



Chairman's Welcome



This 11th edition of the Trust's Newsletter comes to you as we step up our efforts to find volunteers to get involved with the Trust. I feel that with an extra push we could really move forward, enabling us to help fund more repairs to more churches in the County, and to raise the Trust's profile generally. If you would like to help arrange a concert, or some event in aid of the Trust, we would be delighted to hear from you. Our social media presence is rising, with the help of volunteer Andy Platt; we are working at taking advantage of schemes in association with National Churches Trust; we have consulted with a group from Nottingham Trent University on marketing the Ride+Stride event; the Friends are growing in number and the popularity of the church visits continues to rise. The Summer Party at Thrumpton Hall in June was a most enjoyable evening, despite the rainy weather. Do get in touch if you have any ideas for an event, big or small, that we could use to promote the work and profile of the Trust.

The Grants Committee has been able to allocate funds from Allchurches Trust to help churches to install roof alarms, in an effort to stem the devastating plague of lead thefts. Roof alarms do help, although they usually seem to be installed after the lead has been removed! We would urge churches to pre-empt this devastation where possible. While we are not the only area to suffer from this wave of crime, Nottinghamshire is particularly vulnerable, in part due to its great transport routes.

I would like to thank all the Trustees for their support, and for their work on behalf of the Trust. We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Jane, the wife of Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes, one of the founding trustees. She has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the aims of the Trust, and we will all miss her practical help and her ability to turn her hand to anything that has been needed, from welcoming hostess to putting up marquees, producing refreshments, and practical help and encouragement as required. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband Richard and their family.

Richard Brackenbury - NHCT Chairman

NHCT Summer Party Thrumpton Hall - 13th June 2019

On a rather stormy evening in June Friends and supporters of the Trust gathered in the magical venue of Thrumpton Hall. The history of the Hall reaches back to the 16th century and there is a wonderful Jacobean staircase off the main entrance hall. In the 1820s, the house and lands underwent a significant transformation. Mr John Emerton, said to be the most handsome man in Nottinghamshire, spent what was then the enormous sum of seventy thousand pounds on improvements: these included creating a beautiful lake that lies in front of the house. It was the Hall's later resident, Lord Byron, who was the main focus of the evening.

After a magnificent buffet supper, the guests walked across the beautiful garden to the Lakeside Pavilion where they were treated to a most entertaining and interesting talk about Lord Byron and his connection to Thrumpton Hall by the present owner, Miranda Seymour. It was also fascinating to hear how the Hall became a welcoming home to the poet Byron's daughter, the renowned mathematician, Ada Lovelace, on her visits to Nottinghamshire. Despite the rather challenging weather the evening was greatly enjoyed by all.



