

# THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO

England & Wales · Charity number 1172647

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-04-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

---

**Address** 49 Lower Kirklington Road  
Southwell  
Nottinghamshire  
NG25 0DN

**Phone** 07748 154144

**Email** [ADMIN@SOUTHWELLCIVICSOCIETY.COM](mailto:ADMIN@SOUTHWELLCIVICSOCIETY.COM)

**Website** [www.southwellcivicsociety.com](http://www.southwellcivicsociety.com)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** (1) TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(2) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(3) TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(4) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY, NATURAL HISTORY, HISTORY, CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

**Activities:** Southwell Civic Society was formed in the 1971 to resist growing pressure to radically alter the town. The Society is now an independent, non-political, voluntary charitable incorporated organisation which works to protect the local environment. Membership is open to all.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Nottinghamshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£2,193	£1,295	-	-
2024-07-31	£1,827	£1,830	-	-
2023-07-31	£2,238	£2,121	-	-
2022-07-31	£1,438	£2,174	-	-
2021-07-31	£2,214	£1,883	-	-
2020-07-31	£1,727	£4,937	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brendan Michael Haigh		2018-10-18
Dr Giles Michael Cox MBBS FRCP		2025-01-21
Helen Julie Gray LLB, CPFA		2025-11-11
Jane Holt BA, RIBA		2019-10-10
John Patrick Loughton JP, BA		2022-10-27
Michael Donald Struggles		2017-10-19
Mrs J C Richardson MBE DL JP		2018-10-18
PETER WILLIAM KENT		2017-10-19
Peter Scorer		2025-01-21
Professor Stephen John Bamforth BA, Phd		2022-10-27
Rosemary Thompson BSc, IHBC		2025-01-21
Roy Lewis		2025-11-11

**THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172647

---

# Accounts

---



Chairman: John Loughton 20 Woodland View Southwell Nottinghamshire NG25 0AG

## Report from the Trustees 2025

It gives me great pleasure to present this annual report as I reach the end of my second year as Chairman of Trustees. I trust this brief synopsis of the last twelve months will give a flavour of the positive time we have spent, the fun we have had and the contribution we have made to support our unique town and the surrounding countryside.

### Membership

Membership of the Society currently stands at 123 and I am delighted to confirm that following the challenge I set in last year's Annual Report with respect to increasing membership numbers we have welcomed 13 new members.

However, it is with sadness I confirm that two members have passed away during the year who have each given over fifty years of support to the Society. Peter Benson, former Principal of Brackenhurst Agricultural College, made a significant contribution to us especially in the area of social events and fellowship. Norma Blamey, both a Town and District Councillor, gave a great deal of support over several decades until health problems forced her to leave the area to be closer to her family. We send our condolences to the respective families and hold them in our thoughts.

Whilst our numbers can be described as "healthy" there is no way we can allow complacency to occur. Again, I invite all members to nominate new people to join us on a one for one matched basis as a personal commitment and self-challenge. The subscription, at £10 per year, is extremely reasonable (and due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, irrespective of joining date) and the benefits are boundless.

### The Trustees

As Chairman I continue to be impressed by the commitment and time given by my fellow trustees to the benefit of the Society and I commend each one of them to the membership for the selfless contributions made, often unseen, but always effective.

We welcomed three new trustees to the Board this year. Giles Cox, Peter Scorer and Rose Thompson have all made significant inputs especially in the areas of social events, the Society's photographic archive and the Planning Committee.

This year I acknowledge and place on record our grateful thanks specifically to two trustees. Over many years Peter Kent has served as Treasurer and Mike Struggles has been Planning Committee Chair but they have now both decided to step down from these positions. We are indebted to Peter and Mike for the enormous service they have given through leadership in these specific roles and I am delighted to confirm they will both remain on the Board of Trustees. I am also happy to report that we are able to replace these two stalwarts with people of the highest calibre, but more of that anon.

## **Planning**

Planning issues are dealt with by an appointed Committee which meets regularly. A great amount of time, and no little expertise, is given to ensuring appropriate responses are made to the consultation processes and I place on record my grateful thanks to Mike Struggles and his team for the exceptional work they undertake. I also commend two co-opted members of our Planning Committee, namely John Martindale and Margaret McCaskill, who bring additional knowledge and experience to this specific group of trustees.

