, Samuel Collinson and William Parsons; and women like Eliza Cooke, Mary Bullock and Susannah Parsons. Find out from PC Fisher just why it was a challenge to police the 4 public walks; Elm Avenue, Corporation Oaks, Robin Hood Chase and Queen’s Walk. Thrill to Thomas Cullen’s own account of his balloon flight with aeronaut Charles Green. Enjoy listening to Mary Bullock challenge William Felkin over his description of the opening of the Arboretum.

Discover the almost magical character of the Forest Recreation Ground, with its long history encompassing both the best and the worst of human life.

By turns shocking and amusing, grim and light-hearted, this series is always informative and entertaining. You can listen for free on FONA’s website, www.fona.org.uk by clicking on the YouTube icon on the home page, where you will also find our series of FONAbytes and details of how to purchase Lockdown 2020: the first 100 days, £4.50. Alternatively, you can download the podcast for free from Spotify <https://anchorfmfriends-of-nottinghamshirearchives>

Karen Winyard



Some members of the voice-cast read an extract from the 2nd podcast episode, "Green Lungs", after the AGM.



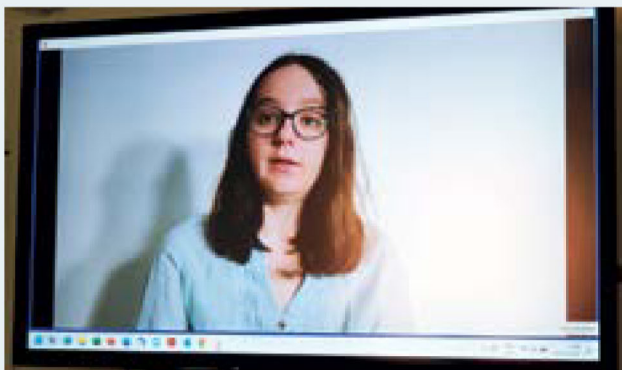
Sian Trafford.

Martin Gorman.

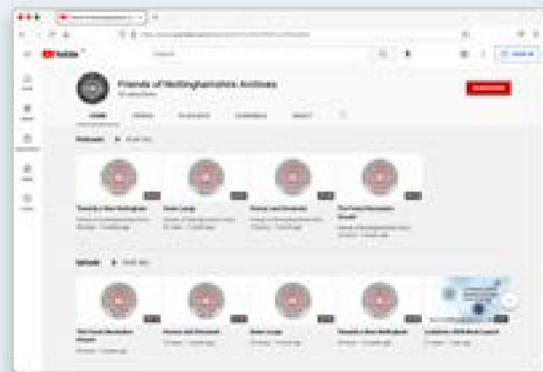
Jane Tappin.

Karen Winyard.

Margaret Knowles.



Katie-Jane Clancy explains the technical aspects of the podcast production process



All episodes of the "our Green & Pleasant Town" are available on FONA's YouTube page.

The Facts behind the Dramatization

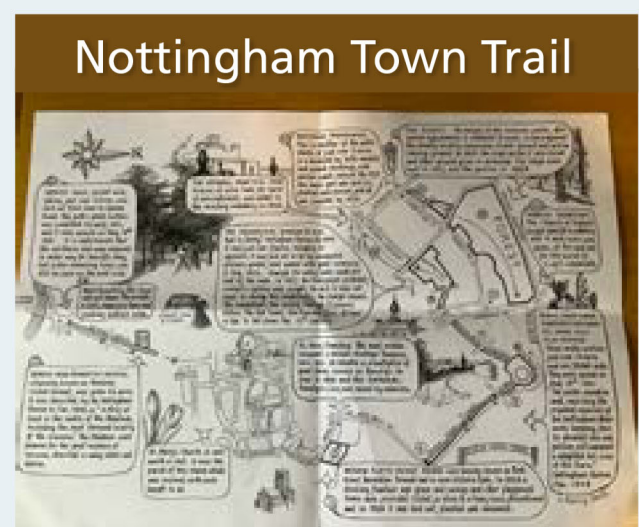
To complement the dramatization of the creation of Nottingham's Green Spaces, a series of video talks, made in 2014 as part of the Green Spaces Project, are being uploaded to FONA's YouTube Channel. The first, by Professor John Beckett, explains why an Enclosure Act was so badly needed.

