



## Celebrating Heritage Together

## In this issue

### **From the Chair**

A message from our  
Chairwoman, Judith Mills.  
page 1

### **Help Needed**

Opportunities to help  
FONA in its activities.  
page 2

### **FONA Programme for 2023**

Talks, meetings and an  
outing for 2023.  
pages 3

### **Celebrating Heritage Together**

A look back at our major  
event in July.  
pages 4 - 6

### **The Clergyman, the Widow and the Milkman**

Ruth Strong reviews the  
talk by Mo Cooper.  
page 7

### **News from our Members**

Keyworth Conservation  
Area Advisory Group  
open days at George  
Martyn's Barn.  
page 8

### **News from Nottinghamshire Archives**

Exciting new digital  
developments for family  
historians.  
page 9

### **Obituary**

Sad news of the death of  
John Wilson.  
page 10

**Subscription reminder**  
page 10

# From the Chair

Welcome to the third and final Newsletter for 2022. It seems a very long time since our last newsletter (June 2022) and our Birthday Events in July. This edition looks backwards at what we have done and forwards to what we have planned for the rest of 2022 and all of 2023, together with news from Nottinghamshire Archives and one of our affiliated society members.

2022 has been a very busy year and while 2023 will be quieter we still have a lot of things planned, but we have a very small committee and most of them have two or more 'jobs'. So, I'm also putting out a plea to all FONA members to ask if they can help out with some of the things we do. This doesn't mean you would have to join the committee (though you'd be welcome) but perhaps you could help organize an event, manage our Facebook page or even edit the newsletter three times a year. There's more information on p.2 - please do read and get back to me if you have a little bit of time and would like to help keep FONA going.

Finally a reminder of the two remaining FONA events for 2022. Both start at 11am with coffee from 10.30am.



19 November  
**Workhouse Tales.**



3 December  
**'Show and Tell'** - bring something  
with a story and tell everyone about it  
at our Christmas Social.



# Help Needed

Can you spare a bit of time and/or expertise to help FONA continue its active programme of members' events. You don't have to become a member of the Committee or attend long meetings; just keep in touch with a designated Committee member.

## Are you an organizer?



We have a programme of events planned and speakers lined up for 2023, but we need someone (some people) to keep in contact with the speakers, check the details are in place (e.g. do they need a parking space), etc. etc. You don't have to do the whole year - support for one or two events a year would be welcome and helpful.

We also need ideas - and an organizer - for a mid-year excursion somewhere and suggestions for our 2024 programme.

## Do you Facebook?



Our Facebook page is OK but could be a lot better. If you are a Facebook user, can you help us promote FONA by managing our pages more effectively? We're also interested in using other social media, so all help very welcome.

## Can you edit/compile a newsletter?



You don't need to have any graphic skills because we have Bob Stoakes who does all the layout work. But you will need to be able to chase authors for articles, proofread and from time to time maybe write short articles yourself. We only publish three times a year (early Spring, mid-Summer and Autumn).

With this role, you don't need to be on the committee but it might help to join a meeting from time to time to keep in touch with what FONA is planning and suggest ideas for articles.

## Urgent: Committee member needed

FONA needs a Secretary. It is a requirement of our Constitution that we have one but COVID and other problems mean that we have

not had a proper Secretary since I became Chairwoman in March 2020. Thanks to Cherry Knight, committee meetings have been minuted, but the other secretary's tasks have been covered by me or other committee members.

The Secretary's job is to

- Prepare the committee meeting papers and write the Minutes in conjunction with the Chair. We meet 4 times a year usually by Zoom plus the AGM.
- Distribute the newsletter three times a year. This is 99% electronic so only minimal envelope stuffing required.
- Send out occasional flyers, news items or similar communications to FONA members.

If you are interested in becoming Secretary or just a committee member you could join our next Committee meeting which will be in November to find out more.

Do get in touch.

Judith Mills  
Chairwoman

# FONA programme for 2023

Unless otherwise stated, all talks are at Nottinghamshire Archives, starting at 11am with tea/coffee served from 10.30.

Please note: parking is limited at the Archives so please use public transport if at all possible.

21 January 2023

## **A Short History of Brickmaking in Nottinghamshire** by Michael Chapman



Michael Chapman's principal interests lie in all aspects of both historical and modern brick manufacture and the application of brick in the built environment particularly within the context of local history. He is the chair of

Woodborough Local History Society and Chair of the British Brick Society.

