



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST**

**The Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell,  
Nottinghamshire NG25 0HD**

**t: 01636 819555 e: [info@nbpt.co.uk](mailto:info@nbpt.co.uk)**

**w: [www.nbpt.co.uk](http://www.nbpt.co.uk)**

## *AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC*

*Issue 5 October 2020*

### Chairman's Welcome

It seems that everything has been on hold since the Spring although many have found new or extended activities during the fine Summer weather - gardening, walking, cycling or painting. Some of our older members may have found time to write their memoirs, leaving a slice of history for their family.

Leaving something for future generations is the mission of the Building Preservation Trust which seeks to protect, preserve and enhance the built environment of Nottinghamshire. Part of that history has been preserved and left in a Tuxford Trust.

Alan and I had a face to face meeting with some of the Trustees and Alan will tell us more later in the newsletter.

Whilst other group meetings have been cancelled some work has been conducted through email and Zoom conferencing. Your Trustees have agreed to appoint a new Trust Administrator as soon as possible and to hold the Annual General Meeting at 2.00pm on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020, by Zoom.

Some may remember that last year our AGM clashed with the late night shopping and Christmas light-switching at Southwell so that our speaker, Cal Warren of the Nottingham Castle Transformation Project, and others had problems parking.

This year there will be no such problems... but you will have to provide your own wine.

All the information and Agenda for the Zoom meeting at 2.00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November will be in your invitation pack together with proxy voting slip for approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, the appointing of Financial Examiners and election of Trustees.

All this in case you are unable to attend virtually, which I hope many of you will be able to do.

Yours sincerely

**David Atkins, Chairman**



### The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

There are historic buildings associated with almost all pastimes; from stadiums for the football crazy, walker's huts for keen ramblers, historic libraries for bookworms, artist's house and concert venues for the music fan. No matter what your passion, there are likely to be historic buildings associated with it.

NBPT committee member, Janine Buckley has used her passion with horses to produce a prize-winning postgraduate dissertation. Janine's dissertation for the University of York, *'Whispers from the Stalls' An Archaeological Investigation of Country House Stables* focused on a Georgian courtyard stables on The Birdsall Estate in North Yorkshire. It was described by the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology judges as "an exemplary work...clearly adding to our knowledge of the past, whilst raising some interesting and difficult issues for country houses to deal with around presentation (of stables) to the public." Janine's discovery and its potential for application to other buildings that confined animals has been described as "discipline changing" by Professor Kate Giles of the University of York.

In her role as the Historic Environment Officer for Buildings at Nottinghamshire County Council Janine plans to extend her research to include the historic stables of Nottinghamshire.

*"My research was based in the field of buildings archaeology, using archaeological methodologies to unpick the story of historic stables. Just like the laying down of archaeological layers, buildings undergo changes to their fabric, forming a vertical stratigraphy that can reveal secrets about the past.*

*My research uncovered a new source of evidence in the fabric of Birdsall stables. I discovered evidence of stereotypic behaviours in the form of historic scratch marks that had been grooved into the timber stall partitions by the teeth of confined horses.*

*This discovery along with evidence for the restraint of horses allowed for a new interpretation of country house stables, not only as architectural showpieces but as buildings of confinement and restraint, providing a more nuanced, less sanitised narrative of life on the historic county estate."*



shire

Janine with her horse, Gem.

Birdsall Stables, Birdsall Estate, North York-

*Janine Buckley* (Historic Environment Officer, Buildings, Nottinghamshire County Council)

Whatever your passion you can use it to discover more about historic buildings, and in turn more about our past. If you would like guidance on how to get started researching the historic buildings of Nottinghamshire that related to your pastime contact the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust [NBPT] at [info@nbpt.co.uk](mailto:info@nbpt.co.uk)



At the request of John Holland, NBPT member and one of the Trustees of the estate of the late Dorothy Harrison of Tuxford, a visit was arranged recently to view the museum with its collection of handcarts.

The Chair and Hon. Sec. were accompanied by members of the conservation team at Nottinghamshire County Council and Mike Tagg, conservation officer, from Bassetlaw District Council.

Tuxford is an important former coaching town in Nottinghamshire, probably more important in past times than to-day with its position at a crossing point of major routes both north-south (the old Great North Road) and east-west. It is well worth a visit to see its working windmill, church, lock-up (one of two in Nottinghamshire), Sally Mitchell's Museum of the Horse and other vernacular buildings.

The museum collection was put together by Dorothy over many years, but due to her ill-health it had not been open to the public for a few years. It consists of a magnificent group of handcarts, reportedly over 100 in total, together with many other of those interesting bits and pieces, unusual maybe but essential to rural communities. Housed largely in a purpose-built fitting modern building, designed by now-retired Sheffield architect Robin Ashley, the collection is currently being assessed and catalogued by the Trustees with professional help.

On the roadside and hidden away in a brick skin the house and former home for Dorothy is a timber-frame two-bay building with an additional bay Victorian extension.

The Trust has offered to assist in securing the future of the collection and this will initially involve a survey of the timber-framed building, hopefully with dendrochronology of the timbers to date its construction.

With the right help, which may rely heavily on volunteers, the future of this collection of handcarts, of regional if not national importance, can be secured. Any offers of help, no matter how small, will be welcomed by the Trustees.

If you can offer to assist please contact the NBPT in the first instance.

*Alan Wahlers* Hon. Sec. NBPT





George Martyn's Barn circa 1970 [photo: NBPT Archives]; August 2020 [photo:SMB]

George Martyn's Barn, Grade II listed and dated 1651 is owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council and is a significant feature on Main Street in the Keyworth Conservation Area. Keyworth Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG) is delighted to secure the tenancy and be able to make use of the building for the benefit of the local community. CAAG, working in collaboration with Keyworth and District Local History Society (KDLHS) will be using the building as a permanent base for the collection of village archive documents, photographs, maps and local artefacts. There will be permanent exhibition space for CAAG and KDLHS displays, including a rolling picture gallery, CAAG themed census data and local history information. The plan is to open the building to the community on a regular basis and to organise a variety of temporary exhibitions and events that will highlight the many aspects of our local cultural and social heritage. We understand that a lot of residents, who may have lived in Keyworth for many years, have never set foot in the building, so we hope to be redressing this balance in the near future. We have plenty of work to do in preparing the building for this, but, if you see the Barn open, please pop your head round the door and say hello. We will be pleased to see you.

*Linda Abbey, Chair, CAAG*

PS..Back in the 1970s the NBPT were instrumental in opposing a plan by the then owner to demolish the Barn...and thanks to our efforts the plan was then refused permission to demolish by the Secretary of State, after which the building was acquired by the Rushcliffe BC. The NBPT then assisted with the funding of works to repair the Barn.

A bequest or legacy in your Will is one way of leaving something for future generations which is the mission of the Building Preservation Trust which seeks to protect, preserve and enhance the built environment of Nottinghamshire. All gifts made to a charity in your Will are tax-free and deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. Therefore you could reduce or remove your estate's potential inheritance tax liability by including a gift to NBPT in your Will. If you would be prepared to consider leaving a legacy in your Will to the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, please complete the enclosed form and return it by post to : NBPT, Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell, Notts NG25 0HD

Thank you so much. Be assured that a legacy will help NBPT to preserve historic Nottinghamshire buildings.

If your contact details have changed, please complete your email address for more regular updates and information. Your contact details will be used for NBPT purposes only and not divulged to any other organisation without your express permission. A copy of our GDPR Policy is available on our Website and on request.