

**NEWSLETTER** January 2022



**Chester House Estate**

*Photograph courtesy of Chester House Estate*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

To say it's been a testing year for heritage organisations (in Northamptonshire, or nationally) would be to understate things dramatically. You have all been facing once-in-a-generation challenges – and you have done so with a combination of resolve, resourcefulness, and bravery.

As the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum reaches its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, it is a time to reflect on how very well it has marshalled the resources of our richly historic county and brought cohesion and organisation to all the gems that we have to offer.

As ever, this is the time to note the incredible contribution of volunteers, whose dedication has been crucial to the survival of many of our members. Thank you – all of you – for your selfless dedication. It is hugely appreciated by all of us who treasure our heritage, be they owners, custodians, visitors, or general enthusiasts.

It's impossible to know what 2022 holds for us, in terms of COVID. But it's surely fair to hope that the medical experts are correct; that, after a testing winter, we may dare to believe that things will get easier than they have been for a couple of years. How wonderful that would be....

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year,

**Charles Spencer**



Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions for the Forum Newsletter.

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 3 April 2022**

**Janet Lawrence**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A belated Happy New Year to all our members.

You have demonstrated yourselves to be resourceful during the challenges brought by the pandemic. Hopefully 2022 will be the opportunity to increase membership of our societies, visitors to our venues and build our volunteering capacity to meet the needs of our audiences. The Heritage Forum is keen to support you in these activities. Please let us know how things are going.

Thank you to our Patron for his encouraging message and reference to our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Your committee has been working very hard to provide a broad range of events over the next twelve months which we hope will bring pleasure and encouragement to all those attending.

We are looking forward to opening the first Northamptonshire Heritage Hub at Jeyes of Earls Barton in March.

We hope that as many members as possible will attend the AGM at Boughton House on 21 April to collect your copies of *Hindsight* and the new Members booklets.

A big thank you to all our member organisations who responded to our training survey. We were not surprised that the largest request was support for the development of digital skills, which is now such an important part of our offering to audiences. We look forward to discussing with Museums Development East Midlands a bespoke training programme for Heritage Forum members for delivery from April 2022.

Wishing you an exciting year full of new creative ideas for your members and visitors.

**Martin Lawrence MBE**

## CHESTER HOUSE ESTATE

Northamptonshire's largest heritage free family attraction opened its doors this autumn.

Perfectly located on the banks of the River Nene, the project, joint funded by North Northamptonshire Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Business Manager, Jack Pishorn and his team took the lead with the project in early 2020 and have seen it through to completion on time and budget, introducing new and exciting plans for the site, which itself can be dated back 10,000 years.

The 84-acre scheduled monument is built on a former Roman town and includes the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC), a learning centre, a free-to-enter museum, an artisan courtyard and farm shop and an events and wedding space, as well as the flagship farmhouse. The surrounding farmland has been cleared of scrub and a new mooring has been installed on the River Nene to allow access to those who arrive on foot and by water, as well as a new car park and footpath entrance in Claudius Way.



The restaurant serves local produce and catering for events, as well as providing accommodation for wedding parties and tourists to the area. The site is open to the public with pre-booked car parking tickets from 10am every day.

Pre-booking to visit the Chester House Estate is essential and can be done via [Where to find us - Chester House Estate](#)

**Georgia Wales, Marketing and Business Development Intern**

[georgia.wales@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.wales@northnorthants.gov.uk)

07845753421



## LOCAL HISTORIAN, MIKE INGRAM

Northamptonshire Heritage Forum was saddened by the passing of Mike Ingram just before Christmas. It came as a great shock to his family, friends, colleagues and his many supporters.

Mike was a medieval historian and author. Many members of the Forum enjoyed his tours and talks. Mike was born in Northampton and was devoted to recording its history. He traced his family back, first to the owners of the Cross Keys Public House in Sheep Street at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century then further research led to discovery of a family member being a confectioner on the Market Square at the end of the Nineteenth Century.

His books included *Northampton Guildhall, A Beginner's Guide*, published in 2020. This was particularly significant as Mike was a Freeman of the Borough and loved the Guildhall. It was at the Guildhall that I had my last conversation with Mike. We had attended the Remembrance Sunday service at All Saints Parish Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Mike was extremely positive and was looking forward to his next publication, due in early 2022.

Also in 2020 Mike published *Northampton, 5,000 Years of History*, which was the result of a lifetime of research.

This significant publication for the county won the 'Hindsight Award for Best Published Work' in the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards 2021. Mike was delighted to receive this award. Mike also published books about battlefields and was Chairman of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society. His publications *Richard III and the Battle of Bosworth*, *The 1460 Battle of Northampton* and *The Battles and Battlefields of Northamptonshire* were all well received.

Mike had also been a trustee and a guide for the Naseby Battlefield Project.

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum sends its condolences to Mike's family, friends and colleagues.

### Martin Lawrence

Information taken from: *Northampton Guildhall, A Beginner's Guide*, *Northampton, 5,000 Years of History*, *The 1460 Battle of Northampton* and *The Battles and Battlefields of Northamptonshire*.