(Mike gave an excellent short talk in July about Woodborough and his insight into the construction of many buildings in our county will be fascinating.)

18 March 2023

## **Annual General Meeting**



Followed by a talk from Emily Gillott (Community Archaeologist) on Sir John Savile and his interest in local archaeology.

20 May 2023

## **The Travels of Richard James (1591-1638)**

by Ruth Imeson, Inspire Heritage Services Manager



Richard James was librarian of arguably the most significant private library of the seventeenth century, and custodian of the Magna Carta and Beowulf. This talk follows his journey to meet the Russian Tsar, a whale hunting trip to Greenland, and his travels through the British Isles.

## **Summer**

To be announced.

18 November 2023

## **Who the Devil were the Deverills?**

by Peter Duke, President of Nottinghamshire Family History Society



How researching two names on a marriage agreement turned into a family history rollercoaster ride from a 16th century rural backwater to the very top of 19th century Nottingham society. Featuring greedy lawyers; land speculators; a

father trying to safeguard his daughter's £2000 dowry against a groom who'd left it rather late to get the 'heir and spare'; women who married well and those who didn't; an inventor; a lord mayor and the black sheep of the family who married in Gretna Green but did well for himself in the end.

(Peter gave us a taster of his talk and this intriguing family in July. Well worth coming along to find out more.)

2 December 2023

## **Members' meeting and Christmas Social**

An opportunity for FONA members to share their interests and tell their own stories. Theme to be decided nearer the time. We usually have mince pies and, if we're lucky, cake!

# Celebrating Heritage Together: marking FONA's 10th Birthday

9-14 July 2022 was the culmination of almost a year's planning and was, I hope and believe, an enjoyable and successful way of showcasing what FONA does and why we, as 'Friends', support and value the work of Nottinghamshire Archives.

2022 is also, of course, the 125th anniversary of the founding of The Thoroton Society which also has close links with Nottinghamshire Archives, so it only seemed appropriate to share the stage and celebrate together. So much went on during the week that it is impossible to give more than a summary of what happened and hope that the photos show the rest.

Despite the overlap with the Wimbledon final for our opening Celebration, timing of the other talks and the very hot weather (though not the hottest we had), all the events were very well attended; all tickets were being taken for two of the events and about three-quarters for the other two.

Throughout the week there was an exhibition of manuscripts deposited by both the Thoroton Society and FONA and some of FONA's YouTube videos were playing in the background. In the

computer area of the reading room there was a photographic display of documents about the Savile family and Rufford Abbey estates which a FONA research group has been investigating and cataloguing.



highlighted the range and depth of collections, how they'd been acquired and perhaps most importantly, how they can be used for research and interpretation.



The range of topics discussed was huge:

## **9 July: Nottinghamshire Archives - its Friends and Partners**

Richard Gaunt, Judith Mills, Ruth Imeson and Paul Bradshaw



## 12 July: Woodborough, Winkburn and a Wedding

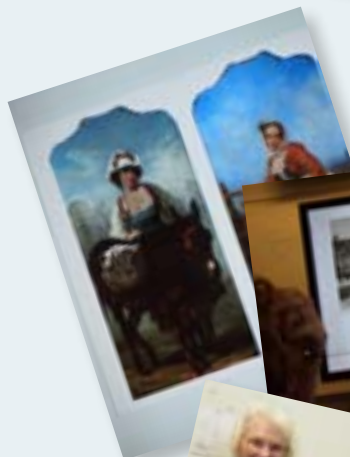
A series of three short talks about documents purchase by FONA on the open market and now deposited at the Archives. Mike Chapman, chair of Woodborough Heritage Group, described how an 17th century terrier is informing the history of that village; Sheila Leeds explained how a late 19th/early 20th century school log book added to what is known about the history of Winkburn and surrounding villages as well as the early years of compulsory education. Finally, Peter Duke, gave a taster into the Deverill family of Nottingham using an 18th century marriage agreement as a starting point. Both Mike and Peter will be giving longer talks to FONA in 2023 - see programme on p. 3.

## 13 July: Thoroton Day

In complete contrast, two of the short talks for the Thoroton Society focused on how archival research underpins future developments. Chris King talked about the University of Nottingham's City of Caves project which will use research on the medieval town to influence the development of the Broadmarsh Centre. On a similar theme, Andrea Moneta explained how his project at Nottingham Trent University had used research to develop an Augmented Reality image of the wall that divided Market Square. Then returning to a more traditional sphere, Graham Crisp discussed his work transcribing and interpreting the Stapleford Constables Accounts 1650-1685.