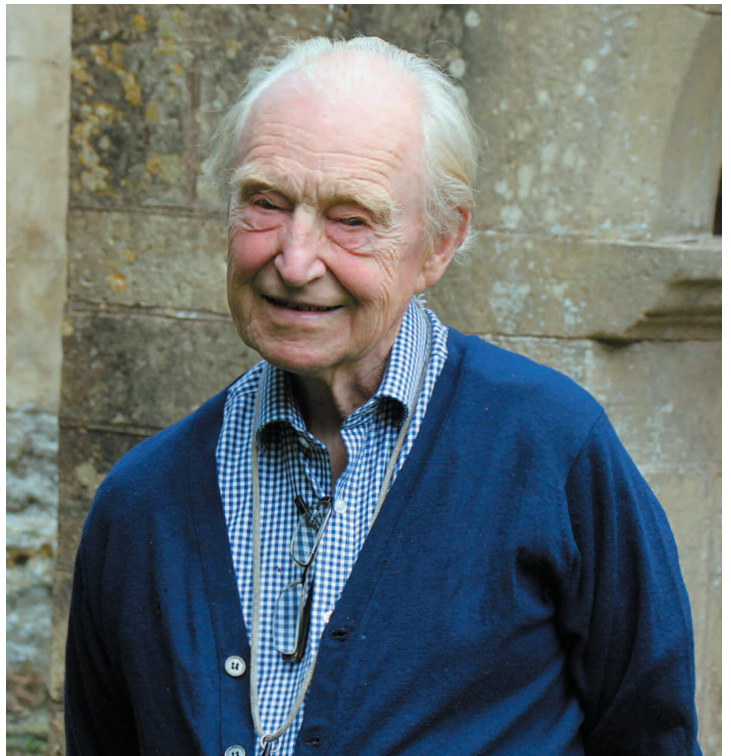
A magnificent view of Thrumpton Hall

Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes

NHCT Trustee Profile

Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes, one of the four founder trustees of Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, says he has always been interested in historic buildings, among other things like food and silver, and in 1986, while sitting round the kitchen table at Langar Hall with Imogen Skirving, Graham Beaumont, John Severn and Chris Brooke, the idea took shape for a charitable trust which would support church communities to maintain and repair their historic buildings. Congregations were dwindling and funding such work often seemed impossible. By the end of that year they had formed a small team, and Peter Mellors had kindly drawn up a suitable Trust Deed pro bono; they launched the project on New Year's Eve.

The idea had been sparked by a conversation between Chris Brooke and the architect John Severn who got in touch with Richard to help. Richard's friendship with Henry Thorold in Lincolnshire, who was then the leading light in the Lincolnshire Historic Churches Trust, gave Richard the blueprint for the Nottinghamshire Trust. Friends and professionals were invited to be trustees, and the first grant was made in 1987 to Holy Rood at Ossington.



NHCT Trustee - Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes

During these formative years the trustees aimed to rescue the forlorn, redundant church at Cotham. John Severn drew some lovely sketches of the church which then became the logo for the Trust. Eventually the church was vested in the Churches Conservation Trust.



Church of St John of Jerusalem, Winkburn

Richard was the first chairman of the Trust, and since then he has done at least one other stint in the roll; he has been president (at least once) and always there as an inspiration and guiding light. He has seen the flicker of a flame of an idea grow into a very successful charitable trust doing much to help repair and maintain the county's ecclesiastical heritage. His wide circle of family, friends and acquaintances have encouraged and supported him and the Trust over the years, and none more so than his wonderful wife, Jane, who so sadly and suddenly passed away earlier this year.

Richard and Jane took on the almost derelict Winkburn Hall in the early 1970s, including the church, tucked in against the side of the house and full of unique features. Perhaps this added fuel to Richard's desire to help other parish churches keep in good repair, because one of the first things he had had to do was to get the jackdaws out of their home in the church tower and repair the lead on the roof! Over the years he and Jane restored the house, whilst running their food business from an office on the estate, and raising their three children. The Trustees have been lucky enough to be invited to hold their meetings at Winkburn, where everyone wants to sit on the side of the massive dining room table that allows them to look out over the rural idyll of parkland and ancient woods!

There are many church communities throughout Nottinghamshire that can thank Richard for helping them "keep the roof on" their church. Long may Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust continue to have the benefit of his wise counsel, as well as his generous hospitality.

All Saints' Church, Mattersey Church Panels and St Martin's Horse

The parish church at Mattersey has two very splendid medieval carved panels dating from the early 14th century, displayed on the walls of the chancel. They most probably came from the destroyed Gilbertine priory that was once in the village, and are very fine carvings, although damaged. One shows the figure of St Helena proving the True Cross, with a person in bed being healed by its presence and a third figure providing a witness to the miracle. The second one shows St Martin cutting his cloak with his sword to share it with a beggar, which is the most famous story about the saint (*illustrated right*).

It is the horse in this scene that attracts our attention because it shows us a real horse from the middle ages, a type that would have been familiar to the people in the village and in the monastery and clearly not a grandly attired horse which a knight would have ridden. It has a dropped bridle and a harness made up of a simple set of straps that pass across the horse's chest, as a breast collar with a modest ornament, and further straps extend behind the saddle to pass along its back and loop around the base of its tail.



