



# FONA



Newsletter 31 February 2023



Christmas  
Social

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# Introduction

Welcome to the first FONA Newsletter of 2023. I hope you'll find something of interest as we've had two fascinating meetings since November's edition. Our pre-Christmas social included some fascinating subjects and two of them are written up in full, with hopefully more to follow in future Newsletters.

I'm always on the look-out for members' news, articles or reports for the Newsletter so please do contact me if you think there's anything you'd like to see published here.

Our next meeting is, of course, the AGM, which is on 18th March at Nottinghamshire Archives. The AGM, which will be as businesslike as I can make it, will be followed by a talk from Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologist, on the archaeological interests of Sir John Savile of Rufford Abbey.

With the AGM in mind I have to, yet again, put out an appeal for help. I hope that FONA events and activities are always engaging and reflect the interests of our members. But there's only a limit to what the existing committee can do.

SO

- Do you have suggestions for talks or visits that you think we should hold?
- Is there anything you think FONA should do that it isn't doing now?
- Can you spare a few hours a year to help with events or collate articles for the Newsletter?

They used to say "answers on a postcard" though these days it's "answers in an email" - I look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions.

**Judith Mills**

Chairwoman

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

# FONA Christmas Social Meeting

The final FONA meeting of 2022 was held on Saturday 3rd December. It was a Show and Tell social event with mince pies. Members had been invited to bring an item either of personal significance or relevant to Nottingham or Nottinghamshire and to give a short presentation of around 10 minutes about what they had brought.

Six members had items to share.

After welcoming everyone, Judith Mills explained about an old book that she had been given which was probably a work book of a carpenter and general handyman who lived in Averham (new Newark) in the early 19th century. His name was Richard and his wife was Margaret, but there was no surname.



The book appears to provide a snapshot of village life and work in Averham and Staythorpe and a full report of the book and what it says about village life at that time will be published in a future FONA Newsletter. Judith plans to deposit the book with Nottinghamshire Archives when her work is complete.

Elizabeth Robinson then spoke about a leaflet called *The Social Credit National Health Service* by Aubrey Westlake that had been published in April 1942. It had been produced by the Social Credit Party and Elizabeth's grandfather, Edwin Gandy, was one of the Party's founders. The leaflet outlines a vision for a National Health Service for the post-war period.



You can read more about Edwin Gandy's life and this fascinating and ambitious treatise on p.8.

On a similar theme Ruth Strong showed a letter dated 25 April 1910. The letter had been found in a house clearance in Lenton that related to the Midwives Amendment Act of 1910 which included an unpopular clause relating to the payment of doctors attending difficult births. The letter from "The Office Of The Prime Minister" was signed by the PM's Private Secretary and address to Mrs Carey as Secretary of the Nottingham Railwaywomen's guild.



This was very curious and raised a number of questions. What was the Railway Women's Guild? Why would the Railway Women's Guild write to the PM?

Ruth researched these questions during some of the COVID lockdowns and a full report of her findings is on p.10.

This letter and Ruth's work has opened a door to a segment of local activity not really mentioned in history books. There is more to find out about the aftermath of the protest against Section 17 and perhaps more about Mrs Carey and her fellow Guild members - when time allows, of course.

Turning to a very different theme, John Beckett showed and spoke about the prison sketchbooks of Rev'd Edwin Teale dated 1865 to 1878. Rev'd Teale, who was a distant relative of John's, was licensed as Chaplain of Holloway prison in 1865, before moving to Pentonville in 1870, though he finally relocated to a rural parish in Suffolk where he remained until his death.

During his time as prison Chaplain he had drawn likenesses for the prisoners that he may have been counselling. Some pages were simply portraits of the inmates, while others had details of the male and female convicts, including information about their offence, and for some of the women, the imaginative ways they found to ensure their hair had a fashionable style.



The portraits are not unknown. In 1937, The Listener magazine asked readers to send in scrapbooks in order to make a program for the wireless and the sketches were featured.

