



# NBPT

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

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*AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC*

*Issue 9 August 2022 (amended Nov 2022)*

## Chairman's Message

Thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust which seeks to encourage sympathetic treatment of historic buildings of local significance in Nottinghamshire.

We attempt to do this by commenting on applications for Listed Building Consent to alter or repair them, we monitor lack of maintenance of prominent buildings and advise improvement and we advise members on suitable treatment to buildings and fixtures.

Later in this Newsletter we have details of our corporate member, Kierson, from Alison de Roeck, the managing director and in a future newsletter we will include details from Alison about the preservation and repair of timber windows.

Trust Officers and representatives of The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) will be judging the entries for the Harry Johnson Awards. The Biennial Awards are offered every 2 years (missed in 2020 due to Covid) for the best design or conservation of a building contributing to its setting. This year the judges look forward to visiting the eight imaginative entries, all in the Conservation/Extension category and awards will be made at the AGM in November.

Wishing you all 'Good Health' until we meet then.

**David Atkins, Chairman**

## Harry Johnson Award : 2022

The closing date for entries was 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 and the 8 entries have been well-received by the judging panel.

The Awards are sponsored jointly by the Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the judges will be looking forward to assessing the knowledge and skills in traditional building

practice on restoration work.

We have been notified recently of potential entrants who have missed the deadline and unfortunately these will now have to wait until the next Award Scheme in 2024.

## Harry Johnson Award Entries 2022

1 Far Barn, Priory Road, Thurgarton

Owners: Tom & Kate Cressey. Designer/Sponsor: Allan Joyce Architects Ltd.

2 The Meadow, Brinkley, Southwell.

Owners: Cynthia Napper Designer/Sponsor: Allan Joyce Architects Ltd.

3 Wellow Church Schoolroom, Newark Road, Wellow.

Owners : Trustees of St. Swithin's Church, Wellow Sponsor: Ms. J. Crofts

4 The Old School, School Lane, Norwell.

Owner: Graham & Lynne Johnson. Sponsor: Prof. Michael Jones

5 Auld Cottage, Main St., Norwell.

Owner: Lorna Morgan-Glanfield & Peter Morgan

Designer: Britt Harwood (Inc. Architecture Ltd) Sponsor: Dr. Elizabeth Jones

6 Granville House, Bingham Rd. Radcliffe-on-Trent

Owner: Martin Davis & Irene Dovey. Designer: PRG Architects

Sponsor: County Councillor Roger Upton

7 The Chapel, Chapel Lane, Scrooby.

Owner: James & Charlotte Arrowsmith,

Designer: Pearce Bottomley Architects. Sponsor: Ed & Izzi Marshall

8 The Old Nag's Head, Great North Road, Sutton-on-Trent.

Owner: Walton Incorporated Ltd. Designer/Sponsor: Guy Taylor Associates

## Digital Hero

A successful grant application to the Heritage Trust Network has enabled the Trust to engage the input of a Digital Hero, who within the age group of 18 – 30 will bring a much-needed younger input to our work and representation.

We have recently met by Zoom with Sammy Oates-Miller, who is quickly getting to grips with the pros and cons of our existing website and social media presence. We should shortly see improvements in the website and an easier and simpler way of joining the NBPT, volunteering and contributing towards securing the work of the NBPT and the future of the very many vernacular buildings of Nottinghamshire.

## Gordon Boylin – a tribute



### **GORDON BOYLIN JP (11.01.1928 - 31.03.2022)**

Gordon was one of the founders in the formation of the NBPT in 1967. He was listed in the First Annual Report of 1967/68 as Secretary/Treasurer. Along with the first Chairman, Cllr. A.E. Lester, he presented the First Annual Report when the NBPT was registered as a Charity with The Charity Commission. They both continued in their respective roles to write these Annual Reports until Gordon resigned in December 1973 to take up a post with one of the predecessors of Broxtowe District Council, where he became Director of Leisure Services and where he worked until his retirement in 1989. Broxtowe District was formed in 1974 by the merger of Beeston and Stapleford UDC, Eastwood UDC and part of Basford RDC. It became a borough in 1977.

Cllr. A.E. Lester remained as Chairman of the NBPT until he resigned in 1976, to be succeeded by Imogen Skirving of Langar Hall fame.

John Hammond took on the role of Secretary/Treasurer from Gordon. It was recorded that year that Gordon “had been closely involved with the activities of the NBPT since its inception and served with considerable dedication and enthusiasm”.

Gordon carried on firstly as a co-opted member of the Finance and Grants Sub-Committee and then a member of the Management Committee until 1981 when his name no longer appears in the Annual Reports. He remained a member and supporter of the NBPT until his death earlier this year, some 55 years of dedicated service and support.