We have yet to experience the full impact of the government's intentions to streamline the house building planning processes, but it is fair to say we are watching this space with interest. The spectre of reorganising local government along unitary lines will also bring potential challenges and we must play our part in ensuring that the importance of a local context is both understood and respected by decision makers coming from a larger geographical area than is currently the case.

As we said last year Societies such as ours need to embrace the good points of change but challenge the less than well thought out procedures that might lead to irretrievable environmental damage in the longer term.

Such is the importance and specialist nature of this work, the Planning Committee has prepared a separate dedicated report to provide further information for the membership.

## **Archive, Storage & Display**

Our materials are now firmly ensconced in a cell within the former police station on the Burgage and we continue to acknowledge the help and support given to us by officials and members of the Town Council in using this secure store.

However, given our role as custodians of some particularly generous legacy donations made over time to the Society, the issue of wider general access to enable these artefacts to be shared and viewed is now acute. This has been one of our major items for consideration this year but no obvious solution has yet been forthcoming to find a venue that would allow good accessibility and safe display within the town.

Suggestions (or even offers of a venue?) from our membership would be welcomed! Please put on your thinking caps – we really do need to sort out this issue not only to acknowledge and show gratitude and respect to our generous donors but also to share some awe and wonder with our local community.

## **Social Events**

Four interesting Talks were arranged this year together with a local site visit of significant importance and a wonderful Gathering in the Garden. My thanks go to Jan Richardson and her team for providing such excellent fare. The unseen work put in by so many people behind the scenes must be seen to be believed and we are all beneficiaries as a result.

After the AGM in October 2024 there was a special presentation by David Turnock and Ian Green, Chairs of Peterborough and Oxford Civic Societies respectively, on 'Balancing Heritage and Growth'. They introduced us to a report recently produced by the Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns and other partners funded by Historic England on the planning issues and challenges confronting heritage communities such as ours here in Southwell. Grateful thanks were given to David and Ian, not only for the excellent talk but also for undertaking the significant journey they had made to attend the meeting.

In January 2025 Peter Scorer gave a most informative talk on the Society's Photographic Archive.

Peter has spent an enormous amount of time cataloging the archive to ensure that it is in a logical and easily accessible format. As a matter of interest he also produced excellent photographic displays for specific events and we are indeed most fortunate to have a person of such creativity in our midst. It is fair to say Peter's presentation reinforced the need for us to find a more permanent home for our archive to allow increased display possibilities for the ultimate benefit of both Society members and a wider audience.

In June 2025, at the kind invitation of Vanessa and Ian Johnston, we had a Gathering in the Garden at their hugely impressive grounds of Park Farm situated on Crink Lane. It was a marvellous afternoon with excellent weather, a superb photographic display from our archive, wonderfully tempting strawberries, cake and cream and a garden to stroll around that must rank amongst the best in the Midlands and well beyond. Vanessa and Ian were incredibly helpful and generous in supporting the organisation of the event and everyone who attended had an afternoon to remember.

Later in June the Society hosted an evening exploring Vernacular Buildings based around the Saracens Head and Kings Street. Members of the Newark Civic Trust were in attendance and well represented and it was also pleasing to host members of the Southwell Community Archaeological Group. Splendid presentations, tours and talks were given by a selection of specialists from a team of Jane Holt, Andy Weaver, Dave Johnson, John Laycock and Chris King. The evening will live long in the memory and as a matter of interest under the guidance of Stephen Bamforth (our trustee link with Newark Civic Trust) it is hoped to arrange a reciprocal visit to Newark next year.

In July 2025 Kevin Hender, a former Minster Head Steward, gave a most enlightening talk on Woodwork in the Minster. All sorts of surprises were shared concerning the various places containing wood within the Minster from the mischief of mice created by Robert "Mousey" Thompson to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Misericords situated in the Quire. Kevin had obviously put a great deal of work into the preparation of his well-illustrated talk and the result was an evening of discovery that simply flew by.

Our series of talks ended in September when Derek Jackson gave a fascinating presentation on Southwell as an original Fair-Trade Town becoming Southwell a Fair-Trade Community. Again, a great deal of preparation had taken place and Derek, who serves on the National Fair-trade Council, had also involved the Southwell Co-op who provided and sponsored several fair-trade goods for display. Jamie Bostock, a member of the Town Council, explained how STC aims to support fair-trade in the town and everyone present was invited to an "Afternoon Tea for Fairness and Faith" event supported by the Fair-trade Foundation "Brew it Fair" campaign. The evening provided a sound base for further thought and action and those fortunate enough to be present were indebted to Derek for the immense amount of information he so skilfully shared.