John asked the audience what he should do with the notebooks eventually as they are not relevant to Nottinghamshire Archives. Suggestions included asking the National Justice Museum if they would like them, or if there was an archive of Pentonville and Holloway prisons.

Any suggestions welcome.

A far more modern but equally interesting family treasure was brought in by Jo Fitzhenry: a precious memento that was more national than Nottingham but had been in Nottingham for many years. World Cup Willie, the 1966 World Cup mascot which is a lion in a football strip was given to Jo as a baby and was clearly much loved.



Jo related how her father, who worked on building sites, was offered World Cup tickets to all the matches for 60 guineas. He bought them, which did not please Jo's mother because 60 guineas was around 7 months' pay, and she persuaded him to sell them. He only sold the cup final tickets for what he had paid for all of them - 60 guineas. By then, England was in the final against Germany, so prices were high - for the time.

The money from the cup final tickets was spent on a new radio (to listen to the Final match) and Jo's World Cup Willie.

Finally, Sian Trafford brought in two beautiful handmade dresses that she had found in her mother's attic, thought to date from WWII. Sian had very little definite information about the dresses except that they might have been made by her mother.

The design and materials of these dresses was discussed in detail. Both were embroidered and one was smocked. One dress was thought to be made from parachute silk. The other, an evening dress style could have been rayon. Both the dresses have been accepted by the WWII museum in Llandudno (Sian's family is Welsh).

All the presentations resulted in a lot of discussion and while the FONA Christmas Social was low in numbers (the weather was terrible) it was high in interest and participation. It was a great opportunity to hear about everyone's personal stories and it's likely to be repeated next year.

And all the mince-pies were eaten!



A SHORT

HISTORY OF

BRICKMAKING IN  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Thirty-seven members and guests came to FONA's first meeting of 2023 – the room was at bursting point, but it was well worth it to hear Mike Chapman talk on his expert subject, bricks and brickmaking.

Mike is the Chair of Woodborough Local History Society and some people may have heard him talk at our event in July when he spoke about a 16th century

Terrier of Woodborough which is owned by FONA.

He is also the Chair of the British Brick Society and his 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.

## History of brickmaking

Mike introduced the history of brickmaking by illustrations of an ancient church, a cottage at Woodborough, and a modern high-rise block of student flats clad in bricks. We were told that clay as a building material was first used in Mesopotamia, then by the Romans, and, in this country, was used in the Middle Ages onwards.

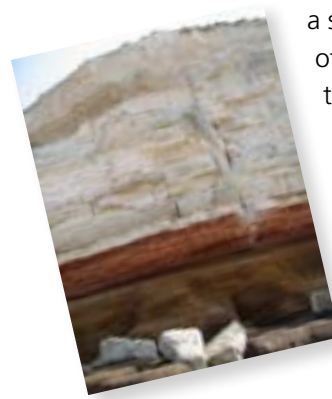


The first bricks were made with river mud, with straw used as a binding agent. However, between 1,000 and 500 BC it was realised that heat-dried bricks would last longer e.g. the Temple of Darius, Iran. Glazes were used, and it was interesting to see the beautiful effects illustrated.

The Romans were the most significant brickmakers as far as we are concerned. In fact, the brick industry is still based on Roman technology both in the UK and on the Continent. They used stiff clay to make bricks and tiles (they are the basis of our pantiles). This was illustrated by the photograph of an arch from Pompeii. And long after the Romans had left Roman bricks were re-used in the middle ages for strengthening purposes, for example, at St Albans Abbey to reinforce its walls.

## The Clay

Clay is found extensively in Nottinghamshire in beds running along the Trent Valley. It is a sedimentary rock which has a particular property; clay plus water equals plasticity which means it retains its shape for its lifetime. Firing to a temperature of 900-1300 degrees centigrade produces the chemical changes to make



a strong, usable brick and other items such as roof tiles and drainage pipes. Other minerals within the clay determine its colour: calcium carbonate produces a white brick for example.

Many local villages had their own brick fields and brick yards many of which are depicted on Sandersons' map of the county published in 1845.