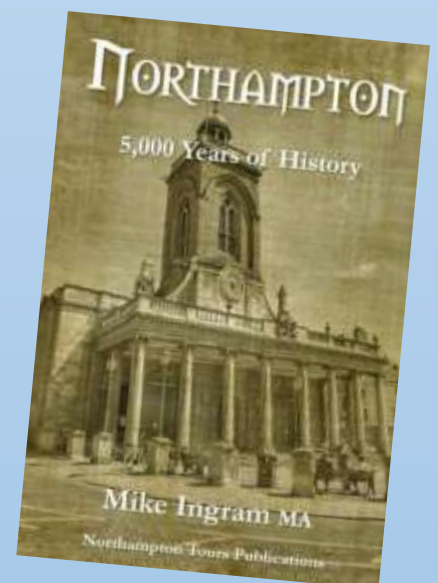


Image supplied by  
Georgina Jeyes

## 1921 CENSUS

### Findmypast and The National Archives unveil the 1921 Census of England and Wales for the very first time

On 6 January 2021, Findmypast and The National Archives published the highly anticipated **1921 Census of England and Wales** online, as the 100-year rule, which ensures records are closed to the public for 100 years, has ended. After three years of intensive conservation and digitisation and with the help and support of the Office for National Statistics, the Census is now available to search and explore online, only at [Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk).

Taken on June 19th 1921 after being delayed by two months due to industrial unrest, the 1921 Census saw over 38,000 enumerators dispatched to every corner of England and Wales to capture the details of more than 38 million people. This included over 8.5 million households as well as all manner of public and private institutions ranging from prisons and military bases to public schools and workhouses.

Offering more detail than any previous census ever taken, the 1921 Census of England and Wales not only asked individuals about their age, birth place, occupation and residence (including the names of other household members and the number of rooms), but also their place of work, employer details, and gave 'divorced' as an option for marital status.

Now accessible to the public for the first time, these valuable documents provide visitors to Findmypast with millions of unique opportunities to uncover the lives of their ancestors, the history of their homes and communities, as well as providing a fascinating snapshot of life during an era that will resonate with many today.

Falling between the two world wars, the record paints a disparate picture of England and Wales, from the Royal household to the average working-class citizen, still reeling from the impact of WW1 a major housing crisis, the Spanish flu pandemic, ravaged economy and industrial turmoil.

The publication of these documents will mark the last significant census release for England and Wales in many people's lifetime as the 1931 Census was destroyed in a fire and the 1941 Census was never captured due to the Second World War. This means the next census will not be available until 2052.

From the famous to the infamous, the documents also provide a vivid snapshot of the lives of prominent individuals alive at that time, including cultural icons such as Lord of the Rings writer - J.R.R. Tolkien, Famous Five author - Enid Blyton, Peter Rabbit writer - Beatrix Potter, Winnie the Pooh author - A.A. Milne and the creator of



Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle. On the night the Census was taken Conan Doyle was playing host to a number of mystics and psychics, suggesting he may have been holding a seance at the time.

Due to the fact householders could now specify the names and addresses of their employer, and even the materials they worked with, this was the first Census to record many of the iconic brands which are now household names. This includes Boots, Cadbury's, Selfridge's, Schweppes, Sainsbury's, Rolls Royce, McVities and many more, revealing where and how the workers that helped build them lived.

**Article and image reproduced by kind permission of the Society of Genealogists**

<https://www.sog.org.uk>

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAS is about to publish the next edition of the county archaeological journal, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, volume 41, 2021, which is a special edition focussing on *The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton*.

Given the central theme of this edition and its broader appeal, this volume will also be available to the general public.

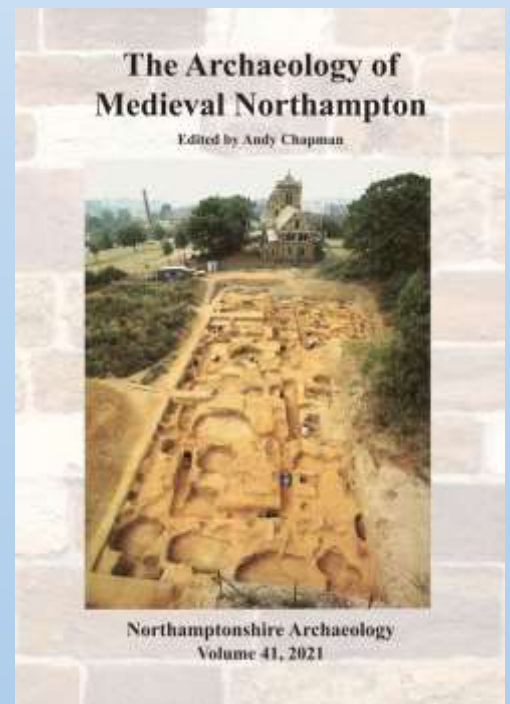
Edited by Andy Chapman, the volume contains a series of articles that examine: the archaeology of the pre-Conquest town, including the Anglo-Saxon 'Palaces' east of St Peter's Church; Part 1 of an overview of the history and archaeology of Northampton Castle, with separate articles examining the pre-castle and castle archaeology uncovered in 2013 on the site of the new rail station; a major study of the location of the medieval Jewry and synagogue; shorter articles and notes on aspects of the archaeology of both the town and the broader county, along with book reviews and a roundup of archaeological work in the county 2018-20.

At 480 pages with numerous colour and black and white illustrations, it is on sale at £20.00, plus £4.00 p&p.

It is available from Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, email Andy Chapman [NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com) for further details or send cheques to: NAS, c/o Andy Chapman, 4 Oat Hill Drive, Northampton, NN3 5AL.

NAS is a registered charity formed in 1974 to promote the study and appreciation of the archaeology and history of the county. New members are always welcome, whether you are pursuing a long held interest or an experienced archaeologist. Go to our website [www.northants-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.northants-archaeology.org.uk) or contact the Membership Secretary by email [NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com).

**Andy Chapman, Secretary and Editor**



## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2022

Every year more than 2,000 people organise events for Heritage Open Days (HOD) in their area; you could be one of them.

This year the festival takes place between 9 and 18 September and the theme is Astounding Inventions (but your event does not need to link to this).