## **In Conclusion**

My thanks go to everyone involved in the delivery of our Society's aims and to all members who have supported our events in any way over the last year. We still need to encourage more people who care about our lovely town and glorious locality to join SCS and do not forget the issue of archive storage and presentation needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Can you help? Please consider any contribution you could make and do not hesitate to share your ideas and views in terms of future presentations, visits or planning issues that would contribute to our fellowship and civic effectiveness within our local community.

Thank you for your encouragement, support and friendship over the year. I commend this Report to you.

**John Loughton**  
**Chairman of Trustees**



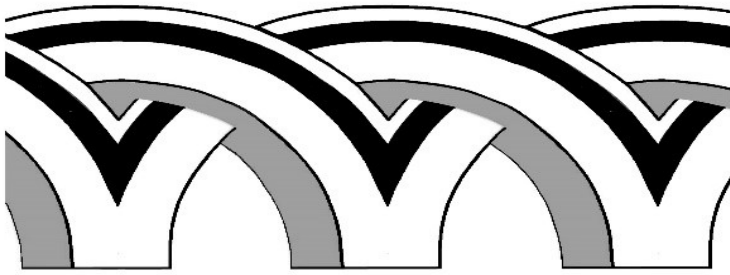
**THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172647

---

# Accounts

---



# SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY

Chairman: John Loughton

## Report from the Trustees 2024

It was an enormous honour for me to be appointed as Chairman of the Southwell Civic Society Trustees after last year's Annual General Meeting and it now gives me great pleasure in presenting this year's annual report.

### Membership

Membership of the Society currently stands at xxx 130 and quite simply there needs to be a concerted effort to increase our membership in the near future if we, as a group, are going to develop and flourish.

To put our membership total into some sort of context, the well-respected Cheltenham Civic Society serving a population in the region of 120,000 numbers has in the region of 400 members, so recruitment could well be a national issue. However, if we really care about our all but unique town and its surrounding area, we must ensure that we increase our numbers to share the load.

This is especially necessary given the widely published intention of the new government to streamline the house building process (whatever that might mean in reality). Societies such as ours need to embrace the good points of change but challenge the less than well thought out procedures that might lead to irretrievable environmental damage in the longer term.

I invite all members to invite and nominate new people to join us on a one for one matched basis as a personal commitment and self-challenge. The subscription, at £10 per year, is extremely reasonable (and due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year by the way, irrespective of joining date) and the benefits are boundless.

### The Trustees

In my first year as Chairman I have been incredibly impressed by the commitment and time given by my fellow trustees to the benefit of the Society and I commend each and every one of them to the membership for the selfless contributions being made, often unseen, but always effective.

Just to remind members of the process in appointing trustees, the maximum number allowed is fifteen. At the Annual General Meeting members can appoint duly nominated trustees for a three-year term of office, after which time reappointment can take place for another three-year term as decided by the membership. Due to sensible management in the past, this leads to a rolling scheme of appointment and resignation which enables regular change to take place in a context of experience and knowledge.

Jonathan Butler, Glenys Herbert and Margaret McCaskill have all served as hard working and effective trustees but, on coming to the end of their three-year period, have decided to finish in their

role. I thank them all for the significant contributions they have made to the Society over the years and trust they will continue to share their highly respected expertise with us over the years to come.

This year, Jan Richardson is due for re-election. I am delighted that Jan has agreed to stand again. Her re-appointment has been proposed and seconded and it only remains for this meeting to formally accept her as a trustee for a further three-year term.

### **Planning Issues**

These matters are dealt with by an appointed sub-committee who which meets regularly. A great amount of time, and no little expertise, is given to ensuring appropriate responses are made to the democratic consultation processes when necessary and I place on record my grateful thanks to Mike Struggles and his team for the exceptional work they undertake.

Such is the high status and specialist nature of this work, a separate dedicated report is prepared by the Planning Committee for further information of the membership.

### **Archive, Storage & Display**

It is pleasing to confirm that with the help and support of the Town Council, the Society archive collection has now been returned to the former Police Station on The Burgage. The material has been relocated into the cells which, reflecting on the earlier use of this building, gives a certain amount of confidence in terms of our storage security. However, given our role as custodians of some particularly generous legacy donations made to the Society, the next issue becomes one of access to enable these artefacts to be shared and viewed within our local community.