## Bricks, buildings and the growth of regulation

After the Romans left, there is little or no evidence of brick making until the later middle ages when merchants trading with the low countries appear to have brought traditional brickmaking skills to eastern England. The growing number of monasteries was also influential, for example, Cistercian monks set up brick works around Hull and Beverley.

Tattershall Castle, built by Ralph, Lord Cromwell, as a symbol of wealth and power, between 1430 and 1450. A Dutch master mason showed the locals how to make the bricks using a rare red clay from Edlington Moor, about five miles away.



All work was done by hand and the quality, size and shape of the brick was variable. To improve the quality of bricks, some regulation began to appear. In 1571 the Charter of the Worshipful Company of Tilers and Brickmakers stated that the brick size should be 9 x 4½ x 2½ inches.

One hundred and fifty years later in 1725, these dimensions were enshrined in a Statute of George II. It seems this edict was not adapted nationally and a further Statute of 1776 by George III affirmed that a standard 9 x 4½ x 2½ inches should be the brick size in every part of the country.

But George III also saw brick making as a useful source of income and introduced a 'brick tax' of 2s 6d per thousand which, over time rose to 4s per thousand bricks. As a result, brickmakers began making bigger bricks; Midland and Northern county brickmakers produced bricks that were 9 x 4 x 3½ inches for example.

Brick rather than stone became increasingly popular for buildings of all kinds.

### Tudor and Elizabethan buildings

Layer Marney Tower in Essex, England's tallest Tudor gatehouse, built in 1523 is a good example of how



brickwork was used to display power and wealth.

Holme Pierrepont Hall is one of the earliest examples of a Tudor building in the county. Originally it was plastered and painted but now the brickwork is exposed. The bricks were made in Norfolk where the family owned extensive land.

Bricks were used extensively by Henry VIII for military purposes, for example at Walmer and Deal castles both built 1539-40 to defend the coastline, and it is during Tudor times that ornate 'barley twist' chimneys developed.

### Jacobean buildings

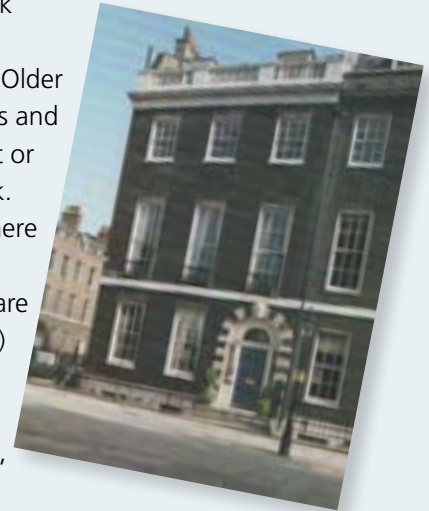
As people realised that brick is an adaptable material, it began to be used lower down the social scale. Following the Great Fire of London



was in 1666 it was realised that tiled roofs were better than thatched in stopping fire spreading from house to house. This resulted in a renaissance in architecture and a greater use of brick for decoration, for example at Sudbury Hall where a 'diaper' pattern is created in the brickwork.

### Georgian buildings

Building with brick flourished in the Georgian period. Older buildings in towns and villages were built or refaced with brick. Flemish bond (where the long side and the shorter ends are used alternatively) was introduced, thin, accurate jointing was used, and there were alternative colours to red.



The advent of the industrial revolution, especially the canal network, gave a boost to brick manufacture with clay often being found on site. And bricks could be moved more easily and quickly with barges carrying 7½ to 8 thousand bricks in one load.

### Victorian/Edwardian buildings

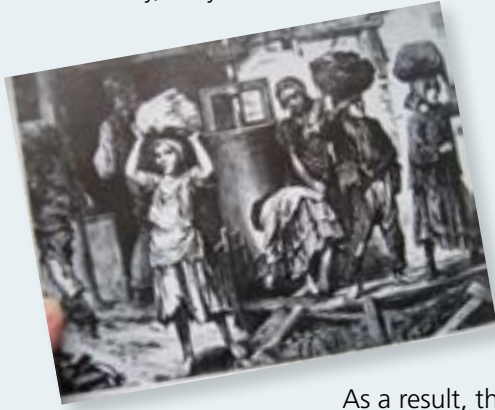
The effects of the industrial revolution continued apace in the 19th century when there was a 'brick bonanza', with more brick laid than in all the preceding periods put together. Bricks were used for the new railway infrastructure and civil engineering projects; factories such as those in Nottingham's Lace Market, and they were in demand for the fashionable Gothic Revival style of architecture favoured by Nottingham's Watson Fothergill.