Born in Bournville, Birmingham, Gordon moved to Notts in 1958 and worked with many community and environmental groups including Parish Councils, the Rural Community Council, the Rural Industries Committee, the Local History Council and the CPRE. As well as the NBPT he helped to found the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Attenborough Nature Reserve.

His sons regarded him as a man ahead of his time, with a great interest in nature, society, the environment and conservation. His work led him to meet two rather more high profile men of a similar vintage and similar interests, Sir David Attenborough and the Duke of Edinburgh.

With his wife Stella (who taught French at West Bridgford School for many years) he lived in Ruddington from 1958 until his death in March 2022 and continued to take an active interest in society, forming the first Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the village and being an active member of St. Peter's Church.

The NBPT celebrated 50 years since formation in June 2017 with a Luncheon and although Gordon was invited, he wrote back sadly to decline the invitation as he was caring for his wife, who passed away shortly after in October that year at the age of 86.

Gordon is survived by three sons and five grandchildren.

Alan Wahlers/Tim Boylin

The photograph shows Gordon wearing his medal as Probus Chairman.

## Lessons Learned.....

When in early 2020 I exchanged Nottinghamshire's flatlands and the coast around Skegness for Scotland's Southern Uplands, the Galloway Forest Park and the glorious Solway Firth, I did not expect to be reversing the process in less than 2 years and to become once again a denizen of NG24. However, circumstances change and with them the plan so I now find myself back in Newark, remodelling a 1924 Vickers semi into a 21st century (almost) passive house complete with a Garden Studio!

Whilst loitering up North, I did take the opportunity to get involved with a Building Preservation Trust and so was able to see how another group of like-minded folk operates. Unlike us, this Trust are proud owners of exceptional - if derelict - Mill buildings and extensive surrounding land. Indeed, it was their ownership of this property and the development potential it offered that particularly spurred me to stick my nose into their business.

Sadly - and despite good and honourable intentions - it has not to date proved possible to win over friends, secure funding and so move the project forward.

Nevertheless, efforts continue to turn this around and valuable lessons have been learned for the future.

These include:-

- Strong early community involvement must now be built upon.
- From various options proposed in the viability appraisal, a single preferred option should be adopted, if only provisionally, to facilitate and inform discussions with eventual partners,
- Key local players such as the Council, Enterprise Partnership and Politicians must be assiduously cultivated.
- Other local Trusts and Charities should be regarded as partners in order to avoid overlap and competitive bidding.
- Communication with the outside world is vital.

It's fair to say that COVID stalled the original momentum and that ZOOM calls were no substitute for building productive new relationships but this was true for all like-minded organisations. In essence, we spent too much time talking to and agreeing amongst ourselves rather than reaching out and winning over new faces. The risk to that Trust now is that the capacity and resources needed to repair and remodel the property do not materialise and so the building moves from being an asset to becoming a liability.

Interestingly, the purchase of a much more modest premises nearby is proving much easier to reshape to a manageable and viable purpose.

Peter Duncan

## Tuxford Visit for Members and Friends

And why not? This was the heading in the last Newsletter. Well.....the visit to Tuxford in May was well-attended and enjoyed by over 20 members and guests. A mid-morning start to the specially-opened (thanks to the Town Council for arranging this) listed Tuxford Lock-up, one of only two in Nottinghamshire and which seemed surprisingly cosy was followed by a visit to the Museum of the Horse with explanations of the superb displays offered by the owner, Sally Mitchell. Lunch was enjoyed by many in the Chilli Petals coffee shop and a short walk down the main street to the Grade II\* Charles Read Grammar School enabled all to view the building and the original school rules, splendidly illustrated as a reminder to pupils of what was expected of scholars in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building closed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century as a school and various uses including the local library, doctors surgery, offices and town council rooms have followed. More recently it has suffered from lack of maintenance and care and most is currently empty. A quick trip across the road avoiding a heavy squall to the Parish Church where we were greeted by Greg Price, the local vicar, who enthusiastically showed us around this splendid church and explained the plans for community use and refurbishment of the old grammar school. A visit down the road passing under the bridge carrying the intrusive A1 above brought us to our last stop at the Walks of Life Museum where Diane Hunt welcomed the group with afternoon teas and all were able to view this fascinating collection of handcarts and other rural artefacts. These had been gathered together (and often repaired) by the late Dorothy Harrison.

We didn't manage Tuxford Windmill on this occasion but perhaps another visit is necessary? There is much to see in Tuxford and it is well-worth the visit. There are 27 listed buildings and a Tuxford Walk leaflet can be downloaded at <http://www.tuxfordonline.co.uk/about/heritage>

Alan Wahlers

## Nottingham Archives Visit - Reminder

An opportunity for NBPT members and guests to visit the Nottingham Archives has been arranged for **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. The visit begins at 10.00am and will last about 1.5hrs. A talk introducing the archives service and its collections will be followed by a tour of the building and collections, led by an archivist. Places are restricted to a max of 15 for this visit and will be confirmed on a first come basis. The cost is £5 for members and £10 for guests.

