

# *Northamptonshire* HERITAGE FORUM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



**WICKSTEED PARK  
HERITAGE ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR 2023**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum has a key role in promoting the achievements of heritage organisations in the county. It is important that we capture those successes in the newsletter, so that we can spread the message, not only to residents in the county, but more widely. The newsletter is circulated in the Midlands and the East of England by partner heritage organisations and is available on our website. This is one way that the wonderful visitor offers provided by our members can become better known.

In the past few weeks I have been delighted to attend a number of events which demonstrate high level achievement.

On Friday 2nd June I attended the unveiling of the excellent interpretation boards relating to the Battle of Northampton 1460 at Delapré Abbey. The unveiling was undertaken by Simon Marsh of the Battlefields Trust and Deputy Leader of West Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Adam Brown. The Northamptonshire Battlefields Society is to be commended for their hard work and fundraising. Visitors now have a much better understanding of the battlefield site and battlefield tours will become a regular feature.

On Monday 3rd July I participated in the launch of the Heritage Skills Hub at Stanwick Lakes. The event brought together heritage and education professionals to explore how heritage skills can be better developed to engage with schools.

This project is being delivered by the University of Northampton and the University of Bedfordshire and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The session was led by Suzanne Oliver, Heritage Projects and Partnerships Officer at the University of Northampton. I am confident that this initiative will be accessible and beneficial for Heritage Forum members.

On Friday 7th July I attended the official opening of the glass extension to 82 Derngate. The ribbon was cut by Darren Henley, the Chief Executive of Arts Council England. It was an excellent occasion and I want to congratulate the trustees, staff, volunteers and the Friends of 78 Derngate on the completion of this project. The extension provides vital additional space for visitors and its adjoining galleries.

Lastly, on Wednesday 12th July, the Heritage Forum Awards Ceremony 2023 was held at Chester House Estate. We were delighted that our Patron, Earl Spencer, and Deputy Lieutenant Charlotte Brudenell were able to join us and participate in the celebrations. It was a wonderful evening recognising the excellent projects undertaken across the county. The judges were impressed by the quality and variety of the activities being undertaken. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all those who made entries. There is a full report of the Awards Ceremony in this newsletter.

*Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

As many of you know, I announced at the Forum AGM in April that I wanted to step down as editor of the Forum Newsletter. Having completed ten editions, I felt it was time for a change, both for me and the Newsletter.

I am delighted to say that a willing volunteer came forward immediately: Shanna Wells, who works as the Head of Sales & Marketing at Sulgrave Manor. I am sure that the Newsletter is in very capable hands.

Please continue to send your articles to nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com and give Shanna the support which you kindly gave to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - it has been a great pleasure to get to know so many of you and to read about what you and your organisations are doing. I am looking forward to reading future editions, without having the work of producing them!

*Janet Lawrence*

I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all.

As Janet has said, I am the Head of Sales & Marketing at Sulgrave Manor and I am looking forward to working on each issue of the forum newsletter. I want to say a massive thank you to Janet who has done a sterling job over her tenure and also for all the support she has shown me since I started.

I look forward to meeting you all at some point and please do get in touch with any news.

*Shanna Wells*

## DAIRY OF FORUM EVENTS MEMBERS ONLY

### September

Full Forum Meeting, Delapre Abbey  
Thursday 22 September  
Further details to follow

### October

History Day at Oundle  
Saturday 28 October

### November

Big Fat History Quiz  
Date to be confirmed  
Details to be arranged

## THE DATES FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS

Deadline Date: 10 October 2023  
Issue Date: 31 October 2023

# **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM ANNUAL HISTORY DAY SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2023, 10AM TO 4PM**

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum yearly History Day will be on Saturday 28th October 2023 in 'Oundle - a Historical Unique Northamptonshire Town'.

The day is being kindly hosted by Forum Members, Oundle Historical Society, Oundle Museum and Oundle School Archives. It will be held in the Great Hall of Oundle School in the centre of the town.

There are a series of talks during the day around the subject of Oundle's history and tours in the afternoon around the town itself.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. The price for the day is £27.50 and is open to Forum Members in the first instance. We do hope that you may be able to join us.

Please do share amongst your members if you are an organisational member (Museum, Historic House, Heritage, or Historical Society).

We do hope you will be able to join us.

# **STOP PRESS - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FAIR 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

Now ONLY taking place at Abington Park Museum.



# THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FILM ARCHIVE TRUST

## AN APPEAL

The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust (NFAT) has cine film from around the county dating from the early 1900s to the 1980s and is responsible for its safe keeping. Founded in the 1960s as the Northamptonshire 9.5 Group, it gained formal Trust status in 1986 and continues to be active across the county, screening examples of films from its collection and, aware that much has already been lost to society, reminding audiences not to throw away or destroy any cine film in their possession.

Less than two years ago the Trust were welcomed at the new Chester House Estate. After continuous encouragement by Chester House staff, plus a significant investment in both physical and monetary terms the Trust has been informed there is now no longer space for them to remain. The consequence of this shock announcement has placed the film heritage of Northamptonshire is under threat.

The Trust has limited financial and manpower resources but it is desperate to survive. Unless a viable location can be found to store the films and maintain the necessary working projectors the Trust will have no option but to cease operating and the film collection broken up.

We are appealing to Heritage Forum members who can offer help in any way to contact us at [tnfat@outlook.com](mailto:tnfat@outlook.com)

## STOP PRESS - NORTHANTS ARCHIVE

### 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023

There will be three tours of the Archive building. There will also be demonstrations of what activities go on behind the scenes with a selection of Archives for preservation, digitising large material, and conserving the documents to preserve them for future use. These need to be booked in advance.

The Archives are also intending to show a 1970s promotional film relating to the expansion of the town in the 1970s "Everybody says Hello" - this will be running on a loop.

The intention is to run the tours at approximately 9.15am, 10.30am, 12pm and to include a look at the storage repositories with the demonstrations happening before and after the repositories. The whole thing to last approximately 1 hour.

# THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARDS 2023

## ‘WHAT A COUNTY, AND WHAT A FORUM!’

Half a millennium old, the carefully restored Threshing Barn at Chester House was the perfect venue for the annual Awards presented by the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum. The sparkling fairy lights illuminated both the ancient roof timbers and the guests, who included members of the Forum, and Charles, Lord Spencer, the Patron. Other guests included Charlotte Brudenell deputising for the Lord Lieutenant, and the Leaders and Chairs of West and North Northamptonshire Councils. Rachel Mallows MBE DL represented the Northamptonshire Surprise website, and the whole event was expertly compered by John Griff DL.

Cllr Helen Howell, Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council and Executive for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism welcomed everyone to the Chester House Estate, and Charlotte Brudenell DL spoke of the importance of protecting, preserving and promoting our unique Northamptonshire Heritage.

After the winners were announced, (listed below) Lord Spencer expressed his pride in those who work to support Northamptonshire's heritage. He recognised the passion and the commitment shown by communities of like-minded people working together in a county 'heaving with history'. He described the event as an uplifting celebration of heritage made accessible, rich with stories of past

communities. He especially complimented the work of the volunteers who make so much more possible. He ended by offering his congratulations to Wicksteed Park who won 'Heritage Organisation of the Year 2023' for their positivity and commitment to the community during difficult conditions in recent years. He ended with the comment, 'What a County... and what a Forum!'

Many of the winners are taking part in Heritage Open Days during September, so do look out for them.

### **Winners of the Northamptonshire Heritage Awards 2023**

#### **Heritage Organisation of the Year 2023 Wicksteed Park**

Wicksteed Park is the legacy of Charles Wicksteed, a wealthy industrialist with a social conscience who after making munitions and military equipment during the First World War turned his attention to creating quality robust children's play equipment, recognising the value of play and recreation for the well-being of the local community. In 1914 he had purchased land on the edge of Kettering to create the garden suburb of Barton Seagrave, but his primary focus was on developing the park at its centre. In 1921 Wicksteed Park opened to the public as a freely accessible public space designed to improve the lives of the people of Kettering and the local area.



The Wicksteed Trust and the Wicksteed family of today continue this tradition and despite recent challenging conditions have worked hard to continue to fulfil the original philanthropic vision of Charles Wicksteed. The centenary was marked with celebration, the volunteer team is growing, and the Park is continuing to offer the community somewhere to get outside and enjoy quality leisure time together in a wide variety of ways.

This award recognises the energy and effectiveness of the current team to maintain both the ideals of the founder, Charles Wicksteed, and the close links to the wellbeing of the people in the Kettering area.

### **Judges Choice Special Award Winner**

#### **Northants Open Studios**

Northants Open Studios is a visual arts community group, giving members of the public access to art throughout the county, both at exhibitions in wonderful historic places such as Lamport Hall, and in artists' own studios. NOS are inclusive, believing that art should be celebrated and enjoyed by everyone. The annual month-long festival not only gives artists the opportunity to engage directly with art lovers, collectors and enthusiasts of their work, but also allows them to demonstrate their practice, discuss new work and sell or accept commissions. There is no selection process allowing artists of varying abilities, ages and disciplines to be part of the community.

### **Best Event: Winner**

#### **Northampton Museums and Art Gallery**

'Transport Day 2022'

Utilising their ideal location of Abington Museum within Abington Park for an outside event and building on their

experience of a previous delivery of the event, the 2022 Transport Day was the biggest event so far. They exhibited around 35 individual exhibitors of vehicles from local organisations and private collectors, creating a real family day out. The day proved to be one of the most popular events ever held at Abington Park and Museum.

### **Best Event: Highly Commended**

#### **Desborough Heritage Centre**

'The public unveiling of a Memorial to the crew killed in Wellington Bomber HF670 in Desborough 5th September 1944'.

In October 2022, 78 years on, attended by descendants of the three airmen who were killed in a WWII Wellington Bomber crash in a Desborough field, Desborough Civic Society and Heritage Centre provided a Memorial event and service, having provided a new Stone on the site. A special exhibition with refreshments (coffee and lunch) was provided in the Heritage Centre.

### **Best Exhibition: Winner**

#### **Canons Ashby - National Trust**

'A Christmas Quest'

This Christmas display was inspired by John Dryden's semi-opera King Arthur. Visitors followed the story of brave King Arthur and his quest to rescue his beloved Emmeline, encountering magic, battles, enchanted woods, spells, the enchanter Merlin and of course dragons. A real team effort, with the environment in mind, many of our decorations were handmade by the volunteers.

### **Best Exhibition: Highly Commended**

#### **Daventry Museum**

Borough Hill and its History

Inspired by the centenary of the publication

Of William Edgar's book 'Borough Hill Daventry and its History', this exciting exhibition brings the historic ages of Borough Hill alive and reflects on the findings and excavations in Edgar's book through fascinating displays.

**Best Project by a Group or Society:**

**Winner**

**The Friends of St. Mary's, Higham Ferrers**

Gateway to the 600-year history of the Bede House

The Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) is a volunteer organisation, dedicated to supporting the preservation, restoration, improvement and ornamentation of the three medieval buildings. The gate project was organised from concept to completion by the volunteers, and involved fund raising, and liaison with the church authorities, the carpenter and stone masons.

