Dear friends,

A very warm welcome to the Forum’s autumn newsletter. Following our last meeting NMHHF will now be known as NHF Northamptonshire Heritage Forum and we will have a new logo very soon.

The Forum, as many of you may now know, has a facebook page [http://www.facebook.com/NMHHF](http://www.facebook.com/NMHHF) please let Carole know any news and also ‘like’ us.

Please note our new website address [www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk)

Here we go with some member’s news:

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**Thrapston Heritage**

We had an interesting and rewarding summer when we joined up with Rockingham Forest (Trading Places Project). Our activities included a Victorian day in the local primary school with pupils trying their hand at lace making, looking at 19th century occupations and recreating period photographs in costume.

A guided walk around the town led by Dr Drew Gray from Northampton University concentrated on Victorian crimes, which worked very well even though Thrapston doesn’t have any major incidents on record for that time. Finally an adult story telling session gave an account of the some of the people in Thrapston who were around towards the end of the 19th century. Dominic Kelly was our storyteller. The variety of the activities attracted new audiences and we hope to continue that connection with further activities next year.

‘Trading Places’ began in October 2013 and is a 4 year project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project provides a unique programme of activities and events in the Nene Valley, working with the villages and towns from Wellingborough to Thrapston. ‘Trading Places’ has a focus on the local trades, skills and lives of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and involves re-enactors, storytellers, crime historians and traditional crafts people to help local communities and schools to connect with, enjoy and understand the history of their local area. An important element of the project’s work has been to set up a traditional skills training programme for young unemployed people from the area; giving them opportunities and experiences that they can build upon. An oak ‘Training Barn’ was constructed at Stanwick Lakes in early 2014 and is now the venue for a range of traditional skills courses; the programme provides training in Blacksmithing, Shoe Making, Green Woodworking, Basketry and Dry Stone Walling.

In addition we had a photographic project where local people incorporated a period photograph into one with a modern view of the town. No “Photoshop” allowed!
**Northampton and Lamport Railway Preservation Society**

I am attaching a few pictures of the only W Allchin steam roller of 1899 that was built in Northampton and was put into the hands of Northampton Museum some years ago when it needed putting back together plus needed £50,000 + spending on her, being looked at The Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden, Bedfordshire on 18th/19th and 20th September, with a young follower.

The second picture onwards shows the Allchin Roller next to a family owned Allchin Traction engine at Kettering Steam Rally which was the last one of the year plus the two Allchins’ ready for the trip home.

**Lyveden New Bield**

Lyveden has enjoyed an interesting programme of activities this year and we continue to receive some lovely feedback from our visitors, on how much they appreciate the peace and tranquility of our gardens. As we move into the autumn, the leaves on the trees are changing colour and hot chocolate sales in our Cottage Tea Room increase!

During October we’re planning some bank stabilisation work along the northern moat. This conservation work is crucial to stop the western mount slipping further into the moat. We’ll be trialing a new technique using hazel revetments, which will hopefully be both sturdy and aesthetically pleasing to the eye – retaining Lyveden’s Spirit of Place is very important to us. We’ll be open for visitors while the work takes place so please come and have a look at conservation in action!

We have a Hallowe’en trail planned for little ones between 26th to 31st October, and into December we have our Christmas Wreath making workshops (9th-11th Dec), and Carols in the Kitchen (19th December) – which is fast becoming a new tradition at Lyveden. Finally we have a winter walk on 27th December, where you can walk off your Christmas lunch on a four mile guided walk along the Lyveden Way. So whether you fancy a winter walk around the grounds or an indulgent slice of homemade cake (or both!) there’s a lot on offer at Lyveden. We look forward to welcoming you soon.
**Northampton Museums and Art Gallery**

*Virtually shoes*

We have now completed high quality photography of all 15,000 shoes in our collection. This includes at least 6 shots from different angles of each shoe. We now begin the process of updating our catalogue records and developing our on-line catalogue. We would like to thank our team of 30 volunteers who have made this process possible.

