



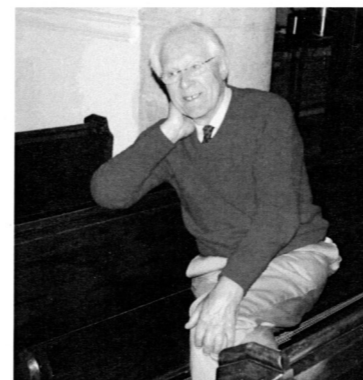
Diamond Jubilee celebration

The Trust celebrated its jubilee at a party hosted by our president at her home, Grimsthorpe Castle, on Friday 12th July.

Following a gathering of subscribers and friends, a concert by the St Peter's Singers of Peterborough rounded off a most successful evening.



Desmond Underwood 1930 – 2012



It is with sadness we report the sudden death of Desmond Underwood on 7th September 2012. He had been a loyal friend and servant of the Trust for a number of years in many capacities.

He was born in Swinderby in 1930 and was destined, apart from short absences, to spend his whole life there. He was the youngest of six boys and started his education at Swinderby school. He went on to the Magnus Grammar School in Newark and then did his National Service in the RAF, where he became a radar technician. His desire to fly was thwarted by cataracts, which he actually had only very recently had fixed!

After returning to Swinderby, he married his beloved Thelma and they remained together until her death in 2005. They had four children and during this time

Desmond studied hard and became a Chartered Electrical Engineer and worked for English Electric, AEI, GEC and Marconi in Lincoln. He and Thelma bought back her family home, the Halfway Farm, converted it into a motel and ran it successfully for 23 years.

Desmond became involved in the Trust early in 1998. At that time it had been realised for a while that the running of the trust was becoming too much for one person. Elizabeth Neville, who was then a Trustee, introduced Desmond to us and when we look back, that introduction was probably one of the best things that had ever happened and was a very significant moment in the Trust's history.

From the moment he joined us he devoted a huge part of his life and prodigious talents to the smooth running of the organisation. Over the years he probably did all the administrative tasks required of a charity and ironically, towards the end of his active time with the Trust, all of them at the same time.

Desmond was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Trust in March 1998 and this appointment was quickly followed by taking on the Secretaryship of the Special Committee, which at that time was responsible for fund raising and social events. He soon decided that the matter of subscriptions needed attention and took that under his wing as well. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in November 2000.

In the year 2000 a major influence on the Trust's finances happened. At that time we started to enjoy an annual donation in the shape of a block grant from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), the body responsible for dispersing landfill tax credits to good causes. The administrative work required to qualify for these grants was considerable and Desmond played a great part, during the eight years we benefited from that money, in ensuring the process ran smoothly. Towards the end of this time he was doing this job all by himself as well as being

Secretary to the Grants Committee.

Then, when Christopher Rodwell retired, Desmond was appointed Secretary to the Trust itself. This meant he was effectively responsible for the day to day running of the whole organisation. He did a wonderful job as Secretary and over the years has produced a memorable set of minutes which future historians will without doubt find of huge interest.

As he approached his eightieth birthday, he started to make way for someone else to take over from him in the many functions he was involved in. It is in large part due to him that we now have people responsible for all the areas he used to look after. The handovers have been smooth due to his good humour and patience. He retired as a Trustee only very recently, but was active in the Trust right up to the end and we were so pleased when he agreed to become a Vice President of the Trust in recognition of his many years of devoted service.

So, during his long time with the Trust, there was hardly a task that Desmond didn't do. His quiet common sense approach to problems made him an invaluable Trustee, but above all Trust Secretary. His devotion to his responsibilities was remarkable. Even during his beloved Thelma's illness, he carried on in his usual responsible way. On a personal level, the writer could not have fulfilled his responsibilities as Chairman of the Trust without his unfailing help and wisdom.

Desmond was an intelligent, deep thinking and courteous man with impeccable manners, high standards and a fine intellect and we are so grateful that he brought all these qualities into everything he did for the Trust.

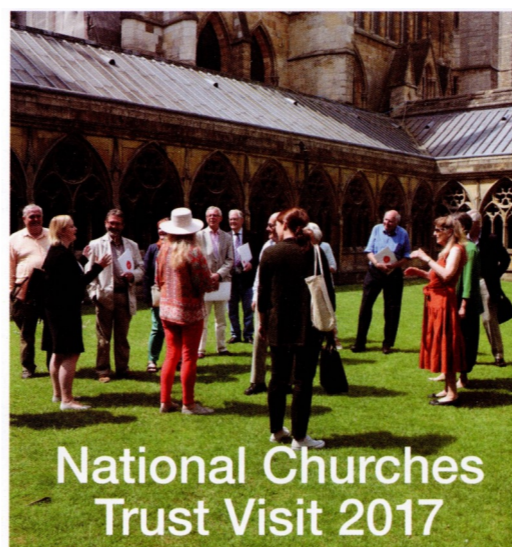
He leaves a loving family and to them all we extend our deepest sympathy. We shall miss him and are proud to have known him. May he rest in peace.

PS. October 2012.



Summer Party 2022

Celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



National Churches Trust Visit 2017

On Wednesday 14th June we jointly hosted, with the National Churches Trust, a day long visit to Lincoln for NCT Friends and supporters and members of other County Historic Church Trusts. Visitors were welcomed with much needed cup of coffee at the Cathedral Refectory, some having travelled quite a distance. We were all then given an informative guided tour of the Cathedral before lunch. The weather on the day was very sunny and our visitors were granted a wonderful impression of the charms and beauty of the city.

After a break for lunch we took everybody to the Battles and Dynasties exhibition at The Collection and were given a detailed guided tour by one of the curators. I do hope that many of you were able to get to this exhibition, now finished, which marked the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Lincoln and sought to put that event into its proper historical context and to draw out the often misunderstood significance of the event in the development of our Nation.

Finally, our visitors all moved down the hill to the church of St Swithun, in Lower Lincoln, where we were given a presentation by the members of the church on their ambitious plans to reorder and upgrade the facilities at the church, as well as completing the extensive repairs needed to the roofs and other fabric. They presented us with their grand vision for repairing their fine building for the future and for extending its mission, outreach and usefulness to the surrounding community and city. Visitors were extremely impressed with their ambition and drive and wished them all well with their challenging and exciting project. They had already received grants towards the now completed first phase of repairs, both from National Churches Trust and from ourselves.



All the churches described in this article were visited by a grateful group of members from the Trust who enjoyed the tour conducted by the Bishop of Grantham in summer 2012.