

NEWSLETTER January 2023



Photograph courtesy of The Royal Ordnance Depot Weedon Bec Visitor Centre

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

I'm not a political person, but I don't need to be to observe that the year in front of us looks so worrying on so many fronts - the cost of living, inflation, multiple strikes, a continuing war in Europe - that the heritage sector probably seems rather inconsequential to an awful lot of people.

But all of us who care passionately about Northamptonshire's endlessly fascinating heritage should perhaps think how we can contribute to the wellbeing of an increasingly stressed and stretched population - caring for places that can act as a balm to the soul, and to the mind. I suspect our various venues have rarely been more needed.



Meanwhile, more falls into place in the general picture of Northamptonshire's rich history. In the past year a team of archaeologists have been unearthing and piecing together a Roman villa at Althorp - with more major work imminent.

This villa was a two-storeyed structure. Its owners presumably grew rich from the trade passing by on the nearby Roman road. Yet we know remarkably little about the true back story to this submerged structure in an anonymous field. I can't wait to find out more.

It is that challenge - of learning more - that makes heritage so interesting to me: the people side of the story is - for me - what brings it all to life. We are all passing through life, of course; but what a privilege to be part of such a historic county as ours, in whatever form our role may be.

Charles Spencer

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2023.

After a hugely successful year celebrating the Heritage Forum's 20th anniversary, we are focussed on building on the partnerships that we have developed in the last two years. This additional capacity and strategic influence will be used in 2023 to maximise the opportunities for our 112 heritage organisational members.

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum is recognised as the key stakeholder in the county in the heritage sector and I am hugely grateful to all the committee and wider membership for their support for each other.

Following a successful Forum meeting in Stoke Bruerne, when new initiatives were announced, members are working together to increase funding opportunities, and provide essential training particularly around digital and collection issues. There will be many challenges this year but working together we are in the best position to promote the county's heritage, attract visitors and boost tourism.

The Forum website is growing, and has an increasing number of visitors; the Facebook page is extremely active and the Newsletter and *Hindsight* are being strongly supported with interesting articles.

The 25,000 members booklets which have been distributed across the county have been hugely popular and have increased footfall in our heritage venues.

The Forum Heritage Hub at Jeyes of Earls Barton is increasingly a centre for information exchange and book sales. There will be an opportunity for members to visit the Heritage Hub for a mid-summer event, later in the year.

There will be further opportunities for members to raise their profile in September with participation in a county-wide Heritage Fair and Heritage Open Days.

The Forum is supporting all those organisations that will plan and deliver the Visitor Economy Strategy going forward and welcomes the new Tourist Hub at Rushden Lakes, due to open in March.

If readers of this Newsletter know of any heritage organisations in the county that need additional support, please let me know through the forum email: northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to thank our Patron for his encouragement and support.

Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman

FORUM MEETING AND VISIT TO THE CANAL MUSEUM, STOKE BRUERNE

On a cold and icy morning, on 25 January, 50 members of the Forum met at Stoke Bruerne Village Hall for the quarterly forum meeting. After a welcome by Martin Lawrence, Laura Malpas gave an overview of the plans for the NHF Annual Awards due to be held in early July at Chester House. Laura mentioned that she would appreciate some administrative help this year- please contact her if you can offer your services. Do look out for a survey shortly and entry forms will be distributed 1 March.

Next up was a report on the training needs identified through the recent survey sent out to members. In response to this there are plans for a 'Digital Day' to help members with websites and the use of social media, both will help raise awareness of the member society or heritage attraction.

Jack Pishorn spoke about plans for the Heritage Fair due to be held on Sunday 10 September at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, Abington Park Museum and at a yet to be decided location in the North Northants Council area. Details will be sent out to members in the near future!

Linked in to this Richard Clinton spoke about opportunities available under the Heritage Open Days as a whole and which can be a key driver for tourism in the local area. Do see if your local town or parish council, or church is willing to get involved in this.

It was mentioned that both North Northants and West Northants Councils are working together on a new Discover Northamptonshire Strategy so please complete the survey recently sent out to members.



Photographs courtesy of Angela Malin

Mention was also made of the new Tourist Hub at Rushden Lakes, due to open mid-March, which will be a great opportunity to promote what the county has to offer.

End Jarvis spoke about *Hindsight* which will be available at the AGM on 19 April and Jon-Paul confirmed that membership renewal forms will go out in February.

Kathryn Dodington, a volunteer from the Canal Museum joined us and we were then given a potted history of Stoke Bruerne, the effect of the canal on the village when work started in 1793, Blisworth Tunnel and the formation of the Canal Museum.

After an excellent lunch at the nearby Boat Inn, we were treated to a tour round the Canal Museum which has exhibitions and information relating to the history and heritage of the canals. Do visit if you can!

Angela Malin, Individual Member



Photograph courtesy of The Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne

Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards

12 July 2023

To be held at

Chester House

Details to be sent out in March

THE ROYAL ORDNANCE DEPOT WEEDON BEC VISITOR CENTRE

Hello Northamptonshire Heritage Forum members. We are delighted to have joined the NHF and look forward to meeting you, contributing to its important work, and sharing and adding to its collective knowledge and experience. But who are we?

Hands up those who have heard of or visited the Royal Ordnance Depot Weedon Bec? Okay, hands up who HASN'T heard of or visited the Royal Ordnance Depot? It is the aim of the Visitor Centre team to reverse this unique site's long-held position as possibly the best kept heritage secret in Northamptonshire!

It is a BIG secret. Scores of Grade II* Listed buildings over more than 20 acres and high ramparts. Within was stored everything the British Army needed to expand and defend the kingdom and empire, in the reigns of King George III to Queen Elizabeth II. From the age of muskets to the mushroom cloud.

And it is a BIG story. Completed in 1814, the first role of the Depot was to hold and secure massive quantities of muskets, cannon and gunpowder in a central location. Weedon was far from the coast in case of invasion and made defensible against civil unrest or revolution.

As Britain's power grew so did the Depot, evolving along with new weaponry and mans of warfare. Bullets, boots, blankets and much, much more passed through Weedon Bec. In two world wars the Depot, by now 120 acres, dispatched many millions of items across the globe and afterwards received and disposed of mountains of surplus weapons.

The Army left Weedon Bec in 1965 and after a spell as a Home Office store much of the land was sold off in the 1980s, its secrets stayed within its walls.

Today under private ownership the original 1814 scheme survives along with later additions and is now home to a growing community of workshop, craft, leisure and retail businesses.



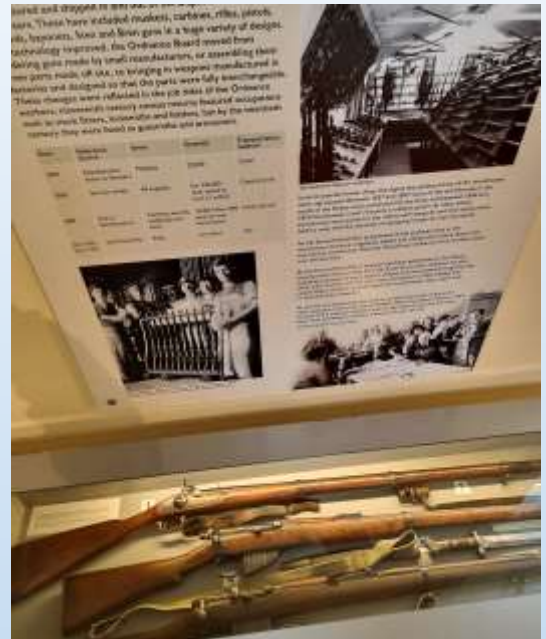
The Northamptonshire Regiment, 1880s



Since 2017 The Depot Visitor Centre within the Eastern Gatehouse, which straddles and secures (with a portcullis) the Ordnance Canal, has told its epic story.

