

# Nottingham Women's History Group Newsletter

## Issue 7 Autumn/Winter 2019



### Possible write-ups

12 Oct – AGM and F Paton talk  
12 Nov? archives visit  
Miriam – meetings with Cathy and Beryl re Nellie Dowson  
Trowell School visit 17 Oct  
1866 Petition and Shoulder to Shoulder uploaded to website?

agreed to go along and try it out – it is a rather tasty dark porter and we would definitely recommend tracking it down.

**Welcome to the Autumn - Winter 2019 edition of our newsletter.**

### A Plaque for Ada Lovelace



The 8<sup>th</sup> of October has been declared **Ada Lovelace Day** - and about time too! To commemorate this enlightened achievement, a plaque to Ada was unveiled in Hucknall, and Castle Rock Brewery launched an Ada Lovelace beer in the Pit microbrewery in Newstead village. Your intrepid reporters Miriam and Sian selflessly



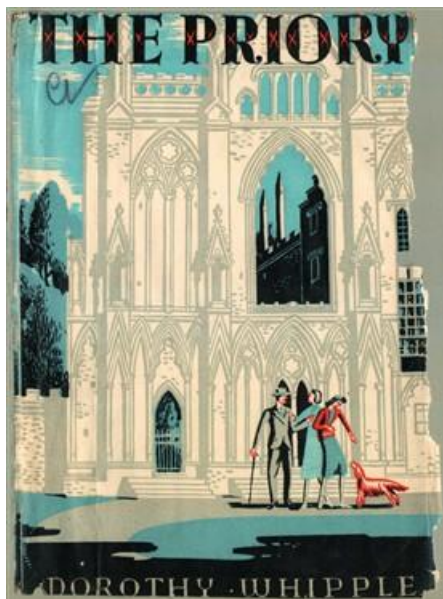
*Miriam and the Chair of The Byron Society*

### NWHG visit to Manuscripts and Special Collections, 21 May

On a beautifully sunny day back in May, a group of us met at Nottingham University's Manuscripts and Special Collections at the Kingsmeadow Campus for an enjoyable behind the scenes visit. We had an informative talk about the kind of materials gathered and maintained by the MSC,

and then we were able to visit the photographic and digitising suite where materials are recorded and reproduced for display and other purposes. Next came the restoration room, which was absolutely fascinating, and where the lovely staff patiently answered our unending questions, then the storage facility itself which is a huge temperature-controlled hangar-like space. The visit culminated in a display of artefacts that we could not only see but also handle – photographs, diaries and other texts. It was a really fascinating visit – especially seeing the painstaking restoration techniques, and having the thrill of handling such antique objects.

### Have you Whipped yet?



Dorothy Whipple is all the rage! The wonderful Persephone Books has now re-published all her novels and several volumes of short stories and she has attracted many new readers – about time for someone who was once called “Nottingham’s best-known novelist.”

I began reading Dorothy Whipple as research for my book *Exploring Nottinghamshire Writers*, but I soon became a firm fan, not least because

several of her novels are set in Nottingham and she once lived on Ebers Road, close to where I grew up. We enthusiasts in NWHG firmly believe she’s owed a blue plaque!

So, I was delighted to be invited to speak about her at this year’s Newark Book Festival – a whole hour on Whipple, what a feast! I took Sian with me to help with the readings and we were suitably impressed to be on stage in the beautiful Town Hall on a Sunday morning in July. We had a good audience of eager Whippleites and far more to say than there was time for.

If you are yet to enjoy a Whipple, for Nottingham interest, we can recommend *The Priory* (inspired by Newstead Abbey), *They Knew Mr Knight*, and *They Were Sisters*. And if you belong to a group who would appreciate a “Whipple Hour” please do get in touch with me on [ro@edlin-white.net](mailto:ro@edlin-white.net) to discuss it.

### New Walks for 2019

We carried out our usual programme of walks, which this year included an updated ‘Plaques for Women’ walk, devised and led by Miriam Jackson, and the brand new ‘Women Writers Walk’ devised and led by Ro Edlin-White.

The Plaques for Women walk sadly encompasses only one actual plaque (to Constance Shacklock inside the Theatre Royal), but the purpose of the walk is to highlight all the women who deserve plaques to be raised to them on buildings associated with them in the city centre. We have managed to get a plaque in the Arboretum to Helen Kirkpatrick Watts, next to the juniper tree planted in her honour, and are constantly working towards gaining more plaques honouring women, so watch this space.

The Women Writers Walk told of the many and varied writings carried out by women in Nottingham: diarists who noted everything from balls and celebrity suppers including Lord Byron, to civil war, riots and the burning of the castle; women who wrote to support their families after being left destitute by feckless husbands; and the women who used Nottingham as a backdrop to their work, sometimes thinly disguised, sometimes openly referenced. My particular favourite painted a delightful picture of 1920s Nottingham, complete with still recognisable illustrations of the Castle gatehouse, Arboretum Bandstand and other Nottingham landmarks. This walk is likely to be repeated in 2020 as it ran only once this year, so keep an eye out for it as you're in for a treat!

### **ArchivesFest**

In September we were invited to participate in Nottinghamshire Archives 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations by providing a talk as part of their activities. We talked about Nellie Dowson and Helen Kirkpatrick Watts, respectively our favourite suffragist and suffragette, while Ruth Imeson of the Archives highlighted Archives artefacts connected to women. It was a really enjoyable event with many engaging and entertaining speakers and we all expressed our gratitude that the Archives exist because, without them, historical research would suffer greatly.

### **Meet Hope, the Lego Suffragette**

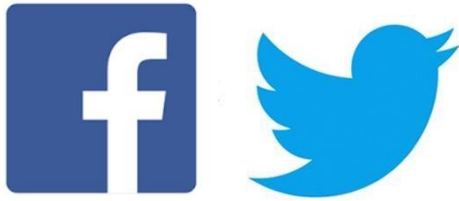


Miriam and Sian met Hope, the Lego suffragette at the National Justice Museum on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Hope was built in 2018 for the UK Parliament to mark the centenary of some women gaining the right to vote. She is made of 32,327 bricks and it took three people 171 hours to build her. Sadly, Hope has already moved on from Nottingham, but she will be appearing in other locations on her tour around the UK so keep an eye out for her.

### **New NWHG Website**

Our new website has now been running since March and it contains links to items such as our list of Notable Women in Nottingham and also a self-guided suffrage walk around the city centre. Follow the link to check it out for yourself. [www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk) You will also be able to download several interesting documents including *Shoulder to Shoulder: Nottinghamshire Women make their mark*, written to commemorate Vote 100 and much more. We also have a new blog site and you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

### **Digital and Social Media**



**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/NottinghamWomensHistoryGroup/>

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/Nottmwomenshistory>

Thank you to everyone who continues to follow us on social media. You may have noticed that we have now moved from the Vote 100 twitter to a Nottingham Women's History Group account to reflect the move on to our new projects this coming year.

As always if you have any ideas for posts, events to share then please get in contact.

We have also recently launched our new website where we will collate all our information, events notices, as well as regular blog posts. The link is the same as our old site so please check it out!

**Dates for your diary:**

- **Tuesday 12th November, 6.30 pm:** NWHG Members' visit to Nottinghamshire Archives
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020,** Joint talk with Labour History Group at Nottingham Mechanics re Mary Macarthur
- **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020,** Members' visit to Nottingham University's Manuscripts and Special Collections Florence Nightingale exhibition.

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