**Best Special Long-Term Project: Winner**

**Northamptonshire Battlefields Society**

Battle of Northampton 1460 Interpretation Panels

The aim of the project was to install heritage industry leading interpretation panels to explain the Wars of the Roses battle fought at Delapré Abbey in 1460. This was a founding aim of Society and was left incomplete on the death of our chair, Mike Ingram, in 2021.

**Best Volunteer Project: Winner**

**Delapré Abbey**

'The Cluniac Nunnery of St Mary de la Pré exhibition'

In February 2021, a new exhibition celebrating Delapré Abbey's medieval past opened. Little was known about the history of the women who lived at the Abbey during medieval times until now, thanks to

the research of a small group of female volunteers undertaken during the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020/21. In September 2022 Delapré Abbey hosted the 8th UK Cluniac Conference with the volunteers drafting the programme and sharing the stories of Delapré

**Winner Community Wellbeing Award:**

**Winner**

**Wicksteed Park**

'Crafternoon'

Crafternoon is a project that was formed in the wider Heritage Lottery Funded @Play project. It is a programme of 'have-a-go' style weekly craft sessions aimed at adults to build confidence in skills and help tackle social isolation in retirement age as well as 18-24 in a calming, supportive environment.

**Hindsight Award for Best Published Book: Winner**

**Michael Brown, the Historic Gardener**

MEDIEVAL PLANTS AND THEIR USES

The book is the result of many years of research for the Prebendal Manor Medieval Gardens at Nassington, Northamptonshire. The book shows the importance of plants to daily medieval life, and since publication, it has been used as a guide to the medieval plants that could be grown at other Northamptonshire sites, such as Stanwick Lakes Settlers Garden and the medieval Gardens at Delapré Abbey.

**Hindsight Award for best published Book: Highly Commended**

**Ann Redshaw**

'Rockingham: The Village under the Castle - A social history of a closed Northamptonshire village'

This first history of the village focuses on the social lives of the residents. Topics covered



include population, wealth, health, employment, housing development, utilities, education and leisure opportunities. National trends are outlined then illustrated by original case studies drawn from the estate archives.

**Hindsight Award for Best Published Other Materials: Winner Higham Ferrers Tourism**

Film: 'Chichele College Celebrates 600 Years'

As part of the special anniversary celebrations and, in the interests of sharing Chichele College with a wider and more diverse audience, this film was created. It shows the everyday life of the College and features all those who use and care for this scheduled monument on a regular basis. It is available to all on YouTube.

**About the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum**

Our purpose is to celebrate Northamptonshire's past by supporting and promoting Museums, Galleries, Historic Houses, Heritage Sites and History Societies across Northamptonshire. We are run by a committee of volunteers and meet several times a year to provide advice, access to grants and training, joint marketing and promotion, and the opportunity to network with like-minded people.

For more information about us, our work and our members, please visit [www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk)





# WELLINGBOROUGH DISTRICT HINDU ASSOCIATION

## VISITS TO HINDU MANDIR FROM SCHOOLS AND CUBS

We have regular visits, to the Hindu Mandir from schools, Scouts and Cubs across Northamptonshire and surrounding areas. We also get invited to present classes at schools. Our purpose is to provide valuable learning for children and support them in their study of Hinduism, as part of the national curriculum. During the visits, we focus on:

- Hindu Religion/ Sanatan Dharma
- The Deities
- Our Mandir
- Religious Ceremonies

Religious Scriptures

Over the last year around 900 plus children and their teachers, cub leaders have visited the Hindu Mandir, and this is what some of them had to say about their visit:

*"Thank you so much for the great visit my class had in your temple, you taught us all (adults included) so much about Hinduism, my class were talking about it all afternoon and I am very grateful that you were able to take time out from your busy day to make the visit so enriching for them."*

DSL V E-ACT Academy, Daventry

*"Many thanks again for your time last night. We have had some lovely comments from parents saying how much their child enjoyed the visit."*

Falcon Cub Pack, Burton Latimer

*"Thank you for your warm welcome today. We had a very enjoyable and educational visit. The feedback from families and colleagues has been very positive."*

Highfield Nursery School, Wellingborough

Ishver Patel MBE

WDHA Website: <https://wdha.co.uk/>

WDHA Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/theWDHA/>





## INTRODUCING COFEPOW

COFEPOW stands for Children Families and Friends of Far East Prisoners of War. The words families and friends were added after the acronym was created and it was not changed as it was well known by then.

It was started in 1997 after a person, Carol Cooper had seen an article in a newspaper about a soldiers' diary of his experiences in Thailand that had been auctioned and realised it was about her own father! This was in 1994. The diary described the brutality of the Japanese to their British, Commonwealth and local 'Romusha' prisoners and this was largely unknown to most people in this country.

So after much campaigning, a BBC documentary and questions in Parliament she advertised in her local area and found 25 persons in the Norfolk area who had relatives in similar circumstances. Today the charity has over 1000 members mainly from over the United Kingdom and many in other countries such as Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

In Northamptonshire we are some 12 members strong and are seeking to get a memorial to honour those who suffered in the Far East and to ensure wreaths are laid at commemorations. Also, we are going to participate in the forthcoming Heritage Days.

We would also like to attend meetings of groups and societies in the area to help spread the word about what we do.

David Brede, Chair of Trustees

## AN ACCOUNT FROM JILL ROBERTSON

My father was twenty-six years old when he was captured as a PoW at Singapore. That moment in his life has formed the foundation for events that have happened in my life many decades later.

Dad, Stan Moore, was an RASC Driver, a dispatch rider – jumping on motorcycles at the command of senior officers, trained for a war-torn battlefield supposedly in the Middle East. But a world event on December 7<sup>th</sup>, in Hawaii, Pearl Harbour changed all that. He was posted to Singapore and jumped on his dispatch khaki drab Norton vehicle to ride along the rural by-ways of a colonial Jewel in the Crown, considered to be a safe haven. The task in hand was to save it; it was under threat from another empire – the Japanese Imperial empire. The Imperial Japanese Army swarmed down the Malay peninsula, to take control of vital industrial resources, after already invading French Indo-China. They wanted to increase their Empire to the west, there was no stopping them.

The retreat of the serving British Army into Singapore resulted in capitulation. After three years of captivity, Stan had lost many platoon (driver) friends, but he had kept an address book, simple and made to fit in his army uniform top pocket. During the voyage to the southern seas, Stan turned the address book over and started a diary. The diary depicts his days of perfect freedom up to when he was held in captivity in Changi, Singapore. The diary abruptly stops the day their illustrious leader Major General M. Beckwith-Smith passed away. The start of so much disillusion, they had only been captives for

nine months, little did they know the length of incarceration, what their young futures held and when would they eat a roast dinner ever again?

Forward to 2012, when the diary was taken out of Dad's mementoes box, for the time was right to examine it and see how his account could be conveyed to others, creativity took hold.

Dad had died in 2001, but had also recorded a tape in 1990, on one of the anniversaries of the surrender by the Japanese. This along with the diary was the cornerstone of a publication to be authored by myself and my sister and avid research began. During 2014, I had already joined CoFEPOW. It is one of the national charities that exists off the back of the FEPOW association, and represented by the children of Far East prisoners of war. Being interested in telling the story of this event in the World War Two, as it was evident it didn't have as much literary clout as the European war for instance, I became co-ordinator for the county I lived in at the time - West Sussex. Through attending several of the nationwide group events joining with other co-ordinators of a like-minded ilk - we are family - being 'children of' and off-spring of brave men after what they had endured, the palpable connection of knowing how we felt about our forebears, went without saying. The book was published in June 2022.

Northampton was a place I didn't expect to live - and my knowledge of the county was only the A43, cutting over to the M1 to visit my children's grandmother who lived in Leicestershire, plus a work colleague I knew in the 1990s used to live in Great Billing. In 2021 - after my two independent 30-

something young adults and through family relationship changes - I found myself in Weston Favell Village renting a cottage, because my life had become entwined with David Brede, the co-ordinator for Northampton, Secretary - and now Chair - of CoFEPOW. His father too is an RAF prisoner of war, who was captured in Java, and moved to Changi in March 1942. Would their paths have crossed - probably not. The reality of captivity for them both would have been the same feeling of terror. We understood. Our fathers endured the same and gave us - the next generation - the incentive to promulgate and think about.

Now ensconced fully in the remarkable landscape of 'chocolate-box' Northamptonshire, the connection of CoFEPOW to the Northampton Heritage Forum is of mutual benefit to promote both associations, and a considerable amount of time is devoted to this, including travelling to the Far East for research.

The aim, in our locality, is to assist at larger county events, by having information stands for fundraising, and likewise to spread by leafletting the widespread, diverse necessity for an organisation to keep the Northamptonshire heritage alive.

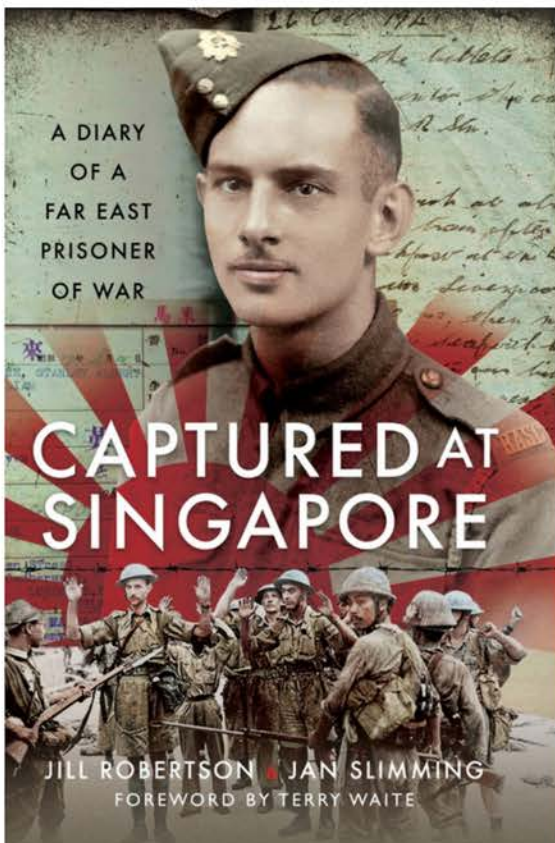
As an organisation, CoFEPOW has a base at the National Memorial Arboretum, near Alrewas, Staffordshire, where a replica 'Attap Hut' houses oral history accounts, inter-active immersive research aids, and is run by many dedicated volunteers. The upkeep of the exhibit is via the Royal British Legion who own the entire site for the other important memorials. The Trustees - with patron Terry Waite, CBE, and other military notables - lead the way with area co-ordinators acting on their behalf in many



counties. Along with Leicestershire, Birmingham and Lincolnshire groups, we are lucky to be the nearest CoFEPOW members to visit regularly.

For further information please contact [cofepow.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:cofepow.chairman@gmail.com) for the Northampton members group. To become members visit [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk). Joint memberships are available. Meetings are held every 3 months approximately.

Jill Robertson  
Joint Author 'Captured at Singapore'  
Published by Pen & Sword.