The Centre features comprehensive and evolving displays, videos, many unique exhibits and artefacts. Our knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers, some who worked at the Depot, answer questions, and expert guides take pre-arranged tours around the site.

2023 is an important year for us as we build on efforts to raise the profile of the Centre and Depot. We have a new leaflet and vinyl banners to direct those using the site's cafes, antique, collectables and book shops, into the Visitor Centre. We will now take the publicity effort to the county and beyond.



Tours for groups and clubs were a great success last year, including one for The Waterloo Association and we plan to attract similar special interest groups. We hope to develop income streams, host special events and, as a top priority, attract more volunteers!

All the above pictures, and on our front page, are courtesy of The Royal Ordnance Depot Weedon Bec Visitor Centre

To learn more or arrange a visit please contact:

Steve Lerner, Volunteer

07790 244542 email: y.lerner@btinternet.com

OUNDLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oundle is a treasure amongst England's small towns. The splendid stone architecture is obvious to all visitors, but its history (and prehistory) is equally remarkable and new discoveries are made on a regular basis. The Oundle Historical Society was established in 1983 'to promote interest in the history and development of Oundle ...' and has become one of Oundle's most successful organisations. It survived the Covid lockdowns which ruined so many groups everywhere and, with a current membership of over 80, continues to thrive.

There is an undiminished appetite for knowledge and information about every aspect of our ancient market town, so the Society's officers ensure that the programme of talks covers a wide range of subjects about Oundle and the surrounding area. There are seven lecture meetings a year, held on the 2nd Friday in the month in the Methodist Church in Drummingwell Lane, (excluding February, August and December) with two "field trips" in June and July to places of interest. With so many archaeological sites, Grade 1 historical buildings, wonderful churches and knowledgeable people OHS is spoilt for choice. Whether the speakers are academics or amateur local historians, all are specialists in their knowledge of the town and nearby villages. The past year has covered subjects as diverse as 'Oundle in the Domesday Book', 'the lost pubs of Oundle' and 'the Saxons in the Nene Valley'. The programme for the 2023/4 season, which starts in March, will be published shortly and will be equally wide-ranging. It will be available in printed form as well as on the OHS website; this carries up-to-date information and is always worth consulting. In the recent past OHS has published well-produced small books about Oundle and the nearby villages but increasingly the trend is towards on-line publication of information, so the website will be of increasing importance. The OHS receives frequent enquires from all over the world and prides itself on answering these as fully and quickly as possible.

Oundle is also fortunate in having an excellent small Museum, well worth a visit if you have never been there, and there is close cooperation with this as well as with the Middle Nene Archaeological Group and the ARC (Archaeological Resource Centre) on the Chester House Estate. There is also good liaison with U3A which has several small groups of local history enthusiasts. In an age when events happen increasingly fast, local history gives us roots, so whether your interest is in the landscape, the people who lived and worked in it, or any other aspect of history, come to one of Oundle Historical Society's meetings. You'll get a warm welcome and hopefully learn something new: and all for the small subscription of £7.50 a year.

Philip Kitchin, Membership Secretary

Friday April 14th

CHASING OUNDLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Dr. Helen Forde

Oundle Methodist Church, Drummingwell Lane, 7.30pm

Members Free, Non-members £2

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BRIXWORTH

Annual Brixworth Lecture

On Saturday 29 October 2022 the Friends of Brixworth Church, in collaboration with the Medieval Research Department, University of Leicester, held our 39th Annual Brixworth Lecture in the church.

Dr. Christine Rauer, University of St. Andrews, spoke on the subject: **'Where was Mercian Spoken? Brixworth, its Old English Dialects and the limits of Anglo-Saxon Mercia'**.



Dr. Rauer covered this interesting subject in an hour giving examples of Mercian features of the language, the periods in history when it was spoken and areas of England where it extended to. She quoted a number of pieces of evidence to show this which included passages taken from documents such as the translation of St Boniface's letter to Eadburga in the 10th Century.



A handout is available with reference to further reading matter on this subject. Please contact brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com if you would like a copy.

Dr. Rauer completed her talk by answering questions and also spoke in Mercian which was rewarded with a round of applause from the appreciative audience.

Christmas Festival of Light

'SPECTACULAR LIGHT DISPLAY', the posters and fliers proclaimed, and they weren't wrong!

Twenty feet tall elves danced across the south wall of the ancient Saxon stonework as Santa's sleigh dashed past leaving a trail of stardust. The projected images were all part of a pre-Christmas weekend of attractions put on at All Saints' Church on 10 and 11 December. Our thanks go to James North of Pebble Events for organising the wonderful light display.

Two years ago, rather than cancel our Christmas Tree Festival due to Covid restrictions, we moved it outside. All round the church we set up lit trees. Some were brought by members of the congregation, and others by local organisations or businesses. All donations went to charities. Last year we were able to bring back our Christmas Market by having the stalls in a marquee complementing the trees set on a route round the churchyard.



The festival this Christmas was bigger and better than ever with the church fully open, with floral Christmas displays all around.

On the Saturday, visitors were greeted by a team serving mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. Stalls selling all sorts of Christmas goodies, clothes, and crafts made by church members were spread on tables over the pews. There were games for grown-ups, many more for children, and Elves led the little ones to meet Father Christmas in his beautifully decorated grotto, built in the vicar's Vestry behind the organ.

On the Sunday, a day of rest for Santa, his hard-working elves and church members who had run the stalls, a large table set up in the Chancel became the centre for a Christingle Workshop.

This proved so popular that the Churchwarden had to rush out for more oranges!



From four until six on both evenings, a steady stream of people from Brixworth and beyond followed a circular route enjoying the enormous variety of Christmas trees, real, artificial, or home made, and the lit trees growing all around the churchyard. One favourite was created by the Brixworth Wombles from their litter-picking sticks, imaginatively decorated with items the Wombles had tidied up! Another had entirely knitted decorations. Children from the school, the Rainbows, and the nearby pre-school came to show their parents the trees they had decorated. The weather too played a wonderful role this year, adding a magical addition of frost to the trees on a cold winter's night.

It's a lot of work for everyone, but seeing the faces and hearing the appreciation of those who came makes it more than worthwhile.

Ancient Font repaired.

Long awaited repairs to our ancient Font (date unknown), were finally completed in December. The drainage system at the base of the Font has been out of order for some considerable time and though Christenings have still taken place, we have been unable to drain the water from it. Specialist lifting equipment was required to haul the ancient stone Font up to enable the repairs to be made.



