

NEWSLETTER July 2021



Heritage Organisation of the Year won by Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

Photograph courtesy of Laura Malpas and NMAG

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thursday 1 July was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Northamptonshire heritage organisations. My congratulations to all the winners of the Awards and our other members that submitted entries. I was delighted that **Northampton Museum and Art Gallery** was awarded **Organisation of the Year** and I look forward to representing the Forum at its gala opening on Tuesday 20 July.

The Vice Lord Lieutenant, James Lowther, encouraged the Forum and all its members to remember how important Heritage is to the recovery of the economy following the pandemic.

Our partnership with Northants Surprise will facilitate improved visitor information about our historic houses, sites and museums and I am sure we will all make the best of this opportunity to recover and grow our audiences.

Issue 27 of *Hindsight* has been published and will be with you shortly, if you haven't already received your copy. I am sure everyone will enjoy reading the very varied articles; they represent the best of heritage in Northamptonshire.

Finally, I wish you all the best with your activities over the coming months.

Martin Lawrence MBE

WEBSITE UPDATE

The new Northamptonshire Heritage Forum website is now up and running. We hope that you have been able to have a look at it, and for any organisations who have not yet checked their details, please do so, as soon as possible.

The most impactful entries have photos to support them, and especially photos showing visitors engaging with your place, and collections. If you haven't sent any yet, please forward them to Ktboyce@gmail.com as soon as possible. We will create the NHF booklet from the data on the website, so it is important to get it right.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARDS 2021

On July 1st, 2021, Northamptonshire Heritage Forum hosted a feel-good evening celebrating the very best of Northamptonshire's heritage.

Compered by BBC Radio Northampton's John Griff DL, the ceremony was held over zoom which allowed everyone to attend from far and wide. Guests and presenters included James Lowther of Holdenby, VLL, representing the Lord Lieutenant and Earl Spencer, Patron of the Forum. Andrea Leadsom DBE MP and Andrew Lewer MBE MP presented awards, along with Anna Earnshaw and Rob Bridge CEOs of West Northants and North Northants Councils respectively. Funders also presented awards; Elizabeth Neathey of the Arts Council, Claire Browne of Museum Development, and Liz Bates of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Kate Dent of 'Northamptonshire Surprise' presented an award, representing the county's excellent promotional website. As well as compere, John Griff also presented the 'People's Choice Award' reflecting the most popular organisation featured on his BBC Radio Northampton show.

Themes emerged during the evening - yes, it has been hard for us all to keep going during the pandemic, but imagination, passion and commitment have enabled many to find new ways of working together and produced wonderful results that have kept spirits high both within the team and the communities they serve. New skills have been learned by many, especially increased familiarisation with the digital world. The innovation demonstrated by the winners has been an inspiration for us all. As James Lowther VLL reminded us, our unique Northamptonshire Heritage is something to be proud of and is an important element of the offer to the multimillion-pound tourism business, essential to our hospitality sector.

Forum Chair Martin Lawrence MBE welcomed members and guests, thanked all who had taken part and congratulated all the winners. He noted that the evening was uplifting and inspiring for us all.

AWARD WINNERS 2021

1. Best Volunteer Project won by Rockingham Forest Trust

The Heritage Garden & Wellbeing Orchard are part of the "Settlers" project at Stanwick Lakes. The garden was developed to showcase heritage plants grown by the settlers in an authentic setting for visitors to enjoy, and to



provide hands-on volunteer opportunities to learn more about ancient plants and garden maintenance.

Judges reflected that this was a project which supported volunteers mental health and wellbeing, as well as producing an attractive location for visitors. It's a great place to visit safely in the wide-open spaces and historic scenic locations of Stanwick Lakes.

2. Best Event Award won by 78 Derngate

A fund-raising event hosted in conjunction with Northampton High School who used to occupy the Derngate location. Heidi Thomas, creator of Call the Midwife TV series, and her



actor husband Steve McGann wrote and presented the entire evening all about the making of the BBC series. Judges enjoyed this entry as it was unique, professionally delivered and very popular with the public. The social history themes were relevant and interesting.