# TEDDY BEARS PICNIC DEENE PARK

**Wednesday 2nd August 2023**

If you go down to the woods today, you are sure of a big surprise! Join us on National Play Day, Wednesday 2nd of August, for the return of our Teddy Bears Picnic!

Enjoy your picnic next to the lake, meet Mr Teddy Bear, explore the formal gardens with a Teddy Bear Trail, and have fun with our friends from Just Karen for storytelling, and sing-a-longs.

## Ticket Information

<https://deenepark.com/teddy-bears-picnic-2nd-august/>

Gardens: 12noon-4pm, last admission 3pm.

Adult £8

Child (5-12 yrs.) £4

Infant (0-4 yrs.) FREE

Tickets are available to purchase online until 11am on the day of the event. Tickets will not be available for purchase in person on the day. This event will go ahead come rain or shine.

## Getting Here

Deene Park can be found off the A43, 12 miles from Stamford and 6 miles northeast of Corby. Follow the blue signage to visitor entrance. Postcode for Satnav NN17 3EG.

## Contact

Kelly - [admin@deenepark.com](mailto:admin@deenepark.com)



# KELMARSH HALL

## WHAT'S ON

### **National Garden Scheme Open Day**

*September 17 2023*

Join us on Sunday 17th September 2023 for our annual National Garden Scheme Open Day. 50% of ticket sales will go to the National Garden Scheme who distribute the proceeds among their chosen charities. Usual garden entrance fees apply on the day.

### **Autumn Walk and Artisan Fair**

*October 1 2023, 11am - 3pm*

Join Kelmarsh for an Autumn Walk and Artisan Fair at Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens. There will be lots of unique artisan stalls offering crafts, artwork, homeware, candles, gifts, jewellery and so much more. There will be hot food stalls, and Sweet Peas Tearoom will be serving hot drinks to takeaway for a stroll around the gardens. The historic gardens, woodland and lakeside walks will be open for you to enjoy. In the woodlands, visitors can also find the wonderful fairy  
Dogs are very welcome. Stallholder enquiries, please email [events@kelmarsh.com](mailto:events@kelmarsh.com)

### **Pro Artium Lecture Series**

October 5, 12th and 19th 2023 – 2pm – 4pm

#### **Genius Loci: Unexpected Histories of the Country House**

Our understanding of the 21st century country house tends to be one of a succession of histories and events.

That expectation is supported by emphasis being placed on presentation of country house as a location for successive historical events, as well as a buoyant industry engaged in cultural myth-making through literature, film and tv. In our series of autumn lectures at Kelmarsh Hall we contrast an example of the successful stage-setting of one country house in the twentieth century with the histories that may be discovered through one particular form of historical record, the inventory. We shall also consider the lives of those who enabled the country house to function behind the scenes and how they have become increasingly prominent in the public conscience.

#### **Sessions:**

*My Home is My Castle: The fashioning of Chillingham Castle, and other interior motives*

*Seen, but not Heard? Upstairs and Downstairs in the Country House*

*Of Sheets, Pots and Pans: A look at Historic Inventories and the Lives they reflect*

For more information and booking, please visit the Kelmarsh website what's on page:

[www.kelmarsh.com/whatson](http://www.kelmarsh.com/whatson)  
[enquiries@kelmarsh.com](mailto:enquiries@kelmarsh.com) / 01604686543



# SUMMER AT LAMPOROT HALL

Summer at Lampport Hall will be in the spirit of music, theatre, art and heritage.

The Chapterhouse Theatre Company presented Oscar Wilde's finest and best-loved romantic comedy 'The Importance of Being Earnest' on Saturday 15th July.

From Victorian times we swiftly moved to the 1920s and 30s with traditional New Orleans Jazz by The Tame Valley Stompers Allstars for 'Jazz in the Garden' on Sunday 16th July.

On 5th August, Lampport Hall will welcome a musical duo, pianist [Sophia Rahman & violinist Andres Kaljuste, for an evening of music by Scandinavian composers including Greig and Sibelius.](#) Sophia and Andres appear frequently alongside each other championing music by Estonian composers Arvo Pärt and his teacher Heino Eller.

At the end of August, the Antiques and Vintage Fair returns to Lampport Hall once again. This event, spanning two days (27th – 28th August), features over 80 stalls of antiques, collectables, furniture, vintage, jewellery, coins, retro, militaria, clocks, toys, vinyl, china, glass, radios, tools, posters and much more. There really is something for everyone!

The largest visual arts festival in and around Northamptonshire - Summer Open Exhibition for Northants Open Studios - will be holding their central exhibition at Lampport Hall. The exhibition will be open Wednesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm

throughout September with a launch event being held on Saturday 2nd September.

During the event you can explore local artwork from talented artists in the stable yard as well as enjoy delicious refreshments in our Stables Café.

For the first time, Lampport Hall will be opening entirely for free as part of Heritage Open Days 'Lampport Hall Conservation Unlocked'. Come along to Lampport on 9th September to enjoy everything the Hall has to offer. The Hall itself is a magnificent Grade-I listed country house, first purchased by the Isham family in 1560. Over the centuries, the family have made many architectural changes to suit changing fashions. The gardens are a delight to wander at your leisure or as part of our special Head gardener's tours. Our Stables Café and the gift shop will be open too. For families and younger visitors, we will have some activities and hands-on crafts to enjoy as well as an Historic Legacies treasure trail and Georgian characters to meet.

If you have an interest in volunteering in a stately home, we will also have a station setup to learn more about the opportunities available at Lampport and how you can get involved.

For more information call [\(01604\) 686272](tel:01604686272) or email [engagement@lamporthall.co.uk](mailto:engagement@lamporthall.co.uk); for more details on forthcoming events, visit the Lampport Hall website.

## SUMMER EVENTS AT LAMPOR HALL

Lampport Hall Preservation Trust Ltd  
(Lampport Hall)

Telephone: [\(01604\) 686272](tel:01604686272)

Email: [engagement@lamporthall.co.uk](mailto:engagement@lamporthall.co.uk)

Website: [Lampport Hall & Gardens](#)

### SOPHIA RAHMAN & ANDRES KALJUSTE - SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC

5th August

[Sophia Rahman & Andres Kaljuste -](#)

[Scandinavian Music - Lampport Hall & Gardens](#)

### ANTIQUES AND VINTAGE FAIR

27th - 28th August

[Antiques and Vintage Fair - Lampport Hall &  
Gardens](#)

### OPEN STUDIOS EXHIBITION

3rd - 30th September

[Open Studios Exhibition - Lampport Hall &  
Gardens](#)

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - LAMPOR HALL CONSERVATION UNLOCKED

9th September

[Heritage Open Days - Lampport Hall  
Conservation Unlocked - Lampport Hall &  
Gardens](#)



## OUNDLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A distinctly chilly north-easterly wind has blown around Oundle for much of this year, but fortunately all our meetings so far have been indoors with the heating on! With expert advice from Dr. Helen Forde, we were piloted (metaphorically) through the National Archives and Dr. Rebecca Gregory, assistant professor at Nottingham University and editor of the English Place Name Society, talked about place-names, with reference to some good local ones. Plum Pudding Road is one of my favourites.

Planning for the OHS programme 2024/25 is already in hand but before that we have the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum's "Oundle History Day" to be held on 28th October; we are much involved with this, along with the Museum and Oundle School. It came as a revelation to me during some research on a local family that Oundle School has a Register of pupils which goes back to 1626; this has been digitised, although not indexed by name, and is freely available online for any of us to consult. For any researcher or genealogist it is one of those goldmines that you can literally fall into and enjoy. Church records are in short supply for the Civil Wars and Commonwealth era and Oundle's Registers provide some useful information about people during this historical period.

Many of our members also belong to U3A History Groups and not only explore local villages and their history but get involved with research about them. Some are even more proactive and energetic; Titchmarsh Church has benefitted from the expertise and help of Dr. Carew Treffgarne in securing funding for the recent restoration of two Creed monuments painted by Elizabeth Creed in the early 18th century. Now clean and bright again, they are well worth a visit.

*Margaret King*



## Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Bring your own  
picnics, chairs  
and blankets

Follow the critically-acclaimed Pantaloons down the rabbit hole for their own hilarious take on Lewis Carroll's nonsensical novel. All the unusual suspects are here: the mirthful Mad Hatter, the perpetually late White Rabbit, the quarrelsome Queen of Hearts and, of course, the adventurous Alice herself. A delightfully anarchic show that gets curiouser and curiouser with live music and audience interaction.

**Sunday 13th August 2023**  
**5.30pm (doors open 5pm)**

£18 Standard  
£10 Under-18  
£50 Family (2+2)

### Book Now

[www.sulgravemanor.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.sulgravemanor.org.uk/whats-on)  
01295 760205

Charity number 1003839



# HOLY SEPULCHRE IN NORTHAMPTON

The church is now open again on Saturday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm with tour guides on duty. There are also opportunities to book for our tours of the world famous building (please get in touch with me on 01604 754782).

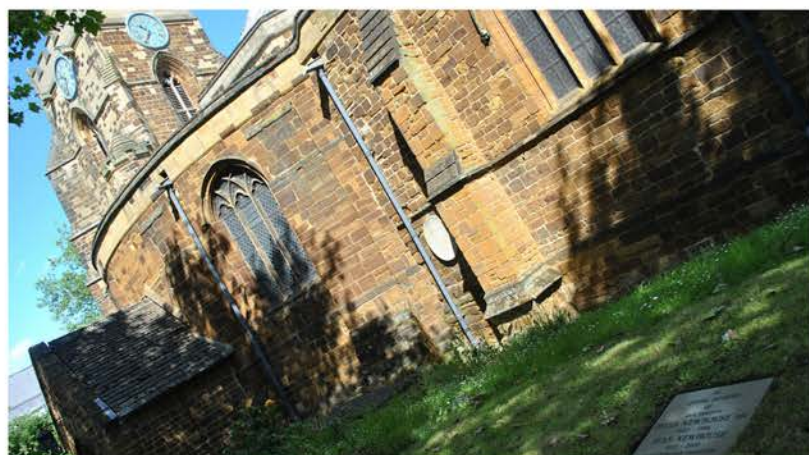
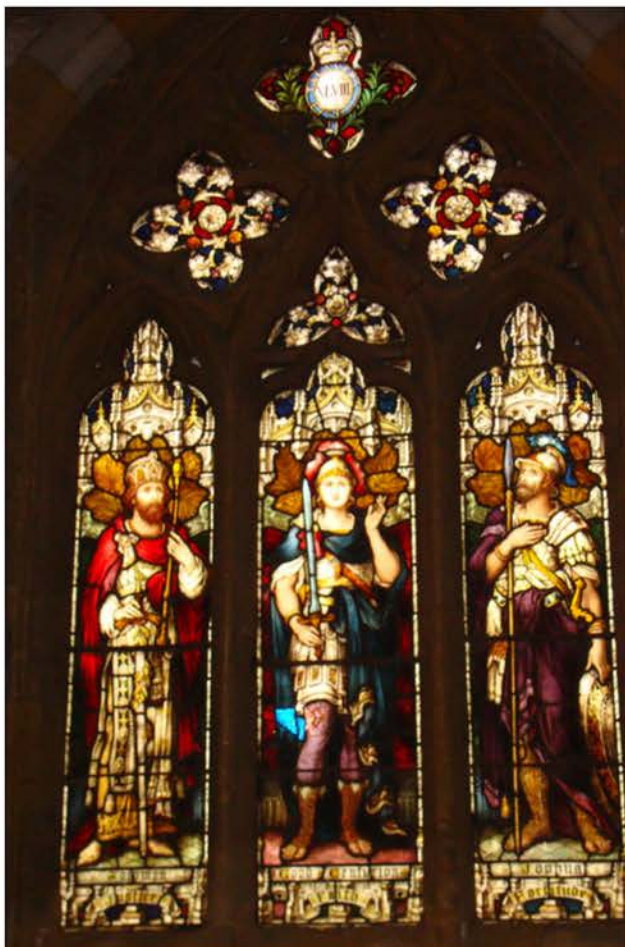
The next opportunity apart from simply visiting is 2.30pm on 29th July when one of our superb military stained glass windows will have been re-instated after full conservation and co-operation from The Northamptonshire Regiment, all accompanied by The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment (the Talavera Service).