History talks for Primary Schools

The 'Anglo-Saxons' is part of the History curriculum for Key Stage 2 in Primary Schools. The Friends of Brixworth Church welcome parties of school children to Brixworth church to learn about how the church was built in Anglo-Saxon times and the features which still remain today. They can meet 'Delwyn', the monk who lives in the monastery and works in the church. He is prepared to answer questions from the children about what it was possibly like to live in those times.

Contact brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com for further details.

Curry & Quiz Evening 25 March

Once again, our Quiz Master, Keith Farey, will be setting the questions for a fundraising event organised by the Friends of Brixworth Church. Teams of up to six people are invited to pit their wits against others for prizes on Saturday 25 March 2023 for a 'Curry & Quiz Evening'. Starting at 7.00pm in the Brixworth Centre, Church Street, Brixworth, NN6 9BZ. Three types of curry will be served; beef, chicken and vegetarian. An alternative meal to curry is available on request. You are welcome to bring your own drinks. There will also be a raffle. Tickets are £15.00 each and can be booked by contacting brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

All funds go to the Friends of Brixworth Church to assist with maintaining the fabric of the Church.

See our website for further information: www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

Kate Knight, Chair

BRIXWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our autumn programme continued in October with an interesting talk by Ruth Thomas on Northampton Castle- a large, fascinating edifice that was defended on its western side by the river Nene and was later the site of Thomas Becket's trial. Unfortunately, the remains of the building were demolished in the 19th century for the railway line.

In November, Graham Evans spoke about the sieges of our county's country houses in the Civil War. A really informative detail of the fate of some of the important manors, notably Fawsley, Grafton and Holdenby and not forgetting Woodcroft Castle (now in Cambridgeshire) which ended in the horrible death of the Royalist Commander.

December saw our members' social; because it was so cold outside we decided to use the small room at the Village Hall, where members provided the food and drink and undertook quizzes, set by Rosemary Hardie and Dennis Coles, and later saw pictures of old Brixworth on the screen.

January will see our AGM in the Village Hall on 19 January, followed by a talk by Roy Smart on Wallis Simpson and the abdication crisis. On 16 February we have a talk on the life and times of the wife of a canal boatman from Barry Watson and on 16 March Neil Lyon is talking about Joan Wake who set up our county's archives.



Brixworth Village Hall in the 1930s behind Fox's Farm (since demolished)

All meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7.30pm at the Village Hall in Holcot Road. Visitors £3.

Pauline Kirton, Chair

pakirton6@gmail.com

Rosemary Hardie, Secretary

jandrhardie1@gmail.com

Website: brixworthhistory.org

ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

“A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS....”



Saturday 21 January saw the official launch of Roade Local History Society's brand -new website to its members' and supporters' at a luncheon at Roade Bowls Club.

Welcome to <https://www.roaderemembered.org.uk> This exciting project has come to fruition after five years of development and takes you on a fascinating journey of discovery through the rich history of Roade and its surrounding areas.

The website has been designed to share as much of Roade's past, present and future with collections of historical documents, maps, images, and photographs covering centuries, with archives enabling you to discover local family ancestors, plus links to many other Family History sites.

The Photo Viewer includes over 2000 photos from our own digital archives which will expand regularly.

We are continuously working on new projects to bring more insight into how Roade developed over the eras. Publications such as “Cutting Remarks” by Chris Hillyard RVM, can be purchased via the new site.

Details of talks and other events can be found in the “Events” section with Speakers and Activities covering a wide variety of interests in Northamptonshire, such as “Silverstone WW2 to F1”- a talk to be given in the coming months.



Do visit us at <https://www.roaderemembered.org.uk> We hope you enjoy taking a tour around this exciting new website and would welcome hearing from you via our “Contact Us” button with any feedback or indeed, if you require any information or assistance from our team of historians. You can also follow us on our Facebook page “Roade Remembered”.

We have changed the website name from Roade Local History Society to Roade Remembered to link in with our Facebook page. The old website will remain as a legacy site.

Other news

Thursday 6 October 2022: The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards ceremony

Chris Hillyard and Ron Johnson were delighted to receive the Judges Choice Special Commendation - Roade Local History Society. “This year, the Judges were particularly impressed with the energy and passion of Roade Local History Society. The team engaged in a variety of projects and entered three awards each of which were ‘runner up’ to the eventual winner. The judges particularly admired the depth of original research and the imaginative ways the information was used and presented to the public. Their energy and creativity in interpretation was inspiring. Well done to all the team. The Judges look forward to seeing more next year.”



26 October 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall: Fifty years of Archaeology in Northamptonshire

Andy Chapman who has worked in field archaeology for Fifty years, with much of that time in Northamptonshire gave us a great insight into his life in archaeology and how it has changed through those years. He took us through some of the highlights from the settlements and artefacts he has excavated in Raunds, from a 6000-year-old Neolithic enclosure, Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron Age settlements, to medieval villages and the site of Northampton Castle where Thomas Becket was tried and Northampton Railway Station currently now stands.



10 November 7pm The Lings Forum, Northampton: The Every Brothers

Originally performed at The Deco Theatre in Northampton, this poignant play written by one of our members, Ron Johnson, was shown at the cinema in The Lings Forum. The story is of the loss of three brothers killed in World War II whose names are engraved on the Roade War Memorial.

23 November 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall: Roade at War!

Sergeant Colin Haddon and three of his colleagues from Northamptonshire Home Guard Living History Unit gave us a living talk on the history of the local Home Guard and brought it all to life with short films, tabletop displays, the opportunity to take part in a short Drill and a chance to handle different equipment and memorabilia from WW2. A most interesting and entertaining evening.



14 December 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall: An Evening of Discovery

On what was a very cold December evening, members and supporters ventured out to join the Committee for some festive cheer and a preview of the work being carried out in preparation of the launch of the Society's new website. They were shown how to find information on their family history in Roade and more. Angela Malin also joined us to offer her expertise and tips with the aid of the Northamptonshire Family History Society website.

Wednesday 22 February 2023 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall: Roade to Ukraine

Phil Hayes, a member of Roade Local History Society, has been making journeys to Ukraine with a friend taking a lorry packed with much needed donations. Phil says, "Our first aid trip into Ukraine was like an episode of 'Last of the Summer wine', when Compo & Cleggy take a van into a war zone..... How naive can two people be".

Wednesday 29 March 2023 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall: Blair Swannell

We look forward to another lively evening with Graham McKechnie from BBC Radio Northampton, who will be talking to us about Blair Swannell. He was Northampton Saints' first British Lion (in 1899) and went on to emigrate to Australia, returning to fight in Gallipoli. It's a great story!

"Cutting Remarks The Story of Roade's Railways and Cutting through the Ages", written by our Chairman Chris Hillyard, is available at The Heritage Hub at Jeyes of Earls Barton, RLHS events and via our website

www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk

Margaret Smith, Events Secretary

WICKSTEED PARK

At Wicksteed Park we are busy with the ongoing Heritage Lottery Funded @play project. We are continuing our centenary celebrations as well as our regular Community and Heritage activities including an exhibition programme, craft sessions, and educational programmes all hosted in our Learning Space.



In November, we began Young Curators, a six-session education programme designed to give students experience in archives and curation, from object handling to promotion. The result of their learning is an exhibition titled “Wicksteed’s Wonderful” which will be open from the 18th January until Thursday 26 January. For individual adults interested in similar heritage-based experience, we continue to offer our Heritage Now Placements.

