Nottinghamshire Notables: Biographies of notable Nottingham and Nottinghamshire people - famous and infamous, real and legendary, living and dead.

Below is a list of many well known Nottinghamshire people, the list is not exhaustive, we hope to add more names in the future.
You can find out more about these people and the local places connected to them by visiting the Local Studies Library at Nottingham Central Library.
Suggestions for further additions to this list are welcome, please send names via enquiryline@nottinghamcity.gov.uk with the subject heading Nottinghamshire notables..

S – Z

SCOTT Doug (1941-) Mountaineer and teacher
Doug Scott, born in 1941, went to Mundella School, Nottingham and later became a geography teacher at Cottesmore School. In 1975 he and the late Dougal Haston became the first Britons to scale Mount Everest. He was made a Freeman of Nottingham in 1976. He went on to make history again in 1979 when, with Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker, he made the first ascent of Kangchenjunga's North ridge in lightweight style without oxygen. Kangchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world, spanning both India and Nepal. In 1994 he was presented with a CBE for services to mountaineering.

SHACKLOCK Constance Bertha (1913-1999) Opera singer
Constance Shacklock was born on 16th April 1913 at 79 Port Arthur Road, Nottingham, the daughter of Frederick Randolph Shacklock, a farmer, and his wife Hilda Louise. She was a contralto opera singer who made her first public appearance at the age of 13 singing in the choir at the Methodist Church in Broomhill Road, Bulwell. Her final concert was held down the road at St. Mary's Church, Nottingham. She won several local prizes, including the Nottingham Music Drama Festival in 1936 when she won a top award with her rendition of the Carl Bohm song Still As The Night. In 1939 she won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London and won all prizes possible for a contralto. She met her future husband, the musician Eric George Mitchell, at Covent Garden. From 1968 she was a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. She retired from the concert stage in 1967 and was appointed OBE in 1971 for services to music. She died in 1999 aged 86.

SHAW Charles Frederick (1878 - 1959) Photographer
Charles Shaw was the first press photographer to be employed by the Nottingham Guardian in the early part of the 20th Century. He was a pioneer of photography, claiming that he had taken the first ever aerial photograph in 1907 and an aerial picture of the Trent in 1910. He and his wife Hessie (nee Gamble) lived in Park Ravine, The Park. In 1930 he left the Nottingham Guardian and wrote the Newsman's Notebook in the Nottingham Evening News under the pen name of The Scribe. He died in August 1959.

SHIPMAN Harold Frederick (1946-2004) Doctor & Mass Murderer
Harold Shipman was born on 14 January 1946 on Edwards Lane, Nottingham, the son of Harold Shipman, a lorry driver, and his wife, Vera. He attended Whitemoor junior school and High Pavement Grammar School, Nottingham His mother died from lung cancer when he was seventeen and this made a deep impression on him, influencing him to study medicine. He trained at Leeds University medical school. Shipman married Primrose May Oxtoby on 5 November 1966. From 1970 to 1974 Shipman worked as a junior houseman at Pontefract General Infirmary. He left Pontefract in 1974 to work as a general practitioner at
Todmorden. On 17 March 1975 he murdered his first known victim, (see the Shipman Inquiry, 1st Report, July 2002). Later that year he was forced to resign from the Todmorden practice and undergo voluntary treatment for pethidine addiction at a psychiatric unit at York.He then worked at Hyde in Cheshire from October 1977. In his fourteen years here he is known to have killed seventy-one patients, probably using morphine, and thirty further suspicious deaths were identified: not all his victims were terminally ill. In 1992 he opened a one-man practice in Market Street, Hyde. Between 1992 and 1998 he murdered at least 143 patients. Eventually the high level of mortality among his patients was noticed and the police investigated, but he was cleared in April 1998. Shipman went on to murder another patient in May, and two in June of 1998, one of whom was Kathleen Grundy. Shortly before he killed Mrs Grundy, Shipman typed a forged will which left all her property to him. This attempted fraud renewed police interest in him and he was arrested on 7 September 1998. After further investigations he was tried for the murder of fifteen women and for the forgery of Mrs Grundy's will. His trial began on 5 October 1999 at Preston crown court and lasted for fifty-seven days. He testified in his own defence, denying all the accusations. The evidence against him was overwhelming and he was convicted on 31 January 2000, and sentenced to fifteen life sentences. In order to protect his wife's financial situation, he hanged himself on 13 January 2004 in Wakefield prison. An official public inquiry (2001-5) attributed 215 murders to him and listed 45 other suspicious deaths.