Moving on we are racing up to our brilliant concerts with Northampton Concert Band on 23rd September for Last Night of the Proms, then on 11th November "We Will Remember Them" for Armistice in "The Soldier's Church.

In between there is "Heritage Open Days" early in September. All information can be emailed out on email [crusader.round@btinternet.com](mailto:crusader.round@btinternet.com)

Please come and join the list of 150,000 visitors that have passed through our doors since 1982.

*John Kightley MBE FISMM Director/Secretary*





# ART COMPETITION WAS THE CROWNING GLORY OF CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

A CHILDREN'S art competition to celebrate King Charles III's coronation proved a right royal success for Higham Ferrers Tourism. "There were almost 500 entries from five local schools. It was wonderful and quite overwhelming, but of course, quite a big task to organise," said organiser Carol Fitzgerald, chair of Chichele College Management Committee, a sub-branch of the tourism committee.

Higham Ferrers has a long connection with royalty – the town's historic Chichele College is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster (the monarch of the day) – which was why the tourism committee wanted the young artists to feature kings or queens of their choice who had ruled down the ages.

The committee called in acclaimed local artist, Ophelia Redpath – Sky Landscape Artist of the Year 2021 – to give pupils at Higham Ferrers Junior School (HFJS) tips and techniques for their portraits. She told them about the importance of light and dark, daubing, smudging, smoothing out their work and blending. The expressions in the eyes and eyebrows could tell what the monarch was thinking and what type of person he or she was, pupils were told.

Inspired by their briefings, entries from HFJS, as well as from four other schools, poured in and the judges, Ophelia Redpath and Nina Wilson, from local sponsors Wilson Brown Solicitors, said it had been a "real joy" to judge the children's portraits. They had enjoyed themselves so much that they wanted to

judge another competition next year, they told organiser Carol Fitzgerald. The winning entries were unveiled at Chichele College on the last day of the Coronation long week-end in May and they later went on display at the Tourism Committee's Chichele Garden Fair at the end of the month. They will also go on show at various other venues throughout the summer. And then they will go on display in Wilson Brown's reception in the town.



*Evie Murphy's majestic entry took first place in the 11+ age group and she proudly showed off her portrait of Queen Elizabeth II to Mayor, Councillor Nigel Brown.*



The winners were:

**Age up to 6 years:** First – Macelina Kupinska, Henry Chichele School; Second – Isla Cook of the Alpha Playgroup; Third – Freya Goold of Henry Chichele Primary School.

**7-8 age group:** First – Jessica Blenkhorn of Chichele Primary School; Second – Anna Maria Konstantinidis and Zion Howell, both of HFJS. Lara Angelina Cabrera and Harvey Jai Drawbridge of HFJS were highly commended.

**9-10 age group:** First – Ryan Bourke; Second – Eowyn Nestic; Third – Andrei Mocanu, all of HFJS. Izzy Baker, Sophia Nichols and Daisy Greenaway of HFJS were highly commended.

**11+ category:** First – Evie Murphy of HFJS; Second – Nina Gironi, The Ferrers School; Third – Aimie Redman, The Ferrers School.

NOTE: STORY SUBMITTED BY HIGHAM FERRERS TOURISM COMMITTEE

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Carol Fitzgerald. Email:

[carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com](mailto:carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com). Mobile:

07765 575275

Also, check out Facebook Higham Ferrers Tourism

[www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk](http://www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk)



*Ryan Bourke reigned supreme, scooping the top prize in the 9-10 age category with his portrait of Queen Elizabeth I.*

## THE TRAIL, THE TALES AND A TOWN'S FASCINATING HISTORY HIGHAM FERRERS TOURISM UNCOVERS THE BLUE PLAQUE STORIES

HIGHAM Ferrers Mayor, Councillor Nigel Brown, always wondered what the full stories were behind the Town Council's 18 Blue Plaques on sites in the historic town.

Now, thanks to an intensive two-year research project by the town's Tourism Committee, he will be able to find out all about the various places and people behind the blue plaque locations. The mayor told of his curiosity about the plaques at a recent Mayor's Market on the final day of the Coronation celebrations when he launched the Tourism Committee's Blue Plaque Trail at the committee's promotional market stall.

Armed with a four-page brochure, the mayor will now be able to walk the trail, either taking his time over several days or doing it all at once. And just like others who are interested in tales of the town, he will also be able to discover the full fascinating stories by logging onto the new blue plaque website (details at bottom of the story). "This is a great scheme: you have done a fantastic job," the mayor told the committee.

A small team of committee members, aided by historian Brenda Lofthouse, researched the stories and special mention was made of the hard work of Brenda and Pam Webbley, who produced the brochure and website.

The website tells that a 500-year-old walnut tree has its own blue plaque, details the background about buildings linked to people in the shoe and



boot trade and features landmarks associated with Higham's most famous son, Archbishop of Canterbury Henry Chichele who founded the town's Chichele College in 1422 from the proceeds from his various properties in Essex, London and Higham.

Chichele's birthplace, 67 High Street, has a blue plaque as does 2 College Street, where the prolific local author, H.E. Bates-of The Darling Buds of May fame-used to visit his grandparents.

The Old House at 5 Market Square, which was built in the late 16th Century, still retains the original key, which needs to be inserted upside down to open the oak front door.

The Market Cross in the town centre, which dates from the 13th Century, was used to bind oaths and contracts and is historically the focal point of proclamations such as the death of a monarch. It was there, on September 11, 2022, where a proclamation was made about the succession of Charles III.

The Market Cross site was also the spot where public whippings were carried out and where people were placed in the stocks as a form of humiliation.

Website visitors will discover that even though Chichele College was meant for a community of priests, as well as a warden, choristers and fellows, that some of the activities were less than law-abiding.

"In 1433, the fellows were in trouble at the Duchy Court for poaching fish in the River Nene...There were numerous complaints about the lax attitude of the inhabitants. These included the fellows being far too fashion-conscious and wearing their gowns cut very short."

As for the chaplain, he was charged with "haunting suspicious places," particularly the houses of two "ladies of ill repute."

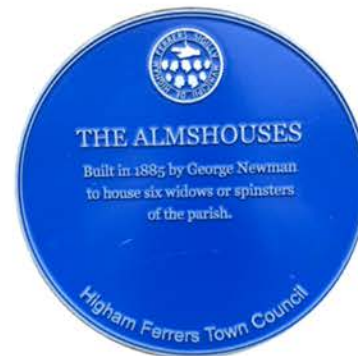
There is a printer-friendly version of the map on the website; alternatively, the brochure can be collected from the Higham Ferrers Town Hall on the Market Square or from the Discover Northamptonshire Hub at Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre.

NOTE: STORY SUBMITTED BY HIGHAM FERRERS TOURISM COMMITTEE

Contacts: Liz Barnatt, Email: [liz.barnatt@gmail.com](mailto:liz.barnatt@gmail.com). Mobile: 07954171890

Carol Fitzgerald. Email: [carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com](mailto:carol952fitzgerald@btinternet.com). Mobile: 07765 575275

Also, check out Facebook Higham Ferrers Tourism [www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk](http://www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk)





# NORTHAMPTON SAINTS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Northampton Saints players spent their first day back after the summer break learning more about the origins and heritage of the club. On a walk around Northampton, they visited the recently restored grave of the club's

first captain Jim Barker at Dallington Cemetery, saw where the club began with the Improvement Class in St James Church as well as the statue commemorating their most famous captain, Edgar Mobbs.

# NORTHAMPTON SAINTS FOUNDATION

Northampton Saints Foundation is responsible for protecting, preserving and sharing the history and heritage of Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club. We are also delighted to announce that we have been awarded a two-year £65,550 grant, from [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), to explore and document Northampton Saints RFC during the 1950s and 1960s.

As a heavily under-researched era, the project aims to engage with a wide range of former players, staff and supporters to build a rich history and capture this bygone time through interviews, recording oral histories and reminiscence sessions. We will also catalogue and digitise memorabilia that we hold in their archive, and accession additional relevant items, storing them correctly to preserve and protect them for generations to come. At the end of the project, we aim to produce various education outcomes in addition to a video based on our findings, that can be shared and accessed by all via our website. Exhibition materials will also be created for Saints supporters in spaces within the stadium and externally to showcase the

work of the project.

In addition to this, we have also been awarded £5,000 from the Northampton Queen's Institute Fund, administered by Northampton Community Foundation, to hold monthly Memory Cafe.

This project will enhance the personal wellbeing of older people within our community who have memory and mobility issues, and those who feel isolated or lonely. We are also looking for volunteers to support with the above project, committing to a few hours every month to support planning and delivery of the sessions. The first Memory Cafe will take place on July 5th at 10am - midday, in the Captains suite at cinch stadium at Franklin's Gardens. It is free to attend with refreshments included, however spaces are limited, and booking is essential.

To register your interest as a volunteer for either or both projects, or to book a place for an older person please contact Clare at [heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org](mailto:heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org).





# MEMORY CAFE



## REMINISCENCE SESSIONS

### About

Supporting older people with memory issues, mobility issues, isolation or loneliness, our Memory Cafe is a great opportunity to meet new people and reflect on the past in a safe and welcoming environment.

### Themes

5th July - Childhood memories  
 2nd August - Family traditions  
 6th September - Childhood games  
 11th October - Holidays  
 1st November - School days  
 6th December - Famous people

Free of charge  
 Tea, coffee and cake included  
 Please bring items that may help trigger memories such as photographs, toys, certificates, medals, books etc.

Please book by contacting Clare Clarke  
[Heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org](mailto:Heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org)  
 07933 185364

Register of charities number: 1176345  
[northamptonsaintsfoundation.org](http://northamptonsaintsfoundation.org)

### Date and time

10.00am-12pm

cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens  
 NN5 5BG

(Fully accessible)



# MEMORY CAFE



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### Summary

Do you enjoy sharing stories of days gone by? We are looking for volunteers to join our reminiscence team and engage with older members of the Northampton Saints RFU community through our onsite monthly Memory Cafe at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens.