On 26 November, we were delighted that our Volunteers received the 2022 Rose Bowl Award presented by Kettering Civic Society in recognition of our Volunteers’ hard work to keep the park tidy, as well as helping with our heritage activities including cataloguing archive items.

Our archives continue to be an integral in informing our events and activities, in particular our exhibitions, with a Trains Exhibition showing the railway throughout the years running in December. We hosted a “Memories and Mince Pies” day on 9 December which was an opportunity for visitors to share their memories of the park. During this time, we received new donations and acquisitions including oral histories, clothing from It’s a Knockout! held in the park in 1980, postcards, and a Wicksteed plate from Wicksteed play equipment.

As we look towards the months ahead, we have a range of 1920’s themed activities planned including a 1920’s exhibition, and dance and make-up workshops to coincide with our postponed Centenary Ball which will be an evening of glamour, dancing and celebration!

We will also continue our weekly Totally Nature Tots and Crafternoon sessions held every Thursday starting from 19 January. Totally Nature Tots is a craft and activity session centred around encouraging toddler age children to engage with nature. Crafternoon is a 2-hour craft session for adults with a new craft to learn each week.

If you are interested in a placement, volunteering or want to know more about heritage at Wicksteed, let us know at community@wicksteedpark.org

Jade Watson ArchiveTeam@wicksteedpark.org

WELLINGBOROUGH DISTRICT HINDU ASSOCIATION

Rangoli Competition: 16 October 2022

WDHA celebrated Diwali with their annual Rangoli Competition.

Diwali, also called Deepavali, literally means a “Row of Lights.” For Hindus, it is one of the most festive, popular and vibrant times of the year. It is a time filled with light and warmth; a time rejoice. The meaning of Diwali, its symbols and rituals, and the reasons for celebration are innumerable.

Many people consider that Diwali marks the start of their new year, enabling them to make plans for a new start.



Diwali is a festival of the light which dispels the darkness of our ignorance; it is a festival of the light which shows us the way on our journey through life.

What a beautiful way to spend a Sunday afternoon, parents and children working together to create Rangoli designs.

Each year we invite judges from the community and this year we were fortunate to have as judges Kate Chadwick (Stanwick Lakes) Janet Lawrence (Northamptonshire Heritage Forum) and Pratima Dattani (Support Northamptonshire).

Our CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!

Ishver Patel MBE

Email: ishverpatel@msn.com WDHA Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/theWDHA/>



The proud winners!

Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of the parents of the children

Rangoli is an art form that originates from in the Indian subcontinent, in which patterns are created on the floor or a tabletop using materials such as powdered lime stone, red ochre, dry rice flour, coloured sand, quartz powder, flower petals, and coloured rocks. It is an everyday practice in many Hindu households, however the colours are preferred during festivals and other important celebrations as it is time consuming. Rangolis are usually made during Diwali or Tihar, Onam, Pongal, and other Hindu festivals in the Indian subcontinent, and are most often made during Diwali.

Wikipedia

BOUGHTON HOUSE

Boughton House gardens will be open for the National Gardens Scheme, on Sunday 19 February, 1-5pm, gift shop and tearooms open

Booking is advised, but not required



Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1BJ

www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

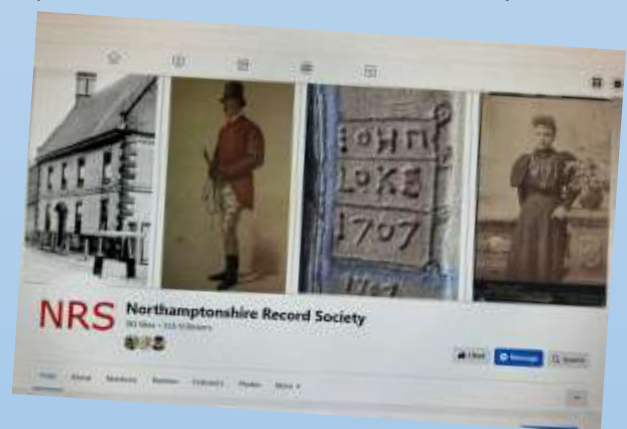
Northamptonshire Record Society meets social media

On 3 October 2022, Northamptonshire Record Society launched its own Page on Facebook. The mission of the Page is to *'promote interest in and knowledge about the history of Northamptonshire.'* Most of the material posted so far has been inspired by articles in issues of 'Northamptonshire Past & Present' that are freely available on the Society's website.

During the first three months of its life, the Page has featured 19 posts. 335 people have asked to receive updates from it in their Facebook news feeds. It is encouraging that links to some of the posts have been shared elsewhere and attracted interest from a wide audience. Most notably, an item about Lance Serjeant Jack Chambers Buswell (1896-1917) and the 'Street Near You' database of the homes of those killed in the First World War has reached almost 5,000 individuals and generated 350 reactions.

If you are a Facebook user, please do visit this new page and like/follow it.

Francis Howcutt, Editor, Northamptonshire Record Society Facebook Page



NORTHAMPTON LOCAL STUDIES

In the Local Studies Collection of the Central Library, Abington Street, Northampton, there is a wide range of printed material of use to family historians. This is held in the **Discovery Centre** on the lower ground floor.

Of particular interest to anyone interested in the boot & shoe industry in the county are a large number of directories for the footwear and leather trades covering 1890s-1930s. These give details of the shoe companies in operation. Alongside these are trade journals, biographies and press cuttings folders relating to the industry.

These are also press cuttings folders for parishes and other topics relating to the history of the county.

Listed below are the local newspapers held on microfilm at the Discovery Centre. This is a more extensive range than that currently available on British Newspapers Archives

- Northampton Mercury 1720 to 2015
- Northampton Herald 1837 to 1931
- Northamptonshire Guardian 1876 to 1890
- Northampton Daily Reporter 1880 to 1907
- Northampton Daily Chronicle 1900 to 1931
- Northampton Independent 1905 to 1960
- Northampton Daily Echo 1908 to 1931
- Northampton Chronicle & Echo 1937 to 2017
- Daventry Express 1948 to 2017



Image: ©Northamptonshire Libraries

The library has in its archives over 100,000 images including the following collections:

- Aerial photographs of Northamptonshire
- Photographic collection of Northamptonshire from early 20th century onwards
- Portrait collection containing individual portraits and family portraits
- Postcard collection of Northamptonshire towns and villages
- Prints and engravings collection containing images of buildings from across the county.

Additionally, it has many printed parish histories, a large collection of Kelly's and other directories from 1841-1960s, sale catalogues, political ephemera, Ordnance Survey and other maps, printed journals, county histories, poll books from 1695, school histories and much more. Search the online catalogue – www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/libraryservice by parish name or topic. Free access is available to both Ancestry and FindMyPast. You can find more information about other web resources on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/3462b73f>

Discovery Centre is open Tuesday-Friday 10am – 4pm but please check opening hours before travelling at: Northampton.LibraryPlus@westnorthants.gov.uk or Tel 0300 126 7000

Angela Malin, Northamptonshire Family History Society

and Cheryl Workman, Customer Advisor, Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service

Northamptonshire Central Library | Abington Street | Northampton | NN1 2BA

DAVENTRY MUSEUM

Borough Hill and its History - piecing together the historic ages of this ancient monument site.