SHERBROOKE, Robert ("Rupert") St Vincent (1901 - 1972) Naval hero.
Born 8th January 1901 at Oxton Hall, Nottinghamshire. Joined the Royal Navy in 1913. During World War II he served as a Captain. He was awarded a V.C. for his actions during the Battle of the Barents Sea when, on 31st December 1942, in spite of severe injuries, he continued to command ships under his control to protect a vital Russian-bound Allied convoy until it was out of danger from enemy attack. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1954 and returned to live at Oxton. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire in 1968. He died at Oxton on 13th June 1972.

SILLITOE Alan (1928 - 2010) Author
Alan Sillitoe was born 4 March 1928 at 5 Beaconsfield Terrace, Radford, the son of a tannery labourer. He left school at the age of 14 and worked in a bicycle factory before joining the Royal Air Force in 1946. His first published work, No shot in the dark, appeared in the Nottinghamshire Guardian on August 20th 1950. He is the author of many acclaimed novels, including Saturday Night, Sunday Morning, which is set in the old streets of Radford. The loneliness of the long distance runner, published in 1959, won the Hawthornden Prize. In 1959 he married Ruth Fainlight, an American poet. In 1990, he was awarded an honorary degree from Nottingham Trent University.

SKELTON, Roy (1931 - 2011) Actor
Roy Skelton was born in the Meadows area of Nottingham in 1931 where his parents ran a sweet shop. He attended the Mundella Grammar School and began acting at the Meadows Boys Club. Whilst there, he also took up boxing and became a flyweight champion for boys' clubs in England.

At 14 he joined a travelling theatre, returning to Nottingham after two years away to attend college. This was followed by National Service in the RAF. Roy's acting career continued with appearances in the films Zulu and Alfred Hitchcock's Frenzy but it was as the voice of the Dalek's in television's Dr Who and as the voices of Zippy and George in the children's Television series Rainbow that he is best remembered. A lifelong Forest football supporter Roy returned regularly to Nottingham from his home in Brighton.
SIMPSON Tommy (1937-1967) Racing cyclist
Tommy Simpson was born on 30th November 1937 at Station Street, Haswell, county Durham, son of Thomas Simpson, a conveyor worker in a coal mine who became a glassworker and later a storekeeper, and his wife, Alice. He was bought up in Harworth, Nottinghamshire, where he attended Harworth village school and later Worksop Technical College. In 1954 was apprenticed as a draughtsman at an engineering company in Retford. He won a bronze medal in the team pursuit at the Melbourne Olympics (1956) and silver in the individual pursuit at the Cardiff British Commonwealth and Empire games (1958). On 3 January 1961 he married Helen Margaret Sherburn. He was world professional road race champion in 1965 and was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year. In 1967, during the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France, Simpson collapsed in high temperatures half a mile from the summit of Mont Ventoux. Attempts at resuscitation failed and he died on 13 July 1967. His was the first known drugs-related death of a British sportsperson: although the official cause of death was dehydration and exhaustion, it was later acknowledged that Simpson, like many other cyclists of the time, had been using amphetamines.