Nottingham Town Trail

Related to the Enclosure Act and the creation of green space, you may also like to look at the video of the new(ish) Nottingham Town Trail produced by the Open Spaces Society.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKim_sNJO6E

It features Nottingham's 170 year old circle of walks and parks, designed to allow Nottingham people continued access to fresh air and healthy exercise, has now been made into a Town Trail marked with information boards to help people follow the five mile



The five mile route of the trail.

route. The Town Trail was formally opened on 21st September 2021 by Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Auction successes

In the 'Stop Press' in the last Newsletter, it was announced that we had been successful in buying a collection of 18th and 19th century deeds as a 'job lot', with further details to follow. There were 10 documents in the collection dating from the late 18th to early 19th centuries, only two of which were described in the catalogue. After purchasing the collection, it was found that only four of the documents had a Nottingham or Nottinghamshire interest.

Two of the Nottingham documents dating to March 1768 record the sale of property in St Mary's Gate, described as:

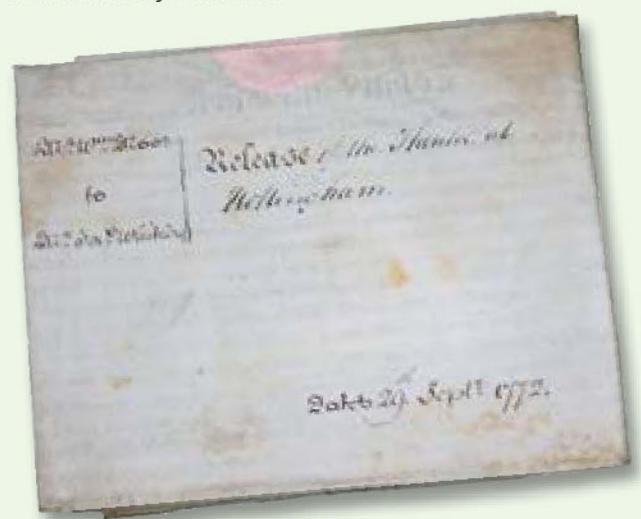
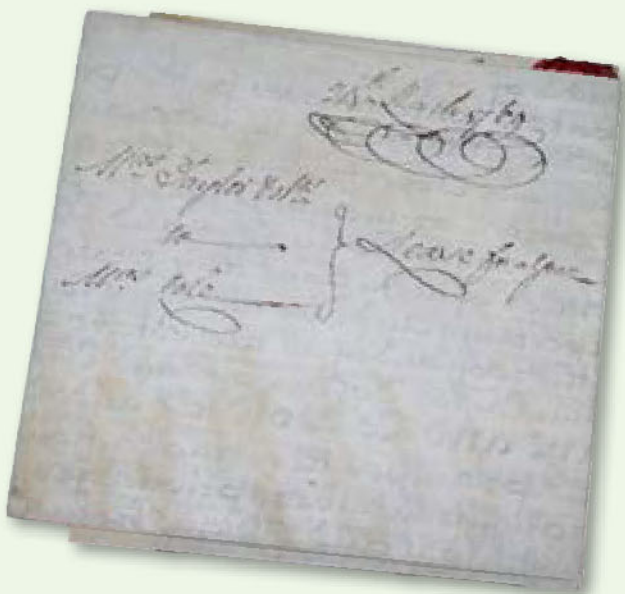
'Messuages or tenements now divided into two tenements situate standing and being in a certain street or place in ... Nottingham ... called St Mary Gate one of which tenements is in the tenure or occupation of Mary Spenser, widow and the other of them is in the tenure or occupation [blank] together with all and singular houses, outhouses, edifices, buildings, ways, waters, water courses, paths, passages, rights, liberties, easements, continuous and common of pasture, profits, advantages and appurtenances whatsoever ...'

One document is a lease of the property for 5s and the other a Conveyance by which the properties were sold to by a Mrs Taylor, widow to Mrs Cole, widow, for £200. This lease/conveyance or lease/release

procedure was a way of shortcutting some of the complications of selling freehold property. (If you'd like to know more about 18th and 19th century property transactions, you could start with the University of Nottingham's helpful reference pages <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/deedsindepth/freehold/leaserelease.aspx>).

According to the Conveyance, Mrs Ann Taylor lived in Stratford upon Avon. The two executors were both druggists and lived in Birmingham, so it's likely that her husband was also a druggist. Mrs Francis Cole, from Nottingham, was also a widow.