3. Best Project Under £500 won by Northampton Museum and Art Gallery



NMAG produced a short video filmed on a mobile phone showing the museum team undertaking install during the second lockdown period as a way of teasing the ongoing build-up towards re-opening the museum after the £6.7m redevelopment project. It was distributed via the museum's social media channels and on the museum's new website.

Judges were impressed by the high-quality and high-impact production despite using a ubiquitously available gadget. It was morale boosting for the team, and exciting for the public to see what is in store for the reopening.

4. Best Response to the COVID Pandemic won by Daventry Museum

Staff and volunteers took the lockdown as an opportunity to try new digital technologies to display the museum's exhibitions, stay in touch with each other, research the collection, tackle an accessioning backlog and engage safely in person and digitally with audiences old and new. Judges felt the team seemed to condense 5 years work into a single year. The digital project created awareness in a wider audience even though visitors couldn't get to the Museum. They were particularly commended for their work in keeping parents and children engaged through home schooling and making an important contribution to family lives in a difficult period. All of this as well as taking the time to work through collections management and making improvements has resulted in a sustainable way of working and making the Museum more resilient for the future.



5. Best Exhibition Award won by Nenescape

Re-using a former railway line, Nenescape created an appealing segment of the green corridor by decorating a tunnel with a mural, inscribing benches, celebrating both the social history of Rushden and its connections with the natural heritage of the Nene Valley. Local residents and schools contributed words and pictures of what Rushden means to them.

The Judges agreed that creativity and the natural open space coming together was a wonderful concept. It has created an impact with locals and walkers enjoying the outdoor experience which records the town's history, past and present. It ticks all the boxes that an outdoor exhibition should.



6. Best Special Project Completed Over 5 Years won by The Sikh Museum SCCYC

It's a massive undertaking to develop a new Museum from scratch, even more so with a pandemic to cope with. The team as well as countless volunteers completed many projects, demonstrating massive commitment and passion by engaging remotely, digitally and on site when covid restrictions allowed. The whole project was ambitious and well-funded. Many partnerships with local organisations explain and promote the Sikh heritage and contribution to Britain. The value of the project shone through with big community support, generating a sense of pride and achievement. The museum is an important resource for the future, and we wish it great success.



7. Best Special Project Completed Over 5 Years - Highly Commended Sywell Aviation Museum

Operation Moonraker – Bringing Jenny to Sywell 2019 – 2021. The Museum obtained their second complete aeroplane, a 5000kg twin turboprop. It required researching, dismantling, transporting 25 miles, rebuilding and restoring it into a new Museum Classroom. The judges felt that this was 'every little boy's dream'. It certainly showed great determination, problem solving, and persistence to achieve this ambitious plan. The judges felt the passion of the team in making their dream happen, this was a true labour of love.



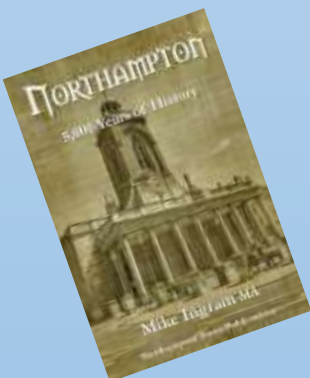
7. Best Community Project Award won by Rushden Museum

This project had many elements, celebrating 110 years of the Scouting movement in the town. A small exhibition, community engagement and events included images, artefacts and memories from the museum collection or borrowed from the wider community. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from many generations shared reminiscences and memories. The high levels of engagement gave the project a strong community appeal, with a lasting legacy.



8. Hindsight Award for Best Published Work won by 'Northampton, 5000 years of History' by Mike Ingram

This fact-dense book tells us the story of Northampton from its millennia-old origins through to the 1970's. It contains lots of information exhaustively researched, and it is a tribute to the late Ron Greenhall, to whom the book is dedicated. A solid read that includes a good index and glossary and an essential reference work for years to come. Perfect for local historians.