SMITH Paul (1946-) Fashion designer
Sir Paul Smith was born in Beeston on 5 July 1946 to Irene and Harold Smith, a draper and amateur photographer. In 1961 he left school with no qualifications. His father, Harold Smith, took him to a Nottingham clothing warehouse and forced him to take a job there as an errand boy. Originally, he wanted to be a racing cyclist, but an accident in 1963 ended that dream. Paul Smith became interested in art and fashion through making displays for the clothing warehouse and taking charge of menswear buying. He opened his first, tiny shop Paul Smith Vêtement Pour Homme on Byard Lane, Nottingham in 1970 and has gone on to become a world famous fashion designer. He received an Honorary Master of Design degree from Nottingham Polytechnic on November 16th, 1991 and was awarded a CBE in January 1994. He married Pauline Denyer in 2000, on the same day that he was knighted in the Birthdays Honours List. He is also a Freeman of Nottingham.

SMITH Thomas (1631-1699) Banker
Thomas Smith was born in 1631 in Cropwell Bishop, Nottinghamshire. In 1658 he bought premises at the corner of Peck Lane, where he was a mercer (cloth merchant). Sometime after this he began to offer banking services to his customers. It was the first private bank outside London and is the origin of the oldest country Banking House in England. The precise date of the establishment of Smith's Bank is not clear, but it was about 1688. Twelve years after the foundation of the bank Thomas Smith died. He married twice, first to Mary, daughter of John Hooper, of Somerset; and secondly to the daughter of Lawrence Collin of Nottingham. During his lifetime he amassed a large fortune, and he died in 1699 in possession of much landed property. His eldest son, Thomas, succeeded him in the banking business. A plaque outside the Natwest Bank branch on the east side of South Parade, Nottingham announces that Smith's bank stood near this site. The Smith family quit the business in 1902 when a merger formed the Union of London and Smith's bank. This then became the National Provincial Bank in 1918, and then the National Westminster Bank in 1969.

SPENCER, June (c1920 - ) Actor
June Spencer plays the character Peggy Woolley in the long-running Radio 4 drama The Archers. She is the only current cast member to have been in the pilot episode in 1950 and the first national episode broadcast on 1 January 1951. Born in Nottingham c.1920, her stage debut came at the age of three when she played the King of the Land of Nod at a local drama school. By the age of 12, June was writing plays and producing them in her
back garden before a paying audience. When she was slightly older, June began to write and perform comedy sketches as an after-dinner entertainer, and eventually became a professional. Her parents, who were keen supporters of the theatre, encouraged her when she got her first job in the theatre. A successful career in the theatre and radio followed. In 1950 June discovered that she had been cast in a new Radio series - *The Archers* - even before she had been asked if she would like the part. June was married for many years to her late husband Roger. Together they adopted and raised two children - a son and daughter.

June's work, which has covered many different kinds of radio drama, including *Children's Hour, Dick Barton* and *Mrs. Dale's Diary*. She has played real life characters such as Mary Queen of Scots, Lady Jane Grey and Florence Nightingale. She was also interviewed in her Menorca home by the late Sir Harry Secombe for BBC ONE's *Songs of Praise*. In 1991 she was made an OBE. For further information see: www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/archers/whos_who/actors/actor_june_spencer.shtml

**SQUIRE Rosemary (1956 - ) Theatre manager**

Rosemary Squire was born in Nottingham and attended Nottingham Girl's High School. She is executive director of the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG). Her first paid job in entertainment was as an usherette at the Odeon Cinema in Angel Row, Nottingham in the early 1970s. She gained a first class degree in Modern Languages at Southampton University and won a postgraduate scholarship to Brown University, USA. On her return to the UK in 1980, she worked for Ian Albery at the Maybox Group, becoming General Manager at the age of just 28. In 1988 she became General Manager of the Turnstyle Group, co-producing the award-winning musical *Carmen Jones*, in addition to many plays and musicals in London and the regions.

In 1992, she co-founded ATG with Howard Panter (her husband). She is responsible for the company's core business and new projects and as Executive Director she has spearheaded its growth from two venues to a current total of twenty-four (including eleven in London's West End). ATG is also one of the most prolific producers in London theatre, co-producing up to 20 plays and musicals in any year and is behind productions such as *Guys & Dolls* starring Ewan McGregor.