If you have not been involved before, we can give you many good reasons to host an event as part of HOD festival 2022.

Why take part?

- You'd be part of a national festival
- You'll get free publicity on the National HOD website – and through our promotional activity your events get extra press coverage
- It promotes and showcases our cultural heritage in the county
- It increases engagement with heritage

West Northamptonshire Council will deliver an extensive marketing campaign for this significant annual festival in the county.

There will be a physical brochure that will be distributed to heritage sites and other venues in the county, as well as digital marketing through, web and social media channels.

The timetable is as follows:

1 March – registration for brochure/website entry opens

17 June – registration for brochure entry closes

1 August – brochure distribution

You don't need to be a big or fancy site; your event just needs to meet one of the four criteria below:

- Entrance to the event needs to be free – so if you charge, for one day you could make entrance to your site free
- Offer something special or different – give access to a part of your site that visitors don't usually get to see
- Provide some information – set up a trail, devise a quiz, produce a booklet, or put on some skills demonstrations
- Run the event during the festival dates (9 to 18 September)

[Have a look at one example of our Heritage Open Days activity from last year](#)

Heritage Open Day National organisers **key dates to note:**

1 March – Registration for website entries launch

16 March - Planning & Inspiration for HODs 2021 webinar



1 May – Early Bird Registration deadline (for potential inclusion in long-lead press releases)

1 June – Online event directory goes live

1 August – Final Registration deadline for website entries

9 to 18 September – THE FESTIVAL!

15 October – Evaluation deadline

You can [find out all about Heritage Open Days on the campaign website](#)

**Debra Cox, Public Programme Manager**

Museums Service, Northampton Museums & Art Gallery | Guildhall Road | Northampton | NN1 1DP

Tel: 01604 837164

[www.northamptonmuseums.com](http://www.northamptonmuseums.com) [www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARDS 2022

### Key dates

**1 March** Detailed category applications emailed to each Forum contact member AND People's Choice self-nomination form

**March** People's Choice shortlist announced mid-March

**April and May** John Griff interviews and broadcasts People's Choice candidates

**End-May** All awards entries must be received

**June** Online voting period for People's Choice

**Week commencing 6 June** is judging week (no visits)

**7 July** Awards ceremony at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery (7pm start)

### Entries for 2022 awards

This information will be available soon.

All the entries will be shortlisted from their original application, supported by photographs if applicable. If there is only one entry for a category, the judges may decide to move it into another category and their decision is final.

Please note that the entry must have **no more than 750 words** (excluding the 50 words summary) and up to six photographs.

If you have any questions, email [nhfawards@gmail.com](mailto:nhfawards@gmail.com) today.

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



## Conference

Saturday 14 May 2022  
at Park Inn, Northampton  
9.00am – 4.30pm

Tickets: £27.50 including all refreshments and  
three course buffet lunch

## PROGRAMME

9.30am

**Religious Nonconformists**

*Daniel Williams*

11.00am

**My Ancestor was a Liar:  
Ignorance, half-truths or wilful  
deceit?**

*Dave Annal*

12.15pm **Buffet Lunch**

1.30pm

**Researching and Writing Your Family  
History**

*Dr Nick Barratt*

3.00pm

**House Histories:**

**Discover the secrets behind your  
front door**

*Melanie Backe-Hansen*

*Staff from Northamptonshire Archives will be in attendance and our bookstall, search services and other research information will be available throughout the day*

*For the booking form, go to:*

<https://www.northants-fhs.org/fairs-events/>

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Attendance at our branch meetings which restarted in September has been lower than normal. No doubt this is due to the uncertainty of Covid. We along, with everyone else, look forward to some sort of normality returning in 2022. On the plus side, our monthly online meetings via Zoom continue to attract a good audience and we have a full programme arranged for the coming year.

Details of our upcoming programme can be found in the Diary Section of this newsletter.

We very much hope that our one-day Conference on Saturday 14 May at the Park inn, Northampton will be able to go ahead. Further details can be found within this newsletter.

For more information about the Society, membership and talks, please visit our website [www.northants-fhs.org](http://www.northants-fhs.org)

**Angela Malin, Chair**

## NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

NMAG has received grant funding from the Army Museums Ogilby Trust to document and make accessible 1500 military objects as part of a collections backlog project. The objects relate to both the Northamptonshire Regiment and the Northamptonshire Yeomanry and cover the period 1800 until 1960.

We are looking for volunteers to help with researching objects, recording objects, packing objects, helping developing social media/website content and with 4 events. Have a look at our website for volunteer roles [Join in \(northamptonmuseums.com\)](http://northamptonmuseums.com). No experience is necessary and full training will be given.

We are now ready to receive military collection enquiries. Over the autumn we have re-organised our records and archives and developed a small team of supporting volunteers who have expertise in this area.

If you wish to view an object or find out about a serving soldier we can help! Have a look at our website for further information. [Collections enquiries - Museums \(northamptonmuseums.com\)](http://northamptonmuseums.com)

**Jane Seddon, Collections Manager**



## JEYES OF EARLS BARTON

In *Hindsight* I featured the original recipe for Philadelphus Jeyes's Northamptonshire Sauce, its journey onto tables throughout the county and how its fame has spread.

Keeping you in the loop – we have produced over 15,000 bottles, proudly winning a gold medal at the Northamptonshire Food and Drinks Award – Artisan Product of the Year, donating £1,222.00 to Northampton Health Charity for the children's new playground with A Taste of Jeyes's Cook Book.

We celebrated 40 years since opening Jeyes Chemist in Earls Barton, starting the Jeyes Family Pharmacy Museum. Thank you to all who supported us, trusted us with memorabilia and gave The Sauce a try too.