### More legislation

Until the 19th century, bricks were still handmade, often by family groups, including young children.

Kilns were rudimentary wood or coal fired affairs and it was heavy, dirty work.

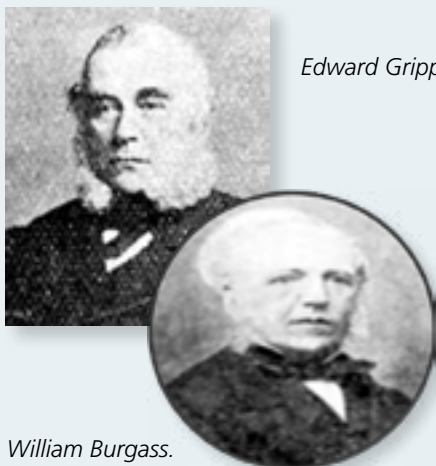


As a result, there was yet more legislation some of which controlled the industry, such as the Factories Acts of 1830 and 1867. By 1871 all brickfields were under the control of Factory Inspectors while child labour was restricted due to the Education Acts of 1870 and 1876.

Other legislation stimulated the industry: the Agricultural Drainage Act of 1821 increased the need for pipes and the brick tax was repealed in 1850 reducing manufacturer's liabilities. There was also innovation in manufacturing such as Friedrich Hoffmann's invention of the 'continuous kiln' in 1857, which replaced the smaller coal fired ones.

The 19th century also saw the growth of Victorian entrepreneurs who now impressed their company name on the bricks they made. In Retford there was Cocking & Sons and George Ogle. Newark had two large brickfields, either side of Beacon Hill Road on the site of a Civil War battlefield. One, Cafferata, later became British Gypsum. There were small yards in Kelham, Farnsfield, and larger ones at Carlton and Mapperley.

There is an adage that 'Nottingham once stood on Mapperley Plains', as clay from Mapperley was used for the buildings in Nottingham itself. Here were huge



*Edward Gripper.*

*William Burgass.*

and significant brickyards. Round Hoffman kilns were built in the late 1860s and continued until the 1960s. It was a huge enterprise. Edward Gripper and William Burgass formed the Nottingham Patent Brick Company. Gripper was also a Director of the



Nottingham Suburban Railway which connected many brick companies together and allowed for fast freight transport including brick, around the country.

### **Brickmaking in the 21st Century**

Today (2023) there are twelve operating companies with forty-nine factories. The U.K. market is worth £2.5 bn.

Nottinghamshire is home to two factories: Forterra which has the Kirton Factory near Ollerton and Ibstock Brick at Dorket Head Factory in Arnold. Both these have their roots in 19th century companies, Ibstock, for example, was originally Robinsons of Arnold.

This informative presentation finished with a lively Q&A session.



*Images in this article courtesy of Mike Chapman..*

**Elizabeth Robinson**



# A vision for the National Health Service

A short presentation given at the Christmas Social by Elizabeth Robinson

The document I have brought to the Archives today was printed in April 1942. It is a vision for the National Health Service, and I thought it would be interesting to compare this vision with the reality we see today.



I am going to introduce it by telling you about its first owner, my grandfather, Edwin Gandy.

Edwin Gandy was born in Sneinton, Nottingham in 1873. He married Caroline Gamble in 1901. My mother told me that he worked as a clerk at Jardine's which made lace machines. Knowing that, I was surprised to see that in the 1901 census he is described as 'clerk to a harness maker'. In fact, that was a warning sign. When there was a down turn in the lace trade, Jardine's kept the workforce by using the machinery to make other things, in this case harnesses.