**STAPLETON Cyril (1914-1974) Violinist and band leader**

Cyril Stapleton was born on Woodborough Road, Mapperley on 31st December 1914. He began learning the violin at the age of 7 and made his first broadcast at age 12 on 5NG, the local radio station. In 1930 the Nottingham Education Committee granted him £25 and lent him the same amount so that he could travel to Czechoslovakia to study violin under Sevcik. At age 17 he won a scholarship to Trinity College of Music, London. It was while he was there that he auditioned for Henry Halls Dance Band. Although he did perform with them for a while, Hall decided that he was too young to continue and so he returned to Nottingham where he formed his own band playing at local cinemas. One of his first jobs was in the pit of Nottingham's Parliament Street Picture House, playing in a small orchestra that accompanied silent films. His band went on to play in London restaurants. During the war he conducted RAF bands around the world. In 1952, when the BBC Dance Orchestra was changed to the BBC Show Band he was appointed conductor. He died on 25th February 1974, aged 59.

**STARDUST Alvin (1942-) Singer and actor**

Bernard Jewry was born in London but raised in Mansfield and attended Southwell Minster
School. His first steps onto the stage were in local pantomime, and his singing ability was spotted at Mansfield's Palais de Danse. He has been a star for more than 40 years - first as Shane Fenton with the Fentones, and then, more successfully, as Alvin Stardust, having hits with *Jealous Mind*, *My Coo Cacho*, and *Red Dress*. His first wife was Iris Cauldwell, with whom he had a son. His second wife was the actress Liza Goddard, with whom he had a daughter in 1974, and his present wife is another actress, Julie Paton. His career as an actor continues and in 2005 he starred as the child catcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at the London Palladium.

**Swanwick, Peter [Walter] (1922 - 14 Nov 1968) Actor**

Originally named Walter, Peter Swanwick was born in Nottingham in 1922. He attended the Manvers School, Nottingham. During World War II he was in the South Notts. Hussars and later served as a radar operator. In 1944, he was one of the first troops into Normandy on D-Day. He was badly wounded and spent months in hospital. His first job after the war was as stage manager, and occasional actor, at the Little Theatre the forerunner to the Playhouse - in Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. He then spent two years with the Argosy Players at the Palace Theatre, Mansfield. He married his wife, Nellie, in 1950 and moved to London. As well as appearing in many popular films (including *The African Queen*), he became a well-known face on British TV appearing in a number of popular programmes such as *The Avengers* and *Danger Man* where he first worked with Prisoner star, Patrick McGoohan. He later played the part of the "Supervisor" (sometimes called the 'Controller') in the TV series, *The Prisoner*. He was also a regular on the West End stage. Peter Swanwick died at the early age of 46 in 1968.

**Tarbotton Marriott Ogle (1834-1887) Engineer**

Marriott Ogle Tarbotton was born in Leeds on 6th December 1834. On 8 September 1857 he married Emma Maria Stanfield. He was appointed borough surveyor for the Nottingham Corporation in 1859 at age 25. He arrived in Nottingham at an important time, when the Nottingham Corporation was beginning to tackle the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions which had been severely criticised and he followed on from the earlier work undertaken by Thomas Hawksley (q.v.) Tarbotton found that the use of the river Leen by the towns north of Nottingham for industry and as a sewer caused health problems when the river entered Nottingham. Other activities during his period included: drawing up plans and specifications for a university college; serving as gas engineer; and setting out plans for what eventually became the *Nottingham and District Sewerage Act of 1872*. Tarbotton designed a new bridge over the River Trent and built it within four years, completing the project at £1,000 below the estimated cost of £31,000. The bridge was opened on July 25, 1871. He resigned as borough engineer in 1880 and was appointed engineer to the Water, Gas, and Sewage Disposal Committees where he supervised the building of a new water pumping station at Papplewick. He was taken ill at a meeting of the committee and died two days later at his home, Castledene, The Park, Nottingham, on 6 March 1887 and was buried in Nottingham.