### Role

- To deliver and support monthly Memory Cafe to older members of the Saints Community
- Using objects and images to encourage participants to share their memories and stories
- To support the development of the Memory Cafe project and share ideas for continual improvement of the project

### To apply

Please contact Clare Clarke by emailing  
[heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org](mailto:heritage@northamptonsaintsfoundation.org)

[NORTHAMPTONSAINTSFUNDATION.ORG](http://NORTHAMPTONSAINTSFUNDATION.ORG)

### Your Qualities

- Enjoy listening to people and their experiences
- Good social skills
- Outgoing, friendly manner
- An upbeat and positive attitude
- Be prepared that reminiscence sessions can sometimes trigger other emotions

### Hours

- 3-4 hours
- 1 day per month
- Plus additional training.

### Training and support

- Full training and ongoing support
- Enhanced DBS Check

# FRIENDS OF ALFRED EAST GALLERY AND THE MANOR HOUSE MUSEUM

The next big event on the horizon is the Friends participation in the English Heritage/Historic England 'Heritage Open Day'.

This country-wide event takes place from the 9th to the 16th of September. All participants in the event have to open free of charge to the public for at least one day during the week.

We are offering a full-day programme of talks, walks and music on **SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER** in Kettering. Watch out for more details.

*David Brown*

*Chair of the Friends of Alfred East Gallery and the Manor House Museum*

# BATTLEFIELDS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LECTURE AND DINNER AT DELAPRÉ ABBEY

Delapré Abbey was an excellent choice of venue for the Forum's evening dinner and lecture on 14th June. On a warm summer's evening, a reception was held in the Orangery and a two course dinner followed in one of the refurbished rooms of the old house. The food was delicious, with pre-ordered meals quietly and efficiently brought in by the young serving staff. It is certainly a venue to be recommended for functions and events.

The main event of the evening was the lecture given by Graham Evans, the Chair of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society. The Society has formed a partnership with Delapré Abbey (see Northampton Chronicle & Echo 8 June 2023) and they hope to make visitors more aware of their heritage by developing a programme of events and talks in the Abbey. Among other things, there will be an 'innovative' exhibition about the Battle of Northampton.

Graham Evans gave an illustrated talk on 'The Battlefields of Northamptonshire' and began by considering why there have been so many battles in the county across the centuries. He showed how central Northamptonshire is in England and how many roads and waterways meet or cross in the county. He then gave lively explanations of some of the battles

- Battle of Northampton 1264
- Battle of Northampton 1460
- Battle of Edgcote 1469
- Battle of Naseby 1645
- Siege of Woodcroft Castle 1648
- Newton Revolt (Captain Pouch's Rising) 1607

Among the many interesting stories and anecdotes was the little-known fact that in the Battle of Northampton 1264 when the town of Northampton was ransacked by the forces of King Henry III, students fought 'with utmost zeal'. This was noted by the King and, as a mark of his displeasure, the University in the town was abolished. It was not reinstated until 2005.

Graham finished his talk by emphasising that battlefield sites are not protected as listed buildings are and many are under threat from building or sports fields developments (golf course and football pavilions) or just plain neglect. He urged his listeners to join the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society which aims to identify and protect local battlefields, and/or to buy one of their publications. £20 membership (single) or £30 family: [www.northantsbattles.com](http://www.northantsbattles.com)

**The Battle of  
Edgcote 1469 – A  
Re-evaluation by  
Graham Evans 2019  
Winner of the  
Forum's Hindsight  
Award for Best  
Publication 2019.  
Available from  
Amazon £9.99**

*Enid Jarvis*





# DELAPRÉ ABBEY PRESERVATION TRUST

## WHAT'S ON

Contact – Aimee Holmes

([aimee.holmes@delapreabbey.org](mailto:aimee.holmes@delapreabbey.org)) – Head of Audiences and Communication

This summer at Delapré Abbey, we have a variety of exciting events and activities for all the family to enjoy. Explore 900 years of history inside the Abbey with free entry for under 18s!

### **Exhibition: “The Walled Garden Was Magical”**

Until Sunday 29th October

11am-4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

Adults £8, under 18s free. Price includes general admission to the House.

Timed to coincide with the centenary year of Delapré Abbey's water garden, this exhibition captures and celebrates the local communities' memories of Delapré's grounds and gardens through photos, text, ephemera and oral history. [Book tickets](#)

### **Discover our Medieval Herb Garden**

Tuesday 8th August, 1-4pm

Free, just drop in

Walled Garden

Our garden volunteers will be on hand to share their work on the herb garden and the links to the nuns who lived here during medieval times.

### **Bouncy Castle Takeover**

Sunday 13th August – Sunday 3rd September,

10am-5pm

3.50, wider parkland

Enjoy an exciting day out with bouncy castles and inflatable fun!

### **Tour: Mystery of the Lady in the Library**

Wednesday 16th August, 7pm

£13 incl. a G&T/non-alcoholic fruit cup

Discover the fascinating story of our Gainsborough portrait: who she was, what she did, how she got there and where she is now.

[Book tickets](#)

### **Films on the Lawn – Dirty Dancing**

Friday 18th August, 7pm

Tickets from £13.36

Watch an outdoor screening of the classic 1987 film Dirty Dancing on our South Lawn with the historic Abbey as your backdrop. [Book tickets](#)

### **Tour: Medieval History**

Sunday 27th August, 11:30am

Adults £8, under 18s free. Incl. in general admission

It is the year 1538 and you've stepped into the world of Delapré Abbey at the end of its life as a Cluniac Nunnery. [Book tickets](#)

### **Friends of Northampton Castle Play Day**

Sunday 27th August, 11am-4pm

Adults £8, under 18s free, incl. in general admission

Discover what life was like in the castle and medieval Northampton with exciting activities.

[Book tickets](#)

### **Wellbeing Festival**

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd

September

Relax and unwind at Delapré Abbey with three days of informal talks, classes and activities designed to increase your health and wellbeing.

### **Bat Walk**

Monday 4th September, 8:15pm-9:45pm,  
meet outside the Walled Garden entrance  
by The Orangery café

£13 incl. a G&T/non-alcoholic fruit cup

Please wear sensible footwear and bring  
torches

Join our ecology volunteer for a drink  
followed by a bat walk in the grounds of  
Delapré Abbey, use our detectors to help  
locate them and learn more about the  
species.

### **Moth Talk with Breakfast**

Tuesday 5th September, 9am-10am, meet  
outside the Walled Garden entrance by The  
Orangery café

£13 incl. a hot drink and a pastry

Join our ecology volunteer for a hot drink  
and croissant whilst looking at what moths  
live in our Walled Garden.

### **Classics on the Lawn**

Sunday 10th September, 11am-4pm

Visitors £1, Exhibitors £10

Enjoy a day out for all the family with  
vintage, classic and specialist cars in the  
grounds of the Abbey. [Exhibitor pass](#)

### **Tour: Unusual Happenings**

Sunday 10th September, 3pm

Tickets £8, incl. in general admission

Ages 18+ only

Explore Delapré Abbey's paranormal past  
on this special tour. [Book tickets](#)

# HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – CREATIVITY UNWRAPPED DAVENTRY MUSEUM

Saturday 16th September, 10am to 4pm

Alongside the exhibition and also to mark  
HOD 2023, the museum has invited local  
creatives and crafters to join them as they  
celebrate this year's theme – Creativity  
Unwrapped.

Daventry Museum is free to visit!

Opening times:

Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm

Every first Saturday from 10am to 4pm



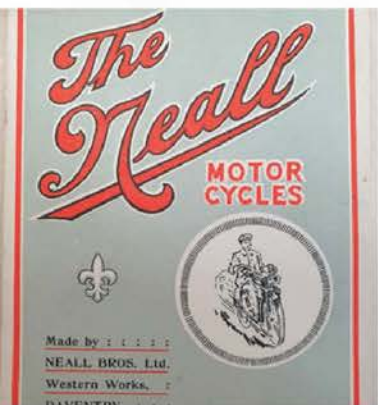
# MADE IN DAVENTRY AND ITS SURROUNDS



*Exhibition inspired by people and places  
around Daventry, exploring creativity, historic crafts  
and manufacturing businesses within the town and beyond*



SAT 1st  
JULY  
TO  
SAT 2nd  
DEC



2023 OPENING TIMES: Tues-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm  
First Saturdays of month 10am-4pm  
3 NEW STREET, DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS, NN11 4BT



01327 301246  
museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk  
www.daventrymuseum.org.uk

**FREE  
Entry!**



# STANWICK LAKES HERITAGE

## “CREATING MOMENTS IN HISTORY”

2023 has continued to be a very exciting year for Stanwick Lakes Heritage, with our heritage projects well underway.

The warmer weather has bolstered the amazing teams of volunteers working on our projects, and all of a sudden it feels like we are making incredible progress and the project areas are really coming to life!

Restoration of the Bronze Age Bowl Barrow  
The Bronze Age Round Barrow at Stanwick Lakes is a scheduled monument, and we are working with Historic England and Derek Roberts of Pre-Develop Archaeology to restore and protect this monument as a legacy for future generations.

Earlier in the year, work was undertaken to remove the modern soil bund from around the barrow that was placed there in the 1980s to protect the barrow from quarry works.

A new path had been constructed which will provide a fully accessible route around the complete Barrow, including spectacular views against the backdrop of Solstice Lake. We are now starting to prepare the Barrow for the addition of a mesh cover, which will allow the grass and flowers to continue to grow but will add protection against further erosion.

A great number of individuals have made this stage possible – rangers, conservation volunteers and Community Payback have all spent time strimming and cutting the grass and undergrowth from the Barrow to prepare it for this next stage.

### Bronze Age Boat Build

On 30th May, the Lime tree trunks from Boughton Estate were delivered to Stanwick Lakes with the help of 118 Close Support Company REME, Northampton. It was incredible to see the logs arrive in convoy from the estate, and we are very grateful to the battalion for their support for what was quite the logistical feat!

The Big Bronze Age Boat Build began with zeal on the 3rd of June, with 14 volunteers coming together with Dr James Dilley to make a start stripping them of bark and shaping the logs using the replica Bronze tools casted by the volunteers on a previous weekend.

The eagle-eyed members of the Northants Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers leapt at the chance to acquire the stripped Lime bark to soak in the lake for a week so that the Lime bast (the inner bark of the lime tree) can be stripped and used in their prehistoric textile project. Talk about sustainability!

Once the majority of the bark was stripped, work began on splitting the topside of each trunk away to try to create the top edge of the boat. Wood and metal stakes were hammered into the wood at intervals, making attempts to split the wood in just the right place.

Over the coming weeks and months, boat build volunteers will continue to make headway with the log boats, finishing the prows and chipping out to make the inside of the boats.







We have a new page on the website dedicated to this fascinating project – [www.stanwicklakes.org.uk/big-bronze-age-boat-build](http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk/big-bronze-age-boat-build) so please follow us on our amazing Boat Build journey!

We have also been supported by our partner Operation Phoenix – who are playing a huge part in both the boat build and the roundhouse projects.