The first of Edwin and Caroline's five daughters was born in 1903, but after Carrie's birth in November 1905, Jardine's couldn't be saved, and Edwin was made redundant. He was terrified as to what would happen to his family. Whatever could he do? Edwin

was one of eleven children - two girls, eight boys and another girl. Nottingham was very polluted, so in their spare time the brothers always went into the countryside. Several brothers were members of the Britannia Rowing Club. Edwin belonged to a cycling club. The scouting movement was established in 1908 and was all about camping.

Edwin established a company with his wife and two of her sisters and two of his brothers. The details of this company: the Army and General Stores Limited appear in the *Nottingham Journal* of Monday 12 November 1906. This states that the company had been ...

*"registered with a capital of £500 in £1 shares to acquire the business dealers in and agents for army, navy Government, and municipal stores, lately carried on by E Jardine at Deering Street, Nottingham, as the "U" department, to adopt an agreement with the vendor, and to carry on the said business and that of boot and shoe manufacturers, tailors hatters, clothiers outfitters, manufacturers of saddles, harness travelling trunks, travelling bags springs and leather goods of all kinds, ironmongers, iron and steel workers etc. The subscribers are:- Edwin Gandy, 72 Rutland Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, salesman; Ernest Gandy, 31 St. Stephen's Chambers, Nottingham, electrician; E B Stocker, Albion Chambers, King Street, Nottingham solicitor; T. Young, 41 Wilford Crescent East, Nottingham, clerk; Miss N. Gamble, 96 Blue Bell Hill, Nottingham; Mrs C. Gandy, 72 Rutland Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. No initial public issue. The first directors and Edwin Gandy and Ernest Gandy (both permanent). Qualification, £100 shares. Remuneration not more than £260 per annum, provided that the company may increase after all the vendors' debentures are paid off. Registered office at 133, Wilford-Road, Nottingham."*

My mother told me his success enabled Edwin to go to business conferences, and on the day of the

1911 census he was attending such a conference in Manchester. Here he heard the same thing over and over again: due to mechanisation there was going to be unemployment on a vast scale, something never seen before.

Edwin could always recall the terrible time he was unemployed and wanted to do something to help. With like-minded people he became a founder member of the Social Credit Party. If a large percentage of the population was going to be unemployed, there had to be changes in society to cope with this. Ideas were developed and that is why my leaflet on the National Health Service, written by Dr Aubrey T. Westlake B.A., M.B., B. Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., was published by the Social Credit Party in 1942, six years before the NHS was founded. (When the Labour Party took over their ideas for the Welfare State and Health Service, the Social Credit Party died out).

Six points are made under the heading:

## **HEALTH: Regenerate the People.**

### **Elimination of Handicaps to Health**

Under the present economic regime, bad housing and malnutrition due to poverty make it impossible for the majority of the British People to attain their full inherited capacity for health, physical fitness and enjoyment of life.

Under Social Credit these handicaps to health will be eliminated and health services will become preventative not palliative.

### **Hospitals**

Hospitals, Health centres and Clinics to be built as part of the "Britain Rebuilt" Scheme, and operated through the local authorities. All health institutions to be financed by National Credit through the National Health Service, thus rendering charity unnecessary.

### **Medical Service**

Responsibility for the health of the Nation to rest upon the local medical practitioners acting under the National Health Service.

### **Nursing**

Conditions to be approved for the nursing profession. Wages to be increased and hours shortened.

### **Medical research**

Adequate grants of National Credit to be made for medical research.

## **Sport**

Sports grounds and facilities to be made available to all. An active interest in sport to be encouraged and stimulated by National Sports Festivals.

It is stated that the old system of private practice is showing signs of coming to an end. Doctors were making a living out of ill health; if the population was healthy the doctors would have no living.