**Thompson William [Bendigo] (1811-1880) Pugilist**

William Thompson was reputedly one of triplets, the youngest of 21 children of Benjamin Thompson, a mechanic in the lace industry, and his wife, Mary. The triplets became known in early 19th century Nottingham as Abednego, Mesach and Shadrach, (reflecting the Biblical trio who were thrown into the fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar). The record of his baptism at St Mary's, Nottingham, on 16 October 1811, however, records him as the younger of twins. He learned the trade of iron turning but also became a boxer in his youth. In 1832 he beat Bill Faulker, notorious at the time in Nottingham, and in the following year he defeated Charles Martin. In his first challenge reported in *Bell's Life* in London in
1835, he named himself Abednego of Nottingham, and from that date he was known as Bendigo. It was his intense rivalry with Hucknall fighter Benjamin Caunt that captured the imagination of fight fans of the time. Their first important fight was on 21 July 1835, near Appleby House, about 30 miles from Nottingham. In the twenty-third round Caunt, wearied with Bendigo's continually hitting him and then dropping to make any retaliation 'foul', struck him a blow while he was on his second's knee; this foul blow lost Caunt the fight. On 24 May 1836, 9 miles from Sheffield, he defeated John Leechman, known as Brassey, in fifty-two rounds after a severe contest. On 12th February 1939, in the presence of 15,000 people, he fought Deaf Burke at Heather, Leicestershire. This was the first fight under the new London rules and when in the tenth round Burke butted him twice, the referee gave a decision that the blows were 'foul' and Bendigo won. On 23 March 1840, while somersaulting Bendigo hurt his kneecap and was laid up for two years. His last appearance in the ring took place on 15 June 1850, aged 38, at Mildenhall, Suffolk, when, for £200 a side, he fought Tom Paddock.

After his retirement from the ring, Bendigo took to drink, and was confined in the Nottingham house of correction twenty-eight times. But after attending a revivalist meeting in 1872, which was addressed by Richard Weaver the collier evangelist, he 'saw the light', took the teetotal pledge and became an evangelist preacher in Nottingham and elsewhere. Bendigo died at Beeston, Nottingham, on 23 August 1880, after a fall downstairs broke his ribs which then punctured a lung. He was buried in St Mary's cemetery, St Ann's Well Road. In 1955 he was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame.

THOROTON Robert (1623-1678) Doctor, historian and author
Robert Thoroton was born at Morin Hall, Car Colston on 4 October 1623, son of Robert Thoroton and his wife, Anne Chambers of Stapleford. His family had long been small landowners in Nottinghamshire and the family owed its name to the hamlet of Thoroton, formerly Thurveton, near Newark. He went to Christ College, Cambridge in 1639 to study medicine, and in 1646 was granted a licence to practice medicine. He married Anne Boun the daughter of Gilbert Boun, serjeant-at-law, recorder of Newark, and MP, on 27 October 1645. They settled at Car Colston where Thoroton practiced medicine and followed the pursuits of a country gentleman. He began *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire, Extracted out of Records, Original Evidences, Leiger Books, other Manuscripts, and Authentick Authorities* in 1667 in which he tried to trace the manorial history of each parish back to Domesday. For his researches he employed assistants paid at his own expense, who delved into family archives, registers (some now lost), estate papers, church monuments, and epitaphs. He died at Car Colston on 21 November 1678 aged 55 and was buried on 23 November. *The Thoroton Society*, Nottinghamshire's local historical society, is named after him.

