Welcome to ‘The Forum’ Northamptonshire Heritage Forum’s Newsletter.

Wow you have all been very busy this year, here goes with all the news:

OUNDLE MUSEUM

We have had a very successful season this year with our exhibition ‘Farming Now and then’ which won Best Volunteer Project at the Heritage Awards, culminating in our 25th year anniversary. The committee had a ‘bit of a do’ in November to celebrate. The Museum is now closed for the winter but no rest as we are now working on our exhibition for next year!

BURTON LATIMER HERITAGE SOCIETY

It has been a busy and eventful time for the Museum and the Society.

The highlight of the year has been our Autumn Exhibition, “Burton Latimer’s Heroes”, to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1. This opened on 1st September and has been very well attended. Our researcher, Tony Dacre has dedicated 15 months to researching the biographies of our 104 fallen men. These detailed and moving accounts are now in three large folders in the Museum.

Summaries of the 104 biographies have been made into rigid posters which also bear a photograph of the man and/or his grave. These are displayed in the Millennium Garden in the centre of town and have drawn a lot of attention, proving a fitting tribute to mark the centenary of the armistice. The posters will remain in place until early December, when the exhibition closes. Many thanks to Ken
Moate of Kensigns and the British Legion for their collaboration. Tony Dacre is in the Museum every Thursday, helping visitors to research military and family history. Tony appeared on Helen Blaby’s programme on BBC Radio Northampton and we have also featured in the Northampton Evening Telegraph. We are very grateful for all the artefacts and information from families, which have enhanced our exhibition and aided research. Tony will give a talk about the project at our AGM in March 2019.

Children from St Mary’s Primary Academy have used our biographies to “adopt a hero” as part of their WW1 scheme of work. We have loaned them a large box of resources and artefacts on life in the trenches and on the home front. Over 200 children have visited the museum and relished the opportunity to relate their studies to real people from Burton Latimer.

We have organised some Saturday coffee mornings alongside our exhibition. We made WW1 cake to sample: the recipe was from a 1915 recipe donated by a local family. This is the cake that would have been sent to the soldiers in the trenches by their families: eggless and containing lard, it is a boiled, spiced fruit cake and proved to be surprisingly tasty for a cake designed to be stored in a tin for weeks on end.

We ran four successful Guided Heritage Walks in 2018, all following the same route, but all sold out, attracting new and established residents and some who returned to Burton Latimer just for the walks (the refreshments and homemade cake at the end were very popular too!). We are now planning the next route for 2019.

Membership of our Burton Latimer Heritage Group on Facebook has now passed 900. We are using this group to draw in more people to our exhibitions and events and to build up membership of the Society.

John Meads’ biennial slideshow, this one titled “More of Old Burton”, featuring wonderful old pictures, was very well attended by an appreciative audience, who would happily have sat for another hour listening to John’s informative and entertaining commentary. His talks bring old Burton back to life and are equally enjoyed by new and established residents. Other speakers this year include Janice Morris talking about Church Wall Paintings in Northamptonshire and Linda Gregory talking about the restoration and history of Osborne House in Burton Latimer, formerly Dr. Kingsley’s home and surgery.

Family History/House History sessions: we have run four small-group sessions in the Library, plus some one-to-one sessions. They have been attended by complete beginners wanting to make a start on their research as well as the more experienced wanting help with “brick walls” in their research and tuition on using current websites/software to aid them. We plan to run more in 2019.

We already have two speakers booked for 2019. In April, Linda Gregory will give a talk about the St Catherine Murals and Patriarch Wall Paintings in St Mary the Virgin Church and in June Tom Watts will talk about the Electric Palace Cinema and his family’s involvement. Our Spring Exhibition will feature Burton Latimer’s leading ladies (exact title still to be agreed!) and the Autumn one will have a sporting theme.
DUSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

60 children from the relocated St Luke’s primary school visited the 1856 St Luke’s village school (now Community Centre/offices/Day Nursery), in the summer, as part of their History project. We displayed a series of images including the story of St Luke’s school and its transformation today, pupils of the past and images of the old village and maps. A short talk generated many questions. This was followed up by a visit to the Record Office by 12 of the children in October. They were introduced to the concept of an archive, timelines and the storage system at the Office in a practical fashion. The emphasis was on WW1 evidence in the form of photos and other documents.