Another 18th century document records a different property transaction, also in St Mary's Gate, this time of a Theatre. Called a 'Release' it registers the sale of 'All that new erected building, messuage and burgage or tenement now used as a theatre or playhouse situated standing and being in a certain street or place called St Marys Gate. ...'



The sellers are William Moor, who is a cooper by trade and his wife Mary, and the purchaser is James Whitley, described as a gentleman. Whitley paid £500 for the building. There are a number of annotations in pencil throughout the document and the revisions suggest it was used as a template for a later transaction. Exactly where the theatre was isn't clear, but an 1880s OS map records the 'Royal Alhambra' theatre standing roughly where numbers 48-63 St Mary's Gate are now – just opposite the gate at the north-west corner of St Mary's graveyard.



Castle Fields, Derby from William Orme to John Coupland, gent.

- 12 Aug 1864: Probate of the Will of Mr. John Campion: The front page is very rubbed but includes Company stamps signed and dated by officials of the following railway companies

- Midland Railway Company
- London and Brighton South Coast Railway company
- Caledonian Railway Company
- The London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company
- London and North Western Railway company
- Great Western Railway Company
- South Eastern Railway company

The final Nottinghamshire document purchased as part of this lot is titled Settlement of Miss Amelia Harriet Otter's fortune on her marriage with Edward Strutt Esq. 27 March 1837. Amelia Otter was the daughter of William Strutt, Bishop of Chichester; at the time of her marriage, she was 20 and classed as an 'infant'. Edward Strutt, of course, became 1st Lord Belper. Although born in Derby, Strutt was MP for Nottingham in 1852-56 and also High Sherriff in 1850 and Lord Lieutenant of the County in 1864-88. He and Amelia lived at Kingston Hall, Nottinghamshire and together they had six children



The remaining documents all related to property in Derby, though this wasn't clear from the description in the Auction catalogue. They've now been deposited at Derbyshire Records Office in Matlock though they remain the property of FONA.

They are:

- 2 May 1795: Release from Samuel Crompton to John Port Esq. of a close in the parish of St Worburgh, Derby called Cowlshaw's Stile [?] Close. A Lease is folded into the Release document - so a rare example of the two documents remaining together
- 13 July 1838: Lease for one year from John Coupland to William Orme of land in Derby
- 7 August 1838: Appointment or Release by way of a Mortgage of land and 30 tenements in

- Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company
- 17 July 1875: Mortgage of Shops, Offices, Rooms and other erections in the Hardwick in the Borough of Derby, from Thomas H Harrison to Joshua Denston.

Altogether an interesting collection.

Marjorie Penn

Many FONA members will remember Marjorie Penn, who died in April aged 83. Marjorie became an Archivist at Nottinghamshire County Archives in 1972 and was associated with the Archives until shortly before she died, either as a professional archivist or as a volunteer.

Due to her illness and, of course, lockdowns, I probably knew Marjorie best through email, as she contributed to the Lockdown Diary project FONA ran in 2020 though I did see her a few times at the Archives during 2021. Nevertheless, I was pleased to be able to represent FONA at her funeral on 25th April 2022. This was held at Tythe Green Burial Ground, and, as Marjorie wished, was a Humanist ceremony which celebrated her life. She was buried in a wicker coffin to the strains of Gracie Field's *Wish Me Luck as you Wave Me Goodbye*.

Although I did not know Marjorie very well, others did and have contributed their memories to this commemoration of a lovely lady.

Elizabeth Robinson

In the spring of 1977 Marjorie's husband, decided to keep bees. We were near neighbours at Wollaton, so he and Marjorie came round to see my husband, Bobby, as we had been keeping bees for about seven years. Whilst Peter and Bobby went through a beehive, Marjorie and I chatted. I felt she was a kindred spirit, and as our living room was walled with bookcases, she may well have felt the same.

I was expecting the first of our four children, and over the years it was clear how much joy our children brought us. Marjorie's children were a few years older than mine but when we visited her wonderful puzzles would magically appear from under the settee that were just perfect for them.

We both had a love of history and were members of FONA from the beginning as well as the Thoroton Society and Bromley House Library. Marjorie taught me the joys of Nottinghamshire Archives, which she was to be involved with for about sixty years. In the late nineties, it became my job to sell the home my grandparents had moved to in 1912. My mother was

the only one of their five daughters to marry, and so my four aunts remained in the family home. Bobby put floorboards down in the loft, and I brought back forty sacks of 'things to sort out'. Every letter and card had been saved since my grandparents met in the 1890's on a Sunday school outing. Undaunted, Marjorie offered to sort the Gandy papers out as she would have done in the archives. However, when she had finished, she said they really should go into Nottinghamshire Archives, and that's what happened. That means so much to me.