TORVILL Jayne (1957-) & DEAN Christopher (1958 - ) Ice dance champions
Jayne Torvill was born 7 October 1957 and Christopher Dean on 27 July 1958, both in Nottingham. In 1975, when they became an ice dancing team, Jayne Torvill was an insurance clerk and Christopher Dean was in the police force. They won their first competition in 1976 and were taken on by international coach Betty Callway who steered them to Olympic and World Championship glory with help from musical star Michael Crawford. After coming 5th in the 1980 Olympics they both gave up their jobs to concentrate on ice dancing. They won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo, with perfect scores from all 9 judges for their dance to the music of Ravel's *Bolero*. They retired from competition in 1984 and went on to produce their own ice show. Torvill and Dean returned to competitive skating in 1993 and won the gold medal in the 1994 European
championships and the bronze in the 1994 Olympics. They were awarded the OBE in 2000. In 2006, they were back on ice together as they trained celebrities in ice dancing in the ITV show *Dancing On Ice*.

**TREASE (Robert) Geoffrey (1909-1998) Author**

Geoffrey Trease was born 11 August 1909, son of George Albert Trease, a wine merchant, and his wife, Florence Dale, a doctor's daughter. He won a scholarship to Nottingham High School and then one to Oxford University to study classics, which he attended for only a year. For two years he did literary work in London, and then became a private school teacher. Here he met Marian Haselden Granger Boyer, a fellow teacher and they married on 11 August 1933. Trease initially struggled as a writer, but broke through as a children's author in 1934 with the publication of *Bows Against the Baron*, a Robin Hood story meant to show the seamy side of Merrie England, with Robin as a champion of the poor. The book sold around the world and he wrote over 100 more books, both fiction and non-fiction, including biographies of DH Lawrence and Byron. He was the first chairman of the Society of Authors children's writers group and in 1979 he became a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He died at the age of 88 on 27 January 1998.

**WESTWOOD Lee (1973-) Golfer**


**WHEATCROFT Harry (1898-1977) Horticulturist**

Harry Wheatcroft was born on 24 August 1898 at 23 Handel Street, Sneinton, son of George Alfred Wheatcroft, a journeyman stonemason and builder, and Sarah Elizabeth Wood. He was educated in Nottingham and France. After working in a lace factory and a motor firm he was conscripted in 1916 despite being a registered conscientious objector. He was court-martialled for disobedience and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Wormwood Scrubs. After serving a year he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and released to convalesce at a Quaker health home. In 1919 Harry and his brother Alfred established the horticultural firm of Wheatcroft Brothers, with a bicycle as the only means of transport, and in 1920 roses, for which he would become famous, became a speciality of the firm. On 15 June 1929 he married Dorothy, known as Doss, the daughter of John Averill, a wealthy Tamworth farmer. They lived at the nursery in Gedling, Nottingham, in a custom-built gypsy caravan. The royal Horticultural Society honoured him in 1972 with the Victoria medal of honour, and in 1973 he was awarded the Royal National Rose Society's Dean Hole medal. He died in 1977.

**WHETTON John (1941-) Athlete**

John Whetton was born on 6 September 1941 in Sutton-in-Ashfield. He was a middle distance runner - 1500m and the mile - and won six consecutive national AAA indoor Mile/1500m titles between 1963 and 1968. He won a gold medal for the 1500m in the European championships of 1969 in Athens when nearing the end of his running career. He was not among the favourites but the tactical knowledge he had built over years of competing carried him to victory, charging off the last bend to hold off all his challengers. That gold medal, added to triumphs at the World University Games and Olympic finals in 1964 and 1968, put him among the county's sporting heroes.

**WHITBY, Henry Seely (1869-?) Councillor, JP**

Born in Plantagenet Street in 1869, he attended the Wesley School in Arkwright Street. He
became interested in politics when he was 14, and was a Liberal. He won a seat on the city council in 1924 and went on to be one of the most influential of Nottingham's Lord Mayors in 1933. He was co-founder of the city and county branch of the Crimean Veterans Association and was secretary for more than 30 years.

WILLOUGHBY Sir Francis (1546/7-1596) Coal owner, industrialist
Francis Willoughby was probably born at Woodlands, Dorset, son of Henry Willoughby, and his wife, Anne, daughter of Thomas Grey, the marquess of Dorset. Henry Willoughby had inherited the family wealth from Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, including its lucrative coal pit. Francis succeeded his brother, Thomas, after the latter's death in August 1559. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Mr Littleton of Franklen, Worcestershire and they had several children. He was knighted in 1575 at Kenilworth.