In view of the fact that schools today are strapped for cash, we are particularly pleased that we were able to assist in the costs of the visit. We plan to extend this type of support to our local schools as we feel it important to encourage an interest in and knowledge of all types of evidence from the past in the younger generation.

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

South Northamptonshire – A Place for all Seasons

SNC is actively working to strengthen the rural economy and the use of village shops, pubs and other village services and its many attractions. One of the ways in which we are doing so is by promoting the District as a place to visit.

South Northamptonshire is well known for Formula One at Silverstone, but not what lies beyond. It is an unspoilt rural District, with extensive open countryside and a historic landscape featuring conservation villages, canals and the market towns of Brackley and Towcester. Many Drovers Roads pass through the District including the Banbury Lane, Oxford Lane and Salt Way. Watling Street (the A5) formed the frontier between Wessex and Danelaw. The District also features battlefield sites, fine local food and masses of footpaths and bridleways canal towpaths and country lanes that are perfect for walking, cycling and horse riding.

The District is a great place to explore and South Northamptonshire Council have produced a number of tourism guides to help locals and visitors to get the most out of exploring South Northamptonshire.

Visit our comprehensive website www.southnorthants.gov.uk/explore-south-northamptonshire where you can find out more information or download copies of the Council’s tourism guides.

We hope this information wets the appetite to explore what South Northamptonshire has to offer.
IRCHESTER NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Visit the railway museum to see our W.W.1. Armoured locomotive, built in 1918 to move ammunition and supplies to the trenches of the front line.

To mark the centenary of the Armistice in November the museum is highlighting this locomotive. The museum also has another exhibit which relates to W.W.1.

Visit us to discover more.

SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Spratton remembers the Great War

On 11 November 2018 a steel bench was installed under a large cedar tree by the War Memorial in St Andrew’s churchyard, Spratton, with pleasant views across parts of the village. The memorial bench was designed with images of soldiers, crosses and poppies and was purchased by Spratton Local History Society. The benches were offered as part of an initiative by Daventry District Council to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

On Remembrance Sunday the church was decorated with poppies made from paper, wool and silk by village people in memory of the young men from Spratton who lost their lives in both world wars. A number of their families are still living in the village.

Members of Spratton LHS have spent two years researching all the men on the Roll of Honour in St Andrew’s Church, speaking to families, combing through documents in the Northampton Record Office and sitting at computers to bring to life the stories of 100 years ago. We received a Heritage Lottery Award to publish the information and it is now on our award-winning website www.sprattonhistory.org.

In recognition of this work we were given the opportunity to attend the Service in Westminster Abbey on the evening of the 11 November when the Queen and other members of the royal family were present. Pat Parish and Jean Mason, representing the History Society, travelled to London for the occasion. Our latest project is to find out what the women of Spratton were doing in 1914-18.
For the World War One centenary this year, we have been looking through our archives to further investigate Lamport Hall’s war connections. We found a photograph of the unveiling of the memorial cross at All Saints Church, Lamport, by Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard in September 1920. There is a large crowd gathered to remember and say goodbye to those who had a connection to Lamport and lost their lives during the Great War. The memorial now also commemorates those who died during the Second World War.

One of the names included on the cross is John Vere Isham, eldest son of Sir Vere Isham, 11th Baronet, who became a Second Lieutenant with the 5th Dragoon Guards. We found some wartime letters from him to his parents and photographs in his military uniform. Sadly, we also rediscovered a telegram from 1st June 1916 notifying John’s parents that he had been admitted to Etaples Military Hospital, France, ‘dangerously ill’ with septicaemia. His father managed to reach the hospital before John died two days later on 3rd June, 1916. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery. John’s death was reported in local and national newspapers, and several telegrams survive from friends and relatives offering their sympathies to John’s parents. John’s death meant that the baronetcy passed to his younger brother, Gyles, who became the 12th Baronet in 1941. Last week we remembered John, and all those who had suffered and perished in both World Wars.
NOR THAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We’ve had a busy year. In June we held a One-Day Conference at Park Inn, Northampton with some brilliant speakers.

