

**NEWSLETTER** April 2021



Photograph courtesy of Althorp House, Northamptonshire

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

“I remember, two years ago, a very intelligent American coming to stay at Althorp. Over tea in the Library, with good-willed insistence, he lectured my wife, our friends and me on the inevitability of a global pandemic: it would, he warned, close down nations, and wreak havoc with the world’s economy. And it was imminent.

We smiled, politely, thinking him a little eccentric, and perhaps prone to transatlantic exaggeration. Surely such a thing would never happen during our lifetimes, we silently consoled ourselves?

Now, of course, we look back over the past year or so, after being forced to navigate the grim scenario that he foretold. It is ongoing as I write. It has been a tough and exhausting time for everyone - which is why, as patron, I am full of congratulations and gratitude for all those connected with the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum who have kept on working behind the scenes. These resilient people have made sure that we can embrace the new normal, whenever we get there.

I suspect that there will be a huge surge in many areas of the economy, once people can move around and treat themselves again. Museums and historic sites will hopefully be high on people’s list of places to visit. If I’m right, we in the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum will need to be ready to meet the expectations of a Demob Happy throng.

As ever, we have to take on board the undeniable fact that we live in a little-known county. We in Northamptonshire are used to being on the receiving end of people’s unfortunate ignorance about all that we have to offer - especially culturally. But we must never forget that we have, in our midst, as rich a crop of fascinating heritage properties as anywhere else in the country.

Northamptonshire is the place to come to, if you want to immerse yourself in the glories of the past, while looking towards what can surely only be a much brighter future.”

**Charles, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl Spencer**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank our Patron for his message to the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum. Lord Spencer is correct that Forum members will need to work hard to promote our heritage sites to capture the imagination of the visiting public.

One way we can do this is to make sure that our venue details are full and clear on the Forum's new website being launched shortly. I believe it will be a wonderful shop window for what we have to offer.

Many congratulations to the whole team at the Chester House Estate on their launch and as they develop their visitor offer this summer.

Thank you to all our members who have contributed to this bumper newsletter. It is good to see many plans by our county heritage organisations preparing for an exciting year once we have emerged from the lockdown.

A big thank you to members who have entered nominations for the Heritage Forum online Awards on 1 July 2021. There is still time enter time further nominations before the closing date of 28 May 2021.

For the past three months so many of us have been gearing up for reopening and I wish every member organisation the very best over the coming months.

**Martin Lawrence, MBE**

## WEBSITE UPDATE

The new Northamptonshire Heritage Forum website is coming along well, and **we hope it will be live within a few weeks.**

Very shortly we will send a link out to all members to check your entry for accuracy. The most impactful entries have photos to support them, and especially photos showing visitors engaging with your place, and collections. If you haven't sent any yet, please forward them to [Ktboyce@gmail.com](mailto:Ktboyce@gmail.com) as soon as possible. We will create the NHF booklet from the data on the website, so it is important to get it right.

**Laura Malpas**

## INVESTITURE OF CHARLES, 9TH EARL SPENCER, AS HEREDITARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON

240 years ago, the Honourable George John Spencer, later to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Spencer, was sworn in as a Hereditary Freeman. The Trustees of the Freemen of the Borough of Northampton are delighted that Lord Spencer has agreed to become a Freeman thereby continuing his family's association with the Borough and its Freemen.

Historically Freemen have been a part of our Town's Civic make up since the town was granted its first royal charter by King Richard I in 1189. Over the centuries the role of the Freemen has changed and adapted alongside the changes to our civic structures.

Freemen have always historically supported Northampton's Mayoralty and still do so today ceremonially at civic events. Today's Freemen trustees play a great part in preserving and celebrating Northampton's history.

Dr Matt Farmer, Deputy Chair of the Northampton Freemen's Trustees says: "The investiture of Lord Spencer as a Hereditary Freeman of the Borough of Northampton is truly historic as it will be the very first time a Freeman has taken their oath virtually, and this is a wonderful way of preserving our rich civic heritage despite the current challenges of COVID.

"The Trustees are delighted to have Lord Spencer join our number at this time, especially as he will be sworn in by our Mayor Cllr Brian Sargeant, himself a Hereditary Freeman and a member of the Trustees."

**Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE, United Kingdom**

The deadline for material for the July edition is Sunday 4 July 2021

## MUSEUMS DEVELOPMENT EAST MIDLANDS

We're thrilled to be bringing you a new website and rebrand for MDEM. We hope you like our new logo and colour scheme, we feel we've picked things which reflect our dynamic and collaborative nature.

We invite you all to take a look at the new website which is jam packed full of resources and information. It's the same web address [www.mdem.org.uk](http://www.mdem.org.uk) and we'd love to know what you think



Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions for the Forum Newsletter. This is our second edition, and is full of articles of what you have been doing and what you are planning for the future.

If you have any comments, queries or suggestions for future editions, please let me know.

I can be contacted at: [nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com)

**The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 4 July 2021**

**Janet Lawrence**

## NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY WEBSITE

A brand-new website dedicated to the redeveloped Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Abington Park Museum is now live.

Visitors to [www.northamptonmuseums.com](http://www.northamptonmuseums.com) will find everything they need to know to plan their visit to the museum in Guildhall Road, which is set to open this spring and can watch a new film showing the interior of the museum coming together during the installation process.

The website features information about the galleries within both museums, including the new Shoe Gallery, which provides a journey through the history of shoe fashion and shoe making, and the refurbished History Gallery, which tells the unique story of Northampton from prehistory to the present day.

Another highlight is an online catalogue containing hundreds of images of objects from the museums' collections, including archaeology, costume, fine art and the internationally important shoe collection.

A 3D model of a fossilised ichthyosaurus jaw, a curator-led audio tour of Eleanor Cross artworks and an animated trip around the historic rooms of Abington Park Museum are among the learning resources and exciting interactive content also available.

Councillor Anna King, Cabinet member for community engagement and safety, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to launch our new website, as it makes the museums' extensive collections much more accessible and showcases what can be discovered when we reopen our doors.

"There are so many pages of fascinating content, including audio clips and oral histories, which really bring our unique collections to life and allow visitors to completely immerse themselves in thousands of years of history."

A full calendar of online events and more details about the three opening temporary exhibitions, which will feature alongside the permanent galleries at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, are given on the website.

'We Are Northampton' celebrates the town's rich heritage and explores Northampton's character, through stories of notable residents, iconic buildings, events, activities, groups and clubs.

'Challenging Perspectives' is an exhibition looking back at the life and work of notable and prolific artist Christopher Fiddes, who lives in the county.

Finally, the 'Inspiration' exhibition examines the way artists look at the world around them and how this sparks their creative imagination.

A film of the museum's civic opening event, attended by representatives from Northampton Borough Council and local dignitaries, can also be viewed on the website.

Follow #StepInside on social media for news and updates on the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery's opening.

**Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE, United Kingdom**

## 78 DERNGATE

We have exciting news to impart: Northampton has been awarded £25million from the Government's Towns Fund to kickstart a number of heritage-based development projects across the town! 78 Derngate is one of those included and we are so grateful for this significant injection of funds which will mean we can forge ahead with our



extension programme but with added features, too.

The rear of 82 Derngate will be extended to include a two-storey, glass-sided building giving us more exhibition, performance and retail space plus extra storage and better accessibility. The garden of 82 Derngate will be extended and re-landscaped to offer parking spaces and an educational workshop. These improvements will vastly enhance our visitors' experience and provide another great destination venue for the town.

This is all very exciting and comes at a time when we have all felt so disheartened by the enforced closure due to COVID-19 of all our wonderful heritage sites across the county and beyond.

We also have a re-opening date to aim for and a new exhibition by ISE Textiles **Visualise at 78** to launch it: Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> and we hope to have a new online ticketing process available a month before we open... so, watch this space!

**Liz Jansson, House Manager**

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

## OUNCLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Oundle Historical Society** hopes to resume its programme of talks on 10<sup>th</sup> September with "Quenching One's Thirst: The Rise and Fall of Pubs in Oundle" by Peter Irving.

The charities of Nicholas Latham are the subject of our November meeting, and our Chairman, David Bond will speak at our January meeting on "Oundle and the Domesday Book".