To book your places please confirm names of all visitors by email to [info@nbpt.co.uk](mailto:info@nbpt.co.uk). Confirmation of your booking with further details and method for payment will be sent by return.

## Miner2Major Project – latest news

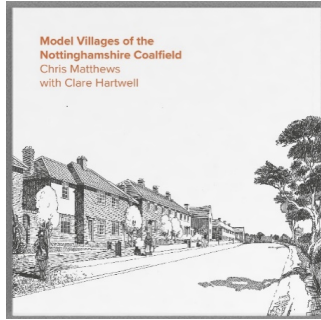
**The 'Horses of Sherwood Forest' course** was well attended. Held online, it attracted conservation architects, heritage professionals and members of the public alike. The focus was the equestrian built-heritage of the Sherwood Forest area; with local case-studies including Robin Hood's Stable, Rufford Abbey country house stables, farm stables in Bilsthorpe and commercial stables at Papplewick Pumping Station.

Participants were introduced to analysis and interpretation of historic buildings as well as learning how this information is collated onto the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record and how it is used to better protect our heritage buildings.

Course participants were invited to attend one of two in-person workshops at Rufford Abbey where they analysed the construction phases of the building and identified how it had been altered. They interpreted their findings to make suggestions about how the building developed and why, as well as how it was used. The workshops included a walk through the park, walking the route of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century 'broad ride' which took in the stables at Rufford Mill and the grave of Henry Saville's racehorse 'Cremone'.



The course will be running again in the autumn, so there is still chance for you to attend.



## Coalfield Village Book Publication

The project has produced a book about the Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire coalfield. This well-researched book is beautifully illustrated and is accompanied by nine guides. Hard copies of the book and guides are available free of charge from local outlets (currently available from Mansfield Library, Farnsfield Library, Bilsthorpe Coalmining Museum and Five Leaves Bookshop in Nottingham). The book has been distributed at numerous local events and positive feedback has been overwhelming and the county's conservation officers have welcomed the research.

The book is also available to view as a digital flipbook at:

[Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfields \(fliphtml5.com\)](http://ModelVillagesoftheNottinghamshireCoalfields(fliphtml5.com))

Books are also available as loan copies from all the county and city libraries.

## Heritage Building Skills

The project is also promoting heritage conservation methods and building skills: April / May saw another online course delivered for owners and managers of historic buildings, equipping them to care for their historic buildings.

If you would like to get involved with the Miner2Major Historic Buildings Project please contact [janine.buckley@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:janine.buckley@nottscc.gov.uk).

## About our Corporate Member - Kierson

Alison de Roeck, the managing director, reports that Kierson has over 40 years experience and is the market leader for the complete refurbishment, draught-proofing, repair and servicing for all timber windows. They also manufacture bespoke timber windows, faithfully replicating original windows to replace those lost or produce additional windows for extensions or new builds.

Kierson work nationwide but are a family-owned and run business operating from Retford with windows produced in British-based workshops. Clients include principal contractors, surveyors, architects, local authorities, housing associations, schools, theatres, private estates and private owners.

The Kierson approach to projects is from a conservation standpoint, saving as much historic fabric as possible, but sometimes advice is provided when something has gone past its economic break point.

Alison reports a current portfolio of 27 live projects with values up to £1.3m. As corporate members of SPAB, HHA, National Trust and Civic Voice Kierson lend their support to their projects and the current work includes restoring the windows at the SPAB headquarters in Spitalfields. As a CSCS Gold Card Heritage Joiner, Chairman of the Woodworking Industries Training Board and a CITB Ambassador, Alison says that Kierson do not advertise, but the business is built on reputation and personal recommendation, which has been achieved through dedication and care.

Alan Wahlers

# Archives – Can You Help Again?

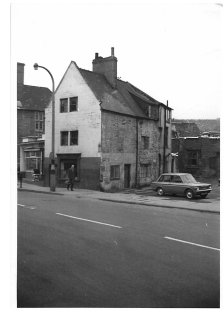
Following a successful plea for help in the last edition of the Newsletter we can thank Jane Crofts and Peter Rogan for two of the answers which were:

illustration 1 no answers



illustration 3 St. Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby,  
grade II, 15<sup>th</sup> century.

illustration 2 5 Bridge Street, Mansfield,  
grade II, 17<sup>th</sup> century.



As a result illustration 1 is included again, with further help needed in identifying the following photographs from our archives. If you can place any of these please let us know at [info@nbpt.co.uk](mailto:info@nbpt.co.uk). Illustration 3 should be easy?

*Illustration 1:*



*Illustration 2:*



*Illustration 3:*