*Conflict and Community*

We are coming to the end of our HLF funded project. Our volunteers have been busy collecting WWI family military and Family stories relating to Northampton and the Northamptonshire Regiment and Yeomanry. These have been shared in a series of talks over the summer, a day commemorating Aubers Ridge, and a theatre performance. We will shortly launch a new flickr site featuring objects from our WWI collections and there will be a small exhibition of our findings in the Peoples Gallery. We are also packing our WWI collections and will be training a team of volunteers to do this, following best practice guidelines. Do come along to our Day to Remember at Royal and Derngate on sun 8 Nov which will include an afternoon of events to commemorate the war including a poetry performance by Toby Thompson inspired by research from the project and commemorating the young men of Northampton who fought at Aubers Ridge. Our Youth Curators have been working with the Theatre Youth Forum to create a series of art and performance installations as part of the project.

*Programming activity*

**Object in Focus talks**

Watch out for a series of talks that take key objects in the museum collection as their starting point. These talks are designed to encourage audiences to think differently about our collections. For information go to [http://www.northampton.gov.uk/museumworkshops](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/museumworkshops)

**Collections Assessment**

We are undertaking a collections assessment of our social history and archaeology collection in preparation for the development of an Interpretation master plan and work on the expansion of the Museum and Art Gallery. This exciting project will enable volunteers to have the rare opportunity to open boxes and evaluate objects in the collection. This involves skills such as object handling, condition reporting and photography. It will provide an opportunity to understand collections management in museums, helping us to keep our records up to date as we look at everything we have what condition it is in and consider their significance to Northampton.

It will also enable us to assess where the gaps are in our collection and what we can continue to collect in order to preserve our heritage. From this we will be able to further understand our collections in preparation for the new museum redevelopment.
Exhibitions

Whose Round is it?
A History of Brewing in Northampton
Sat 3 Oct-Sun 31 Jan 2016
In celebration of our 150th anniversary real ale connoisseurs should keep an eye on the museum shop for the launch of our exclusive limited edition beer.

Town and County
Sat 28 Nov-Sat 23 Jan 2016
Northampton Town and County Art Society 102nd Annual show

Boughton House

There are few people in Britain who don’t associate the 5th of November with Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. It is a little known fact, however, that the tradition of Bonfire Night is rooted in the heart of the Northamptonshire countryside. Following the failed plot to assassinate King James I of England during the state opening of parliament on that infamous date in 1605, the actions of a former Northamptonshire MP were to shape the course of history.

Edward, First Lord Montagu of Boughton House near Kettering personally sponsored legislation known as The Observance of the 5th November Act 1605, calling for an annual thanksgiving to mark the failure of The Plot. His actions set in motion a tradition on November 5th, which has spanned centuries.

Recognition of Montagu’s role has dwindled overtime with the story understandably focusing on the dramatic capture of Guy Fawkes - guarding dozens of barrels of gunpowder under the Palace of Westminster. That was until the Boughton House reignited Lord Montagu’s story by introducing an annual celebration of Bonfire Night at his ancestral home.

Three years on and the Gunpowder Plot event is still quite a celebration. More than just a fireworks display, the event is a spectacular performance of projection and pyrotechnics, fitting for one of the nation’s most celebrated historic houses and the secret home of Bonfire Night.

Built in the sixteenth century and later transformed by Ralph Montagu from a simple Tudor manor into a vision of Louis XIV’s Palace of Versailles, Boughton House’s magnificent North façade, with its sweeping colonnade, will become a stunning backdrop to the retelling of the story of The Gunpowder Plot during its three-night run in November.
Burton Latimer Heritage Museum

Burton Latimer Heritage Museum which already has a very large collection of local photographs has recently been given almost 300 more by four donors. The largest set, given by his son, were taken by a teacher who taught in Burton Latimer for thirty years, consisting of groups of pupils, formal and informal, showing life in the classroom, in the playground and on school outings from 1948 to 1979. Another collection was a set of photographs belonging to a recently deceased Burton Latimer garage owner who was a motor-cycle racer, military re-enactor and film extra. The other photographs included Gala Queen pictures from 1953 (filling in a gap in our records), and a 1960s housing development with extensive views across fields that most people have forgotten about! None of these photographs are spectacular or particularly historic, but they are reminders of life as it was lived fifty or more years ago. Many will eventually be available on our website for some of those in the pictures to show their grandchildren and they will also be featured in future exhibitions in the museum.