Mattersey medieval carved panel



The Three Magi, their horses have smart, red, studded horseshoes

BL Luttrell Psalter, 187v, c.1325-40, © British Library

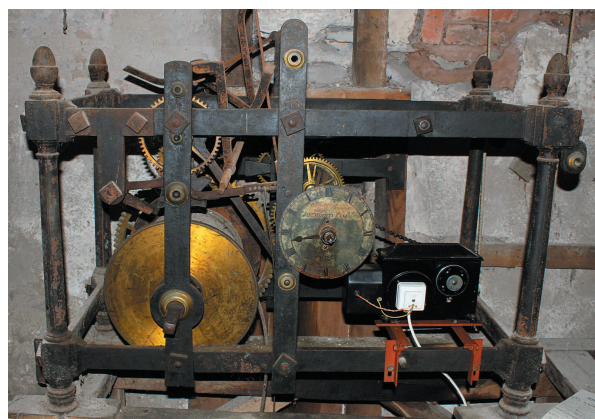
The strangest feature is the horseshoe that you can see on its nearside rear hoof, which has studs like a football boot. This would be a really practical type of horseshoe used for working horses in muddy conditions such as might be common in the claylands of the upper Trent valley. They can be seen on medieval manuscripts where the horses have exactly this sort of horseshoe, but how common was it? Historians who study the medieval use of horses point out that shoeing horses goes back a long way and that it had become common practice in the middle ages to fit metal shoes as a way of protecting the horses' hoofs from wear. The horses on the Bayeux Tapestry all appear to be shod, although with flat horseshoes. Current opinion is that the studded type was actually an early design and that the protruding studs compensated for any tendency for a flat metal shoe to slide, and that they were more like hob-nails for workers' boots and designed to prolong the life of the horseshoe. So horseshoes with studs were normal wear for horses, whether riding horses, war horses, or those working on farms. Amazingly, studded horseshoes are still around today, but mostly used in competitions and show-jumping rather than as everyday wear for horses.

Dr Jenny Alexander - NHCT Trustee

Church Clocks

Clocks were made by the Greeks from the time of Archimedes although the oldest evidence for English mechanical church clocks, or horologium, appears to date from the Dunstable Priory Annals for the year 1283, although one is also recorded at Exeter Cathedral in the following year. The earliest extant working clock in England is at Salisbury Cathedral, dating from about 1386; Wells Cathedral comes very close with a mechanism of 1386-92, but which was replaced in the 19th century.

Nottinghamshire has a wonderful variety of church turret clocks, many by local makers. The earliest is at East Leake, now removed from the tower and displayed in the nave, which dates from the early years of the 17th century and is a simple capstan winding, lantern pinion mechanism of two compartments.



Clayworth Barwise clock 1825

Later in the same century and into the early 18th century, a clockmaker at Epperstone called Richard Roe produced a number of church clocks of which seven or possibly eight are known, though some have been lost such as the clock of 1700 at Linby, replaced in 1947 and only leaving Roe's makers inscription on a panel. The dial on the west face of the tower at Owthorpe is still the single-hand type, and although the clock mechanism is later, the dial may be a survival from Richard Roe's original.

Later makers include Bosworth of Nottingham and a fine example of Reuben Bosworth's work from the early 19th century is still in operation at Clifton St Mary. Two brothers, George and Francis Cope, took over from Reuben Bosworth in 1845, making many church turret clocks, and remained in production until 1984 when they merged with Smith and Sons of Derby. The first of the all-electric Cope clocks ever made, dating from 1932, is still in use at Nottingham St Mary.

There are some unusual 19th century clocks such as the 1825 mechanism and cast iron frame at Clayworth, unique for this county, by John Barwise and Sons who were well known London clock and watchmakers between 1790 and 1875. The initials on this clock identify the sons of John Barwise senior, John and Weston who, around 1820, succeeded in obtaining the royal warrant as watchmaker to King George IV.

The Trust actively supports the repair of historic turret clocks and over the years has made many grants to ensure they continue working. Recent grants include work to the 1887 clock by Britton of Nottingham at East Bridgford, the 1920 mechanism at Underwood by Smiths of Derby - a memorial to the Fallen of WWI, the 1897 Smith's clock at Normanton-on-Trent, and the most recent grant that NHCT has awarded this year is to Wellow St Swithins for the restoration of the clock dial.

Dr Chris Brooke - NHCT Trustee



Staunton: Richard Roe clock 1707

Ride+Stride for Everybody!



The annual Ride+Stride event is a major fundraiser for NHCT. Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which you can walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the Nottinghamshire countryside, towns and villages. Plenty of local churches open their doors for visitors throughout the day, some with refreshments available for weary riders+striders! The money they raise goes towards helping the Trust support historic churches, chapels and meeting houses by making grants towards their repair and maintenance.

Anyone can take part - even bishops! The Bishop of Southwell, the Right Reverend Paul Williams is pictured (second left) on his bike ready for the off. Ride+Stride takes place on the second Saturday

of September - that's September 12th in 2020. Save the date for a great day out and a very worthy cause!

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