*"To earn a living therefore, the doctor had to put a premium on disease and illness, and so health could never be the ultimate outcome of the old conception of medical practice".*

There is an assumption that the finances of the country will be based on the principles of Social Credit. The writer of the leaflet is aware that the main objection to the National Health Service was that it was too expensive. Perhaps that is why there is a great emphasis on a book by Sir Albert Howard, *An Agricultural Testament*. This work makes clear that 100% health could be obtained in plants grown on a completely healthy and fertile soil and by animals fed on food thus produced. When everyone in the country is receiving a healthy diet, it will produce a nation of healthy people. The exercise involved in producing this superb food in our countryside, will only add to our fitness.

There is also an assumption that people want to be healthy. I think that is as true today as it was then. The problem is that even if this vision of everyone having a healthy diet comes to fruition, there are other temptations. Will people stick to this healthy diet and exercise? Will they refrain from smoking, over drinking, and taking drugs?

I will finish by quoting the final sentence:

*"In so far as, through the good offices of Social Credit, it does achieve this synthesis, then indeed we can look forward to a flowering of a true science and art of Medicine which will lead us into a Great Age of Medicine presaged by the foreseeing minds of the past. It is our singular privilege to be given the chance of being the implementers, pioneers and builders of this new Great Age. Social Credit, if we but choose aright, will open to us the gate and we can enter the promised land."*

# The Mystery of the Letter to The Prime Minister

A short presentation given at the Christmas Social by Ruth Strong

Before Covid and lockdowns, among some odd letters and photos found in an attic during a house clearance was a curious missive which bore no obvious connection with the rest of the collection. Dated 25th April 1910, it has been sent from the office of the Prime Minister and signed by Mark Sturgis, Private Secretary to Herbert Henry Asquith. It was addressed to Mrs M. J. Carey as Hon. Sec. of the Nottingham Branch of the Railway Women's Guild and referred to a resolution about a clause in an Act of Parliament to which the Guild objected. It raised a number of questions for me:

42, Downing Street  
Whitehall, W.C.2  
London.  
April 25, 1910  
I am directed by the  
Prime Minister to  
acknowledge the receipt  
of the Resolution which  
you have forwarded on  
the subject of the payment of  
midwifery doctors' fees by son law  
guardians. I am yours faithfully  
Mark Sturgis  
Mr M. J. Carey

They had three children: a girl Eva and two sons, Charles Jnr and Percy. Both boys died when children possibly from pneumonia, according to a note on the back of a photograph. This is not confirmed. In 1910, before antibiotics, pneumonia was a killer and, though less common, remains so today.

The 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses list Charles as a railway signalman. As a signalman he could work anywhere in the country. By the time of their marriage he was at Kirkby, Nottinghamshire and the 1891 census shows the family living in Lowdham, where their eldest child, Eva, was born. Charles later became a relief signalman in Nottingham.

Household No.	Name	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Occupation
...	Charles Carey	...	...	...	Signalman
...	Eva Carey	...	...	...	...
...	Percy Carey	...	...	...	...

That Mrs Carey was the Hon. Sec. of the Railway Women's Guild implies that she was quite active in the welfare of railway families and possibly in political activities concerning the welfare of women in general.

The Railway Women's Guild (RWG) was set up in 1900 for the wives of members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (ASRS, later the National Union of Railwaymen or NUR) as a move to develop the idea of a railway family. The ASRS found this useful because the wives were enthusiastic recruiters for the Union as well as providing refreshments at events and raising a lot of money for the Widows and Orphans fund. The Guild also took part in political activity such as proposing and supporting issues concerning women, such as health and wages.

Mrs Carey or possibly her husband seems to have taken part in the 41st TUC Congress that was held

So, who was Mrs Carey?

What was the Railway Women's guild?

What was the resolution the letter mentioned?

What was going on?

Some research was clearly needed.

## Who were the Careys?

The Careys did not originate in Nottinghamshire. Mr Charles and Mrs Mary Jane Carey (née Stocks) were both born in Cambridgeshire and were married in 1889 in the Parish church of Eye in Northamptonshire.

on Nottingham in 1906. She saved the menu for the afternoon tea which was held in The Pleasance on Wilford Lane.