New exhibition at Daventry Museum – open Saturday 14th January to Friday 16th June 2023.

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



Borough Hill is steeped in history. It started life in the Jurassic period 150 to 200 million years ago. During this time, it was in the ocean and was close to the equator. Sand, sediment, and shells eventually formed the sandstone and some limestones now known as Northamptonshire Sand. This makes up the base of Borough Hill.



People have been using the hill for at least 5500 years and have left plenty of evidence of their presence behind. This includes some of the objects that are on display in the exhibition. Human occupation of the hill started in the Mesolithic era with hunter gatherers, then later farming and agriculture in the Neolithic era. The Bronze Age and Iron Age then followed, with evidence of an Iron Age Hill Fort on the hill. The Roman occupation of the hill is evidenced by the remains of a Roman Villa including the mosaic fragment on display in the museum.

Fascinating exhibits include fossils, neolithic flints and stone tools, Bronze Age axes and pottery from the Roman Villa and Bannaventa, a Roman settlement located off the A5 on Watling Street.

Edgar's book, even though written nearly 100 years after the first excavations on Borough Hill and itself now 100 years old, is the only source that pieces this history and artefacts from the hill together, and is the inspiration for the exhibition.

Many thanks to the Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC), Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, (NMAG) Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP), Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), and Sywell Aviation Museum for their support and contributions to the exhibition.

Museum Opening Times:

Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm

Every first Saturday of the month from 10am to 4pm

Sophie Good, Museum Officer

Tel: 01327 301246 Email: museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [You Tube](#)

www.daventrymuseum.org.uk

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

DELAPRÉ ABBEY

Delapré Abbey is partnering with West Northamptonshire Council to provide a Warm Space in the Coach House, every Monday (starting 23rd January) 10am-2pm, where you can have a simple and welcoming space to read, craft or just be. Refreshments are included.



You can find more support by visiting West Northants Cost of Living Support Hub: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support



As well as becoming a Warm Spaces partner, there has been progress with the restoration of the 19th century stable block. Since appointing Currie and Brown as quantity surveyors and project management, Tricolor has been appointed as Project Support Consultants, continuing our partnership from the stage 1 bid and developing our Masterplan. We are also pleased to announce that Buttress will be working with us as lead designers on the project. It is a pleasure to be able to work with the most respected designers within the heritage sector.

Contact: Aimee Holmes, Marketing aimee.holmes@delapreabbey.org

Website: <https://delaprewellbeing.co.uk>

NEW BOOK—MEDIEVAL PLANTS AND THEIR USES

Much of the research was from when I created the medieval gardens at the Prebendal Manor, Nassington.

It is a hardback book, full price £25, but £5 discount is available if pre-ordered and usually for a month after the release date, which is currently 31 March of this year.

More information and ordering details on this link: <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Medieval-Plants-and-their-Uses-Hardback/p/22545>

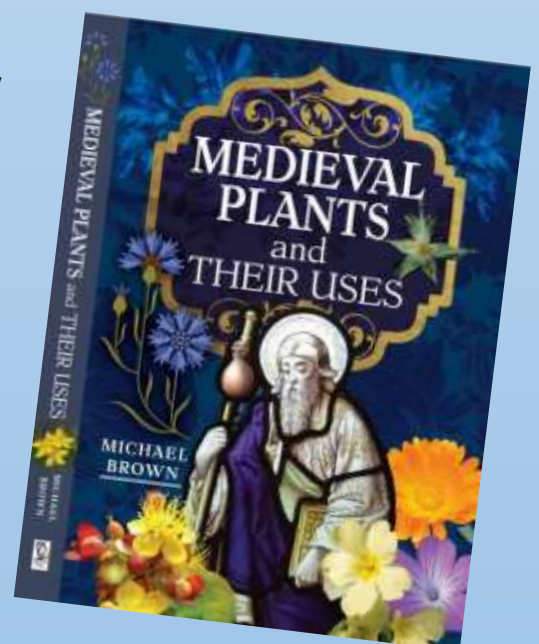
Michael Brown, Individual Member

Garden Historian and Horticulturalist

The Historic Gardener - Talks and Displays

Mobile: 07500 464 149

Website: <https://www.historicgardener.co.uk>



NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORT HERITAGE

Northampton Transport Heritage AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 5 February commencing at 1430 hours at Kingsley Park Working Men's Club, Kettering Road, Northampton. There will be reports of progress during 2022 and proposals for the coming year. This is your chance to question your Committee and to have your say about the future of NTH.

Events we hope to attend in 2023

Saturday 11 March – Aldridge Transport Museum Winter Running Day

A visit to the former Aston Manor Museum for their Winter Running Day. This is an afternoon and evening event taking place from 1400-1900 hours. Admission charges will apply.

Saturday and Sunday 1 and 2 April – Wellingborough Bus Rally

We hope to send a selection of our buses to support our friends at the 794 Group. These Running Days take place in conjunction with Wellingborough Museum. A selection of Heritage and more modern buses will be on display with some running free bus services. We will be taking some of our buses to the event and will run in service. We will also have a stall in the museum to publicise NTH.

Saturday 22 April – Delaine Heritage Museum Running Day

We intend to return to this old established operator for their annual Heritage Bus Running Day. Delaine are Britain's oldest bus operator established in 1890 and still a family business. The Delaine Museum will be open and there will be frequent bus rides available on vehicles from the Delaine heritage fleet as well as visiting buses. Admission charges will apply.



Let's go Green.....

Unfortunately, our buses will never be ECO friendly themselves. Due to their age, construction and engine designs they won't meet Euro emission standards. We are acutely conscious of this and the image this may portray to the public and have therefore resolved to do our utmost to reduce the impact of NTH activities. We are pleased to announce that NTH has joined the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs and, in association with Tree-V, we will be participating in their carbon balancing scheme. The scheme will see new woodland planted in the UK using native species best suited to the local ecosystem. The carbon footprint of historic vehicles (which include motorcycles, cars, buses, lorries, light commercials, military, agricultural and steam vehicles) is very low and represents less than 0.25% of total mileage travelled on UK roads.

From 1 January 2022 NTH will account for all mileage covered by our own vehicles and any members or visiting vehicles that we use for our activities and events. This information will form the basis of our payment to the scheme with tree planting taking place to offset our emissions. This will be an added expense to running the vehicles and staging events but we feel this is the responsible course of action to take if we want to continue to enjoy having the use of our classic vehicles.

Phil Curtis

facebook far cotton history group/northampton transport heritage.

Tel **07929907923**

Email **philntfcok1022@gmail.com**

STANWICK LAKES

Tea and Talks is a series of talks developed to cover a variety of different subjects from local, well-known speakers, all on their specialist subjects.



There are a variety of ticket options:-

£7.00 – ‘A Tea & Talk’ includes the talk, a voucher for a hot drink at our café and 2 hours parking

£9.50 – ‘A cream tea & talk’ includes the talk, a cream tea and 2 hours parking

£14.50 – ‘An afternoon tea & talk’ includes the talk, afternoon tea and 2 hours parking



Full menus detailed below. Please advise us of any dietary requirements when you book.

All talks are due to start at 2.00pm and will be approx. 45mins – 1 hour.