Oundle Historical Society aims to promote interest in the history and development of the town of Oundle and the surrounding district. The Society was formed in 1983 by a small group of people interested in the local history of the area. Current membership is about 75.

Several members carry out research into various aspects of local history, often resulting in the publication of books or papers, and have delivered talks on a number of occasions.

We have endeavored to maintain contact with our members over the past months with a quiz and monthly excerpts from our research archives.

For further information, please go to our website [www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk) or contact us at [oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

**Philip Kitchin, Membership Secretary**

## FRIENDS OF KETTERING ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Although lockdown has prevented the Friends from having social gatherings, we have, like many groups, moved onto Zoom for meetings and monthly talks and it hasn't stopped our involvement in two long term projects over the past year.



One is the High Street Action Zone project (HSAZ). This is a central Government-funded scheme, led by English Heritage, with over 60 towns taking part. It is designed to boost the appearance of the heritage buildings and upgrading the shops, workspaces in the town centre, in addition to promoting cultural activities.

The restoration of the heritage environment is a crucial catalyst for commercial regeneration of high streets across the country. The Friends is a key stakeholder in the Cultural Consortium, formed as a discrete strand to HSHAZ, which will focus on developing a wide range of cultural community enterprises for the benefit of the local residents of Kettering and the Borough. The two parts combined are an attempt to revitalise and regenerate town centres and support the economic COVID recovery of Kettering so the town will be somewhere that people want to shop, live, spend leisure time and connect with community-led cultural and historical ventures.

We are also involved in the GLaM project, which is the extension and refurbishment of the Gallery, Library and Museum buildings, being funded under the Government

initiative to Get Building. Work is already under way and groundwork has started. We continue with our remit during this time to support and Alfred East Gallery and Manor House Museum in preparation for reopening in 2022.

Two years ago the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum was very excited to be given a large unit by the Newlands Centre to open a pop-up art gallery. Funds raised by the gallery go into our pot to fund conservation of paintings, purchasing equipment, and enabling exhibitions at the Alfred East Gallery.



We named it ARTworks Creative Space as it's not just a gallery to exhibit the diverse variety of paintings, prints, sculpture, photographs and ceramics by local artists who are all members of the Kettering & District Art Society. It is also a community space: somewhere to host creative projects and art classes at a reasonable cost, craft fairs, a children's art space and a place for local groups to advertise their work.

In addition, we are pleased to contribute to the enrichment and beauty of the town centre and to offer affordable art to meet everyone's taste. Although we are closed now under COVID restrictions we hope to reopen soon so our volunteers (all artists themselves!) can show the public around our peaceful space.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends, or make a donation to our work, you can do so easily online at [www.friendskagam.org](http://www.friendskagam.org). You can follow us on our Facebook pages: Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum and ARTworks at Newlands.

**Maura Bright, Friends Committee Member**



# KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

## RAISING FUNDS FOR WICKSTEED PARK

and

## CELEBRATING WICKSTEED PARK'S CENTENARY YEAR

Join us in raising funds for Wicksteed Park and celebrating the Park's Centenary Year!

Stella Benford presented her painting 'Wicksteed Park 1921' to Kettering Civic Society to aid fundraising for the Park. Prints with a certificate of authenticity have been made A3 size for sale @ £35 plus p + p. Also, blank greetings cards A5 size. £1.50 each or 4 for £5.

### 'Wicksteed Park 1921'

By Stella Benford

Greetings Cards

Size A5 blank inside

£1.50 each

4 for £5.00 plus p+p



### 'Wicksteed Park 1921'

By Stella Benford

Prints for Sale

With a certificate of  
authenticity signed by the artist

Stella Benford

£35 plus p+p

### KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1969 Registered Charity 1131165

To place your order, please contact [kettcivic@gmail.com](mailto:kettcivic@gmail.com)

Tel: 01536 723682

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

## LORD ROBARTES' REGIMENT OF FOOTE, THE SEALED KNOT

### Lockdown – A Reenactors Tale

Like everyone else's hobby, ours, historical re-enactment of the English Civil War type, has had its own 'interregnum' (period joke) over the last year of COVID and lockdown. We've kept our powder it's driest yet as events have understandably been suspended over this time.

Definitely not become a couch potato over the period. Couches are first mentioned by Chaucer I think and after the restoration of the monarchy with Charles II in 1660, the daybed, a type of couch become fashionable. As for the potato, credited with arriving on these shores in July 1586 from the New World colony in what is modern day North Carolina.

At first it felt the only way to pass the time was to put all your swords and daggers in order of length, pick the rust off your armour, or clean your musket (actually musketeers seem to love doing that all the time anyway).

The longer it went on, it became sitting around the house dressed up with nowhere to go on Bank Holidays, firing up the campfire or resorting to drilling the kids or even the dog.

After buying and reading all the latest books on our period, watching *Captain Alaric The Spanish Musketeer* again and again (great scenes depicting the Battle of Rocroi in 1645, oh and yes some of our group have re-enacted there too) it was back to looking wistfully at 'memories' come up on social media and thinking....soon, we'll be back soon. Nearly forgot, still finding the time to write a piece for *Hindsight!*

In all seriousness, being part of our hobby has never fully gone away. We've zoomed to keep in touch and we've 'newslettered' as we would do normally.

My Regiment were fortunate to fit in a COVID-secure school's event, helping over 70 children explore their local history in the context of the Civil War period. There's history on almost every doorstep from this period and we find this helps to bring it to life.

A bit of TV filming, which has been permitted during this time - won't say anymore, no spoiler alerts.

I've also been proud of drummers in the Sealed Knot who were out there on Thursdays drumming in support of NHS, care and key workers.

And, we've taken the opportunity to learn and practise some new things to add to our repertoire. Specifically, we've been learning a Mummers Play (a gift from another Sealed Knot Regiment). Mummers' plays were folk short plays performed by groups of costumed community members that visited from house to house on various holidays. We've been rehearsing ours over zoom and looking forward to performing it live at the earliest opportunity. Maybe something we can return with to one of our favourite places, Chester House Estate, following our successes there with a 17<sup>th</sup> century sports day and soldier's drill.

Like everyone, we can't wait to get back to it – the smell of gunpowder, of campfires, of leather, the smell of wet wool (right now, we wouldn't mind if it rained) to hear the sound of musket and cannon fire, of shouted orders, of beating drums, the clash of pike and the sound of the applause from an appreciative crowd (we really love that bit).



What's kept us going? The same thing that led to over 95% of our nearly 3,000 national membership renewing their membership at the height of lockdown. The love of what we do. The feeling of community and family that comes with our hobby.

Can't wait to get back to it. Can't wait to be with friends again. Can't wait to be beating the Royalists again (sorry, couldn't help myself). Can't wait to be bringing people of all ages closer to our history. Love it, just love it.

Stay safe, see you soon!

**Tim Small**

**Lord Robartes' Regiment of Foote, The Sealed Knot**

**[www.lordrobartes.com](http://www.lordrobartes.com)**



*"Looking forward to days like these again at Chester House Estate"*

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Here are details of some BALH workshops and webinars. Check your society's membership status for discounts. Some are free for members. Check the website for further details: [www.balh.org.uk](http://www.balh.org.uk)

### **BALH Digital Webinar : Creating Your Local History Website**

Wednesday 21st April 2021 6:00pm - 7:30pm

### **BALH Digital Webinar : The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Researching Disability History**

Wednesday 5th May 2021 6:00pm - 7:00pm

### **BALH Digital Skills Workshop : Archiving Your Local History Collection**

Saturday 8th May 2021 10:00am - 12:00pm

### **BALH Digital Webinar : How To Self-publish Your Local History Research**

Wednesday 12th May 2021 6:00pm - 7:30pm

## RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF PRESTON DEANERY HALL

### Appeal for help

Over the last twelve months I have been researching the history of Preston Deanery Hall, which was demolished in 1934, leaving just the annexe which housed the domestic offices and servants' quarters. I am planning to produce a book about the Hall for the local community and have managed to find images of most of the later occupants but am missing a photo or portrait of Captain Robert Charles Wilson (later Wilson-Macqueen) who rented the Hall from the late 1890s until about 1906. I've searched the internet and the British Newspaper Archive to no avail and am waiting impatiently for the Record Office and library to re-open! Can anyone help in the meantime?