### **Iron-Age Settlement**

We had a hugely successful Roundhouse Daub Day, with over 200 members of local communities and public coming to help our wonderful volunteers with daubing our new roundhouse. We were amazed at how many people joined us and got stuck in. Daubing can be a long and arduous task, but having many hands certainly made light work!

We still have a lot of work to complete our vision for the settlement and this work will continue during 2023 and beyond – a new roof for our original roundhouse, perimeter bund and fence and a pre-historic garden, just some of the items that will form part of this living history experience.

We are so grateful to the amazing team of volunteers who have been so enthusiastic about building the roundhouse and creating a wonderful heritage space to explore – we couldn't do it without them!

Weaving and Textiles and Heritage Gardens  
The Northants Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers continue to explore Iron Age textiles, replicating the clothes of Huldremose Woman, a discovery made in Denmark in the late 1800's - a "bog body" that was so well preserved that the style, weave and even colour of the clothing was

able to be seen studied and conserved. The Guild have made a start preparing and spinning wool to create enough to start natural dyeing. The dyeing processes will take place before the weaving starts, and they have been collating lots of data relating to the amount of time it takes at each stage of the process, which will be extremely interesting to record.

They have also been experimenting with nettle textiles, harvesting and preparing nettle stems and removing the inner fibres ready to dry and create cordage.

The group have been using plants from our Heritage gardens, including the new Guild Garden and have been trying out all sorts of methods to achieve a wonderful variety of shade and colours.

### **Heritage Gardens- Legacy Project.**

Our volunteer heritage gardeners continue to maintain the beautiful garden spaces – this time of year is truly the best time to see the plants and flowers in bloom, with the plants and flowers really coming into bloom. The garden team are continuing to plan and prepare for the Iron Age Garden at the roundhouse, which will be able to show the types of herbs and grains that would have been cultivated in pre-historic times.

### **Nene Valley Festival and Heritage Open Days – Date for your diary !**

We are looking forward to hosting the Nene Valley Festival on the 9th and 10th September, with an array of living history on show, celebrating the heritage, nature and culture of the Nene Valley.

*Nadia Norman, Heritage Co-ordinator*



# TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

## NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

### Windrush 75

On Thursday 22nd June Northampton Museum and Art Gallery celebrated the 75th anniversary of the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in Essex in 1948. The ship carried 1,027 passengers and two stowaways of which more than 800 reported their last country of residence as somewhere in the Caribbean. Although not the first or only ship to bring migrants to Britain, the Empire Windrush became symbolic of mass immigration to the UK after the Second World War. Since 2018, Windrush Day has been observed annually on 22nd June to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by the Windrush generation to rebuilding Britain after the war and those of their descendants to our society today. At the museum, a digital exhibition titled Windrush 75 was launched in the Central Hall and will be on show until Sunday 13th August with free entry. The exhibition consists of a 30-minute film projected 270° across three walls and tells the story of Windrush through the memories and experiences of local people. Interviews with members and descendants of the Windrush generation are combined with personal photos, archival footage and calypso music to create an immersive experience. The exhibition was created in close partnership with Northamptonshire Black History Association, Northampton Windrush Generation and Descendants and Windrush 75 Network. The museum will relaunch the digital exhibition in an online format to celebrate Black History Month this October.

### Punk: Rage & Revolution

On Saturday 16th September 2023 Northampton Museum and Art Gallery will open an exciting new exhibition titled Punk: Rage & Revolution, which will be on display until 3rd March 2024. This major exhibition follows the Punk: Rage & Revolution exhibition at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, which focuses on 1977 as a key year in the development of punk and features stories from young people in Leicester. The exhibition at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery will tell the story of how young Northamptonians engaged in the punk revolution, forming their own bands, setting up music and clothing stores and managing local music gigs. More than 15 oral history interviews have been conducted with local punk fans, band members, promoters and retailers which demonstrate punk's impact on a generation of disenfranchised young people in our town and county. Punk left a lasting legacy in Northampton, having inspired members of the town's most successful band Bauhaus to experiment with making their own music. The exhibition will explore the socio-political context that caused punks to fight against established norms and will show how punk's musical disruption influenced a range of different music genres and sub-genres. Visitors will hear first hand experiences from Northampton punks and see examples of original clothing, film footage, recording equipment and band merchandise.





# FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE 16TH SEPTEMBER-SAVE THE DATE!

## KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

Kettering Civic Society will be presenting a day of poetry, talks, workshops and folk music by 'Frumenty'. The festival has been made possible through a grant from Historic England as part of Kettering's Cultural Consortium's aim to promote the town and engage the community.

Classics will include local historian and author Ian Addis who will discuss J.L. Carr whose son will also be present; Victoria Wicks will talk about her grandfather H.E. Bates and Denys Watkins Pitchford's work will be discussed by the BB Society. There will be poetry readings by David Laing, and Rev Graham Bell will be reading from his book 'Where Plovers Fly' by Northamptonshire poet, Joseph Godson. Contemporary local authors; Annie Ireson from Kettering, Jane Isaac from Loddington and Sarah Lee from Isham will also be signing their books at Waterstones.

Children's authors Jenni Robson, Megan Rix who will bring her assistance dogs as part of her presentation, will join local author Monica Withrington. Well-known cartoonist Kev F Sutherland will be holding comic art workshops for 7+ including adults!

The Northampton Bard, Kezabelle will be performing and well-known Josie Long will talk about her new book before performing her comedy act at St Andrew's Church in the evening.

Rev Richard Coles will talk about his new book at St Andrew's Arts Centre on Sunday. The day's events are registered with Heritage Open Days. There have been some changes in

times and venues plus additions since registration which will be updated! They will take place at the Cornmarket Hall, The Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul, the Parish Church Rooms, Toller Church and Fuller Baptist Church where the Heritage Centre will also be open. The main room in the Cornmarket Hall will be occupied by authors selling and signing their books and merchandise. There are still some tables available at £20 for the day if anyone would like to sell their books.

The poetry and prose competition's closing date was 14th July. Prizes will be presented at SS Peter & Paul Parish Church at 5pm. The Society's Annual Silver Rose Bowl will be presented to Ian Addis by Deputy Lieutenant Air Vice-Marshal Luck CB MBE. Councillor Emily Fedorowycz will be amongst those presenting the prizes. The children's prizes have been sponsored by Kettering Huxloe Rotary and the adult prizes by the BB Society and the H.E. Bates Discussion Group.

The full programme will be available soon on our website, Facebook and in programmes. All events will be free and places are available on a first come first serve basis.

*Monica Ozdemir*

Kettering  
FESTIVAL of  
literature 



# Kettering **FESTIVAL** of literature



**Saturday 16th September**  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**

[www.ketteringcivicsociety.net](http://www.ketteringcivicsociety.net)





# CORNERSTONE KETTERING

The Alfred East Gallery and Manor House Museum remain closed for renovation work, but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. Our main focus recently has been getting to grips with the new Cornerstone site and our impressive new Art Store. For decades, Kettering's art collection was stored in a room that was not up to the task, but thanks to the renovation project we finally have a space and environment that the diverse range of artworks deserve. The Museum and Gallery team have been working hard behind the scenes, moving archives and documentation from the museum building into the new Art Store. The site's closure has provided a valuable opportunity for us to begin the process of sorting through years and years of paper objects, photographs and newspaper clippings, giving us a much better understanding of the information we hold. From this, we hope to tell the stories of the past in a more diverse, inclusive and contemporary way, enabling us to build a museum and gallery of the future for our visitors. The team are very excited by this and are enjoying getting stuck in.

Not so exciting (but equally important), the team has been looking over the Cornerstone site as a whole to identify elements that still need working on in the coming months, and discussing all the finishing touches that would make the site aesthetically pleasing as we look forward to welcoming back the community. This has involved everything from moving furniture, assembling flatpacks, painting and decorating, to brainstorming sessions on how we can use our new communal spaces and

walkways. Any visitors to Cornerstone due on site for meetings are just as likely to see us in our scruffs with a paintbrush in hand, as you are with our gloves on moving or cleaning an object. Aside from tackling the new site, our Learning and Engagement Facilitator Emily Hayland has been planning outreach activities for the summer months, slowly reintroducing ourselves and the museum and gallery's collections to the public again. We hope to soon be present at events within Kettering and the wider North Northamptonshire area, engaging with the public through our handling collection, as well as craft activities for families.

Finally for now, the original external wooden gallery doors are due to have some restoration work carried out on them in the coming weeks. They have been looking a little tired down for some time now so it will be great to see them returned to their former glory ahead of reopening.

*Billie Stevenson (Gallery Officer)*





# WICKSTEED PARK

We continue to deliver our regular Community and Heritage activities including our exhibition programme, craft sessions, and educational programmes in our Learning Space. On July 1st we were excited to have an artist, Jonathan Reynolds, from Isebrook School displaying his work in the Learning Space through the month of July. The name of the exhibition is Who You Are and What You Are.

Before we welcomed Jonathan, we had an exhibition featuring our playground throughout the years. This was to inspire local children to enter our Playground Design Competition which is part of our @Play project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Children 11 and under have submitted designs for a chance to be made into a real piece of play equipment that will be install in our Playground. The winning design will be chosen by a panel of judges from Wicksteed Leisure, North Northants Council, and Wicksteed Park. The winner will be announced on July 29th at the awards ceremony at Wicksteed Park.

We are continuing to reach out to the community to donate oral histories to our archives. The goal is to collect 60 by the end of September and we are steadily getting close to this goal. A very kind soul also donated a copy of Titch and Jock by Hilda Wicksteed to our archives in incredible condition.

On May 26th we celebrated the opening of our Garden Wheel which is the tallest wheel we have had at the park at 25 meters tall!

While all of this was happening, our volunteers have grown over 10,000 plants from seed and begun the seemingly never-ending task of planting them all over the park. One of our volunteers received their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

If you are interested in sharing an oral history with us, please contact [community@wicksteedpark.org](mailto:community@wicksteedpark.org).

To volunteer at Wicksteed Park please contact Ruth Rignall at [getinvolved@wicksteedpark.org](mailto:getinvolved@wicksteedpark.org). Keep an eye on our social media for updates on upcoming workshops and exhibition opening times.

Facebook/wicksteedparkheritage  
Instagram/wicksteedparkheritage

Connor McIntyre  
[community@wicksteedpark.org](mailto:community@wicksteedpark.org)

# IRCHESTER PARISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## WHAT'S ON

Contact: Jon-Paul Carr

Email: [jpcarr01@hotmail.com](mailto:jpcarr01@hotmail.com)

Mobile: 07890 797702

Meets at Irchester Community Library at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise

### 10th August 2023

A Wander Around Wellingborough with your Chairman Jon-Paul Carr. Meet outside the Waendel Leisure Centre in Thomas Street at 7pm for a walk around part of the eastern side of the town and hear about the Victorian growth of Wellingborough. Please let the Chairman know if you are attending.

### 14th September 2023

The Women's Land Army during the First World War, (with some focus on Northamptonshire) presented by First World War historian Helen Frost.