## The Letter

In her capacity of Hon. Sec. of the RWG, Mary had written to Prime Minister Asquith after a decision made at the April meeting of the Nottingham Branch of the RWG to object to a clause in the Midwives Amendment Act which Lord Wolverton had presented to Parliament concerning payment of fees to doctors attending childbirth. An account of the meeting was published in the Nottingham Journal of 25th April 1910. It records that



*“... the following resolution was passed:- “This meeting protests against the proposal of the Government that the Board of Guardians shall pay the fee of a doctor called in cases of emergency to attend poor women in child-birth, considering it as an insulting method of compulsory pauperism ... and is of opinion that, as the summoning of a doctor in such cases is required by law, his fee should be paid by the public health authority ...”*

Examination of Lord Wolverhampton’s Bill explains all.

Lord Wolverhampton was Lord President of the Council, that is the presiding officer of the Privy Council. He brought the Midwives Amendment Act of

1910 to Parliament as an improvement on the original Midwives Act of 1902 which had required midwives to be registered and at least competent. The blot on this piece of legislation as far as the RWG and many other objectors were concerned was Clause 17 which said that doctors, who were called out by law to attend difficult births, would be paid by the Board of Guardians as Parochial Relief.

There were many protests about this clause, not just by the RWG. Objections were based on the stigma that would be attached to families, who although not well off were not paupers or destitute. The Nottingham RWG, in common with other branches, organisations and the social reformer Beatrice Webb were vehemently opposed to such a clause which would force parents into pauperhood and be insulting and degrading to working families. Being in receipt of Parochial Relief would damage a family’s reputation for ever, even after the debt was repaid and rendering them open to visits by the Relieving Officer and their ‘hated’ questions as described by Beatrice Webb in a letter to *The Lancet*.

## Consequences

From the Hansard archive, in July 1910 Lord Amptill made a vigorous effort to bring an amendment to Clause 17, which replaced ‘the Board of Guardians’ with ‘the local supervising authority of the county or the county Borough’. Their Lordships were much troubled that such a move sounded socialistic and thought that the sums paid under Parochial Relief could be officially thought of as not Parochial Relief, and similar muddled thinking. The amendment failed.

The letter and its reasons shed a little light on a part of women’s history and the social networks for mutual support at the time.

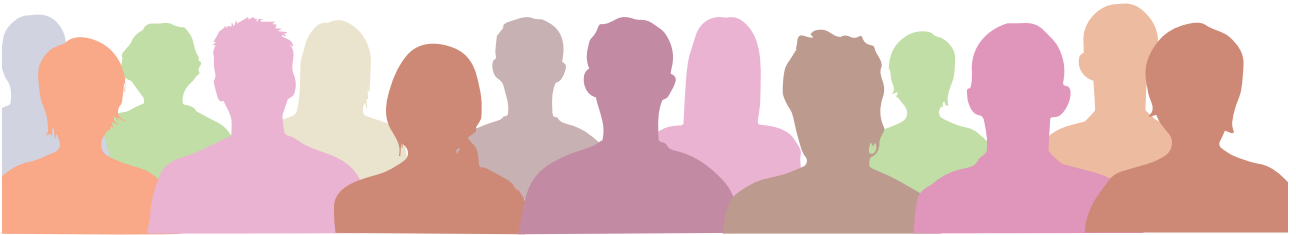
The Carey family described here had no direct descendants. The boys died very young and daughter Eva remained single until late in life when, aged 59, she married a widower.

However, Charles and Mary had siblings.

If any reader realises that this article is about their family, please contact FONA.



## Annual General Meeting



followed by

**John Savile, 1st Baron Savile of Rufford, diplomat, collector and passionate amateur archaeologist.**



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Community Archaeologist Emily Gillott talks about his interest in archaeology, her journey into material held at Nottinghamshire Archives and some of the more surprising and delightful connections from her perspective as an archaeologist.



**11.00am, Saturday 18 March 2023, Nottinghamshire Archives.**

All welcome - no need to book. Free to all FONA members. Guests are asked to make a £3 donation towards costs (refunded if you decide to become a FONA member). Tea/coffee served from 10.30am.



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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)