## 14 July: FONA Research group and the Savile project

These three talks enlarged on the photographic display in the research rooms. Based on previously uncatalogued and unresearched documents, Sheila Leeds was able to describe the tenants of the mid-18th to early-19th century estates as well as the size, layout and usage of the fields. Moving to the late 19th to early 20th century, Ruth Strong discussed the villages and links (commercial and physical, such as the development of railways) to the world outside the Estates. Finally, Karen Winyard examined the life of one of the least well-known but perhaps most colourful owners of Rufford Hall: Augustus William Lumley Savile, friend of the Royal Family, semi-professional artist, dandy and spendthrift.





## 16 July: The Birthday Party

An event for FONA members and invited guests, we shared a light buffet and delicious Birthday Cake; discussed the previous week's events and learnt about the proposed programme for 2023. It was also an opportunity to thank everyone:

- Ruth Imeson for use of the meeting rooms and other spaces for a whole week.
- The Archivists, Archive Assistants, Conservator and Building Manager for all their help in setting up and running the talks and activities.
- David Anderson for technical support, particularly subtitling the videos.
- Bob Stoakes for designing flyers and programme leaflets and for his photography before and during the week.
- All the speakers who gave up their time, free of charge, to research and present during this very busy week.
- To everyone who came to support this ambitious but exciting week of events.

Thank You.



# The Clergyman, the Widow and the Milkman



Was the intriguing title of a talk given to FONA members by Mo Cooper on 21st May 2022.

Developed from work for a MA degree Mo's presentation was about who provided working class housing in Edwardian Nottingham. Sources for the research included the decennial censuses and Trade Directories but most of the source material came from a document nicknamed 'Lloyd-George's Domesday Book' or more properly titled, the 1910 Land Valuation Survey. Like the original Domesday book, this survey was conducted in order to determine who owned what land. The idea was to collate the information in a national database to enable a tax on unearned income (for example from rents) to be levied and used as funding for social reform.

It was an exercise with problems of consistency and accuracy from the start because it was hurried and surveyors were of variable competency. The Property Owners Association, whose members were most of the City Council, proved to be obstructive.

Although the tax system was not changed because of the survey,

it has left a snapshot of property ownership in Britain. For Nottingham it revealed that the landlords of working-class housing in Nottingham, i.e., the poorer quality and lower priced homes, included the clergyman, the widow and the milkman mentioned in the title of the talk. Of 123 separate owners identified in Nottingham through Trade Directories and censuses, 56% were men, 19% were women and 24% were companies. Some were absentee landlords, some local investors. Most of the City Councillors were property owners and 40% of the Aldermen were in professions which indicated a high level of conflict of interest when improvements which might cost them money were proposed.



The clergymen included Rev'd Gregory, who owned 18 houses in Narrowmarsh but lived in Much Hadham. Widows and single women were often left property to ensure an income for themselves. This was usually derived from a relatively small number of properties with three being the average. The milkman was a Mr Bonsor, a milk dealer, who owned eight properties. The Landlords did not live near their rented properties. Some of the cheapest (and worst) were owned by companies and tended to be near workplaces. Censuses reveal that many homes in Popham Street (one side of a triangle formed by Canal Street and Middle Hill, now the site of Nottingham College City Hub) were left empty suggesting that the London company which owned them were planning redevelopment but not necessarily an improvement. A railway company, owner of 52 houses in Narrowmarsh, demolished them and replaced them with 300, leading to further overcrowding in the city.

Overall, this talk was a very interesting account of who owned housing in Nottingham interspersed with anecdotes about the families and individuals who were the landlords, including the clergyman, the widow and the milkman. It was noted that the rented houses have all been demolished, but the houses of the property owners in places such as Mapperley Park Drive and Pelham Road still exist.

## Ruth Strong

Note: this talk was given in May 2022 but was unfortunately omitted from the June Newsletter - blame the Editor. Many apologies to Mo. Judith Mills



# News from our Members

FONA is always delighted to hear from its members and affiliated groups about what they have been doing or what they are planning. This time we have received news from Keyworth Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) which opened George Martyn's Barn, Main Street, Keyworth during September. This included an exhibit about cycling in Keyworth planned for the morning of 8th September as the Tour of Britain passed the door and this year's Heritage Open Days. Although the race was stopped after the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth, after consultation with Heritage Open Days and the National Trust, we decided that no disrespect would be inferred by continuing with our arrangements and we opened from 11am - 4pm on both Saturdays of the HODs festival - 10th and 17th September.