### Captain Robert Charles Wilson-Macqueen (c.1853-1930)

Born in about 1853, the son of Robert Eden Wilson of Grimsby Grange near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, Robert Wilson joined the army in 1872 and served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the 60<sup>th</sup> Rifles (The King's Royal Rifles) reaching the rank of captain. He took part in the famous march from Kabul to relieve the British troops besieged at Kandahar in 1880, during the second Afghan War. The battle that followed was a decisive victory for the British and Indian forces, helping to bring the war to an end. Captain Wilson also served in the Boer War of 1881 and the Egyptian campaign of 1882.

In 1891 he married Elizabeth Hester Georgina Ord Bearcroft (known as Lily), niece of a Scottish Baronet and heiress to the Coton Estate in Shropshire, in a big society wedding at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, close to the bride's mother's town house. They moved into Preston Deanery Hall at some point between 1895 and 1898.

Captain Wilson was absent from home at the time of the 1901 census, but Lily, aged 31, was in residence with their nine-year-old daughter Cecil, a nurse, cook, lady's maid, two housemaids and a kitchen maid. A coachman, butler and gardener occupied the estate cottages, and a groom lived above the stables.

The captain was a JP and used to hunt with the Grafton, which met at Preston Deanery in January 1900 and probably at other times as well. In April 1904, his daughter Cecil was a bridesmaid at the wedding of Ruby Ferguson, stepdaughter of George Harold Winterbottom of Horton Hall, to Captain Thomas Case.

The family left Preston Deanery in about 1906, and by 1913 were residing at Coton Hall near Whitchurch, Shropshire (not to be confused with the nearby Coton Hall at Alveley). They took the additional surname of Macqueen when Lily inherited Coton and property in Scotland.

In 1923 they were back in Northamptonshire, living in Wadenhoe House near Thrapston. Captain Wilson-Macqueen died there in 1930 after a long illness, but Lily survived him by 10 years. She was an active member of the Girl Guide movement, serving as District Commissioner for Thrapston. She also supported the Wadenhoe Nursing Association and organised many flower-shows at Wadenhoe House.

### Maureen Williams, Individual Member

email me at: [maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk)



The photo is courtesy of Karen Mackaness

## KETTERING BLUE PLAQUE

The first blue plaque in Kettering dedicated to a woman was unveiled on International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

On International Women's Day we were delighted that former Mayor, Keli Watts unveiled Kettering's first blue plaque dedicated to a woman. Last year we attended Mayor Councillor Keli Watts inspirational afternoon with the main speaker Lynne Stubbings, Chair of the

National Federation of Women's Institutes.

What was said during the afternoon made us realise that we didn't have one blue plaque for a woman in Kettering. This led us to posting a request on Facebook asking for nominations for inspirational Kettering women; one of the conditions required is

that they must be deceased! We received many suggestions; all are most worthy who we hope to honour with a blue plaque in the future. Civic Society member Sushila Wright whose husband had been Kettering Mayor in 1996 suggested Sophie Green and



she offered to fund the plaque. However, through research and communications with Central England Co-operative Ltd. the plaque was paid for by them.

Coincidences arose in more than one way; we found that Labour Councillor Mick Scrimshaw, who is a Trustee for Kettering Centre for the Unemployed that provides education and support lived at **34 St Peter's Avenue**, and furthermore, his wife Shona once worked

for the WEA. Another coincidence is that former Mayor, Keli is a close friend of the Scrimshaws which made the event even more poignant.

Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to hold a gathering, but we hope that next year this time we can celebrate Sophie Green with a lecture about the Workers Educational Association and the

important role of the Co-operative Movement in Kettering with perhaps the unveiling of another blue plaque to add to our collection.

**Monica Ozdemir, Secretary, Kettering Civic Society**

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society delayed its usual October AGM until January 2021, when it was held online via Zoom. It was followed by a public lecture by committee member Brian Giggins on *Historic Town Buildings of Northamptonshire*, with a particular emphasis on his ongoing work on building recording in Towcester.

NAS has no firm plans for meetings this year, but these will develop as we move out of the current lockdown and the way ahead becomes clearer.

The major achievement in 2020, through the first phase of lockdown was making all 40 back issues of *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, from 1966-2019, available online, free to all, with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The journal is available on this link: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1083067> or follow the path: ADS/search/archives/journals and series. This resource contains detailed reports on over 200 excavations and over 100 shorter notes on sites and finds from the county.

Progress continues on editing the next issue of the county archaeological journal, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, which will be a special edition focusing on the archaeology of medieval Northampton. Extra copies will be printed to make it available to the public, as well as to members and institutions. It will include a study of the pre-Conquest town by John Williams, head the Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Unit in the 1970s and 80s who excavated the Saxon "Palaces"; an overview of the history and archaeology of Northampton Castle by Andy Chapman, who carried out excavations in the outer bailey in 2013 before the building of the new station; a study of the site of the Jewish synagogue by Marcus Roberts of JTrails; and more. It is hoped to have it available by the autumn.

**Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary and Editor**

## WAR GRAVES WEEK

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has announced details of the first ever War Graves Week, to be held from 21 to 28 May.

The special week will 'shine a light' on the work of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the people who keep remembrance of our war dead alive. Events will take place online and at a number of cemeteries and memorials across Britain from 21 to 28 May 2021.

During the week, CWGC will be putting on a series of online talks, and tours and events at sites around the country, with the aim of revealing its work and history, as well as its ongoing relevance as an organisation today.

### **Wildflower Remembrance Scheme**

The first part of War Graves Week launched with a Plant a Wildflower in Remembrance initiative. CWGC encouraged the public to remember those who died in the world wars by ordering a packet of wildflower seeds, and planting these wildflowers, with the expectation that by War Graves Week in May, the flowers will have bloomed.

You can find out more at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

### St Andrew's Church, Spratton: Clock Dials

There has been a clock on the tower of St Andrew's Church, Spratton, since 1797. Originally there was just one clock dial on the western side of the tower. In 1935 a second, north-facing dial was fitted.

It was decided to refurbish the clock and dials in 2020 to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the church. A company from Boston, Lincolnshire, Clockwise Restorations, was chosen and the dials and driveshafts were duly removed.

The removal of the dial on the west side revealed the original stone dial – the numerals were cut into the stone face – showing the date 1797 and bearing the names of then Church Wardens – T Biggs and P Martin. There was also a mark on the dial face which looked like a shadow of the hour hand, rather as if the hand had stopped midway between the '2' and '3' and had been in that position for quite some time – certainly long enough for the weather to erode its shape in the stone. The drive shaft to this dial is the original and just needed a bit of a tidy up after 220 years!



The dials have been painted in a high quality paint (Venetian Crystal) and the hands and numbers finished in gold leaf. The project was funded by local private and charity donations and a commemorative plaque will be fitted within the ringing chamber marking the event.

**Bill Blowfield, Churchwarden**

**Enid Jarvis, Chairman**



# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARDS

## Exciting news!

**To all Forum members**, individuals, clubs, societies, museums, galleries, historic houses, heritage sites, and all...

You have already been sent your official invitation to submit entries for the 2021 NHF Awards—this is a reminder!

## Who can enter?

All fully paid-up members are entitled to enter one submission in each appropriate category (you don't want to compete against yourself, so pick your strongest entry)

## Qualifying Period

This year we are accepting and encouraging all to enter with an extended timespan of two years, as we were unable to conduct last year's awards. So the qualifying period is from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## New for 2021

Limit is raised to £500 for 'Best project on a limited budget'

A new award for this year only 'Best response to the Covid Crisis'

Please note that as many places might be expected to be closed during the 'People's Choice' voting period, the competition will be framed as *'the place I am most looking forward to visiting once restrictions are lifted'*. This means that you can still enter as long as you are planning to open this summer at some stage.