Sir Francis Willoughby built the Wollaton Hall people know today, although it has a history stretching back to the Middle Ages. He chose a high position for the new manor so it dominated the countryside all around. The architect was Robert Smythson, who was later to build Hardwick Hall, but Willoughby played an important part in the design and the result was an eclectic, eye-catching building. In 1580 his only son died, leaving six surviving daughters. By this time Willoughby and his wife had separated, and in 1582 the Queen formalized the separation by an order allowing Lady Willoughby £200 a year for her maintenance. Willoughby's eldest daughter, Bridget, was married in 1583 to Percival Willoughby, of Kent, in the hope that she would provide an heir. Anne died in 1595, and Francis remarried in 1595. However, after being married for fifteen months, he died in London on 16 November 1596.

WILSON Dennis 'Tug' (?-1991) Police constable
Police Constable Dennis 'Tug' Wilson, who stood 6ft 8in tall - 7ft 2in with his helmet on - became a familiar figure in and around the Old Market Square Nottingham, distinguished not only by his height, but also his magnificent handlebar moustache. He was an Ex-Grenadier Guard who retired from the police force in 1983 and died in 1991.

WOLFIT Donald (1902-1968) Actor and theatre manager
Donald Wolfit was born in Balderton on 20 April 1902, son of William Pearce Woolfitt, a brewer's clerk, and Emma Tomlinson. He was educated at the Mount School in Newark before gaining a scholarship to Magnus Grammar School. He was obsessed with the theatre from an early age but his parents were opposed to acting as a career wanted him to be a teacher instead. He agreed but used teaching as a way to leave Newark and his parents' influence by finding employment at a small private boarding-school in Eastbourne. In 1920 when Charles Doran's touring Shakespearian company visited Eastbourne, Wolfit was employed as assistant stage manager, walk-on, and understudy. When an actor fell ill, his chance came to step in and act. He made his London debut in 1924 under Matheson Lang who engaged him to play small parts in a season that included The Wandering Jew at the New Theatre. There followed several years of touring and repertory engagements. Wolfit's opportunity to make a real impression came when Lilian Baylis engaged him to play at the Old Vic during 1929-30. He was highly praised, especially as the King in Hamlet. In 1934 he persuaded Newark council to guarantee his expenses so that he could present a week-long festival of drama in the town. He produced Arms and the Man, Twelfth Night, and The Master Builder with a company which included John Clements and Margaret Rutherford. In 1936 and 1937, Wolfit at last won national recognition for his performances at Stratford upon Avon, under the direction of Ben Iden Payne. Wolfit was praised for his Kent in King Lear and for his Hamlet. His success encouraged him to become a full-time
actor-management. In autumn 1937 he recruited a company of actors, and toured six plays by Shakespeare and *Every Man in his Humour* in which he played Bobadil. He continued to be an actor-manager for the next twenty-six years, presenting plays by Shakespeare and other dramatists, mostly on tour but with occasionally in London. He also gave acclaimed performances in such films as *Pickwick Papers*, *Room at the Top*, and as Svengali. In 1950 he was appointed CBE and was knighted in 1957. He died in the Royal Masonic Hospital, London, on 17 February 1968.

**YATES Anne (c1913-2006) Councillor**
Anne Yates was a Conservative member of Nottinghamshire County Council, and when she was elected to Nottinghamshire County Council in 1955 she was its youngest ever member. In 1968 she became the authority’s first woman Chairman. She helped establish the international water sports centre at Holme Pierrepont in 1973 and was awarded a CBE in 1972 for public service. Anne Yates lived in West Bridgford for many years before moving to Rolleston. She retired in 1999 aged 86, after nearly 40 years in politics. Her final years were spent in a nursing home in Bleasby before she died at Newark Hospital in February 2006 aged 93.