We recently welcomed the Northampton Scandinavian Society for "Tea and a Talk" – it was good to be back in the flow and their enthusiasm for our local heritage was great.

On a personal note, I was sad to hear about Mike Ingram. We had been sharing information about the old Philadelphus Jeyes building at 6 The Drapery, planning a launch for his new book, discussing the pros and cons of city status – my memory of him is on Armistice Day, running up the steps of The Guildhall in the blue robes and hat – he was so proud to have been made a Freeman of Northampton. "There will be more apple pie in the sky, Mike".

**Georgina Jeyes**

## LYVEDEN

### **Percy the Park Keeper's winter wander trail**

This winter, treat your little ones to a world of adventures at Lyveden on the Percy the Park Keeper's winter wander trail. Join in the fun with Percy and his animal friends and give nature a helping hand.

The trail will take place between 7th-30th January (Friday-Monday), so come along and explore the beautiful countryside of Lyveden.

Booking not required for the trail but you must book tickets in advance to visit the property.

We are unable to take card payments for the trail, please bring cash.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/c5e89d6e-7b1f-4cf1-b305-71bb22a84377/pages/details>

**Jennifer Hatton, Property Operations Manager**

National Trust, Lyveden, Nr Oundle, PE8 5AT

07966 466853 or 01832 205259

[nationaltrust.org.uk/Lyveden](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/Lyveden)

## ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 27<sup>th</sup> October: **The Best Burglar in the County, Joan Wake and The Northamptonshire Record Society**

Author and Roade resident Neil Lyon gave us a very entertaining talk about Miss Wake, who founded the NRS in 1920 and saved Delapre Abbey from demolition. She became known as 'the Best Burglar in the County' because of her success in extracting records from their owners and rarely taking 'No' for an answer. Neil described her as a cross between Margaret Thatcher and Margaret Rutherford and brought her to life by quoting from her notes, letters and diary entries.



### **Newly repaired Ryan headstone and some of the donors**

Thanks to all concerned, especially NCCC for meeting half the cost as Capt. James and Dr. Walter Ryan played cricket for the County



Our play "**The Every Brothers - Their Story**", written by RLHS committee member Ron Johnson, was based on material within our archives relating to three brothers who were killed in WW2 and are commemorated on



Roade war memorial. Its second outing was at The Deco Theatre in Northampton on Remembrance Sunday, 2021 and the production was well-received. A copy of the script will be deposited with the British Library and a dvd of the performance will be available later in the year.

### 27<sup>th</sup> November: "**Cutting Remarks**" book launch



"**Cutting Remarks - The Story of Roade's Railways and Cutting through the Ages**", written by our Chairman Chris Hillyard, is selling well at £17.50 + £5.00 UK p&p. It is a well produced 240 page hardback book containing over 300 images and illustrations. Please see our website for details. Based on years of research following Chris's

distinguished career in the railway industry, *Cutting Remarks* records the considerable impact the railway has had on the social and economic development of Roade from the 1830s to the present day. It is a good read, humour mingling with disasters and successes, and will appeal to people interested in rural, local and social history as well as railway enthusiasts and the technically-minded.

Many thanks to the following for their generous financial support:

Christopher Denton,  
Roade

  
Milton Keynes Heritage Association



Roade Parish Council

8<sup>th</sup> December: Our Christmas event was well attended. Ron Johnson entertained us with interesting old films of Northampton and Roade and a selection of photos from our archive. Chris Hillyard sold and signed copies of *Cutting Remarks* and we enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine before joining Roade Choir in the church for carol singing. The Choir sang beautifully and we all enjoyed listening and joining in. It was a happy occasion to end a memorable year.



#### **Forthcoming events:**

23<sup>rd</sup> February: **Preston Deanery Hall: The Story of a house through time** - Maureen Williams

23<sup>rd</sup> March: **Dark Days: the story of an ultra-rare and highly valuable LP recorded by a band of four local lads in 1972** - Ron Johnson

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

**Vivian Blyth, Secretary**

## **EARLS BARTON MUSEUM**

We are always available for questions, queries and research on our Facebook website as well as collecting more local images with their information.

A volunteer is available on a Saturday to share our collection of photographs and the village census returns.

We will always open on request.

**Iona Flanagan, Chair**

## CORBY POLE FAIR 2022

**Corby Pole Fair has been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate local history.**

The Corby Pole Fair steering group has received a Heritage Fund grant of £158,000 to stage a major year-long community heritage celebration focused around the Corby Pole Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.

The Pole Fair is a major community celebration which takes place in the Old Village area of Corby every 20 years and is said to have been celebrated in some form for over a thousand years, with the next one planned to coincide with Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the volunteer steering group, alongside project partners **Made With Many**, will be able to continue this important tradition through a spectacular day celebrating local heritage. There are lots of historical stories associated with the Pole Fair, from its evolution as a small Viking settlement, to the right to hold fairs granted by Henry III in 1226, and the story of why Elizabeth I granted the Corby Charter after an accident in a bog. Next June's event aims to tell these stories through a variety of engaging activities, including a pageant, a living history encampment as well as Open Days at Corby Heritage Centre for



Corby Silver Band leading the dawn parade at Pole Fair  
1982 ©Glyn Dobbs [Northants Telegraph]

visitors to explore Pole Fair archives dating back to 1902.

Additional activities happening both before and after the main event are also part of the plan, which was created following a period of consultation during 2020, when the steering group surveyed and had conversations with local residents to find out what they wanted from the celebration. In the months running up to the fair there will be workshops with schools and community groups to learn about Corby's history, and the opportunity to create artwork to be showcased at the fair in June, including the making of large-scale puppets of significant figures which will lead a walking parade through the Old Village.