We were also pleased to host the annual History Day at the Central Library on 27 October. Our speakers gave us some very informative talks, all centred on World War One. Delegates also enjoyed the afternoon walks and tours around the town, learning about the shoe trade, factories and those who worked in them, the regimental connections with the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Sheep Street and the vast amount of war memorials and rolls of honour within the Borough.

We continue to hold monthly meetings at Kettering and Northampton and visitors are welcome for a small fee (£2). Details of the programme of speakers can be found on our website.

We will be attending Family Tree Live Show at Alexander Palace, London 26-27 April 2019; a must-go-to show for anyone interested in family history. There will be talks, demonstrations, workshops, DNA and much more. Northants FHS will be there along with a large number of other family history societies. Tickets are now available. For more information see: https://www.family-tree.co.uk/fre/show/family-tree-live

We’ve spent a busy summer recording memorial inscriptions in three large churchyards – West Haddon, Woodford Halse and Byfield. Headstones are fascinating – there’s often a tale behind the inscription as the following story shows:

At Farthingstone are the following memorials within the church:
(Plaque) In memory of Richard Edward Sheppard born July 12th 1812, died May 24th 1902, also of Ann Sheppard born Nov 19th 1824, died April 3rd 1901, also of Reginald William Henry Sheppard died in Brazil aged 24, also of Vincent Sheppard aged 46 youngest son of R E Sheppard who lost his life in the wreck of the S S Drummond Castle off Ushant June 16th 1896, also of Charlotte Anne Sheppard daughter of Richard Edward Sheppard born at Stoke Bruerne February 15th 1844, died here December 14th 1893, also her nephew Richard Edward Sheppard who was drowned by the foundering of the steamship “Camerata” in the Atlantic, January 1890 aged 21. “With masts and helms and pennon fair, that well had borne their part, but the noblest thing that perished there was that young faithful heart.”
(Brass plaque): In memory of Ernest Martin Sheppard died in action in the South African War July 1900 aged 29 years.

Vincent, the son of Richard Shepherd senior, was born in 1849 at Stoke Bruerne and in the 1891 census he is married, with a stepdaughter and living at Hyde Park Mansions, London. He left England on 30 May 1896 on SS Pretoria and disembarked at Tenerife. He was returning in June 1896 and boarded the SS Drummond Castle at Las Palmas which was homeward bound from Capetown. For some reason, the ship hits rocks on 16 June at Ushant in the Bay of Biscay and within four minutes had sunk. There was a loss of 244 lives along with the cargo of wool and coal. Reports state that the weather was very bad, with high winds, rain and thick fog. A newspaper report states ‘Vincent was a gentleman well-known in hunting circles in the Midlands, having last season been a constant figure at the meetings of the Pytchley, Grafton and Bicester hounds, he
was a junior partners in the Cheap Wood Company of Bishopsgate Street and took the trip on account of his health. He was forty three years of age’

Reginald William (son of Richard Edward junior) was born in 1872 in Surrey and died aged 24 so this must have been about 1896/7 but no further details of his time in Brazil has been found.

Richard Edward (the 3rd) was born at Catesby in 1869. By 1890 he was a 3rd engineer of SS Camerata. It had left New York with a cargo of grain and was sailing to Cork. The ship was reported overdue in March 1890 and it is assumed it foundered in a hurricane on 23 February when conditions in the Atlantic were atrocious.

Ernest Martin, brother of the last two was born in Surrey in 1871. He was an engineer by trade and Boer War records state that he enlisted 2 May 1900 in French’s Scouts. He was killed on 11 July 1900 at Kaalboschfontein by a wound to the stomach. It is quite possible he was already out there serving in a different regiment.

So for a family that had remained at Stoke Bruerne as yeoman farmers for a number of generations and then moved to Farthingstone, their children and grandchildren felt the call to travel to corners of the globe.

Interestingly, at East Haddon is the following inscription: In loving memory of Frederick Eales youngest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Eales age 37. Also of Alice his wife age 24 and Harold Percy, only child of the above age 2. They were all drowned in the ill-fated ship Drummond Castle off Ushant June 16 1896. “In the midst of life we are in death”. Two families in the county affected by the same tragedy.