This will be one of our major items for consideration next year and any ideas with respect to a venue which would allow accessibility and safe display within the town would be welcomed.

### **Social Events**

Two interesting Talks were arranged this year together with two most enjoyable visits.

After the AGM in October 2023 Jane Holt, one of our trustees and a Conservation Architect by profession, described the work being carried out on the Saracen's Head North Range. Jane showed a range of interesting photographs and the lively discussion afterwards was testament to both an excellent presentation and also the significant place in which the hotel is held in the eyes of local people.

In May 2024 we had a Presentation from Chris Matthews – local historian, designer and Conservation Officer for Nottingham City Council – entitled “After Elain Harwood & Twentieth Century Nottingham”. Elain Harwood's Pevsner City Guide changed the way we look at Nottingham. Like Elain, the book was full of colour, modern, informed, concise, helpful and accessible. It provided a fresh opportunity to reassess the challenges and strengths of the city and made its twentieth century history more coherent. Given our current challenges, this approach to the modern city would appear to be more important than ever. The illustrated talk by Chris Matthews was relevant and interesting over a whole range of issues and seamlessly linked historical facts to modern day thinking.

In June 2024 there was a “Walk in the Palace Gardens” where Claire Connely, the immensely talented and popular Head Gardener of the Minster, gave wonderful insight and detailed information on this relatively new project based around the Archbishop's Palace. The walk was preceded by drinks and nibbles, the weather was good and the evening will live long in the memory.

The final visit, in July 2024, was to the Tuxford Museum of the Horse and the Tuxford Lock-Up. A detailed and most interesting tour of the museum, hosted by the incredibly knowledgeable owner, was followed by a trip to the local jail built in the reign of George IV. Thanks are due to Jane Holt who arranged the visit to such a delightful, yet hardly known, gem so close to our own town.

## **The Future**

Notwithstanding the need for careful monitoring of new planning applications which will occur under the government's new national planning guidance there are a few areas that require our Society to make investment. Currently we are looking at the possibility of linking up in an informal way with other local groups to share expertise and increase participation in targeted projects but essentially, I suggest we need to consider next year as being a SCS Southwell Civic Society DIM challenge year.

- 1 Display – we need ideas to enable our Society to promote and share the wonderful artifacts that have been gifted to us.
- 2 Ideas – we need to know what members would like by way of talks, presentations and visits to enable planning to be more effective and meetings to be better supported.
- 3 Membership – we need more members so please take up the challenge of every existing member recruiting a new member.

Thank you for showing the necessary stamina to reach the conclusion of this Report.

**John Loughton**

**Chairman**



**THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172647

---

# Accounts

---

## TRUSTEES REPORT 2022/2023

The main planning event of the year was the decision in March 2023 to refuse permission for a Sainsbury's Supermarket on Nottingham Road at the most important gateway to the town. The planning application had been in the planning processes for more than 18 months and had involved numerous amendments by the applicant.

The Society led by the Planning Secretary, Mike Struggles, had opposed the application from the outset. Objections ranged from it being a serious breach of the statutory Local Plan, major road safety concerns, adverse impact on town centre traders, and environmental damage to trees and ancient hedgerows. The main support came from some residents who were unhappy about some perceived inadequacies of the existing Co-op store and saw Sainsbury's as a strong competitor but this is not a planning ground for allowing the application.

The other main planning issue is the planning application for a large residential development off Lower Kirklington Road. The Society has made strong representations but the matter remains to be resolved.

There were five speakers during the year. Our Chairman, Brendan Haigh, spoke about historic local County maps. There was a talk on local planning issues from Peter Scorer of the Town Council and Martin Tubbs of Newark and Sherwood District Council. Andy Weaver talked about the town's timber framed buildings while Janine Buckley of the County Council Historic environment office talked about the stable blocks at Rufford Abbey and Newstead Abbey. Finally, Professor Chris Brooks gave a talk on how recent advances in technology had been used to better interpret archaeology in particular the Minster Chapter House. The latter concluded with a splendid afternoon tea party in Trebeck Hall.