Local groups will also be invited to make decorative archways to adorn the three gateways to the Old Village, where the local Vicar will carry on the tradition of reading the Corby town charter at dawn on the day of the fair. Visitors to the fair will also be expected to pay a small toll to enter the fair on the day, or risk ending up in the village stocks!

The committee also have plans for a wide range of artistic and community activities, including music, street performers, a teddy bears' picnic and community breakfast, which need to be funded from other sources. So, to supplement the generous Lottery funding that has made the event possible, an additional crowdfunder and sponsorship opportunities for local businesses have been set up.

Following the 2022 Pole Fair in June, video footage of the event will be made into a film to capture this special day in Corby history, which will be shown through local and online screenings. Permanent heritage boards will also be

installed across the Old Village and a digital archive will be stored in the Corby Heritage Centre as a legacy for the enjoyment and education of generations to come.

Denise Westwood, Chair of the Pole Fair Steering Group:

*“Corby Pole Fair is a very special day for the people of Corby and we are extremely grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for recognising the uniqueness of our event and supporting us so handsomely. Thanks to National Lottery players we are looking forward to a truly magical day.”*

Anne Jenkins, Director, England Midlands & East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund:

*“We are delighted to support Corby in continuing this tradition which dates back to over a thousand years ago. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, this unique part of Corby’s history will continue to be enjoyed by all.”*

To stay up to date with developments, follow the Corby Pole Fair Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CorbyPoleFair](http://www.facebook.com/CorbyPoleFair) and [save the date](#).



#### Keep in touch

For future updates on news, events and opportunities please sign up to the [e-newsletter](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) – or [Get Inspired](#) on our website.

## PRESTON DEANERY HALL, THE STORY OF A HOUSE THROUGH TIME

Maureen Williams is a well-known Northamptonshire local history author. Her Photographic *Memories of Hackleton, Horton, Piddington and Preston Deanery*, published in 2017, won the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum’s *Hindsight* Award for Best Published Work, 2018.

She has now written *Preston Deanery Hall, The Story of a House Through Time*. She led the current owners, Sam and Karen Mackaness, on “an amazing journey of discovery, spending hours contacting descendants of former owners, visiting the Record Office, trawling through websites and newspaper archives, and sourcing images from museums and art galleries as far afield as New Zealand!”

It is a work of detailed research, excellently illustrated, covering the house, former owners and occupiers, the grounds and the wider estate. It has a useful list of sources and charts and maps. Priced at £15.00.

Maureen can be contacted on [maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk).



## FRIENDS OF ST PETER, MAREFAIR

We plan a mixed events program for St Peter's in 2022.

Last year came to a happy conclusion with a variety of 'live' and online happenings in December. Travelling Players brought seasonal theatre: 'The Snow Queen' was fully booked, was hugely enjoyed and gave welcome funds for the Church.

The Friends have revived the tradition of decking the church with greenery in December to celebrate midwinter. Visitors were invited to drop in for the occasion. There were seasonal



refreshments, and they were regaled with musical background from Northampton Ukulele Group. This added the Modern to go with the Ancient!

ZOOM talks in the last quarter of the year brought interest for our Local Studies series: Witchcraft in Northamptonshire; Archaeology at Northampton Castle; Fun and Frolics at the medieval Christmas. The video recordings are on our webpage.



Winter to Spring months 2022 will be quiet at the church. Our volunteer team meets weekly, cleaning the church, clearing and tidying the garden. The first task of 2022 was assault on high level cobwebs. These were worthy of museum curation!

You don't have to be a member to join the volunteer team, but as this is an ideal time for a late New Year Resolution, why not join the Friends and help us plan and enjoy our activities? Annual Subscription is a modest £10 which helps us do so much to care for St Peter's and promote the history of our county town.

Visitors can visit the church by arrangement. We are happy to fix group visits.

There are exciting things ahead too. This year will see the start of building work at our neighbouring heritage site: the Old Black Lion. This creative Regeneration Project is managed by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). It will restore the pub to dignity as a historic coaching inn. The two sites will be interconnected through the churchyard to give easy access. The Old Black Lion profits will support the maintenance of St Peter's. It will be a destination in its own right. Located at the heritage gateway of the town, close to the train station, it aims to increase the town's heritage offer, and give Northampton a mini heritage campus of excellent standard.

### Diary Dates:

**FREE ZOOM TALKS** @7.30pm book via [stpetermarefair@gmail.com](mailto:stpetermarefair@gmail.com)

Wed. 16th Feb **The Jurassic and Northamptonshire Stone with Geologist Sue Barker**

Wed. 23rd March **Romanesque Art and Architecture with Dr John McNeill**

Email: FOSTP [stpetermarefair@gmail.com](mailto:stpetermarefair@gmail.com),

Webpage The Friends of St Peters Church <https://www.fostp.org.uk>

Facebook St Peters Church Marefair Supporters

Book Visits m.07522 792 392

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-peter-northampton.html>

**Mrs Jean Hawkins, Chairman**

m. 07522 792 392



## IRTHLINGBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021, we held an exhibition in the Methodist Church to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication and unveiling of the War Memorial in the town.

Photo boards were displayed in the church and various artefacts from the relevant era were on show throughout the church and adjacent rooms including actual wedding dresses.

The highlight was the appearance of the Great War Re enactment Society who sent a group of eight soldiers with a sergeant in full uniform. They carried out marching displays in the town and demonstrated their authentic equipment in the church rooms.