Finally, don’t forget that we hold a family history helpdesk at the Record Office on the 1st Saturday of every month -so if you’ve hit a problem with your research then do come along and we’ll do our best to help. Website: www.northants-fhs.org Facebook Northants FHSTwitter:@northantsfhs
ROCKINGHAM FOREST TRUST

Settlers of the Nene Valley

In January this year we were delighted to receive Heritage Lottery funding for three years, through the Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme, to provide activities which explore the Nene Valley, its people, heritage and identity in a changing landscape.

Our project, *Settlers of the Nene Valley*, aims to explore, re-create and celebrate the lives of the Neolithic, Bronze & Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Settlers on the Stanwick Lakes site over the past 5000 years and share this with the local communities. To do this we are focussing on the journeys that the Settlers made, where and how they lived, and what we can learn from them.

We are offering hands-on opportunities for the local community to learn new skills in the traditional crafts and constructions techniques which enabled people to settle and make their home in the valley. We also have outreach projects in local schools where we take a range of exciting heritage activities to compliment the school curriculum.

So far this year we have provided opportunities for the local community to learn about and try:

- Cooking methods used by the past Settlers, including making bread and cake
- Hurdle construction, leading to wattle and daubing
- Traditional spoon carving
- Making Roman clay dice and jewellery
- Being young archaeologists, investigating and recording finds
- Dressing up like a Settler and experiencing what they would have worn
- Two trails that have been developed based upon the heritage of the site. One is for our younger “settlers” and an updated heritage trail leaflet is for the older “settlers”, which takes them to the actual settlement sites.

Alongside all these activities our volunteers have been busy building two period buildings.

An Iron Age Roundhouse is under construction to replace one previously built on the site. Using traditional methods and materials, together with appropriate wood carvings, the building is taking shape and will be finished early 2019.

Our Ancestral barn is also being constructed using a variety of materials and styles that past Settlers would recognise. It will incorporate brick, stone and wattle & daub walls, a replica Roman mosaic floor and has an oak timber frame. The frame and a pantile roof have been fitted ready for work to continue next year. Once built, the barn will be used for heritage events and activities.

An ancestral garden is being designed to complement the barn and roundhouse and we are researching what the Settlers would have grown and how the produce would have been used for food, dyeing and medicinal purposes etc. We will be growing some of these plants and then using them to recreate how they might have been used in everyday life.

Our annual event in September, as part of the Nene Valley Festival, had a wide range of hands-on opportunities for our visitors, coupled with the activities of our guests, the Bifrost Guard, a Viking re-enactor group, who provided an authentic backdrop to a very successful day.

Interpretation boards will be designed to leave a lasting source of information about the Settlers and how they lived on the site long after the project ends in 2020.

There will be many opportunities to become involved, or just enjoy the atmosphere.

Details of our activities can be found on facebook.com/settlersofthenenevalley and twitter @nenesettlers.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FILM ARCHIVE

The Trust now has a new logo which we are proud to present here.

During the year we have continued our archiving and cataloguing work and our programme of public shows at Wellingborough Museum. The next of these is devoted to aviation film from our archive including some new material which has not been seen at our shows before.

As usual, we presented at the Earls Barton Steam Rally although the weather was very poor on the first day and the attendance for the Rally was low – a good day to go to the cinema, perhaps!

We continue to service specialist requirements for film shows around the county. Venues have included Wrenn School, Abington Park Museum, Brigstock Historical Society; the Alfred East Art Gallery, Kettering Civic Society, and Rushden Collectors Circle; some of these have been return visits. The most recent, on 10th November, was to the new Northampton University campus for their Audio Visual Heritage Day where considerable interest was shown in the Archive and its technical capabilities.

Our website continues to receive growing interest from like minded film organisations. It is our intention to develop links with these groups with a view to collaboration and an improved profile in film heritage.

Our website has been accessed by visitors from London and south eastern England in the main, although there have been a few from outside the UK. There is an increasing number of returning visitors and active users.