School memories! One of about sixty similar photographs from Burton Latimer Heritage Museum’s newly acquired set of photographs showing school life 1948-1979

Desborough Heritage Centre

Desborough continues to put on new small displays, but here is notice of our larger ones:

Since its launch of "Desborough 1914 to 1918: Men at War and Families at Home", featuring a detailed gallery of the 145 men who perished and much about the 580 who survived the War (from a boot & shoe manufacturing village of 3700 residents), we have added more to the accompanying display boards and cases. This is chiefly on the disastrous battles of Loos and Gallipoli of 2015, together with more and more WWI items brought in by Desborough families.

Meantime we have a new, large window exhibition on boot and shoe manufacture in Desborough from 1868 and its 13 large factories (of which only Cheaney’s is still working) and 13 smaller ones.

Also new is our display on the Romano-British in Rushton, where two bath houses and a villa have been discovered, covering over 300 years of their residence. Anglo-Saxons followed in the same place. We are about to receive and exhibit a specially-made replica of the famous and best ever Anglo-Saxon gold necklace, the Desborough Necklace.

This year Desborough Heritage Centre entered the East Midlands Heritage Awards for the first time. The result amazed them: shortlisted for Heart of the Community AND given awards for Customer Care: "Improving the Visitor Experience" and for the Wendy Golland Award for High Quality Research (in their "Desborough at War 1914 to 1918: Men at War and Families at Home"). Whereas in the Northamptonshire Awards, where Desborough was the "People's Choice" for a third time, they were highly commended for the Community Award: "Exchanging Museums" (for work with two local primary schools).
Rushden Transport Museum

Rushden Transport Museum is very pleased to announce we have been awarded Full Accreditation Status by ACE.

The Rushden Historical Transport Society occupies the old railway station in Rushden and the museum is set in the old station building. It has taken 2 years of dedication by the volunteers. MDEM supplied a grant enabling the volunteers to engage consultant Simon Davies to assist whose assistance was invaluable. We must now work just as hard to maintain this award.

2015 HERITAGE AWARDS

A very successful Heritage Awards was held this year on the 16th July at St. Peters Church in Oundle. Over 100 people attended from members all over the County as well as some VIP’s! The entries this year were of a very high standard and we were able to showcase the amazing work everyone is doing.

Here are all the winners:

**Best Exhibition**: Highly Commended Kettering Museum and Art Gallery for #selfies exhibition, WINNER Oundle Museum for ‘Oundle 1851’ Exhibition

**Best event**: WINNER Canon’s Ashby (National Trust) for A Victorian Christmas at Canon’s Ashby.

**Community Award**: Highly Commended Desborough Heritage Centre for ‘Exchanging Museums’ WINNER Kettering Museum and Art Gallery for ‘Kettering Faces of the First World War’.

**Best Volunteer project**: Highly Commended Rushden Museum for ‘Rushden’s journey through the First World War’ WINNER – Towcester Museum for ‘Volunteers celebrating the history of Towcester’

**Best special Project**: Highly Commended - Kettering Museum and Art Gallery for ‘On the Wagon; Kettering’s Temperance Portraits’ WINNER Canon’s Ashby for the ‘Brew House Bookshop’.

**People’s Choice award**: Desborough Heritage Centre

**Heritage Site of the year**: Kettering Museum and Art Gallery

Please everyone start thinking about your entry for next year’s Awards. The categories were sent out with the minutes from our last meeting.

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