The exhibition was extremely well received by the town and the soldiers stayed overnight to lead the annual procession to the War Memorial



**Bob Thorogood**

Phone: +44 (0) 7802 441068, Email: [bob@rltservices.co.uk](mailto:bob@rltservices.co.uk)

## NEW BOOK

*An Introduction to Medieval Gardens. Gardens in the Age of Chivalry* is due to be on sale from 30 January 2022.

The book is based on the research I carried out when I created the medieval gardens at the Prebendal Manor at Nassington. The features of medieval gardens and their uses are covered in depth, with further references from the medieval records of Higham Ferrers. There are over a hundred colour photos, many of which have not been in print before. There is only a short section about the plants, as the medieval uses of plants will be covered in more depth in a book that I am currently completing.

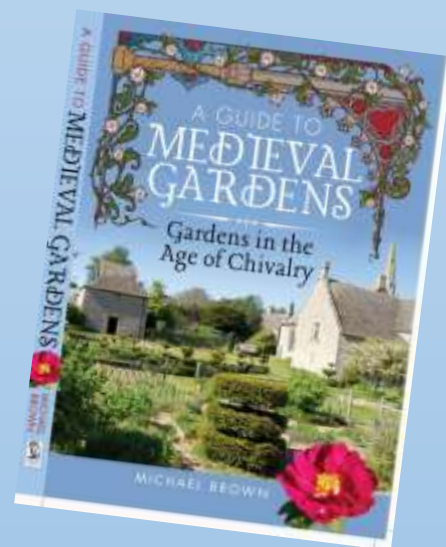
The book is published as a hardback by White Owl.

At the time of writing, the book can be pre-ordered at a saving of £5.

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/A-Guide-to-Medieval-Gardens-Gardens-in-the-Age-of-Chivalry-Hardback/p/20264>

E-book formats are also available at a much lower price.

**Michael Brown MA**



## DAVENTRY MUSEUM

### Caring Kindergartens and Daventry Museum become Pen Pals: Trunky the Elephant's Museum visit

This winter Daventry Museum and local Daventry nursery, Caring Kindergartens, became Pen Pals and have exchanged some lovely letters and pictures with children from the pre-school, sharing ideas about Daventry then, and now.

Trunky the Elephant is the nursery's mascot, and a miniature version of Trunky spent some time at the museum exploring and helping the museum team with various tasks,

including decorating the museum's Christmas tree, which inspired the nursery children to recreate and draw some fabulously festive pictures.

Museum Officer, Sophie Good said "The team are always delighted to receive the children's letters and creations; we enjoy answering their questions about the museum and the objects we look after, which hopefully encourages their curiosity in the museum and the world around them".



Whilst the museum was closed to prepare for a new exhibition (below), Trunky the Elephant paid the museum a visit along with Nursery Manager, Heidi Baker and Interim Nursery Manager, Emma Simmonds. The team very kindly presented Museum Officer, Sophie Good, with a box of chocolates for the museum volunteers and a brilliant booklet of Christmas drawings from the pre-school children.

Interim Nursery Manager, Emma Simmonds said "We're looking forward to bringing our pre-school children for a visit in the new year after seeing a preview of the "Childhood Memories" exhibition. We think our children will find it very interesting seeing all the toys the museum has on display, which will lead to some brilliant artwork opportunities."

### Daventry Museum evokes childhood memories in an exciting, new exhibition opening in January 2022

Daventry Museum's new exhibition, Life and Memories of a Childhood in Daventry, opened on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 from 10am to 4pm.

This nostalgic exhibition seeks to evoke memories of a Daventrian childhood, with exhibits of local interest including Daventry schools memorabilia, uniforms and sports team photographs, Swimming Pool Association ephemera, local Cub and Scout group badges, and May Day celebrations.

Alongside these local exhibits are displays of traditional toys, many



versions of which are still around today. There are examples of clockwork toys, board games and popular characters, Mickey Mouse and Andy Pandy. Daventry's Museum Officer Sophie Good said "This exhibition will be a delight for both old and young, to reminisce, share stories between generations, and compare childhood then and now!"

The museum has also been lucky enough to borrow a selection of toys from Leicestershire Museum's 'Harborough Hoard of street toys', the largest single collection of post-medieval street toys yet found within the UK, dating from 1570 to 1630.

Visitors will be able to reminisce over the type of bicycle or tricycle they owned, through a wheel spinning display borrowed from Coventry Transport Museum, which includes a Raleigh 'Phantom Flyer' bicycle from the 1970s, a Mobo Playtrike and Raleigh (Humber) Child's Tricycle, both from the 1950s.

If you have any stories from your childhood you would like to share, or any Daventry memorabilia you might like to lend the museum, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Museum Officer, Sophie Good, by calling 01327 301246 or emailing [museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Sophie Good, Museum Officer**

Tel: 01327 301246 Email: [museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk) Socials: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Address: 3 New Street, Daventry, Northants, NN11 4BT

## THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FILM ARCHIVE TRUST

**Back in Time** is the title of the cine film presentation by The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust being held on Tuesday, 22 February (subject to any Government regulations).

This is a matinee performance starting at 2pm at The Wellingborough Museum and will include footage of Wicksteed Park, including opening day in 1921; Northampton Coronation celebrations in 1953; lessons in village schools c1950's and a brief tour around the UK from London to the Highland Games in Scotland.

Admission to this event is £5 and tickets can be reserved by contacting Wellingborough Museum on 01933 276838.

For more information on this event please visit [www.thenorthamptonshirefilmarchivetrust.co.uk](http://www.thenorthamptonshirefilmarchivetrust.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.