Please book your space at the reception desk in the visitor centre or email info@rftrust.org.uk to book in. Group discounts are available for groups over 10. Limited spaces available

The talk
The date & time
The Speaker

Gardening - Death in the Garden
Tuesday 7th March, 2.00pm
Michael Brown

The talk
The date & time
The Speaker

Food - Food Glorious Food
Tuesday 14th March, 2.00pm
Jon-Paul Carr

The talk	Archaeology - 50 years of Northamptonshire archaeology
The date & time	Tuesday 21st March, 2.00pm
The Speaker	Andy Chapman
The talk	A personal history of shoes
The date & time	Tuesday 28th March, 2.00pm
The Speaker	Matthew McCormack
The talk	Literature - Novels of Northamptonshire
The date & time	Tuesday 18th April, 2.00pm
The Speaker	Judith Allnatt
The talk	History - Suffragettes and suffragists In Northamptonshire
The date & time	Tuesday 25th April, 2.00pm
The Speaker	John Buckell
The talk	Fashion - Jane Austen and Fashion
The date & time	Tuesday 16th May, 2.00pm
The Speaker	Sharn Matthews

Cream tea includes – Homemade fruit scone, clotted cream, jam, butter and pot of tea

Afternoon tea includes – Finger sandwiches, fruit scone with clotted cream, jam and butter and a selection of cakes and pastries.



Heritage Fair

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 10 September

Abington Park Museum

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

A third venue to be announced SOON

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHIVES SERVICE

The Service had a busy period leading up to Christmas and was looking forward to the New Year with a much-welcomed increase in staffing.

A service manager, Phil Oakman, who will take on day-to-day operations, starts in January and we are also delighted to welcome Hari Turner as Collections Officer and Liz Yamada as Conservation Officer. They join Tracey Brough, who has moved to the role of Administrative Assistant from her previous role as an Archive Assistant. This will offer some much-needed capacity in all aspects of the service. The service's budget is still substantially less than it was a few years ago, but the dedication of this team means that much can still be achieved with fewer staff.

The service will be running its annual user survey during February 2023 to seek your opinions of the services that it offers, including asking for views on the value for money of the service. If you are visiting and are given a survey form, do please respond so that we can learn. I know all staff do their very best against adverse circumstances (and we will be one front line member of staff 'down' from the front-line team during the period of the survey).

We do value your feedback and ideas.

The Service was excited to receive a substantial deposit from St Andrew's Hospital during December. The hospital was the county's private asylum, set up in 1838 with the intention of providing humane care for the mentally ill. Today St Andrew's Healthcare provides specialist mental health care for patients with some of the most complex mental health needs in the UK. It is also a leading teaching and research hospital. The archives tell the story of the development of the hospital, as well as telling us about the treatments and experience of individual patients.

It is a substantial collection, and we know that the information about individual patients who were placed there is going to be very popular. We are therefore going to devote time to producing a basic listing of the case books and other name-rich sources. We will only be able to make sources with personal data in them accessible within the usual constraints of Data Protection legislation, so please do not expect to see patient records less than 100 year's old. It will take a couple of years before the whole collection is fully accessible, so do bear with us. We shall keep you posted as to what can be accessed and when.

The Service was to the public for a full week in January to do this listing work, and various other tasks that cannot be done while we are open. Hopefully, by the time you read this, some new material will be accessible.

If you are coming to use the service, we do still recommend that you book a space in advance.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sarah Bridges, Archives and Heritage Strategic Manager

archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk

West Northamptonshire Council | Northamptonshire Archives & Heritage Service | Wootton Hall Park | Northampton | NN4 8BQ

Tel: 01604 362525 | www.westnorthants.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @NorthantsPast

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, MAREFAIR



We have had a happy positive start to New Year 2023 at St Peter's.

Extensive roof repairs were finished last December leaving the splendid building in good shape. Happily, theatre performances of The Nutcracker and Carols with R&D Community Choir went ahead for Christmas.

For 2023 we are planning a program of live events and continue our Zoom Talks program. These talks are part of our target to raise public awareness of local history and Heritage.

Arrangements are in place for building work to begin at the Old Black Lion, next to the church. Planning Permissions took some time to achieve because this area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Churches Conservation Trust Regeneration (CCT) team have a design to restore the historic coaching Inn to former dignified appearance. Later there will be opportunities to visit the project which links Church and Inn.

We are excited by the prospect of our very own "dig" when work begins to link the pub into the churchyard garden.

Meanwhile our intrepid volunteers continue to improve the setting in the churchyard for what we hope to be a community garden. Spring bulbs to naturalise have been planted on the south side. Next we will sow wildflower seeds along the borders to enhance biodiversity, cater for birds, bees and insects and give floral cheer.

CCT and Friends of St Peters, working together, are discussing developing the garden. We aim to create a green corridor from the Green through to join Spring Boroughs and site of the castle, north of Marefair.

Whilst all these projects get underway way the church is open for visitors as usual. Book for individual or group visits on stpetermarefair@gmail.com

See our website: [The Friends of St Peters Church Northampton \[fostp.org.uk\]](http://TheFriendsOfStPetersChurchNorthampton[fostp.org.uk])

See our Short Guide to this magnificent 12th century building. Our menu gives a list of resources about the fine sculptures.

January is the start of our Friends membership year. We particularly welcome new members. For the modest sum of £10 your subscription helps us pay expenses for the gardening and donations to the church utility fund.

You are invited to join online-application form on our website.

We invite new volunteers. We have a weekly session working in both church and garden.

This gives great pleasure to all who come along.

We welcome newcomers to join our team of Guides and get immersed in the story of St Peter's from minster to modern Marefair.

Just get in touch if you are interested.

Follow our ZOOM Talks update on Facebook, all at 7.30pm

8 Feb Medieval Courtship and Marriage

with Dr Rachel Moss University of Northampton

She tells the history behind Valentine's Day

15 March Pilgrimage - In search of Saints and Relics

with Michael Brown

19 April William Smith, Father of English Geology: Oxfordshire connections.....

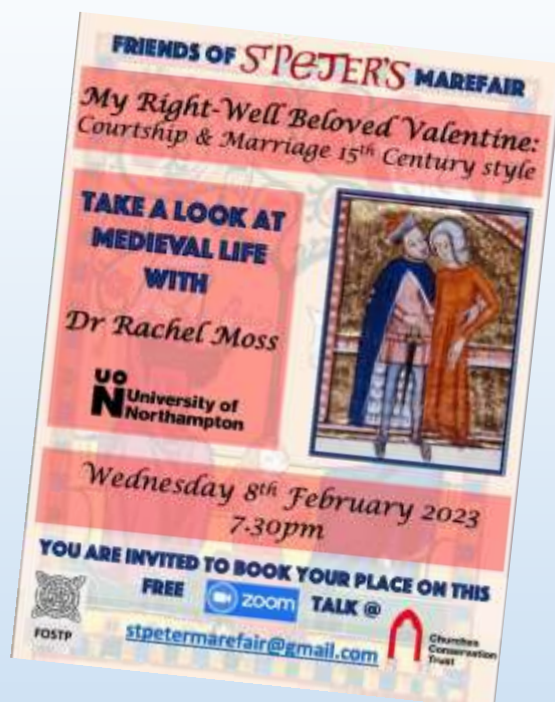
with Dr Owen Green Oxford University

William Smith is buried at St Peter's.