We welcomed around 100 visitors over the two days to displays based on the Heritage Open Days theme of "Astounding Inventions": we exhibited displays of agricultural and textile innovations, the history of sewing and knitting, including the rise and decline of the framework knitting industry in Keyworth, reflecting our rural community before and after the Industrial Revolution.

If any groups would like to arrange a visit to this iconic C17th threshing barn, we would be happy to welcome you. George Martyn's Barn will be opening again for the last time this year as part of the Festivities Day on Saturday 19th November.

[Enquiries@keyworthhistory.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@keyworthhistory.org.uk)



*Left to right: Sheila Barton, Keith Barton, Linda Abbey (Chairman CAAG), Sue McCabe, Daphne Butler, Peter Harding.*



# News from Notts Archives

## Three Free New Digital Heritage Offers from Nottinghamshire Archives

Inspire's heritage services are pleased to announce three new digital offers to delight family historians and anyone who wishes to discover, value, and share the Nottinghamshire story.

### Offer 1: Ancestry

Almost two years in the making is the publication of the city and county's Anglican baptism, marriage, and burial parish registers, which are preserved in Nottinghamshire Archives. Thanks to our partnership with Ancestry and the Church of England, the original registers were conserved, digitised, indexed and have been published online. As Inspire offers free access to Ancestry in libraries and at the Archives, all visitors will be able to access the registers for free. People searching from home will need their own paid subscription.



Approximately 75% of the complete register collection has been added to the tune of 2 million images. These digital records will be a goldmine for family historians as their ancestors become even easier to find. Customers will be able to print, download or email themselves a high-quality colour image of the entry for their family members. The remaining 25% of images are scheduled for release in the late Spring of 2023.

Ancestry is available at Inspire sites both on our free public computers or personal devices from the Libraries Gateway page at:

<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/libraries-gateway-page/>

Access is also available via a paid, personal subscription at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

### Offers 2 & 3: Inspire Picture Archive

There is not one but two major updates to the IPA. This is the home of over 25,000 images of Nottinghamshire's history. Thanks to an Archives Testbed grant from The National Archives, we and our partner, Ammba, have worked to add mapping technology to the website. Now, when you conduct a search, you will be able to choose from a view containing a list of images or to see the images plotted on a map. You can zoom in and out until you find the perfect image or choose to browse through the towns and villages of Nottinghamshire. Simply go the site, create your own search, or select one of the curated tiles. Click on the "map view" icon to see your images arranged over Google maps. Select hotspots to zoom in further and enjoy more images.

The second major upgrade for the IPA is the ability for the public to add their own images directly from the site. This is an exciting use of automated intelligence. A customer is directed to a website and is asked to describe their image, e.g. date, address, and activity. Once the customer submits a photograph the AI works its magic, automatically creating metadata as the AI can distinguish between objects such as cars and trees. Once we are happy with the image and its description, the image is automatically uploaded to the IPA and published online.

To upload an image please go to the main page of the IPA at <https://www.inspirepicturearchive.org.uk/>

Photographs already submitted via this new method can be seen at the "Your Photos" tile. Inspire Picture Archive Your Photos



# Sad news

I am sorry to have to announce the death of John Wilson on 2nd November, peacefully at home having been released from hospital. He is probably better known to many as the Treasurer of the Thoroton Society, but also one of the first members of FONA.

I first met John through his daughter Vicky when we both worked at Nottingham Trent University. John had recently, and temporarily, taken on the role of Membership Secretary in addition to his Treasurer role. I offered to help - as in provide some back up - but within a few weeks found myself co-opted as Membership Secretary. During my time in that role, John was always a great support and source of advice. And, typically, he was always the first to volunteer to take on new tasks which resulted in him being amongst many other things Newsletter Editor, co-ordinator of the Research Group, photographer and envelop stuffer.

I will miss him and on behalf of FONA I send condolences to his wife, Janet, daughter Vicky and the rest of his family.

**Judith Mills**

# Reminder

You should have received a reminder from David Anderson, our Treasurer, that FONA Subscriptions are due on 1st January.



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

[chair@fona.org.uk](mailto:chair@fona.org.uk)