Alternatively, for more details about the Trust please email: [tnfat@outlook.com](mailto:tnfat@outlook.com) or call administration trustee, Pete Austin, on 07427691062

**Pete Austin**

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - EVENTS

### **BALH Digital Webinar: Effective Social Media For Local History**

Wednesday 16th February 2022 7:00pm

[Further details](#)

### **BALH Local History Hour: From Front Parlour to Funeral Parlour: looking after the dead in England c.1850-1950**

Thursday 24th February 2022 7:00pm

[Further details](#)

### **BALH Local History Hour: The Magic of Chancery**

Thursday 31st March 2022 7:00pm

[Further details](#)

### **BALH Local History Hour: Expectation versus reality in medieval legal records**

Thursday 28th April 2022 7:00pm

[Further details](#)

## TRANSPORT DAY

Transport Day at Abington Park Museum returns this year on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 11am-4pm**. Due to the success of previous years' event, we are looking at making the event even larger this year.

Previous stalls have included a 1937 Leyland Fire Engine, heritage tractors, classic cars, a working Bassett-Lowke gauge one engine, objects from Silverstone Interactive Museum and free bus rides from vintage buses by Northampton Transport Heritage + much more!

It is free for exhibitors, free for visitors and a small charge for Refreshments stalls. If you or you know someone who would like to exhibit at this year's event, please email [louise.hannam-jones@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:louise.hannam-jones@westnorthants.gov.uk), the more the merrier!

Please note all exhibitors must be booked in prior to the event as we cannot admit walk/drive- ins on the day.

**Louise Hannam-Jones | History Curator, Museums Service**

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery | Guildhall Road | Northampton | NN1 1DP

Tel: 01604 838639 (Office Only)

[www.northamptonmuseums.com](http://www.northamptonmuseums.com) [www.westnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @NorthamptonShoe @westnorthants



*Image credit: Northampton Camera Club (Abington)*

## OUNDLÉ HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2022-2023 Programme

11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Annual General Meeting and “History of the Music Hall” by Colin Ray
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	“Nassington’s Prebendal Manor” by Jane Baile
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	“From Font to Tomb: the Ordering of Church Interiors” by Robin Rowe
June 2022*	Visit to Prebendal Manor, Nassington.
July 2022*	Visit to Exton and Teigh churches, Rutland
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	“The Best Burglar in the County: Joan Wake and the Northamptonshire Record Office” by Neil Lyon
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	“The Saxons in the Nene Valley” by Prof. Stephen Upex
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	“Mastering Laxton’s Free Grammar School, Oundle, Part II- Sanderson onwards” By Colin Pendrill

Our meetings take place at Oundle Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane starting at 7.30pm. They are free to members (annual subscription £7.50 due in March), visitors pay £2. We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Website [www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

Email [oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

\*Precise dates of visits to be confirmed.

**Philip Kitchin, Membership Secretary**

## PYTCHLEY CHURCH HERITAGE TRUST

Pytchley Church Heritage Trust will be holding a musical evening with the folk/trad band Frumenty on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Pytchley Church, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each, to include a glass of wine, available from myself or Mike Walsh. Please see full details on the poster.

This will be Frumenty’s second visit to Pytchley – the first was very well received and we have no doubt that this one will be just as popular and well worth attending.

**Kate Everard, Treasurer**



## DIARY OF FORUM EVENTS

### January

Full Forum Meeting and Social  
Chester House Estate  
Thursday 26 January  
10am - 4pm, includes tour of the estate

### February

No events

### March

Launch of first Northampton Heritage Forum  
Hub  
Jeyes of Earls Barton  
Monday 21 March  
10.30am start  
Further details to follow

### April

AGM  
Boughton House  
Monday 21 April  
7pm start

### May

Spring Lecture  
Desborough Heritage Centre  
Thursday 26 May  
Further details to follow

### June

Summer Garden Party  
Prebendal Manor  
Thursday 23 June  
2pm start  
Further details to follow

### July

Heritage Awards Ceremony  
Northampton Museum and Art Gallery  
Thursday 7 July  
6.30pm for 7pm start

### August

No events

### September

Full Forum Meeting  
Venue TBC  
Thursday 22 September  
7pm start  
Further details to follow

### October

History Day  
Date to be confirmed  
Details to be arranged

### November

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

### December

No events

## FINEDON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The society began, with more than a degree of trepidation, its monthly speaker's meetings in August last year and we were pleased to see good turnout (I think our members were just pleased to have the opportunity for an evening out!). We have continued to have good attendances and hope to do so this year, depending on the situation we find ourselves in.

Carolyn Smith and I continue to undertake research following requests for information via our website. We are presently working on a very interesting and intriguing request received from a family in Minnesota, USA, relating to the disappearance, and never to be heard of again, of one their great grandmothers around 1911. The missing lady's husband, a local police constable, resigned his job shortly after the last known record of his wife and, having deposited their children with family in Finedon, he sailed off to Canada and later became a US citizen, leaving a trail of documents weaving a narrative of differing stories. We will probably never achieve closure on this project, but it certainly has been 'different'. As a token of their appreciation, they have become members of the society and purchased several books from us, despite the fact the cost of postage far outweighed the cost of the books!

Our speakers for the next four months, subject to guidance at the time, are:

24th January.	The History of the Pantomime.	Martin Heath
28th February	The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.	Andrew Becket
28th March	The Home Guard in Northamptonshire.	Roger Fowkes
25th April	Northamptonshire Country Houses.	Neil Lyon

The admission fee is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for non-members. Meetings commence at 7.30pm in the Mission Room, Well Street, Finedon.

Up-to-date information, regarding the meetings, can be found on the FLHS website, or Facebook page or by calling 07988 065010.