## Key Dates

People's Choice self-nominations must be received by March 14<sup>th</sup> 2021

Entries must be received by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The Awards Ceremony will be held via Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

All relevant detail for each award is found on each entry form, and help is available from [nhfawards@gmail.com](mailto:nhfawards@gmail.com)

All entries this year must be submitted electronically to [nhfawards@gmail.com](mailto:nhfawards@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to seeing all your brilliance and hard work, and please don't hesitate to contact the team if you have any questions at all. We are here to help!

**Laura Malpas and Katie Boyce**

**Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Committee – 2021 Awards team**



## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SURPRISE - A WEBSITE FOR YOU

Five years ago, under the aegis of the county's Lord Lieutenant, Northamptonshire Surprise was set up to coordinate the cultural and tourism office offering of Northamptonshire. At its heart is a website **[www.northamptonshiresurprise.com](http://www.northamptonshiresurprise.com)** which has two principal functions. The first is to give information and details of permanent attractions ranging from museums and art galleries to country houses, churches, walks and trails, theatre and art performances, music gardens sport etc. If you go on the site and look up any of these, you will have immediate access to arrange a visit or to book tickets to particular events. It also provides links to individual websites, contact details and a useful map with links to other nearby attractions as well as pubs, restaurants and places to stay.

The website also has a diary running three months in advance giving day to day details of events in the county, these include pop concerts, poetry readings, drama and music, food festivals and sport fixtures. Here you can immediately see what is available on any day and make bookings.

The site is run by a group formed by the lieutenancy. I am lucky enough to be the chairman but, that said, this is very much a collaborative affair, so my colleagues are of equal, importance. They include James Lowther from Holdenby, Rachel Mallows the doyenne of food and drink in the county, Oliver Wicksteed from the Park, Jo Gordon from Royal & Derngate and Sally Reynolds from Silverstone Experience. Also, part of the team are the Lord Lieutenant James Saunders – Watson from Rockingham Castle and David Laing. In everything we are supported by Kate Dent who many of you will know. Should you have any particular questions please direct them in the first instance to either myself **[jamesmiller.art@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmiller.art@gmail.com)** or to Kate **[hello@kdentconsulting.com](mailto:hello@kdentconsulting.com)**.

This last year has been spent productively providing information on what is still available during the pandemic and updating all the website entries. It is ready now to provide you with all the information you might need as soon as we can get out and about this summer.

The site is aimed not only for people living in the county but visitors from the rest of the country and indeed abroad. The aim is to highlight what Northamptonshire has to offer which until now has been difficult to discover. So, the site is aimed at you giving you all the information you need to enjoy the varied and high quality offering we have in this splendid county. Do use it.

**James Miller, Chairman**



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
BRITAIN'S BEST SURPRISE

## RESTORATION REWARDED

A virtual ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 saw Andrew Haines, Chief Executive of Network Rail, hand out plaques to the winners of the 2020 National Railway Heritage Awards competition.

The best overall entry was the University of Northampton (the first university to enter the awards competition in 40 years). The prize was given for the fine restoration of the former Midland Railway engine shed at Hardingstone Junction and its sensitive conversion as the Student Union Building.

This is the third major award the Engine Shed has received since opening. It secured the Creative Re-use Award from the Association for Industrial Archaeology, and the Architect's Journal Retrofit Award for Higher and Further Education.

This quintessentially Midland Railway building dates from 1873, when the line from Bedford was built. Since it ceased to be used as a welding shed in 1998 the building had lain derelict and open to vandalism, including an arson attack in 2000. Not only have its distinctive contrasting brick arches over windows and door been repaired, but the long smoke ventilator on the roof has been reinstated.

Until the 1840's the site was in an area that was marsh meadow, used for the grazing of animals by the Delapre Abbey Estate. The main industry was the grain mills on the riverbank.

In 1845 the London and North West Railway (LNWR) built its line to Peterborough across the land. The construction of the railway helped stimulate industry along the old coaching road south to London.

In the 1870's the Midland Railway built the Bedford to Northampton railway line adjacent to the existing line. Alongside a new station in the town, a goods yard and this engine shed were built, adding to the increasing industrialisation of Cotton End.

Over the years, breweries, timber yards, foundries and warehouses, and even a power station were built to take advantage of the railway infrastructure.

**Martin Lawrence, Chairman Northamptonshire Heritage Forum**

## VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Volunteers Week takes place 1-7 June every year. It's a chance to celebrate and say thank you for the contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK.

We are looking forward to Volunteers' Week 2021 to recognise the huge role volunteers have played. How is your organisation celebrating its volunteers?

## HERITAGE FORUM MEMORIES

The Jeyes Heritage collections are a family “labour of love”, as such we would like to take this opportunity to reflect, remember and thank The Heritage Forum for working so hard for us - Jane, the Committee, and the many hosts over the past years, never forgetting the ever-ticking clock of the dreaded Union Jack eyepad – so much support and encouragement.

The Awards, meetings, dinners, have taken us to Lamport Hall, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, Abington Park, Althorp, Higham Ferrers Bede House, Sywell Aerodrome, Holdenby House, Sulgrave Manor, Boughton, Towcester and Daventry Museums, Oundle Church, with chilling memories of that snowy day at Kelmarsh Hall. We have been welcomed in Desborough and Rushden, Brackley, Irchester Railway – why did I wear heeled summer sandals? Another special place for me is Knuston Hall – memories of my Nan Chap. Learning to paint there – great evenings.

Volunteer days at Prebendal with Michael talking in the medieval garden, and for me, the highlight of the “little train” at Wicksteed, memories of my childhood (although the water shute was always my favourite!) Pub quiz at Isham with Phil – Team Jeyes didn’t win! I nearly forgot the treasured Hindsight. Thank you everyone.

Today, we are looking forward to being part of The Heritage Forum under Martin’s wing or should I say eagle eye, as we bring our collections back to life and welcome visitors to our amazing county of Northamptonshire

**Georgina Jeyes for Heritage at Jeyes of Earls Barton**

## MANORS MAKETH MAN

Whilst the past months have been very different and I have missed travelling, meeting people, giving talks on the history of our lovely county and through the talks raising money for the Air Ambulance and the Churches Conservation Trust, I have not been idle. Having written four books about Northamptonshire, I took the opportunity of starting a new project to research the history of the manors and landed estates in the county since the time of William the Conqueror to the present day, entitled: **‘MANORS MAKETH MAN’**

My research is being produced in four volumes to cover the whole county. All volumes will be hard back (approx. A4 size), signed and limited editions. Volume One featuring the parishes in South Northamptonshire has recently been released. Volume Two which covers the Daventry District is currently with the printers and will be available shortly. I am now well under way with Volume Three which will cover the East Northants District.

Each copy costs £20 inc. postage and can be purchased from me:- email:- [derekfblunt@gmail.com](mailto:derekfblunt@gmail.com) or telephone 01604 845101.

**Derek F Blunt, Individual Member**

## AMAZING CHANGE OF HISTORY AT HOLY SEPULCHRE

Whilst Covid-19 has had a dramatic downturn on our annual welcome to casual visitors, tour groups and concerts it has provided extra time for history research as the Restoration Trust has prepared a considerable increase in the “tourist visitor experience” materials we place on display.

Worshippers at Holy Sepulchre and those who, over the years have been a visitor will have likely learned much of the history of the “COLES BRASS” 1640 which presently sits against the North wall in a location vacated by the original staircase up to the William Moores Gallery that was taken down in 1859. The “Brass” as we locals all know it, wasn’t always situated here. In fact it began its life in the floor of the Round opposite the belfry and laid comfortably there as brass inset to slate until the 1879 restoration programme and the installation of the very attractive encaustic tiled floor.

Over many years our tour guides have long since wondered where the slate may have been procured from. We gave up a long time ago on the thought that it could be from a local quarry.

So what is all the excitement about? With respect to the findings of Wikipedia it has now been revealed by someone very knowledgeable that our “slate” is in fact “WELSH CARBONIFEROUS LIMESTONE.” Even more historic excitement is the fact it is “ a sedimentary rock made of calcium carbonate which is a collective term for the succession of limestones occurring widely throughout Great Britain and Ireland that were deposited during the DINATIAN EPOCH of the Carboniferous Period. Perhaps it is even more of interest and historic importance to learn that our “slate” in which the Coles brasses are displayed is in fact rock that formed between 363 and 325 million years ago”. Prominently displayed, visitors can view it, read it, admire it and just as important, reach out and touch it.

That statement of course presents even more questions...how could something of the obvious weight that our “Slate” is be brought to Northampton in the mid 1640s and from where?

Readers can be sure that the Restoration Trust will constantly research our famous building for updates of history and the stories that bring in so many groups for tours from not only local clubs but from further afield.

As always, find us at [www.stsepsrestoration.co.uk](http://www.stsepsrestoration.co.uk) or call 01604 754782

**John Kightley MBE Director/Secretary to the Trust**

PS: Intense information can be gained as to “what is the Dination Epoch of Carboniferous Period” by entering the above statement into Google search engine line. Or taking note that it is quite simply coal formed millions of years ago. This does suggest that our artefact is not slate but a form of limestone coal that we can see, feel and but wonder at its immense age.

## OPERATION MOONRAKER—SYWELL AVIATION MUSEUM

With the collapse of Handley Page Aircraft Ltd in 1970, Terravia Ltd/Jetstream Aircraft Ltd formed at Sywell and purchased 21 incomplete Jetstream MK1 airframes. They were then roaded from Radlett to Sywell. Several aircraft were completed before production moved to Leavesden under the auspices of Scottish Aviation. All remained in primer. The aircraft type was a major success following the acquisition of SA by British Aerospace and was further developed over the next 30 years from the Series 200 on to the Jetstream 31, 32 and 41. Many remain in service.

HANDLEY PAGE HP.137 JETSTREAM 200 MK1 G-RAVL SERIAL NUMBER 208

First flew on 17/4/1969. Registered as N1035S – To Cal State Airlines – C.1970– Purchased back by Jetstream Ltd Parent company Terravia Ltd and moved to Sywell as their demonstrator.

In 1971 she became the Jetstream Ltd demonstrator aircraft based at Sywell and participated in Daily Express National Air Race On 12th June 1971 between Biggin Hill and Sywell – and won! Flight Magazine noted:

“The Jetstream MK1 flown by Capt Bill Bright, streaked dramatically past the finishing line like a hunted fox”. The trophy was presented by Douglas Bader.

On 22nd February 1974 she was re-registered as G-AWVK to Racal Decca Navigator Ltd as sales demonstrator and test bed then sold to Cranfield University in July 1990 and registered as G-RAVL.

She was retired in 2000 and was used as part of the University’s Aircraft Crash Investigation Course until recently. With the retirement of their current Jetstream G-NFLA her future was uncertain and she lay abandoned at the end of the runway at Cranfield.

Contact was made by Sywell Aviation Museum in late 2018 and the University very kindly agreed to donate her to the Museum for use as a classroom. The University has a long history of helping redundant airframes into preservation and their donation means that she can be used as a teaching aid again.

The Museum believes G-RAVL – now known as Jenny the Jetstream to be the third oldest Jetstream in existence and only a couple of serial numbers off the famous Apollo Airways Jetstream used in the opening sequence of the Bond movie – Moonraker....hence the name of the plan!



The project took two years to come to fruition. Handley Page clearly never intended for their work to be taken apart and Jetstream wing spars are notoriously difficult to access and work on. Extensive depaenelling took place and then, without warning we were devastated to learn she had been broken into and items stolen including instruments, windows and even the pilot’s seat cushions!

Then COVID hit effectively putting the whole project on hold. Work carried on sporadically during 2020, with her tailplane and elevator, wing control surfaces and propellers being removed for transport.

So what are our plans? Well the Museum has taken over 16000 young people round the aerodrome over the last 20 years and we need a classroom! We have never before been able to put children INSIDE an aeroplane and the Jetstream will be perfect for that – she is even equipped with Airstairs.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

On the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 the aircraft wings were removed and she was transported back to Sywell, where she last visited in the 1970s, and is in the process of being reassembled.

When fitted out inside and repainted she will wear a refreshed colour scheme of G-RAVL on one side with Cranfield titles and G-AWVK on the other with Racal Decca titles. She will be a much-valued asset to the Museum and will improve what we can offer our visitors – especially our younger ones- AND we have saved a piece of British aviation heritage which otherwise would have gone for scrap (and was at genuine risk of doing so!)

So what's next? We need the following to begin to restore her:

Jetstream passenger seats, Jetstream interior panels Jetstream fuselage windows

We are looking for someone or a company to help trim her out inside since as part of her use as a training aid her interior aft of the cockpit has been stripped out. If you can help with retrimming and fitting out her interior we can proudly put your logo on her fin!

And we need your support – moving her was the biggest project the Museum has ever undertaken – if you would like to donate please contact us or we welcome your Paypal donations to [sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com)

The Museum has been hit hard by COVID and plans to reopen on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and will then reopen each weekend and bank holiday between 10.30-16.30hrs and Tuesday and Wednesday between 1200-1600hrs until the end of September.

Before that the Museum has a book and model sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 between 10.00-16.00 and we welcome your donation of model kits and accessories to sell to raise funds.

With sincere thanks to The University of Cranfield, Dave Thomas and all at Sywell Aerodrome.

**Ben Brown, Secretary**

Photos © Damien Burke



## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We have continued our programme of holding two online meetings each month for our members and these have proved very popular, especially to those who live outside the county who are usually unable to attend our monthly meetings. We shall continue to run our online talks alongside our branch meetings at Kettering and Northampton for the foreseeable future. Details of upcoming talks are shown in the events diary at the end of this Newsletter.

During lockdown, many of our members have been assisting in project work. This includes transcribing parish registers and other documents, typing up memorial inscription recordings and adding material to our databases. A large amount of our transcription work including the Probate index for Northants and Rutland is available to search on FindMyPast.

Looking through parish registers, one always comes across some interesting entries with extra information added, as the following burials shows:-

- ◆ 19/20 Nov 1691 Weedon Bec: Thos Rowlinson, Robert Pelton & James Judkins – ‘these three persons were killed by fire’
- ◆ 1791 Nether Heyford: Eliz Rogers, wife of John, ‘a first mate of the Eliza, a Danish East India man’
- ◆ 14 Apr 1771 Milton Malsor: Wm Robinson, parish clerk, ‘an honest man, favourite of his master’
- ◆ Jan 1690 Moulton: Ann Roberts ‘an old Quaker, buried in her orchard by her husband’
- ◆ Jan 1675 Npton All Saints: Ann Bonsgrave ‘a vile wretch, excommunicated’
- ◆ 1645 Nassington: Robert Whitewell ‘the nose eaten off with a ferret and died’
- ◆ Apr 1839 Barnwell: James Brittain ‘body exhumed and identified by his brother’

There is surely a story behind each of these entries!

**We were due to hold a one-day conference this year, in celebration of our 45th anniversary. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, this has been postponed to next year, and will now be held on Saturday 14 May 2022 at the Park Inn Hotel, in Northampton**

**Our President, Dr Colin Chapman, has sent this message on our anniversary**  
**Angela Malin, Chairman**



In 2021 the Northamptonshire Family History Society proudly celebrates 45 years of promoting the enjoyment and satisfaction of researching ancestral roots throughout the county.

Our events, open to all, continue to successfully bring together generations of amateurs and academics keen to discover and record relevancies from every era.

**Dr Colin R Chapman**

## NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORT HERITAGE

Our struggle continues. Unbelievably, we still haven't heard from the Charity Commission, but fingers crossed, it shouldn't be too much longer.

Our income is still seriously hit by the circumstances we find ourselves in. As we have no premises, we are unable to claim like museums or historic houses. If anyone can help with our funds we have lots of different ways. Do you have a small area where we could sell our wares? Would you be interested in advertising on a vehicle? Would you sponsor our quarterly magazine or know where we can get cheap printing or maybe sponsor an event?

On a more positive note we have started doing vehicle checks getting them ready for the road. We have also a number of events planned ,fingers crossed.



The biggest events set for September are the Heritage Open Days weekend and the celebration of the centenary of United Counties.

More information about us can be found on our facebook page or on our website.

**Phil Curtis, Public Relations**

facebook far cotton history group/northampton transport heritage

tel. 07929907923, email [philntfcok1022@gmail.com](mailto:philntfcok1022@gmail.com)

## HERITAGE FAIR

Hopefully this year we will be able to hold the heritage fair.

There are obviously a number of issues: covid and the change in councils being the main ones. However, I am getting positives at the moment with the museum due to open in June.

**The date is already set as September 11th.**

It would be great to see as many members as possible there so please contact me to reserve your space.

The event is run in conjunction with English Heritage for everyone to enjoy our rich wealth of all things good in Northamptonshire

It is a wonderful chance to promote yourselves.

**Phil Curtis**

facebook far cotton history group/northampton transport heritage

tel. 07929907923, email [philntfcok1022@gmail.com](mailto:philntfcok1022@gmail.com)



## ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We are keeping in touch with our members via email and look forward to resuming events as soon as possible - dates and details TBA. We hope to hold our AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> May if Covid permits.

Development of our new website is progressing well and we aim to switch to it before the launch of Chris Hillyard's book **CUTTING REMARKS *The Illustrated History of Roade's Railways and Cutting*** (now in pre publication formatting stage). The new site will include a searchable database of images from the Society's substantial archives.

As this year is the centenary of the Royal British Legion we will have a display in Roade Library about the Roade and District Branch (originally the Roade and Courteenhall Branch first established in 1922). It will also be the centenary of the unveiling of Roade War Memorial, which took place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 1921.

The Deco Theatre Northampton is now taking bookings for Ron Johnson's play ***The Every Brothers - Their Story*** (about 3 brothers who were killed in WW2) which is due to be performed on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Ron is our archivist and is busy improving the cataloguing and preservation of items in our store. He has benefited from excellent training by Dr Ellie Pridgeon, facilitated by Milton Keynes Heritage Association. A new shelving system is being installed and we await delivery of archive quality storage material from a bulk order by MKHA. An "On Loan" form has been designed and is now in operation. RLHS will decide which items are suitable to be loaned and these will only be available to villagers we know. However it is anticipated that most items will be shared electronically.

Ron and others also administer 4 Facebook groups which harvest images and memories, and these are accessed in the main by a younger cohort.

**"Roade Remembered" has 1.3k+ members**

**"Pianoforte Supplies Ltd" has 461 members**

**"Roade Secondary Modern School" has 1.5k+ members**

**"Towcester Grammar School" has 194 members**

Please see our website [www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk) for dates and more information about our Society and its projects.

**Vivian Blyth, Secretary**

Tel. 01604 864498

**The deadline for material for the July edition is Sunday 4 July 2021**

## DAVENTRY MUSEUM

### New exhibition - Victorian Leisure; a spotlight on entertainment & science

Explore an era of wondrous scientific discoveries, theatre and entertainment in our virtual Victorians exhibition. The 360° tour is now live, and free to access from our website by visiting the **What's On** page.

Fascinating objects on display include examples of early motion picture such as the zoetrope and magic lantern, to an architectural model of a Victorian theatre, Victorian outfits and an extravagant, green fringed, theatre handbill.



There are lots of 'hotspots' of curious Victorian facts to find on the virtual tour and, as always, we like to provide some hands-on activities so you will discover some fantastic resources including, how to make your own puppet theatre and cloth-peg doll, also featured on our **resource centre** page.

The exhibition is inspired by the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Royal Albert Hall, London, and indeed its precursor, The Great Exhibition of 1851. Not forgetting of course Daventry's very own Assembly Hall, built in 1871, (also 150 years ago this year) for meetings and entertainment including spelling bees, concerts and in the late 1880s becoming the

regular venue for the Pytchley Hunt Ball.

The Victorian era was one of rapid change and growth, especially in the field of science with advancements in technology and industrialisation. The Great Exhibition celebrated the world's industry, arts and culture, however, it also acted as a showcase for Britain and its Empire, demonstrating they were the forerunners in innovation and design.

After the huge success of the Great Exhibition in 1851, Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria, envisioned the building of a Royal Music Hall. The foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria in 1867, six years after the death of Prince Albert. The hall's intended name was originally 'The Central Hall of Arts and Science', however the name was changed to the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Science by Queen Victoria in memory of her late husband.

Our Victorian Leisure exhibition seeks to capture the spirit and ethos behind such institutions as the Royal Albert Hall, sharing a selection of awe-inspiring Victorian inventions and too, the magic of theatre and entertainment; something we have all missed this past year. We hope the exhibition brings you joy, and we look forward to welcoming visitors back to the museum 'in person' in May this year. Please follow our social media channels for regular updates.

Daventry Museum would like to thank Leicestershire County Council Museum Service for loaning many items you will see on display in this exhibition.

**Sophie Good, Museum Officer**

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

Tel: 01527 301246 Email: [museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov](mailto:museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov).

## LOCAL PATRONS' COMMEMORATIVE BOARDS

Two individuals who made a significant contribution to the welfare of Northampton's residents are now remembered on commemorative wooden boards in the town's Guildhall.

The boards for Mary Bouverie and James Manfield were unveiled on 12 March by the Mayor of Northampton, Councillor Brian Sargeant and Mayoress, Ray Kelly-Sargeant.

The tradition of commemorating individuals who made a significant contribution to the welfare of Northampton's residents began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and there are already several boards in the Guildhall's Mayors' Names Gallery, which date back to 1640.

Councillor Tim Hadland, Cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise said: "We wanted to revive this tradition to honour some of the town's more recent patrons and create a permanent reminder of their legacy.

"There are so many fascinating and worthy individuals whose impact on the town is still visible today, but Mary Bouverie and James Manfield really stood out for their contributions."

### **Mary Bouverie**

Mary Bouverie OBE lived at Delapré Abbey and allowed public access to the abbey's park and gardens. Her services to the town began with her work at Hardingstone Parish Church, where she ran the Sunday School for 20 years, and volunteered as a warden for a further 25 years.

During the First World War she was involved in medical war work and charities, and her contribution to public health continued when she was elected as the President of Northampton General Hospital in 1938, a post she held until her death in 1943.

She made a significant contribution to education in the town, as a member of the Education Committee and Chair of the Juvenile Panel of Magistrates, along with participation in the county Girl Guide movement and the Roadmender Club. She donated buildings and land for a youth club and mission church in Far Cotton and playing fields in Hardingstone.

### **James Manfield**

James Manfield was a leading shoe manufacturer who donated his family home to the Northampton County Crippled Children's Society in 1924, and the building became known as the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital. He gave thousands of pounds to local causes and funded the provision of children's meals for several years. When he became Mayor in 1905, he donated his expenses to poor relief in the town.

As Chairman of Northampton Corporation's Improvements Committee, he was so appalled by living conditions in the town's slums, that he vowed to devote himself to their improvement, giving large sums of money to the Salvation Army to distribute amongst slum dwellers.

Once Covid restrictions are lifted, anyone wishing to view the boards can make an appointment with the Guildhall office, by emailing [guildhalloffice@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:guildhalloffice@northampton.gov.uk) or calling 01604 838400.

**Thank you to Enid Jarvis for circulating this**

## BOUGHTON HOUSE

We will be opening the Gardens at Boughton House on

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Explore and enjoy the beautiful parkland and lovely gardens at Boughton House, 1.00pm - 5.00pm.

All tickets must be pre-booked

**Charles Lister, Property Manager**

Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire  
NN14 1BJ

[www.boughtonhouse.co.uk](http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk)



## DUSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

I am writing on behalf of Duston Local History Society a short update on our activities recently ...not much!

We have kept in touch with our members by issuing a monthly newsletter and we are now on our 13th issue. At the time we didn't think the pandemic would be so virulent for so long. Kathy Perkins has miraculously pulled together a great variety of articles ranging from those directly relating to Duston's past and recent history to more general aspects of the past. Themes included are VE and VJ 75th anniversaries editions; "As it Was"; significant people of Northampton; images and picture quizzes; book reviews relating to historical events. Members are encouraged to send in items and comments. It is now available on the Parish Council web site and we are sharing relevant items with the Parish Church magazine.