The Archive has been pleased to receive donations of new film and video material; much of this is of local amateur origin and requires assessment and cataloguing, a lengthy task. Thanks to Wellingborough Council Small Community Grants fund we now have a dedicated laptop PC and associated specialist software on which we are building an easily accessible and dedicated film database. Such a tool will enable us to retrieve subject material when approached by our clients.

Recently we have been asked to provide film for the BBC in contribution to Steph McGovern’s programme ‘Made in Great Britain’ – not surprisingly in this case about boots and shoes.
78 DERNGATE – THE CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH HOUSE

Our most recent acquisition is the washstand cabinet and mirror, now in place in the Guest Bedroom of 78. Paid for by The Friends of 78 and made by Professor Jake Kaner of Nottingham Trent University. The cabinet is made of oak veneered plywood, with two doors either side of a decorated framed tilting mirror. A splash back, consisting of a decorated frame, glass insert backed with blue silk is nearly ready to complete the ensemble and should be installed by December this year.

Our current Item of the Month is a tribute to the commemoration of Armistice Day and will remain in place until the end of the season.

From 13th November until our season ends on Saturday December 22nd, some rooms in the 78 Derngate will be lightly transformed to depict typical household festivities of the time. There’ll be signs of mince pies baking in the kitchen, festive florals dotted here and there and a large, traditionally decorated Christmas tree will be displayed in the dining room, where tea time crockery and mince pies will adorn the table – although only for show! We run 4 guided tours a day – every day except Monday - but visitors can also show themselves around this fantastic house.

Keith Jansz – the hugely talented mouth artist – is showing a large collection of his prolific work until December 16th, most of which is for sale.

Our Gift/Craft Shop offers a unique range of quality Christmas gifts, cards, jewellery and craft.
**KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY**

Kettering Civic Society was delighted to have won Northamptonshire Heritage Forum's prestigious award **Best Special Project** at a wonderful ceremony hosted by Earl Spencer, the Patron of the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, at Althorp on 5th June.

The Society’s 2018 **THE SILVER ROSE BOWL** was AWARDED FOR THE RESTORATION OF WARKTON VILLAGE HALL. The Civic Society’s annual Rose Bowl Award took place on 17th July when by kind invitation the Duke of Buccleuch invited Civic Society members, community users of the hall with the villagers of Warkton to celebrate the completion of the £30,000 restoration project. The renovation was funded by the Duke’s Boughton Estate with some funding from Kettering Borough Council. Dr Jennifer Freeman, the Society’s President, made the presentation to the Duke.

**Kettering's Heritage Blue Plaques**

On 12th September at our monthly meeting, Dr Roy Hargrave gave an in-depth insight to the life and the many great achievements of John Alfred Gotch founder of GSSArchitecture and Kettering’s first Charter Mayor in 1938. The evening was very well attended and it was a delight to see the amazing models of Rothwell Market House and the former Gold Street Post Office building which Mark Draper built and brought along for all to see. A blue plaque will be placed on the HSBC Bank in High Street on 14th December.

On 1st November we placed a blue plaque for Charles Wicksteed, who established his thriving business in Digby Street 100 years ago. The plaque was unveiled by The Right Honourable Matthew Hancock, Secretary of State for Health & Welfare in the presence of the Mayor of Kettering Councillor James Burton and Lord Howard the owner of Wicksteed Playgrounds, members of the Civic Society and employees. Previously at a monthly meeting, Stuart Wetherell of Wicksteed Playgrounds entertained and informed us of the ingenious inventions of Charles Wicksteed who was primarily an inventor and engineer who designed the first playground equipment.

**Celebrating 50 Years of Kettering Civic Society**

We have produced a calendar to mark this special occasion and the photos that have been chosen show what our wonderful town and villages have to offer. Places on the calendar are those with which the Society have had a connection over the years. The Society's main fundraising is to have the Kettering Mosaic restored and re-sited and an update of the progress has been included along with a role of honour for those who have generously contributed.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Newsletter

Our website is [www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk) and facebook [http://www.facebook.com/NMHHF](http://www.facebook.com/NMHHF)

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MEMORIES OF THE HERITAGE AWARDS HELD AT ALTHORP HOUSE IN JULY