Website: [www.finedonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.finedonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk)

Facebook: [finedonlocalhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/finedonlocalhistorysociety)

**Mick Britton, Secretary**



## FRIENDS OF KETTERING ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

### GLaM

The gallery, library and museum upgrade continues and members of the committee were treated to an interesting site visit, followed by discussions of future plans. Steelwork has been erected, with a revised completion date of April, with a handover, following commissioning in September.

Friends' Activities.

The regular monthly meetings have continued over Zoom, with presentations on: Xray and Art, by Rachel Flynn; Gwen John, by Sue Lydia Taylor, and Ada Nettleship by Bernadette Millar. We have been able to take full advantage of the talents and interests of members, much facilitated by IT. I think it may be a difficult habit to break, even when the weather improves.

### HSHAZ.

The Friends' contribution to the High Street Action Zone project has seen about a dozen QR plaques installed around the town. We are now entering a phase of evaluation and feedback before pressing on with more plaques in the New Year. We also conducted two cemetery walks and two town walks, both in the theme of 'What's in a name?' and 'Following in the footsteps of...', which is the theme of the HAZ. All the walks were very well received with very positive feedback, with attendance topping 120 people. They resume in the spring, with a waiting list of 70. Our volunteer training programme starts at the beginning of February (more information below).

**David Brown, Chairman**

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

As part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) project, The Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum have organised a training programme for volunteers. The programme is sponsored by Historic England and the Kettering Cultural Consortium, and is designed to improve skills in volunteer roles that have direct interaction with the public.

The training sessions will be delivered by Laura Malpas, who is a professional trainer with extensive experience in this field. She is a committee member of the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, and has a passion for historic and cultural activities. A certificate of attendance will be given to add to your CV. The course is free of charge.

There will be two half-day sessions. One of these will be concerned with 'front of house' skills: meet and greet, engaging with the public and communication skills. The other will deal with guiding: organising the day, telling the story and body language. The course will be repeated each week for four weeks, beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The sessions are currently planned to take place on Wednesdays, morning and afternoon, at the ARTworks gallery in the Newlands centre.

Whether you are new to volunteering, or wish to improve your skills, this course is for you!

## EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email/ telephone
Daventry Museum	Life & Memories of a childhood in Daventry	exhibition	to 17 June	Sophie Good	01327 301246
Finedon Local History Society	The history of the pantomime	Martin Heath	24 Jan	Mick Britton	07988 065010
Finedon Local History Society	The Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Andrew Becket	28 Feb	Mick Britton	07988 065010
Finedon Local History Society	Home Guard in Northamptonshire	Roger Fowkes	28 March	Mick Britton	07988 065010
Finedon Local History Society	Northamptonshire Country Houses	Neil Lyon	25 April	Mick Britton	07988 065010
Friends of St Peter, Marefair	Jurassic and Northamptonshire Stone	Sue Barker	16 Feb	Jean Hawkins	<a href="mailto:stpetermarefair@gmail.com">stpetermarefair@gmail.com</a> / 07522792392
Friends of St Peter, Marefair	Romanesque Art and Architecture	Dr John McNeill	23 March	Jean Hawkins	<a href="mailto:stpetermarefair@gmail.com">stpetermarefair@gmail.com</a> / 07522792392
Lyveden National Trust	Percy the Park Keeper's winter trail		7 to 30 Jan		01832 205259
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>zoom</b>	Researching in Kettering Poor Law Union parishes	NFHS	31 Jan	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>Zoom</b>	Quarter Session Records	Les Mitchinson	7 Feb	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>Zoom</b>	Researching in Brixworth Poor Law Union parishes	NFHS	28 Feb	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>Zoom</b>	Getting the most from the 1921 census website	John Hanson	7 March	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>Zoom</b>	Researching in Brackley Poor Law Union parishes	NFHS	28 March	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society by <b>Zoom</b>	After death- what?	Ian Waller	4 April	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Kettering</b>	John Alfred Gotch - Kettering architect and civic figure	Dr Roy Hargrave	14 Feb	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Kettering</b>	Benjamin Cusley of Kettering - Marine and First Fleet pioneer	David Brown	14 March	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Kettering</b>	My Average Ancestor - 100 resources in 60 minutes	Ian Waller	11 April	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Northampton</b>	Northamptonshire past - in the winter	Jon-Paul Carr	21 Feb	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Northampton</b>	"You cannot be serious" - amusing and tragic stories from family history sources	Mick Rawle	21 March	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>
Northamptonshire Family History Society <b>Northampton</b>	From Ennis to Emmie -postcard exchanges from the 1900s	John Frearson	25 April	Angela Malin	<a href="mailto:chairman@northants-fhs.org">chairman@northants-fhs.org</a>

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Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust	Back in Time	Film presentation	22 Feb	Wellingborough Museum	01933 276838
Oundle Historical Society	AGM and History of the Music Hall		11 March		<a href="http://www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk">www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk</a>
Oundle Historical Society	Nassington's Prebendal Manor	Jane Baile	8 April		<a href="http://www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk">www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk</a>
Pytchley Church Heritage Ttrust	An Evening with Frumenty		26 March	Mike Walsh or Kate Everard	Mike 01536 790984 or Kate 0799 570435
Road Local History Society	Preston Deanery Hall - the story of a house through time	Maureen Williams	23 Feb	Vivian Blyth	<a href="http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk">www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk</a>
Road Local History Society	Dark Days - the story of an ultra-rare and highly valuable LP recorded by 4 local lads	Ron Johnson	23 March	Vivian Blyth	<a href="http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk">www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk</a>
Road Local History Society	Members' lunch		TBA	Vivian Blyth	<a href="http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk">www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk</a>

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Roade Local History Society	Members' lunch		April	Vivian Blyth	<a href="http://www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk">www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk</a>

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**The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 3 April 2022**