### 12th October 2023

Working Party (venue TBC)

### 9th November 2023

Spirit Photography in the Victorian Era - some of the Spirit Photographers in the 1800s used the Wet Plate Collodion process to create images of ghosts during the rise of spiritualist. The talk will also, including details on the [Haunted Landscapes](#) project all presented by Corrine Gretton-West who is a Phd Student at the University of Northampton.

### 14th December 2023

Christmas Party (Details to be confirmed)

### 11th January 2024

Working Party (venue TBC)

### 8th February 2024

A History of Abington Park, an illustrated talk with local historian Douglas Goddard.

### 14th March 2024

Working Party (venue TBC)

### 11th April 2024

Lady Bountiful - The Life and Legacy of Lady Wantage a presentation by Dr Isabella Robinson who will explain more about this 19th Century lady who had connections with Irchester.



# FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S MAREFAIR

Archaeology has been a major theme for us at St Peter's recently.

It was a privilege and delight to have a talk by MOLA project manager Paul Thompson on the HARPOLE TREASURE dig. What MOLA found was a burial dating to 630-670 AD. It included a cross with a garnet. These discoveries caused a national sensation in the press in January 2023.

In May we had the Talk at our AGM – bang up to date with the hot news. Paul himself was a treasure too. He gave us a totally fascinating story superbly presented - important for the County and Saxon Northampton.

You can see the video recording on our web page <https://www.fostp.org.uk/videos/>

This event was swiftly followed by discoveries in the stable yard of the Old Black Lion. Building work is well underway to restore this historic coaching inn. Rescue archaeology when pipe laying revealed Mid Saxon layers dated by Stamford ware pottery. The later Tudor period revealed residences with a line of ovens abutting the main road, now Marefair, similar to Speed's map of circa 1611.

This dig is significant being an extension of the work done in St Peters Street in 1970's. Public viewing tours were arranged. Prof Alice Roberts came with a camera crew too. Look out for a mention on a future 'Digging for Britain' TV program (Series 11). She was also impressed by her visit to St Peters.

Here's what she wrote:

"what a gem of a church – gorgeous Norman architecture"

## Coming to St Peters this month:

Summer brings visitors to St Peter's. Amongst others we have welcomed a Continuing Education tour from Oxford University and Durham University Bell ringers for a ringing session. If you or your group would like to visit, just email [stpetermarefair@gmail.com](mailto:stpetermarefair@gmail.com) or call 07522 792 392 to book a time.

On Heritage Open Days [HODs] in Sept you can visit both St Peter's and the Old Black Lion project.

Friday 8th September and Saturday 9th, 10 am – 4 pm. There will be four inn tours to see the work so far - booking details will be announced. Wear walking shoes. The Church will be open at these times too.

Sunday 10th September church only, open 1.30 - 4.30 pm. There will be local guided walks:

- 2.00 pm site of the great Saxon Halls and medieval St. Gregory's church with archaeologist Andy Chapman
- 3.00 pm site of Northampton Castle with local historian Ruth Thomas

Meet at the church. We hope to see you!

*Jean Hawkins, Chairman, 07522 792392*

# CALLING ALL ART LOVERS

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE BIGGEST EVER NORTHANTS OPEN STUDIOS ART EVENT THIS SEPTEMBER!

Artists across the whole of Northamptonshire are dusting off their drawings, firing up their kilns, preparing their printing presses and sorting their studios ready to welcome visitors to this year's Northants Open Studios, which will see over 200 artists welcome you to their creative spaces to see where the magic happens!

The Northants Open Studios, which runs for the month of September, brings together hundreds of local artists who not only will be opening their studios for visitors but will also be running workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions at some of the county's biggest art spaces including, but not limited to, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, 78 Derngate, Chester House, Stanwick Lakes, Boughton House.

The successful Central Exhibition will also be held again at Lamport Hall, which brings together one or two pieces from each artist taking part and is a great starting point for visitors to see which artists they'd like to visit. Lamport Hall, who generously sponsor the event, saw 2800 people visit the exhibition last year during September and there will also be the return of the hugely popular mini masterpieces secret postcard sale to raise funds for next year's event.

Katie Boyce, Director and Organiser of NOS says, "We can't wait for this year's open studios and we've been preparing for months already to make sure everything looks great for this year's visitors! Northants Open Studios has grown enormously over the last few years as

we've seen lots of artists picking up their paintbrushes again since Covid and coming back to creating, and it's been amazing to see the breadth of talents and skills across the county."

Mark Herrod, Estate Director at Lamport Hall says "We've been thrilled with the success of NOS in the past few years and are very proud to be supporting the event again this year, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. The diversity and range of styles and mediums always amazes me, there really is something for everyone!"

The Central Exhibition will be kicked off with a launch party on Saturday 2 September and then will be open every Wednesday to Sunday throughout September. All the details of individual artists studio opening times will be available in a brochure which is distributed across the county and on the NOS website at [www.northantsopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.northantsopenstudios.co.uk)

For more information please contact [katie@eastmidlands.art](mailto:katie@eastmidlands.art)





## JEYES

Our heritage centre at Jeyes, a family love, has evolved into varied collections featuring the stories and history of Northamptonshire over many years.

Our Royal Room of donated memorabilia, from the reign of Queen Victoria to the Platinum Jubilee and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, is a valued and well-visited collection, recently featured on radio and television. With the celebration of The Coronation and the start of the New Carolean Era it will remain for tourists to reflect and enjoy for the foreseeable future.

Delighted to receive an invitation to King Charles III's first Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, David valiantly pushed me in my mother's wheelchair whilst I proudly wore her signature fuchsia hat, a tribute to Mum, Marie Taylor on her birthday, 3rd May. It was her amazing enthusiasm that created our first museum - Family Pharmacy Heritage of Philadelphus and John Jeyes in Northamptonshire.

London looked splendid, Union Jacks flew in a blaze of red, white and blue - The Coronation was only three days away - there was an excited buzz in the air.

Borrowed from our collection of Celebrity Bears, Paddington Bear was hidden in my handbag - we could not leave him behind. The late Queen had asked Charles Hanson to auction her tea-party for charity - he did not say whether it still contained her marmalade sandwich!

Bandsmen, Guardsmen, Beefeaters, (not there, on this occasion, to taste the afternoon tea for poison!), Equerries in morning suits (crowd control, armed with umbrellas!) Guests - all created a colourful scene. Members of the Royal Family, walked by the wheelchairs, The King, about to chat to me spotted my neighbour's top-of-the range chair which caught his attention instead - However, a puncture meant two handsome young soldiers lifted me and my chair up, carrying us over the royal cobbles to safety. All's well that ends well!

A truly memorable day!

*Georgina Jeyes*





# ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## 26th April: A Regal Away Day

Chris Hillyard RVM, and former Royal Train Manager, gave us a fascinating talk on "A Regal Day Away" and what's entailed in looking after the Royal family when they "take the train". It was a most insightful look at each of the carriages for individual members of the Royal family, along with their personal items and preferences. He told us that the members of staff on the train always stayed the same where possible - as you can imagine travelling across the country for days and seeing lots of different faces, just how comforting it must be to come back to the train and see a familiar friendly face. Chris also covered the complexities of ensuring everything was in the right place at the right time, down to the minutest detail of exactly where on the platform the train needed to stop to line up with the red carpet.



## 24th May: That's Unusual

Derek Blunt took us on a most interesting tour throughout Northamptonshire looking at the quirky and unusual things he has found whilst visiting churches, stately homes and exploring

our county of "Spires & Squires", including the Coffin Walk Tunnel under the canal at Cosgrove, the Follies at Boughton Park north of Northampton, where farmhouses look like castles, Boughton House near Kettering, where the garden has an inverted pyramid and 78 Derngate which is said to contain Charles Renee Mackintosh's only known work outside of Glasgow. Derek has several talks, and we would welcome him again.



## 25th June: 100 Years Anniversary of Pianoforte Supplies Limited (part of Roade Village Gala)

We celebrated the company's contribution to Roade village's evolution and the products and economic development of the community. RLHS is fortunate to have within its archive a collection of images, ephemera and memorabilia which we displayed on the day. This fascinating exhibition brought back many memories for ex-employees and family members who took pleasure in viewing the old photographs and documents on display.





# BRIXWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

At our April meeting we had a talk about the Titanic from Steve Dimmer; his information was well researched and illustrated and very interesting. Tom Osborne Robinson was the subject of our May meeting from Rob Kendall; the artist is still one of the famous Northamptonshire names that will never be forgotten due to his iconic works at the Repertory Theatre and other places.

In June we began our outside visits by travelling to Sutton Hoo via Lavenham for a coffee break and then Woodbridge for lunch. Lavenham was crowded because there was an international VW meet with hundreds of different VWs all over the town, but there was free parking and plenty of places for coffee, therefore it was enjoyable. Lunch was taken by the river in Woodbridge where we were entertained by a fly past of planes returning from the Trooping of the Colour ceremony in London. Sutton Hoo lived up to its expectations; this is the site of an Anglo-Saxon ship burial and is a National Trust property. It is possible to visit the house of Edith Pretty, who lived there when the burial ground was discovered in the 1930s; there is also an exhibition hall that has replicas of the artefacts found and gives information about

the site. Everyone enjoyed the day especially as the weather was so good.

In July we paid an afternoon visit to the Prebendal Manor and in August we go to Boughton House.

Our display of the village through the 70 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth continues at The Heritage Centre in Church Street on Saturday and Sunday afternoons until the end of September; on the 19th August we are taking part in the Brixworth Country Park Open Day and on September 10th we will be joining with the Friends of Brixworth Church at the Heritage Fair Abington Park.

Our autumn in-house programme begins again at 7.30pm on September 21 at the Village Hall with a talk about the infamous Culworth Gang from Richard Blacklee and on October 19 Ruth Watson will talk about Northampton in medieval times. Visitors £3.

For further details on the Society please see our website: [www.brixworthhistory.com](http://www.brixworthhistory.com) or contact our secretary: Rosemary Hardie [jandrhardie1@gmail.com](mailto:jandrhardie1@gmail.com) our Facebook page or Pauline Kirton [pakirton6@gmail.com](mailto:pakirton6@gmail.com)





## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust has recently joined NHF. Its trustees recently gave out grants totalling over £28,000 to nine historic churches and chapels within the county, with more due to be allocated later in the year. Details are at

<https://www.nhct.org.uk/Main/GrantsInformation>

The Trust's funds are raised by donations, subscriptions from friends, and the proceeds of the annual sponsored Ride & Stride, which takes place on the second Saturday in September each year (9th September this year). Details are available from Val Hartley at

[richardvalhartley@btinternet.com](mailto:richardvalhartley@btinternet.com) or Liz Doherty at [emdoherty@sky.com](mailto:emdoherty@sky.com) or 07713 396130, or from the website at

<https://www.nhct.org.uk/Main/RideAndStride>.

Individuals and churches can join the Trust as Friends for £10 and £20 per year respectively: see <https://www.nhct.org.uk/Main/Friends>. They are entitled to join in our annual Church study day, when several churches within the county are visited, with a talk being given about each one.

This year's will take place on Saturday 2nd September, visiting Georgian churches from Cottesbrooke to Southwick.