Library. When I joined in 1991, library members had to look through the card index to select their choice of book. Marjorie was involved in creating the online catalogue, and what a difference it has made!

I will miss Marjorie's friendship, wisdom, tolerance, and kindness.

Nick Clark

My association with Marjorie goes back more than thirty-five years when she rejoined the staff at Nottinghamshire Archives when we were still based on High Pavement. I was a new Dad then and she was always particularly interested in the progress of the twins as they grew up. After she left, I invited her to join me as text editor on the poetry magazine 'Poetic Hours' and stayed for more than a decade, offering incisive literary comment on the many contributions and correcting my spelling! Years later, we finished up again talking on life and families over her decaf-coffee when she volunteered at the archives. As ever she was warm-hearted, friendly and chatty and I felt our bond was strengthened by our joint Yorkshire antecedents. Her goodbye at the end of the last one of these occasions was typically heart felt but totally unsentimental. We always knew exactly where each other was coming from. I'll miss her.

Alexa Rees

Although I only knew Marjorie for a few years, she was the one of the kindest, most generous people I had the good fortune to meet. She had a great sense of humour and often a twinkle in her eye, but always willing to help a fellow archivist out. You'll be missed Marjorie.

Ashfield Heritage



Although it was disappointing not to meet in person this month (January), it was also something of a relief to be joining FONA's first talk of the year on Zoom as the fog

hung heavy outside my window. There was a good virtual attendance and we all quickly forgot the frosty weather as Denis Hill led us on a tour of Ashfield District.

We could not have asked for a better guide. Denis has enjoyed a long career working to uncover and promote Ashfield's heritage, including a stint as Ashfield District Council's Heritage & Tourism Officer. To describe his talk as a "whistle stop tour" would not do it justice. It was more of a "tasting menu", as Denis provided us with samples of the rich history the district has to offer with just the right amount of detail to pique our interest.

Taking us through the district's main towns and villages in turn, we learnt about the personalities, architecture and natural landscape of the area. Railway enthusiasts would find much of interest, particularly

the Mansfield & Pinxton railway that began in 1819 as a horse drawn service linking Mansfield and the Cromford Canal, which continues as a commercial running railway to this day. Rail networks find a focus in Kirkby in Ashfield which boasts the greatest number of railway track crossings. While Sutton in Ashfield was home to the Penny Emma, a mile long track that ferried people from the town centre to Sutton Junction for the price of a penny. "Emma" comes from MR, the initials of the Midland Railway, rather than the name of the engine.

Ashfield District has been home to a wealth of fascinating personalities, Lord Byron, D H Lawrence, and Sir Richard Kaye to name only a few. One name I had not heard before was Elizabeth Hooton, whose home in Skegby became an early Quaker Meeting house. I googled her after the talk and found Elizabeth (1600 - 1672) was one of the first great Quaker woman missionaries and one of the Valiant Sixty. An early follower of George Fox, possibly even his first follower, Elizabeth was instrumental in convincing Fox that God had anointed women for ministry as well as men. Her house still stands and there are over 100 people interred in the graveyard beside it, dating back to the time when Dissenters were not permitted burial in church grounds.

The emphasis was on heritage rather than history. Denis not only brought Ashfield's history to life, but also provided a real sense of the continuation and development of the district through to today and onwards into the future. Architectural and archaeological features pass through time from a Neolithic stone and a rare 13th century slab inscribed to a priest at St Helen's in Selston, through ancient manor houses and cruck cottages, to a row of colliery houses in Annesley that are now a designated conservation area, preserving the Victorian Colliery housing for generations to come. The natural landscape, with its five rivers, has undergone many changes as the industries at the heart of Ashfield made the most of the area's natural resources. Today the district boasts a number of SSI sites and places of natural beauty in the parks and trails that have been developed on disused industrial sites, while a rare surviving windmill built entirely of stone has been preserved with Heritage Lottery Funding as a heritage centre in Sutton in Ashfield.



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If you would like to contribute articles to the FONA Newsletter please contact Judith Mills, Chairwoman.

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