Contact: **Jean Hawkins, Chairman**

Mobile 07522 792392

Stpetermarefair@gmail.com



HENRY GEORGE GAWTHORN—1879-1941

Can anyone help with more information?

A report in *Heritage Railway Magazine*, issue 300 November 25-December 23 2022, headed by a photograph of the 1928 LNER poster *Over the Forth Bridge*, said that the poster had sold at a recent auction in Edinburgh for £10,000. The poster was by Henry George Gawthorn who was born in Northampton. The auction price was the highest for any of his work.

The report sparked a search for information, but there is not very much.

After attending Regent Street Polytechnic and Old Heatherley School, London Henry became an architect. Later he became one of the leading travel artists and worked on numerous poster commissions for railway companies, mainly the LNER, but also the LMS and Southern Railway (Brighton, Bournemouth (1939) Weymouth). He is said to have depicted himself in some of the posters wearing a Panama hat and glasses or pince-nez. Such a figure does appear in a few posters of the seaside venues. He exhibited at the RA and the Society of Graphic Fine Art and wrote books on graphic design.

During the First World War he designed several patriotic posters including in 1917 a poster for the National Service Women's Land Army, with the caption 'God speed the plough and the woman who drives it'.

It would be interesting to have further biographical information about him.

Phil Morris

harperjanice273@gmail.com

Editor: We do not have permission to reproduce any images to accompany this article, but a Google search of his name shows many examples

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society has recently published a further nine **memorial inscriptions booklets**. These are for Byfield, Chipping Warden, Daventry, Edgcote, Everdon, Norton, Ravensthorpe, Weedon Lois (with Weston Baptist and Plumpton) and Woodford Halse. These, along with our other publications, such as transcriptions from Union Workhouse and non-conformist records can be purchased from our **bookstall** on Parish Chest. Click here for the link <https://www.paritychest.com/northamptonshire-fhs-3500.php>



We continue with our programme of branch and online meetings and details of upcoming meetings can be found in the Diary events listed in this newsletter or on our website.

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

Monthly online meetings are for members only and we have an exciting mix of talks coming up this year. All are welcome to our branch meetings held at Kettering and Northampton. Our meetings are friendly and welcoming and there are always people to answer any research questions you may have.

Members receive our **quarterly journal** which is packed full of interesting articles, sources for research, news from the Archives, meeting reports, a parish profile and research advice. You can also subscribe to our monthly **e-newsletter** to keep you updated.

We also have a **Members' Only** area on our website as an extra benefit of your membership. This includes back copies of all our journals, as well as many other resources together with searchable databases.

We have a dedicated page relating to **Resources** and this includes information on a large number of topics, many of which have downloadable guides to help you.

We have an extensive knowledge of the county, resources and the Archives and can offer suggestions and help with your research if you need it.

We hold a **monthly help-desk** at Northamptonshire Archives on the first Saturday of each month.

Membership is £12 per annum and our year runs from 1 July to 30 June. Those joining during the year receive all copies of our journal for that year.

If you are researching ancestors in Northamptonshire, why not explore our website: www-northants-fhs.org.

Angela Malin, Chair



SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A detective hunt

Spratton Local History Society (SLHS) received an email a few months ago from a metal detectorist who had found a First World War medal issued to Lance Corporal James William Austin of Spratton who had served with the 6th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment from 1915-1918. The finder of the medal asked us if we knew of any surviving family of the soldier as he would like to return the medal to them.

SLHS knew quite a lot about Lance Corporal Austin: who his parents were, where he had lived, his job and his First World War career. We had no idea if any of his family remained in the local area. Our first step was to ask all our SLHS members. They suggested Austins remaining in nearby villages so we then turned to Facebook for help.

We posted the story and photo on the following Facebook pages (having been vetted and joining as 'Friends' first): *Spratton Local History Society, Spratton Let Us Know, Brixworth Let Us Know, Church and Chapel Brampton Village Group, Pitsford Past and Present, Northampton Old Faces.*

We were then deluged with help and suggestions of possibilities. For 48 hours there was non-stop activity on Facebook with such enthusiasm and interest that we were overwhelmed.

One couple from Brixworth researched James William Austin from scratch and found out what had happened to him and his family after they left Spratton. People responding from Northampton Old Faces picked up the trail and remembered his sisters running a corner shop, but also knew that there were no descendants.

Finally we all decided that we had exhausted the trail and could not find any family. The metal detectorist was advised to donate the medal to the Northamptonshire Regiment archives held at the Abington Park Museum.

SLHS were delighted at the amount of help and genuine interest from strangers on Facebook and would recommend turning to Facebook for help in any local detective work that may need doing!

Enid Jarvis, Chair



ARC HR SOLUTIONS

FREE 121 HR CONSULTATION SESSION

ARC HR Solutions commenced trading in July 2020 during the pandemic and since then we have worked with a number of charities in the Arts and Heritage Sector.

Our clients have included the Design Museum, Milton Keynes Museum, Royal Museums Greenwich along with many others. Working with charities within the sector is something we have especially enjoyed and look forward to continuing to do more of moving forward as we continue to grow.

As such, we wanted to give something back in 2023 and so we would like to offer a free 30 min gifted consultation to anyone who may want to discuss anything People related.

You might be a HR expert yourself however feel like you want to bounce some ideas off someone else in the industry or you may not have a HR department and are struggling or putting off dealing with something as you don't know where to go for support.

I have blocked out the day on **Thursday 16 February** for anyone who would like to book a slot with us for a free chat. No obligation and no sales! Just some gifted advice. We can discuss anything on your mind which might include some of the following;

- A poor performing employee who you are trying to support

- How to manage someone on long term sick

- How to manage someone with frequent absences

- Updating contracts

- Policy updates and best practice

- Recruitment

- Retention

- Succession planning

- Health and Wellbeing

- And anything in between...!

If you would like to book a slot, please could you email me at tina@archsolutions.co.uk just letting me know what you would like to talk about in a few words and the best number to call you on. I will then secure a slot and confirm back to you.

Obviously, I will have limited slots for the day so these will be on a first come basis. If it proves popular however it may be something we do again in the future.

Tina Sood, Individual Member

Director - ARC HR Solutions

Email – tina@archsolutions.co.uk

Tel – 07779269196

HOLY SEPULCHRE (NORTHAMPTON) RESTORATION TRUST

In reply to your email for Newsletter articles and photographs, where better to begin than at Northampton's world famous Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1100AD. Down the centuries and also more up to date, the well known church has been a base of unimaginable activity...some within history for parliaments leading to "taking the cross" to go to the crusades...some involved with battles like Naseby (used as a prison for captured soldiers), battles around the tower between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, a base for the Mayor and scoundrels from Leicester (with 200 deaths)...whilst coming more up to date with the formation of Holy Sepulchre Restoration Trust and the raising of over £1.3 million and still at work in that direction. The "icing on the cake" as we say has been the 24 official royal visits during restoration/conservation between 1975 and the present day.