9. People's Choice Award won by Art Works, Friends of Kettering Art Gallery & Museum

This organisation's creative space has brightened up the Newlands Centre in Kettering, displaying paintings, sculptures and ceramics. The friends won the award taking 31% of the vote from a shortlist of 10. This event was supported by BBC Radio Northampton and John Griff DL.



10. Judges Choice Special Commendation awarded to Northamptonshire Battlefields Society

This year, the Judges were impressed with the energy and passion of the five entries by NBS. It seemed that Covid had not remotely got in the way of the exuberance of this society, and they continued to write, model, plan and deliver great engagement with their public, digitally, via social media, and face to face when it was possible. In many categories their entries were the 'runner-up' to the winner. They delivered so much to appeal to a wide variety of interests, that their contributions to the heritage life of the county cannot be ignored. Well done to all the team. The Judges look forward to seeing more next year.



11. Heritage Organisation of the Year won by Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery was chosen to win this award. They are about to reopen after a longer than expected closure for refurbishment on 10th July 2021. Despite not being physically open to the public, the team have worked extremely hard behind the scenes demonstrating innovation, creativity and a great deal of problem solving. The many entries to the Awards showed new digital engagement, collection of new material for future social historians, and maintaining morale of the volunteers and staff throughout. Judges felt that NMAG is demonstrating well what the Northamptonshire flagship museum should be doing, and we all look forward to seeing the new state-of-the-art galleries.

See the photograph on the cover page

All photographs approved for use by the organisations concerned

Laura Malpas, Event Organiser

ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE SERVICE

Many thanks to those members of the Forum who have visited the Archives Service over the past month as we re-open to researchers. We have been moving forward cautiously, following social distancing guidelines and asking everyone to wear face masks. All researchers have told us how pleased they are with the safety measures that are now in place to enable them to use archives again. Everyone feels safe and pleased to be back working with original sources again.

The Service is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm by appointment only. Please email archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk to book. For the time being all documents have to be reserved in advance, and there is a limit of eight documents per person for any visit. Do please get those references to us at least a week in advance, as this helps us to help you have a productive visit. We are unlikely to be changing this system in the immediate future and certainly not before we have additional staffing.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is also now accepting bookings from finders for the return and deposit of archaeological finds. These appointments are usually on a Friday at the Archives building. Please contact FLO@westnorthants.gov.uk to book.

Making sure the public rooms are operating as smoothly as possible has been the priority over the past weeks. Many of our volunteers have returned and are doing sterling work with indexing collections or undertaking the listing of the large collection of Chronicle and Echo photographs from the 1980s and 1990s. This work is nearly complete, thanks to their hard work and many of the sections (arranged loosely in alphabetical order) are now available on Adlib, our online catalogue.

The other business of the Service continues in the background, of course. We are pleased to be receiving accessions of material once more, as the restrictions on contact lift. Recent additions to the collections have included a wonderful series of title deeds relating to Wollaston, kindly deposited by Wollaston Heritage Society, that spent some time in Japan in the 1970s. They ended up in a University there on the basis that Wollaston was near Stratford and they might help with Shakespearean studies! We have also received some lovely 17th century to 20th century manorial court records relating to Kings Sutton from a private depositor. Inevitably various records from the now defunct local authorities are 'coming to light' and, as many of these come with a right of public access, they will need to be listed as a priority.

Do let me know if you have any queries, concerns or observations about our service and I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Sarah Bridges, Archives and Heritage Services Manager

Northamptonshire Archives Service, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BQ



RECORD BREAKING AWARD FOR HOLDENBY HOUSE

In her first official function as Mayor of Northampton, Rufia Ashraf reflected her commitment to schools by presenting the Sandford 2020 Award for Heritage Education to Holdenby House, Northampton, in May. This is the House's 8th quinquennial Sandford Award since 1985 and makes Holdenby the most awarded Heritage Education Programme in the UK.

Chris Green from the Heritage Education Trust was at Holdenby to give the award on behalf of the Directors of the Heritage Education Trust. Speaking about Holdenby, