

NEWSLETTER January 2021



Photograph courtesy of Boughton House, Northamptonshire

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the January 2021 Newsletter. 2020 was a very challenging year for heritage organisations in the county and it will still be a number of months before we can return to some form of normality.

However, the Forum committee has exciting plans to continue celebrating, learning, developing, networking and promoting the county's great historical assets.

The committee has selected a designer for our new website. Work is progressing well and we look forward to the launch in due course.

Plans are underway for an online heritage awards ceremony.

We intend to publish quarterly newsletters, and are looking for your continued input.

Thank you for your contributions to the Forum's facebook site – please keep posting your events and interesting stories.

We look forward to the publication of another excellent edition of *Hindsight*.

As the national situation improves, we can look forward to another successful local history day later in the year.

The Forum will maximise opportunities to assist museums, historic houses, history societies and heritage sites to fulfil their objectives. We will seek to keep the profile of the heritage of this county as high as possible. We will do this through extending our partnerships county-wide and beyond.

I believe it is more important now than at any time since the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum was created that the heritage community is able to work together and support each other in the best interests of our local communities.

Martin Lawrence

GRANT PROGRAMMES

Please see the below information about Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund reopening their Cultural Recovery grant programmes:

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND:

Cultural Recovery Grants second Round - for cultural organisations as they transition back to a viable and sustainable operating model during April-June 2021. If you are an Accredited Museum you should apply to this programme rather than the NLHF programme.

Application Open Date: **Wednesday 6 January 2021** Application Deadline: **Tuesday 26 January 2021**

See the website for full details: [Culture Recovery Fund: Grants Second Round | Arts Council England](#)

For organisations which are not Accredited Museums:

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND: CULTURAL RECOVERY FUND FOR HERITAGE:

Website: [Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Second Round | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

This second round will offer grants of between £10,000 and £3m to support organisations to make the transition towards full reopening. The fund will be open for applications from **7 January 2021 until 26 January 2021**.

Laura Hughes, Museum Development Project Officer

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions for the Forum Newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it, and if you have any suggestions for future editions, please let me know.

The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 4 April 2021

I can be contacted at: nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com

Janet Lawrence

ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the moment we are working on a variety of projects including the development of a new website which will include the ability to display most of the photographs in the Society's substantial archive.

We look forward to resuming events as soon as possible - dates TBA. They will include a **History Book Sale**, which will be publicised widely including to history organisations, and the following talks:

Horton Hall - one of Northamptonshire's lost Country Houses' - Maureen Williams.

Mobbs' Own - the truth behind the myth, stories of the men who went to fight alongside Edgar Mobbs and the impact on Northampton' - Northampton Saints Foundation.

We aim to launch Chris Hillyard's book *CUTTING REMARKS The Illustrated History of Roade's Railways and Cutting* in the spring.

Our AGM and Chris's talk about 'Roade's Industrial Heritage' have been postponed to Wednesday 26th May.

Our play "The Every Brothers - Their Story" (about 3 brothers who were killed in WW2) is now scheduled to be performed on Sunday 14th November at the Deco Theatre, Northampton.

Please see our website www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk for dates and more information about our Society and its projects.

Vivian Blyth, Secretary, Roade Local History Society

Tel. 01604 864498

www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk

78 DERNGATE

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House, Galleries, Shop and Dining Room, is a multi-award-winning heritage attraction in the Cultural Quarter of Northampton. Remodelled by the world-famous designer and architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, in his iconic Modernist style, it features some extraordinarily striking interiors. Commissioned by the visionary Wenman Bassett-Lowke and transformed by the Friends Trust in order to bring it back to life, 78 Derngate is a house of international importance and as quoted by Eric Knowles: "a gem of a building in a jewel of a town."

The website has had a recent makeover: <https://www.78derngate.org.uk/>

Liz Jansson, House Manager





The Mayor of The Borough of Wellingborough

Councillor Jon-Paul Carr

invites you to join him for a talk on

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF WELLINGBOROUGH

Local Historian, Author and Borough Councillor Jon-Paul Carr will provide an illustrative and informative talk on the development and history of the town of Wellingborough.

He will look at the area from the early settlers, through the Medieval and Civil War periods, to the towns development during the Victorian era, its Edwardian heyday, the effects of both the First World War and the Second World War on the town, and changes which have happened in the later part of the 20th Century into the 21st Century.

To be held online, via Zoom

Two sessions will be held:

Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.00pm

Thursday 28th January 2021 at 2pm

Ticket: £7.50 each

Available from Mrs Emma Robinson, Democratic Services Support Officer

Tel: 01933 231526

Email: mayor@wellingborough.gov.uk

The talk is being held in aid of the Mayor's Charity

Northamptonshire Heritage Forum

(Admission to the event is by Email Ticket Only)

KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

A TWIST IN THE TALE OF THE KETTERING MOSAIC!

In last year's edition of *Hindsight* we reported on the Kettering Mosaic and high hopes of it being reinstated on Tresham College. What an unpredictable year! Never in our wildest dreams did we think that the restoration and re-siting of the Kettering Mosaic would be funded by Historic England and Kettering Borough Council. Furthermore, we certainly never thought that a place in the town centre would be suitable.

Kettering's High Street Heritage Action Zone secured £4,354,000 from Historic England and Kettering Borough Council to improve the High Street and included the Kettering Mosaic in its plans!

The HSHAZ is an Historic England initiative intended to breathe new life into town centres by revitalising old buildings and helping to regenerate a vibrant place for locals, businesses and visitors. Historic England has confirmed the secure funding of £1,480,000 for the Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), with the four-year project beginning late this summer that will restore our historical town centre. The first milestone of the project will see public realm and street scene improvements in the southern end of the High Street and Meadow Road.

Kettering Civic Society supported Kettering Borough Council in its successful bid for High Street funding for this funding.

The mosaic stood on the former Kettering Grammar School building where the new Tresham College now stands in Windmill Avenue. The Society raised funds which together with funding from Kettering Council saved the mosaic from demolition in 2007. Since then, it has been stored in jig-saw like sections in the workshop of renowned mosaic artist Oliver Budd the son of the original artist Kenneth Budd.



The mosaic is an iconic 1960s abstract interpretation of Kettering's coat-of-arms and makes reference to industries in the town. Finding a suitable site for the large mosaic, measuring 15 feet by 45 feet, together with many other planning considerations had proved to be a difficult task as well as raising funds.

The Society is delighted that a new home will be found in the town centre where everyone can enjoy it and reflect on Kettering's rich history. They say that Rome wasn't built in a day; the Kettering Mosaic will have found a new home after 18 years.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Our branch meetings are suspended but instead, we have been holding two online meetings per month via Zoom. These have proved very popular, particularly so with our members who are unable to attend our branch meetings for various reasons. Whilst the majority of the attendees have signed up for the whole series (through to Spring 2021), others just join us when the speaker subject is of particular interest to them. This now means that as well as hearing a talk, we have a really friendly group meeting, all participants are happy to share information and to help each other out with queries, questions and brick walls. The social side of the meeting is therefore as important as the talk! Why not join us!

As well as being able to take part in our meetings, members also receive a quarterly journal, a monthly email newsletter and help and advice with their family history (although we don't offer a full research service – our local Archives are best placed to do that).

We've made a short video about what the Society can offer and you can view this on the home page of our website: www.northants-fhs.org



One of the Society's projects is recording memorial inscriptions in the county's churchyards. We now have over 200 booklets available for purchase along with other local books such as workhouse and non-conformist transcriptions. Do have a look at the publications page on our website.



The National Archives (TNA) are offering free downloads of digitised records during lockdown. A good opportunity for local history societies to download all the PCC wills etc relating to their parish for free!

Northamptonshire Libraries are offering free access to Ancestry for those who hold a NCC Libraries card.

The Family History Federation is holding another online show in April. The talks will be of interest to local historians as well as family historians.

Angela Malin, Chairman

CRICK HISTORY SOCIETY

I am the Chairman of the Crick History Society and live in a vernacular cottage in the village which dates from the 16/17th Century. It originally was two farm workers cottages with an associated small barn.

Whilst gardening in 2019, a small hole opened where I had pulled out some plants. Exploring further revealed a rectangular hole some 20 inches across which was in the corner of the roof of an underground chamber approximately 5 feet square.

I made a small presentation to our society just before we went into lockdown to see if members had any knowledge of anything similar in Crick, but to no avail. As a member I subsequently also made enquires to both the Listed Property Owners Club and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Again I only got a small amount of helpful comment. And so I wonder whether others in the more general Northamptonshire area may have come across something similar.

The chamber has a shallowly arched brick roof (arched in both directions) which supports about 9 inches of soil, a raised rockery with several bushy conifers and other shrubs. The chamber is filled to about 20 inches from the roof with soil, which I assumed has been washed in through the opening over time. The walls are smooth, rendered in lime or cement, and the way the render finishes at the opening suggests this is the actual entrance hole rather than just a collapsed part of the roof. There are no signs of any other openings or pipework in the parts of the walls that are visible above the soil filling. The soil is at least 30 inches deep but determining its true depth is hampered by hitting buried pieces of stone and rubble when probing with a pole. I do intend to try and remove the infill but it will be an awkward job.

When I asked members if they had any knowledge of anything like this in Crick they mentioned two houses in the village with underground chambers used as water cisterns but these are up against the backs of the houses and were used to collect rainwater for use in the house. Our one is halfway down the garden to one side against a drystone wall, more than 30 feet from the house.

It was suggested that it might be a septic tank but I understand from Peter Bell of LBOC that septic tanks were not usually lined so that the effluent could leak away. We are on sandy soil and there was a well in the next-door garden on the other side of the stone wall which would have been polluted if it had been a septic tank there.

Other than a water cistern another suggestion was a food store but why so elaborate and underground?

I attach a couple of photos taken through the hole showing the visible roof and smooth walls. There is evidence of a "fill line" too around the walls.

Any help or suggestions would be very useful.

Dr Bryan Turner, Chair, Crick History Society



SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SAULS OF SPRATTON

Sauls have for many years been well-known in the local area as a high quality family butcher and they have played a generous part in village affairs, donating their meat products for many a village fete and charity event. The time has come, they feel, to close their shop in Spratton and trade from a more convenient base in Smiths Farm Shop, Chapel Brampton. They hope their customers will continue to support them at their new premises at Smiths Farm Shop. For Spratton village it is the end of an era.

There has been a butcher's shop on the corner of School Road, Spratton for over 100 years. It was owned by Frank Copson at the beginning of the 20th century. He sold it to Frank Saul in 1926 who made deliveries in a pony and trap. Later he purchased a Model T Ford van and delivered meat to most of the surrounding villages. In 1933 the business became F E Saul and Sons when Peter and William joined their father. Times were difficult during the Second World War when food rationing came in and Peter and William both joined the Forces. Prices were regulated and each shop had a quota of meat to distribute to registered customers.

After the War, Peter returned to the shop and William and Frank expanded into dairy farming. Peter's son Christopher, having trained at Smithfield College and abroad, came into the business. They expanded pork pie production and many other cooked foods were added. They also set up a catering business.

Enid Jarvis, Chairman



The shop in 1934



In 2012 Chris Saul presented HM Queen Elizabeth with one of his Diamond Pies at Burghley House on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee

ROCKINGHAM FOREST TRUST

SETTLERS OF THE NENE VALLEY PROJECT

In common with many other organisations, most of our planned public events during 2020 could not take place. However, we were able to arrange some alternative activities that fitted in with the different restrictions in force during the year.

Our school outreach workshop material (Ancient Britain) was re-crafted into a set of workbooks that could be downloaded from our website by parents to use for Home-Schooling.

We adapted events that had been successful previously and created activities, such as Heritage and Nature trails, that encouraged children to be active outdoors and, in the process, learn more about the heritage of the Stanwick Lakes site. Traditional Craft videos about paper crafts, jewellery and clay pot making were also created and made available online.

However, our biggest success was our medieval garden which flourished as planned. It became a focal point for the many visitors to the site who were interested in hearing about our garden, heritage barn and the project itself.

The continued development of the garden was due entirely to the efforts of our socially distanced volunteer team, managed by Hillary. In recognition of her leadership throughout these difficult times, Hilary was awarded the *Nene Valley Star 2020*, which was organised by "Destination Nene Valley".

To keep our project in the "public eye" we expanded our social media activity about news of our activities to include more information about the heritage of the site which spans 5,000 years.

Unfortunately, our project will end in August 2021, but before then we are hoping to hold some of the activities from 2020 and finish the project with an event to remember.

Neil Busby



MICK HENSON — LOCAL SCULPTOR

I'm a local sculptor with a passion for large sculptures. Originally trained as a welder fabricator I had gained experience in working on and moving heavy machinery.

As an artist I made a conscious decision to use recycled and reclaimed material. This is not only good for the environment but also makes economic sense. I try and take part in many carnivals, fun days and St George's days, using my sculptures to support and promote local events in the community.

The sculpture I'm most associated with would have to be the Knight: for the past 10 years it's been used to promote these events and is now on display at Wicksteed Park.

In January 2020 I was approached by Kettering Park Junior School and asked if I would be interested in working on a project with the schools' year 8 about Kettering history. At the time I was already working on an idea for a sculpture made from clicking press knives used to cut out the shoe components, which had been kindly donated by Barker Shoes, NPS shoes and Loakes.

I combined the two projects so the children would have experience of working on a large sculpture. I used the press knives to cut out the shoe patterns in card before welding the shoe together.



The card templates were then given to the children to put designs on and later would be fitted into the shoe sculpture.

Unfortunately, a couple of days before the sculpture was to be exhibited at Kettering Museum, we went into lockdown and the children never got to see the finished sculpture.

When things start getting back to normal I will be looking for a venue to exhibit the shoe and would be grateful for any help or advice.

As the maintenance engineer at Barker Shoes, the sculpture could also help highlight the added pressure that Covid 19 and the lockdowns have inflicted on shoe manufacturing in the county. Over the past 12 months I've seen Barker become a shadow of its former self with a large proportion of the workforce being made redundant.

Mick Henson, Individual Member

mickjhenson@icloud.com

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

TNA has announced the following, which may be of interest:

Free access to digital records

We are making digital records available on our website free of charge for as long as our Kew site is closed to visitors.

Registered users will be able to order and download up to ten items at a time, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of our digital services for everyone.

To access the service and download for free, users will be required to:

- Register/sign in to their Discovery account before adding items to their basket (maximum ten items per basket)
- Abide by the terms of our fair use policy
- Complete the order process to receive a download link, which will remain active for 30 days. (The link will also be saved in 'Your orders' in your account for 30 days)

Our usual terms of use still apply: digital copies can be downloaded for non-commercial private use and educational purposes only, and bulk downloads and web crawlers are not permitted.

What sort of documents can I download?

You will be able to download records digitised by The National Archives and published through Discovery, our online catalogue. These include:

- First and Second World War records, including medal index cards
- Military records, including unit war diaries
- Royal and Merchant Navy records, including Royal Marine service records
- Wills from the jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury
- Migration records, including aliens' registration cards and naturalisation case papers
- 20th century Cabinet Papers and Security Service files
- Domesday Book

Can I get help in finding and downloading documents?

We have a wide range of research guides to help you navigate your way through our online catalogue.

You can also find podcasts and videos on our Archives Media Player, along with a number of different blogs on our website.

Our live chat service, which provides one-to-one expert research advice, is available between 09:00 and 17:00, from Tuesday to Saturday.

We're also running free webinars with our experts on 19 May and 16 June, offering an introduction to Discovery and offering some top tips on getting the most out of it to find what you're looking for.

BALH EVENTS

BALH Digital Webinar : Creating your local history website

Wednesday 13th January 2021 6:00pm

This webinar will be led by BALH's Web Manager and professional web developer Paul Carter. Introducing the basic concepts of setting up a local history website, whether that is for an individual research project or a local history society.

BALH Digital Workshop : How to get your local history research out there!

Saturday 13th February 2021 10:00am

Public Engagement and Collaborative Working (a student special) with Claire Kennan (BALH)

BALH Digital Webinar : How to grow your local history social media presence

Wednesday 10th March 2021 6:00pm

BALH's Social Media Fellow, Daniella Gonzalez will provide an introduction to the various social media platforms available and how local history societies can best use them to promote their work and engage with the wider history community.

These talks are free to members or to non-members on payment of a fee. Further details are available on the website at: <https://www.balh.org.uk/balh-events>

YOUR NEW BALH DISCOUNT CODE

1st January 2021

Dear Member

This year, we are trialling a new initiative to offer benefit to your society's members through a discount scheme for BALH events.

Initially this benefit will be in the form of a discount on selected online webinars, workshops and talks, but we will be reviewing its use over the course of the year.

Our aim is for this discount to be an additional attraction to members of your society; in turn providing extra value for your BALH society membership.

To take advantage of this discount offer, your members will be asked to enter your society's unique code when booking designated events via our website.

Your unique code for Northamptonshire Heritage Forum : **F-28802L**

We do hope you find this initiative of use in our new programme of events.

British Association For Local History

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021 and BALH are proud to be helping with an exciting local history project, 'Telling Our Story', to commemorate this major landmark.

Having been a membership-based organisation since its creation, the local branches are the stalwarts of the Legion's history. These branches are filled with members and volunteers who have raised money and supported their local communities since 1921 and continue to do so today. We want to know how all these wonderful people came to be involved with the Legion, what they do for the organisation, their highlights, their heart-warming stories, and see their photos and memorabilia that showcase their amazing work.

We hope that the BALH members and all other local historians can help the Legion to piece these stories together. The submissions will be compiled into a digital library to celebrate all that these people have done and allow their stories to be known for another 100 years.

How can you get involved?

This project focuses on what these individuals, branches and teams have contributed to their communities as part of the Legion. We therefore ask you to put your research and story-telling skills to good use to uncover these people's stories and help to put them down into a structured format, or even a video / audio file, so that they may be appreciated and never forgotten. For many members, volunteers and fundraisers their stories span years, if not decades, so telling their story may be daunting to them. They may not know where to begin or think that their stories are relevant. We want to make one thing very clear - each submission is relevant.