Annual reports for 2018 to 2021, including photos and articles relating to historic churches in the county, can be downloaded free of charge at <https://www.nhct.org.uk/Main/AnnualReports>. At the time of writing, the 2022 edition has just been published in paper format and will soon become available on the website.

*Andrew Presland, Trustee*

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Hi everyone, for those that don't know me I'm Phil Oakman the Archives and Heritage Service Manager. I've now been here six months and so I ought to let you all know a bit more about me and what I'm working on at the minute.

My post-graduate qualification is from Dundee University, and I have been working in Archives and Records Management for more than 25 years. My first job in Archives was working for the British Railways Board Records Office which was based at Porchester Road in London. This was post privatisation and was often described as 'the last toy in the box!' The project was to close-down the centre and find suitable homes for the railway (and some canal, hovercraft, etc) records. This included the Public Records Office (National Archives), local authority Archives, National Railway Museum and local museums and collections. I spent 5 mostly happy years working there before moving onto Network Rail on a project to digitise Victorian era engineering records. Perhaps worryingly, some of the technical plans and drawings from that era are still the ones used by the modern railway. Stephenson, Brunel and their contemporaries must have done a reasonable job!

Before starting here, I worked for the University of Northampton as Archivist and Records Manager, and this also included being Data Protection Officer and Freedom of Information Officer. It was a lovely place to work for most of the 18 or so years I was there, and the Archive also had a small collection of Art by the local artist GHB (Bert) Holland.

My main task at the moment for the Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service is to prepare us for our accreditation bid. Archive Service Accreditation is the UK standard for archive services and will give proof to users that we are



validated by the National Archives as being efficient, effective and confirm that we are working to current best practice. If we achieve such accreditation, it will support us in maintaining our role as a legally Recognised Place of Deposit. The form stretches to 38 pages and asks us detailed questions for what records we have, how we manage them and how they are maintained. Starting this process has created further work as existing policies and procedures are reviewed and rewritten to take account of changes in professional practice.

Part of the form is in regard to stakeholder engagement, and this is a good opportunity for me to explain our position as regards getting out and about to promote the collections and get feedback on our service.

Whilst we have had so few staff we have not been able to engage with the wider community as much as we would have liked. This hasn't been ideal but in terms of planning events, talks and so on and our need to have all available staff on site to deal with visitors and cataloguing backlogs of collections it just hasn't been feasible. The accreditation process has an expectation for Archive Services to carry out outreach activities and this mirrors our wish to meet more stakeholders away from the Archive building. We will be carrying out outreach activities in the upcoming months now that we are close to having a full complement of staff. I very much look forward to seeing some of you soon.

In the meantime, you are, as always, very welcome to come in and consult the history of the county in our collections. We are open Tuesday to Thursday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm and 9am-1pm on the first Saturday of every month. Further details of our opening times is available at: [www.westnorthants.gov.uk/northamptonshire-archives-service](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/northamptonshire-archives-service).

*Phil Oakman*

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We continue with our programme of branch and online meetings and details of upcoming meetings can be found in the Diary events listed in this newsletter or on our website. Recent zoom talks include those on Brewery and Publican Ancestors, Non-conformity and Researching Railway Ancestors. These were very well received, with lots of discussion following the talks. Upcoming autumn talks include Breaking down Brick Walls, Agricultural Labourers and One Place & One Name Studies so something for everyone – whether you are a beginner or a more experienced researcher. If you have ideas of talks you would like to hear, let us know.

### **Why not join the Society to take advantage of what we can offer!**

As well as talks and meetings, we have a quarterly journal and monthly e-newsletter. We now also have a Members' Only area on our website as an extra benefit of your membership. This includes back copies of all our journals, searchable databases and other resources.

Recently we have been transcribing various records to add to those already online. It is fascinating to find various lists of inhabitants among the treasures at Northamptonshire Archives. These can range from a mini-census for Cogenhoe in 1624 within the parish register which gives the names of all those in a household; a list of men in East Haddon in 1644, and a list of the families and the number of persons within each for Ayhno in 1740. Other lists include the names of those paying Window and Land Tax in the Cleyley and Towcester Hundreds.



Visit our website: [www.northants-fhs.org](http://www.northants-fhs.org)

To assist researchers, we have added many downloadable guides and resources on topics such as workhouses, hospitals, cemeteries, maps, non-conformity and more to our website. These can be found under the County Resources section. Additionally, each month we add a new blog under the Spotlight page covering different topics or stories. Do have a look!

**Conference September 2024**

We have had requests to host another conference in 2024 and we have said YES! We are in the very early stages of planning, so watch this space, and our Facebook page for more information, but please save the date - 28 SEPTEMBER 2024.

*Angela Malin, Chairman*

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Details of meetings, both online and branch, to Feb 2023  
[www.northants-fhs.org](http://www.northants-fhs.org)  
 Email: [info@northants-fhs.org](mailto:info@northants-fhs.org)

Date	By	Title/Subject	Speaker	More details	Location
Mon 11 September	Branch meeting	Northamptonshire: County of Spires and Squires	Derek Blunt	<i>A light hearted tour of the county</i>	Cornmarket Hall, London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA
Mon 18 September	Branch meeting	NFHS AGM		<i>All welcome</i>	Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Northampton NN3 3NS
Mon 25 September	Online via Zoom	Walls Come Tumbling Down	Dave Annal	<i>Offering tips and advice on how to break down brick walls in your research</i>	Online
Mon 9 October	Branch meeting	Kettering Archaeology	Steve Sharpe		Cornmarket Hall, London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA
Mon 16 October	Branch meeting	The Shoemakers of Clayton Street, Northampton	Dave Parrish - Western Front Association	<i>A talk following the fortunes of the shoemakers from Clayton Street who went off to war 1914-1918</i> <i>Most of us will have agricultural labourers in our ancestry. Ian will look at their lives and the wealth of records which can allow us to piece together their lives.</i>	Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Northampton NN3 3NS
Mon 23 October	Online via Zoom	Agricultural Labourers	Ian Waller		Online
Mon 13 November	Branch meeting	The Northamptonshire buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham	Paul Stamper		Cornmarket Hall, London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA
Mon 20 November	Branch meeting	A Medieval Christmas	Michael Brown	<i>Christmas traditions, myths and plants of the period, with music played on</i>  <i>early instruments</i> <i>A look at the reasons behind why we start one name or one place studies, their benefits and their pitfalls. It will also look at some of the options available for storing and sorting out your data.</i>	Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Northampton NN3 3NS
Mon 27 November	Online via Zoom	One Name, One Place	John Hanson	<i>Member's meeting, research and help desk</i>	Online
Mon 4 December	Online via Zoom	Christmas Social	NFHS		Online
Mon 11 December	Branch meeting	Family Fortunes: The Tresham, Brudenell and Montagu families	Delia Thomas	<i>Exploring three local influential families</i>	Cornmarket Hall, London Road, Kettering NN15 7QA



# Calling all Explorers!

Join us on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays  
23 July to 8th August for our fun  
activity days



SULGRAVE  
MANOR & GARDEN

Drop in any time between 10.30 - 4pm (last entry 3pm)  
<https://sulgravemanor.org.uk/whats-on>

All activities  
included in reg  
admission

# Summer at Sulgrave Manor



# Calling all Creators!

Join us on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays  
13th to 29th August for our fun  
activity days



SULGRAVE  
MANOR & GARDEN

Drop in any time between 10.30 - 4pm (last entry 3pm)  
<https://sulgravemanor.org.uk/whats-on>

All activities  
included in reg  
admission

## Birds and the Bees



## Wild and Woody



All creatures  
great and  
small

## Alice in Wonderland Outdoor Theatre

Sunday 13th August 2023  
5.30pm  
Doors Open 4.45pm

Standard Ticket £18  
Under 18 Ticket £10  
Family Ticket (2+2) £50

Mad Hatter Tea Party  
Picnic Boxes Available  
to Pre Order!  
Bring your own picnic  
Bar Available  
Presented by  
The Pantaloons



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# EXPANSION TO NORTHAMPTON'S ICONIC 78 DERNGATE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Visitors to Northampton's iconic and historic 78 Derngate can now visit the heritage house and its expanded visitor centre, spend time in the rejuvenated secluded garden and enjoy the revitalised visitor shop following the completion of the extensive £950,000 refurbishment this month.

As the only building located outside Scotland designed by renowned artist, Charles Rennie Mackintosh this local gem and former home is a now a museum. Following funding from West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) of £400,000 through the Town Funds, £200,000 match funding from WNC and generous donations from a multitude of individuals and organisations the expansion to this cultural facility reached completion in May this year, following more than 12 months of regeneration work.

The site now boasts an extension to the main buildings and enhanced gardens, allowing larger groups to visit and enjoy the museum, as well as benefit from an enriched visitor experience at one of Northampton's most popular attractions. Cllr Dan Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth at WNC, said: "This is an internationally significant venue. 78 Derngate attracts visitors from all over the world to see the outstanding design work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, one of our country's most famous influences on early 20th Century style. The house, remodelled by Mackintosh, is unique and it is fantastic to see the empathetic redevelopment works come to life to enhance the museum and enable the 78

Derngate Trust to build its income to become more sustainable for the future."

Liz Jansson, House Manager said: "We are delighted that this much-anticipated and exciting project has now been fully realised and we look forward to welcoming visitors to the new and existing buildings and gardens. We extend huge and heartfelt gratitude to WNC - particularly the Regeneration Team - for their significant input in enabling it all to come to fruition and can wholeheartedly assure the public that this will help to preserve the site for generations to come." West Northamptonshire Council has secured £25 million from the Government's Town Fund to regenerate Northampton Town Centre. This project is the first to benefit from the funding and reach completion. It will complement the wider regeneration of Northampton Town Centre where works can already be seen at the rejuvenation of the historic Market Square and the empathetic restoration to bring the former Old Black Lion Pub back into use for the community.

[www.78derngate.org.uk](http://www.78derngate.org.uk)





## IN THE UPSTAIRS GALLERIES @ 78 DERNGATE

Now that the rear extension has been completed, it is an especially exciting time to be exhibiting work here in our Upstairs Galleries – two of which afford wonderful views of the gardens beyond. The new development includes extended exhibition space and we are delighted to welcome Gavin Wallace, a local photographer, who will be holding a solo exhibition here in the Upstairs Galleries entitled – The Place Where We Dwell. Consisting of striking photographic portraits of many local people within the county, it will display the diversity, skills and interests reflected in a variety of workplaces, organisations and individuals in our region. Opens Saturday July 29th – Sunday August 20th

**Northamptonshire Open Studios** – Throughout September, The Upstairs Galleries at 78 Derngate will be hosting 10 different artists/makers from Northamptonshire Open Studios – including two artists whose work will be installed in the newly extended, secluded gardens. Displaying a huge range of techniques, skills and inspiration, most of the work will be for sale and we do urge everyone in the county to support this growing group of talented people! Galleries are free to enter but why not combine a visit with a tour round The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and a browse in the shop or a drink in The Dining Room (booking recommended) whilst here!





*Northamptonshire*  
**HERITAGE FORUM**  
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