**Margaret Edwards, Chair**

## LAMPOR HALL

### **Joules Seconds Sale**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am-4:30pm & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3pm

Shop imperfect catalogue returns and samples in our Carriage House. Grab a bargain from this iconic countryside brand. 1 hour shopping slots available, pre-book online only.

### **The Walled Garden Feast**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm-10pm

Enjoy the idyllic surroundings of the Walled Garden from within your own private igloo, bell tent or from a picnic blanket. Pre-order a four course tasting menu, an afternoon tea, picnic boxes or delicious seafood and indulge in a treat from the champagne and oyster bars. Pre-book online only. Bookings close four days prior.

### **A History of Food and Class in Britain – An Evening with Pen Vogler**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 6pm-8pm

The entertaining story of British cuisine and the hidden role it plays in our political, social and cultural lives.

In this fascinating social history of food in Britain, Pen Vogler examines the origins of our eating habits and reveals how they are loaded with centuries of class prejudice. Covering such topics as fish and chips, roast beef, avocados, tripe, fish knives and the surprising origins of breakfast, this talk reveals how in Britain we have become experts at using eating habits to make judgements about social background.

Bringing together evidence from cookbooks, literature, artworks and social records from 1066 to the present, Vogler traces the changing fortunes of the food we encounter today, and unpicks the aspirations and prejudices of the people who have shaped our cuisine for better or worse.

Pen will also be signing copies of her book at the end of the evening.

### **Much Ado About Nothing outdoor Shakespeare**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm

In their 30<sup>th</sup> open-air touring season, and renowned all over the world for their clarity, quality and ingenuity, Illyria stick to their home-turf: Shakespearean comedy.

### **Traditional Jazz in the Gardens**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm

The Tame Valley Stompers Allstars are back by popular demand.

### **Lampport Hall**

01604 686272

[www.lamporthall.co.uk](http://www.lamporthall.co.uk)

## ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE SERVICE

Members of the Forum are thanked for their support over the past two years, during which the future governance of the Archives and Heritage Service has, at times, seemed uncertain. In this context the service includes the documentary Archives Service, the Historic Environment Record and the local hosting of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. There is now a clear way forward and the agreement is that the service is managed (from 1 April 2021) by West Northamptonshire Council. However, it will continue to operate across the area of the former county council of Northamptonshire, serving the residents of both West and North Northamptonshire, the two new unitary authorities, and of course, researchers from across the country and beyond.

While governance is now secured, the position for the service is still precarious. As was noted by the National Archives in the report for Archives Accreditation in July 2018, '*...staffing was felt to be very low for the scale of the community and collections [the service] serves. Further reductions ... of the archive service would make it difficult to offer a viable service, and this must be avoided if possible in future arrangements.*' As it is, the service is carrying some vacancies currently, so it is already at a lower level of staffing than when these comments were made. It is hoped that the resourcing of the service is something that will be addressed under new governance in the short to medium term.

There is also plenty of good news to celebrate, including the service being successful in securing £43k from the Covid-19 Archives Fund. The funding will enable the rescue, conservation and digitisation of some amazing archives from Northampton Borough Council. The Borough Engineer was responsible for taking images of many houses and streets in Northampton before they were cleared of sub-standard houses. These so-called slum clearances of the 1960s to 1980s have not yet been fully researched and these thought-provoking images (currently only in negative form) are often the only pictures of these properties. This should enable historians to build up a much better picture of the development of the county town. Associated with the clearances, were compulsory purchases of whole streets, evidenced by a vast archive of title deeds and associated papers, which include information about the relevant properties dating back several hundred years. These will allow the analysis of social and economic patterns in the town, for example, where whole streets were owned by a shoe factory owner and properties let out to workers. The project to make this information accessible will take at least a year, but the outcome should be a wonderful resource for anyone interested in the history of the county town.

If you think that you might need to contact the service in the future, please make a note of the new email address: **archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk**. The service is unlikely to re-open to the public before 17 May, assuming there are no changes to the government's 'roadmap' out of lockdown.

**Sarah Bridges, Archives and Heritage Services Manager**

West Northamptonshire Council | Northamptonshire Archives & Heritage Service | Wootton Hall Park | Northampton | NN4 8BQ  
Tel: 0300 126 7000 | [www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter @NorthantsPast



## LETTER TO LAMPORNT HALL

At Lamport Hall we were recently contacted by a gentleman whose father was stationed here during WWII. He told us that a letter was sent here by his father in the 1980s and we have managed to find it in our archives. The photos show the picture he sent and an aerial photo showing the Nissen huts that have since been demolished.

"Dear Sir

During the summer of last year I had the pleasure of visiting Lamport Hall and at long last I have looked through old papers and wish to confirm the following. During the period Oct 1942 to June 1943 I was stationed at Lamport Hall with a R.E.M.E Light Aid Detachment attached to 115 Regt. Duke Wellington Regiment. The D.W.R were under training in tank warfare and later became Tank Delivery Squadrons. However most tank manoeuvres were carried out in the area of Bury



St Edmunds. The HQ for the D.W.R was

Brixworth. The stables

were mainly occupied by the troops but during the winter the rear part of the Hall (not now open to the public) was used. The photograph I have enclosed is the R.E.M.E L.A.D taken outside of a building, set up at the far area XXX of the grounds where there was a XXX turning right from the B576.

I trust this information may be of use to you.

Yours faithfully

H.W.F Ricketts"



We thought it was rather interesting!

**Eleanor Carter, Lamport Hall**

## EARLS BARTON MUSEUM OF VILLAGE LIFE

You will find us upstairs at Jeyes on The Square, Earls Barton which has been our home for many years. Set as a Victorian shoemaker's kitchen and parlour with his lace-making wife, he is busy with his many tools in his workshop in The Life and Sole Exhibition at Jeyes, stitching leather for the local boot and shoe industry.

All the village artefacts, records and photographs are safely stored here and we will soon be able to welcome back visitors to share and relive their memories of Earls Barton – we enjoy helping anyone looking to research their family tree.

**Earlsbartonmuseum@hotmail.co.uk** Facebook: Earls Barton Museum: Village Life Through the Lens

**Georgina Jeyes, for Iona Flanagan, Chair**

01604 811735

## WHY IS MY VILLAGE NOT A TOWN?

Sometimes going to another area prompts looking afresh at your own neighbourhood. During the last year we have been cycling and walking just over the border in Bedfordshire. We have often passed through Yelden (Yielden), a village on the River Til, dominated by the extensive remains of a Norman motte and bailey. Why is what was apparently an important place now a small village?

I do not know the answer to the question, but it set me thinking about the development of villages and towns in East Northamptonshire. As a geography student, many years ago, I studied the development and distribution of towns and cities. I could remember the basics of the requirements for a settlement - water, building material, a site not likely to flood, providing defence in turbulent times, a bridging point and having surrounding land that could be used for arable and pasture to support the inhabitants of the settlement. Thinking about Ringstead and other local villages and towns in eastern Northamptonshire, those features did not provide sufficient explanation as to why some have developed more than others.

For instance, Islip and Thrapston. They are either side of a crossing of the Nene. Islip remains a village whilst Thrapston is an ever-expanding market town. One of the criteria for the designation of "town" is having a market. Thrapston's market charter was granted in 1205 and a market is still held. Would that have been sufficient to ensure it developed more than Islip? Why did Thrapston, rather than Islip, obtain a market charter? In the nineteenth century, Thrapston had iron foundries and just outside Islip there were ironstone furnaces. It might have been expected that both would develop as a result, but Islip remained a village.

Another example, Fotheringhay and Oundle. Fotheringhay was once a royal residence. It had a castle, a large collegiate church and was a bridging point, but today is a quiet village not far from the bustling market town of Oundle. Both places are on the Nene in what would have been the same rural setting and both have evidence of Roman settlement. Was it the granting of a market charter in 972 that prompted Oundle's development or were there other factors?

Brigstock, a village today, was, in Medieval times, an important centre in Rockingham Forest and had a market charter. The royal forest was broken up, but why did Brigstock not build on its importance?

Landowners certainly had power to change agriculture, move villages, to prevent or promote developments such as canals and railways. Entrepreneurs have developed industries and businesses and they can attract more people to a location. Is the human factor a greater influence than the physical environment?