If you would like to get involved, please email us at tellingourstory@britishlegion.org.uk. Please also use this email address to send your submissions.

HOLY SEPULCHRE (NORTHAMPTON) RESTORATION TRUST

We can be followed at www.stsepsrestoration.co.uk

There is a research find coming out shortly to add to all that is already known.....325 million years old! At least!

There is also an exclusive photographic collection 1000 strong available for publication.

John Kightley MBE Director/Secretary to the Trust



GREAT DODDINGTON HERITAGE GROUP

At the moment, due to the uncertainty surrounding how long the Covid 19 Pandemic will keep us social distancing, it is difficult to put dates on proposed events for 2021. We had a very full calendar of events planned for 2020, none of which took place. I attach a list of talks and events which we had planned for 2020 and which we are hoping to be able to present to our Members and any one else who would like to come in 2021.

When we are clearer about when it will be safe to hold talks and events, I will be able to book dates and we will then publish the full calendar in one of the forthcoming newsletters.

- Talk by Patricia Heed, "Ration to Fashion" (2nd WW) The talk evokes personal memories of how our parents were creative during the shortages during and after the Second World War.
- Talk by Megan Kelleher. "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission"
- Guided Tour of Higham Ferrers, visiting The Church of St Mary, The Bede House, The College and the College Gardens. Starts at 10.30pm in Higham Ferrers
- A Guided Walk round Brixworth.
- Guided Tour of St Peter's Church Isham, followed by a short talk about the history of Isham.
- September 2021. Annual Heritage Weekend. Exhibition of photographs, maps and documents, together with talks.
- November. AGM
- Talk by Kevin Varty, "Flushed with Success." The fascinating History of Toilets through the ages.

CLASP - COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE & ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY PROJECT

URGENTLY RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW FIELD CENTRE

CLASP, the archaeology group based in SW Northamptonshire, has to urgently find a new home for the ongoing processing of the artefacts from its many projects. This is because the farm, at which our Field centre is located, is now on the market. We have managed to potentially find a new site in Nether Heyford and have applied for Planning permission. If granted, and subject to raising sufficient funds, CLASP will purchase a second hand portacabin and use this for temporarily storing the artefacts that are being processed and for the computer work required to facilitate a digital record. The processing of the artefacts will take place in an adjoining building managed by Nether Heyford Youth Club.

We are currently seeking to raise a substantive proportion of the £8500 budget required and, so far, we have achieved £2500. Any support would be much appreciated. Contact me via "Trustee Chairman" on our Website at <https://claspweb.org.uk/>

N.B. CLASP was established as a Charity in 2005. Since then, it has carried out archaeological projects at many sites along the A5 and in the lower Nene Valley, including Roman sites at Whitehall farm, Bannaventa and Harpole, the ongoing excavation of an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and a medieval site at Thrupp.

Rob Close, Chairman of CLASP Trustees

EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email
Daventry Museum	Victorian Leisure; a spotlight on entertainment & science		6th Feb to 18 th June	Sophie Good	museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Finedon Local History Society	Northamptonshire Country Houses	Neil Lyon	26-Apr	Michael Britton	finedonlhs@outlook.com
Finedon Local History Society	John Warner and Me - Recollections of Finedon in the 1950s	Tom Watts	24-May	Michael Britton	finedonlhs@outlook.com
Finedon Local History Society	History of the Music Hall	Colin Ray	28-Jun	Michael Britton	finedonlhs@outlook.com
Finedon Local History Society	Memories on Stone - historic Graffiti in the Garden Lodge at Lyvedon	Susan Lees	26-Jul	Michael Britton	finedonlhs@outlook.com
Northants Family History Society	Crime and punishment in Victorian Northamptonshire	Katie Stewart	11-Jan	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Reading Old Handwriting	Ian Waller	25-Jan	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Maps for Family Historians	Les Mitchinson	08-Feb	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Mixing DNA with a paper trail	Dr Penny Walters	22-Feb	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Life & Legacy of George Bradshaw	Dr David Turner	08-Mar	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals - depictions in parish churches of milestones in our journey through life	John Vigor	15-Mar	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Northants Family History Society	Victorian Northampton	Mike Ingram	12-Apr	Angela Malin	info@northants-fhs-org
Rockingham Castle	Snowdrops		14 and 21 Feb		estateoffice@rockinghamcastle.com
Swell Aviation Museum	Grand Opening - 10.30 to 16.30		03-Apr	Ben Brown	sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com

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