Representations continued to be made to the Town Council for the Society to be allowed to reoccupy its former premises in one of the old police cells at the Old Courthouse. This has now been agreed in principle which should enable members and the public to have better access to the Society's extensive archive of historic photographs and artifacts, including maps and antique prints.



**THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172647

---

# Accounts

---

## **SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT 2021/22**

The Board met regularly during the year as did the Planning Committee. All meetings were virtual.

The Society monitored all planning applications received by the District and County Councils and made representations where necessary. Amongst the applications was one for a large solar farm lying between Halloughton and Westhorpe which the Society strongly objected to. It was refused by the District Council but was successful upon appeal. The Society gave evidence at the Public Enquiry. Another application is the ongoing controversial plan by Sainsburys for a retail store on a gateway site off Nottingham Road. This has been strenuously opposed by the Society at all stages. Objections have been made on policy, highway, environmental and adverse retail impact grounds.

The Trust has decided to remain as a member of Civic Voice for the time being following that umbrella organisation ending insurance of individual societies.

The Trust is actively trying to regain occupation of its former storage space at the Old Court House which would save having to pay rent for a shared room in Minster Chambers.

A tea party in the State Chamber was given to mark Christine Measures retirement to Shropshire after many years of design and drawing work for the Society.

In July tours were organised, by courtesy of the current owners, of the renovation work going on at the two houses comprising the former Norwell Prebendal house.

Most recently the Society had a talk at Brackenhurst by Julia Davies on the history of the Hall and its former residents.

The Society has 152 members.

It continues to care for its large archive of historic photographs which are available to the public online and in person. The Society also has a growing collection of historic prints, paintings and books which have been bequeathed to it.



**THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172647

---

# Accounts

---

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY CIO

1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

In its 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year the Society's activities continued to be limited by the pandemic.

The Treasurer, Henry Perry, sadly died in November and temporary arrangements were made for the management of the accounts until Jian Beedan was elected as Treasurer at the March AGM.

The trustees met in virtual meetings and an annual general meeting was also held virtually on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March when Sally Bowden, Jian Beedan and Matthew Robinson were newly elected to the Board of Trustees. The Chairman, Audley Ackerman retired as Chairman and Brendan Haigh was elected in his place.

A virtual talk was given in April on the subject of the Chapter House of Southwell Minster.

A Garden Party to celebrate the Society's jubilee was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July at Park Farm, Southwell and was attended by some 100 members and guests.

The Planning Committee met regularly to monitor planning applications including a major proposal for a solar farm at Halloughton and a controversial proposal for development in the garden of Grade Two starred Cranfield House.

The photographic Archive was maintained with public access via the web. The digitalisation of the Alfred Loughton collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs was completed.

SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY - CIO

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st July 2021

	2020/2021		2019/2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions & donations		930.00		970.00
Gift Aid refund		413.70		0.00
Building Society Interest		13.02		46.10
Sales of "Southwell - A Walking Tour" book		201.00		120.00
Sales of archive images		27.00		0.00
Income from garden party	1,677.20		591.00	
Less costs	-1,047.86	629.34	-258.77	332.23
Social Events Receipts				
Less: Social Events Costs				
		<b>2,214.06</b>		<b>1,468.33</b>
<b>INCOME less events</b>				
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Administration inc planning & postage		166.40		236.27
AGM meeting costs		0.00		144.80
Website hosting and support		334.42		288.00
Subscription to Civic Voice		237.00		474.00
Public liability insurance		285.36		285.36
Bank charges		87.50		60.00
Website re-design		0.00		0.00
STC Flags		62.00		0.00
Donation to Notts Building Preservation Trust		650.00		650.00
Bramley Advert		60.00		0.00
Donation to Oakhill School (AGM talk)		0.00		40.00
Replacement Milestone		0.00		2,500.00
		<b>1,882.68</b>		<b>4,678.43</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE less events</b>				
<b>SURPLUS / (-) DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>		<b>331.38</b>		<b>-3,210.10</b>

BALANCE SHEET at 31st July

	2020/2021	2019/2020
	£	£
CAF Bank reconciliation	2,608.44	2,652.91
Creditors	-1,067.00	-650.00
Debtors	698.70	0
Bath Building Society	5,235.42	5,222.40
Cash in Hand	24.09	-57.04
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>7,499.65</b>	<b>7,168.27</b>

.....  
 Date: 25/9/2021  
 Treasurer

.....  
 Date: 30/9/21  
 Auditor