These are initial thoughts and I wondered whether NHF members would have some ideas to help answer the question.

**Janice Morris, Individual Member**



## DELAPRE ABBEY - ANNUAL PASSES

### Delapr  Abbey gifts annual passes to more than 7,500 local families

As part of its continued commitment to giving back to the community, and increasing opportunities to access, Delapr  Abbey will be inviting all 7,563 households in the Delapr  and Briar Hill wards of Northampton to receive an annual pass for the historic house in 2021/2022. This is part of the Abbey's programme of activity that has been supported by the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport's Culture Recovery Fund and administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Richard Clinton, Chief Executive of Delapr  Abbey said: "We want to support our community to celebrate and explore what Delapr  Abbey has to offer, and what better way than removing the cost for those on our doorstep.

"Since taking up this role in April last year my priority has been to engage with the local communities in and around Delapr , an area that is brimming with community spirit, and pride, and that's something I want them to have in Delapr  Abbey.

"When you're located within a community where some face life challenges caused by deprivation, I believe any place-based charitable organisation must be mindful and really think about what direction it is taking and how it is supporting people and their chances in life. We have an essential role to play in terms of not just heritage and culture but also wellbeing and the environment and it is essential our communities are part of all we do."

Anne Jenkins, Director, England, Midlands & East the National Lottery Heritage Fund said:

"We've seen heritage organisations work extremely hard to continue to inspire and connect with the public during 2020, despite the many challenges they have faced. As we emerge from lockdown in 2021, we want to ensure there is support available to recover, reopen to the public and remain resilient, so this funding from DCMS is hugely welcome."

Councillor Anna King, Cabinet member for community engagement and safety, said:

"This is great news for our residents in Delapr  and Briar Hill and we want to thank Delapr  Abbey staff for their efforts in securing this funding, which will not only enable the local community to truly enjoy the Abbey but will also boost their local knowledge and pride."

This initiative is just one of many ambitious plans Richard and his team have for the Abbey and their 2021 business plans aim to focus on the following areas:

- **Heritage** – the Trust is developing a 3-year plan with Heritage and Interpretation specialists to further develop the heritage and exhibition spaces. This work will build upon existing stories and new themes to make the history more accessible and engaging to all.
- **Culture** – initiatives and ideas for making more of the grounds are underway and will focus on blending the natural environment with art. This will support a range of cultural events and activities that will take place in the grounds, further raising the awareness of the 550-acre park and its surroundings for all to enjoy.
- **Wellbeing** – a new strategy is being developed with links to local organisations such as Action for Happiness, Northampton Leisure Trust and General Practice Alliance. The Trust recently submitted a bid to the Thriving Communities fund worth £70k to deliver improved awareness and access to social prescribing activities. The Trust has submitted a joint research funding bid with the University of Northampton which has also been agreed for research into how people use the grounds for their physical activity.

- **Environment** - there are plans to launch a Green Gym pilot – to enable people to undertake soft physical exercise through green projects, such as planting, cultivating, footpath laying and hedgerow trimming.
- **Food & Beverage** - work is underway to refurbish the Orangery Café situated on the South Lawn which will improve the customer experience and feature a lounge area and an improved flow to the space. This work will be completed by March 2021.
- **Bringing life back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Stables and Lodge** - The team are developing the options appraisal that will kick start the work to bring these areas back to life. This space will offer unique wellbeing, retail and office space within the grounds, increasing the public’s engagement with the site and animating the currently unloved aspect of the grounds.

Despite the challenges and ongoing restrictions caused by Covid, Richard and his team have worked hard to raise the profile of the Abbey over the last 12 months, delivering a packed events programme, launching a high-profile Wedding with Thanks competition, welcoming more visitors to the historic house, entertaining diners in the on-site rosette-winning restaurant and opening a brand-new deli and café.

Residents living within the Delapré and Briar Hill Wards are asked to register their interest in obtaining an annual pass by emailing their name, address and email to: [local@delapreabbey.org](mailto:local@delapreabbey.org)

**The deadline for applications is 31 May 2021**

**Richard Clinton, Chief Executive**

## ARE YOU GOOD TO GO ?

VisitEngland has developed a scheme which might be of interest to any organisation planning to open to the public this year. It’s called **‘We’re good to go’** and it’s a way of reassuring visitors that your site is safe because you are following government guidelines for COVID prevention such as route planning, sanitising routines, and personal protection.

It’s easy to apply to be recognised by the scheme; it takes 5 minutes online, and in return you will be able to display the badge online or at your premises, to reassure visitors.

Your visitor offer will be supported Northamptonshire Surprise and by VisitEngland.

For more information, please visit [www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/were-good-go-industry-standard](http://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/were-good-go-industry-standard)

**Laura Malpas**



## EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email or website
78 Derngate	Exhibition		18-May 02 and 03	Liz Jansson	<a href="http://www.78derngate.org.uk">www.78derngate.org.uk</a>
Boughton House	Gardens open		May 30 and 31	Charles Lister	<a href="http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk">www.boughtonhouse.co.uk</a>
Boughton House	Gardens open		May	Charles Lister	<a href="http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk">www.boughtonhouse.co.uk</a>
Daventry Museum	Victorian Leisure; a spotlight on entertainment & science		6th Feb to 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Sophie Good	<a href="mailto:museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk">museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Finedon Local History Society	Northamptonshire Country Houses	Neil Lyon	26-Apr	Michael Britton	<a href="mailto:finedonlhs@outlook.com">finedonlhs@outlook.com</a>
Finedon Local History Society	John Warner and Me - Recollections of Finedon in the 1950s	Tom Watts	24-May	Michael Britton	<a href="mailto:finedonlhs@outlook.com">finedonlhs@outlook.com</a>
Finedon Local History Society	History of the Music Hall	Colin Ray	28-Jun	Michael Britton	<a href="mailto:finedonlhs@outlook.com">finedonlhs@outlook.com</a>
Finedon Local History Society	Memories on Stone - Historic Graffiti in the Garden Lodge at Lyvedon	Susan Lees	26-Jul	Michael Britton	<a href="mailto:finedonlhs@outlook.com">finedonlhs@outlook.com</a>
Lamporth Hall	Joules Seconds Sale		08 and 09 May		<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>
Lamporth Hall	Walled Garden Feast		17 to 30 May		<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>
Lamporth Hall	History of Food and Class		03-Jul		<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>
Lamporth Hall	Much Ado About Nothing		17-Jul		<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>
Lamporth Hall	Jazz in the Gardens		18-Jul		<a href="http://www.lamporthall.co.uk">www.lamporthall.co.uk</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Informal evening, sharing resources, problem solving		26-Apr	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Shoemakers and Cordwainers	Ian Waller	10-May	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Birth & Death - discover the hidden secrets of registration	Antony Marr	17-May	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Exploring the Archives - up to date news from the Record Office	Sarah Bridges	07-Jun	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches	John Vigar	21-Jun	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Oundle Historical Society	Quenching One's Thirst		10-May	Philip Kitchin	<a href="mailto:oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com">oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com</a>
Sywell Aviation Museum	Book and model sale		22-May	Ben Brown	<a href="mailto:sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com">sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com</a>
Sywell Aviation Museum	Re-opening		12-Jun	Ben Brown	<a href="mailto:sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com">sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com</a>

**Please ensure that you check with the venue /organisation for any changes to the published programme**

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Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email or website
Daventry Museum	Victorian Leisure; a spotlight on entertainment & science		6th Feb to 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Sophie Good	<a href="mailto:museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk">museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Finedon Local History Society	Northamptonshire Country Houses	Neil Lyon	26-Apr	Michael Britton	<a href="mailto:finedonlhs@outlook.com">finedonlhs@outlook.com</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Informal evening, sharing resources, problem solving		26-Apr	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Boughton House	Gardens open		02 and 03 May	Charles Lister	<a href="http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk">www.boughtonhouse.co.uk</a>
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78 Derngate	Exhibition		18-May	Liz Jansson	<a href="http://www.78derngate.org.uk">www.78derngate.org.uk</a>
Sywell Aviation Museum	Book and model sale		22-May	Ben Brown	<a href="mailto:sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com">sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com</a>
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