The word "challenge" has so often been part and parcel of the life and times at St Seps in recent times. Appointed architect Brian Austin carried out a routine Quinquennial report in 1979 which scared the PCC when it became a fact that 25 years on could see the church as merely a "heap of rubble".



At that time there were 28 members on the PCC, one of whom was your writer with everyone having a vastly different approach as to how to move forward. Eighteen months later we were no nearer to a solution hence your writer, with two others, taking professional advice and forming the registered charity that operates still today.

It is indeed history that surrounds St Seps. Just for a moment reflect upon the mass of alternative stories as to how Becket escaped from King Henry 11...some of the stories are so way out from the truth, but research has finally determined that St Seps played a major part in his escape from the church. One of my 70 plus researched histories reports on this matter and sits waiting publication (and is 100% at odds with the BBC TV programme on same).

It would be easy to imagine that all eventing down the centuries have been via armies fighting, even leaving musket shot evidence on the 1375AD tower front to this day. Truth is that down the years many and probably nearly all kings and queens of England have set foot in St Pulchre as it was known for centuries, with Northampton Castle being the parliament of our country. Take as an example King Richard I...at St Seps for Easter 1194 having left Nottingham and stopping off on the way to a southern castle. Recent press fuss over the finding of remains of Richard III at Leicester pale into insignificance when the research of Richard as Earl of Cornwall and resident at our castle spending time at St Seps calling a parliament in the Round surrounded not by the few but hundreds of earls, priests and others. That was 1240...and it all repeated again in 1268 with more royalty, this time with Prince Edward, better known as Longshanks. Let photographs shine on events of late.

John Kightley MBE FISMM, Director/Secretary to the Trust.

Tel 01604 754782 email: crusader.round@btinternet.com Website: www.stsepsresoration.co.uk

KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

In 2019 Hindsight published an article about the Kettering Mosaic. We are now delighted to report that possibly the longest and largest community project has, after twenty years come to fruition.

There were two issues regarding the mosaic, the first was difficulty in finding a wall big enough and the second was funding. Efforts continued to be made which resulted in the son of the original artist, Oliver Budd, recreating a much smaller interpretation of the original using funds raised over the years.

An ideal opportunity came when a suitable place in the newly extended Alfred East Art Gallery was offered by North Northants Council.

Through the Kettering Cultural Consortium, the Civic Society was successful in its application obtaining a grant from Historic England to film the story of the mosaic. Filming took place for a week in the summer of 2021 when

actress Victoria Wicks, the granddaughter of H.E. Bates, local historian and author Ian Addis and Charles Lister from Boughton House took part. Final filming continued on 5th January when the mosaic was being installed in the gallery which will be open to the public in February. We were delighted that Victoria and Oliver were both available to take part.



In addition, there has been a special presentation by the Budd family of Kenneth Budd's working design, a beautiful painting measuring just 12 inches by 5 inches. It is particularly exceptional because the mosaic painting is the very first mosaic that he created before producing many more large-scale ones including the Kennedy Mosaic that had been in the Bull Ring Shopping Centre in Birmingham, truly a jewel in the crown. A piece of Kettering's history preserved for all to enjoy.



The film will be premiered in the Odeon Cinema in springtime. All in all, the project was a huge success with the best possible outcome.

The Society continues to make sure Kettering station looks welcoming. Planters were bought, a luggage trolley restored and the Christmas tree has now been replaced with spring bulbs and primulas which brighten gloomy days.

Monica Ozdemir, Secretary

RUSHDEN & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme of talks

All meetings take place at Whitefriars Primary School, Boughton Drive, Rushden NN10 9HX at 7.30pm

Members £1.50, non-members £2.50

Please ring **01536 238320** for more information

Friday 17 February 2023

Kevin Varty

Best Foot Forward – History and Development of Prosthetic Limbs

Friday 17 March 2023

Paul Needle

The Spanish Civil War – and My Role in it!

Friday 21 April 2023

Martin Sirot-Smith

Sulgrave Manor – The Washington Family

Marion Darnell, Membership Secretary

Thank you to 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

The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 2 April 2023

Janet Lawrence

EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email/ telephone
Brigstock Historical Society	For the Duration - stories of Northampton Women in WW1	Andrea Pettingale	22-Feb	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock Historical Society	Restoration of the historic gardens at Canons Ashby	Susan Lees	22-Mar	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock Historical Society	Bassett-Lowke of Northampton	Douglas Goddard	26-Apr	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock Historical Society	Northamptonshire Film Archive	Pete Austin	24-May	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock Historical Society	Brigstock characters	Bill Simon / Sally Wilks	28-Jun	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	All drawn by horses	Ian Waller	27-Feb	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Nonconformity for family historians	Alan Rushton	27-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Safe home - researching a WW1 soldier	Dianne Sutton	24-Apr	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	The best burglar in the county - Joan Wake	Neil Lyon	13-Feb	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	Resources for research in the Kettering area	Angela Malin	13-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	Suffragettes and Suffragists in Northamptonshire	John Buckell	08-May	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	All at Sea - Naval seamen and ship records	Andrea Pettingale	20-Feb	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Flushed with Success - a history of the smallest room	Kevin Varty	20-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Where did the money go? A study of wills	Mike Rawle	17-Apr	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Industrial accidents	Ian Waller	15-May	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Oundle Historical Society	AGM and Presentation "Peterborough Morris"		10-Mar		www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk
Prebendal Manor, Church Street, Nassington	Georgia Van Etten Live Session		17-Jun	Jane Baile	01780 782575
Roade Local History Society	Roade to Ukraine	Phil Hayes	22-Feb	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Blair Swannell	Graham Mckechnie	29-Mar	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Silverstone WW1 to F1	Gerald Lovell	26-Apr	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Out of the ordinary	Derek Blunt	24-May	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Wicksteed Park	1920s Dance and Makeup workshop		04-Feb	Connor McIntyre	community@wicksteedpark.org
Wicksteed Park	1920s Dance and Makeup workshop		05-Feb	Connor McIntyre	community@wicksteedpark.org

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Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	Resources for research in the Kettering area	Angela Malin	13-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Flushed with Success - a history of the smallest room	Kevin Varty	20-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Brigstock Historical Society	Restoration of the historic gardens at Canons Ashby	Susan Lees	22-Mar	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Nonconformity for family historians	Alan Rushton	27-Mar	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Roade Local History Society	Blair Swannell	Graham Mckechnie	29-Mar	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Where did the money go? A study of wills	Mike Rawle	17-Apr	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Safe home - researching a WW1 soldier	Dianne Sutton	24-Apr	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Brigstock Historical Society	Bassett-Lowke of Northampton	Douglas Goddard	26-Apr	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Roade Local History Society	Silverstone WW1 to F1	Gerald Lovell	26-Apr	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	Suffragettes and Suffragists in Northamptonshire	John Buckell	08-May	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	Industrial accidents	Ian Waller	15-May	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Brigstock Historical Society	Northamptonshire Film Archive	Pete Austin	24-May	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Roade Local History Society	Out of the ordinary	Derek Blunt	24-May	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Prebendal Manor, Church Street, Nassington	Georgia Van Etten Live Session		17-Jun	Jane Baile	01780 782575
Brigstock Historical Society	Brigstock characters	Bill Simon / Sally Wilks	28-Jun	Robin Phillips	01536 370144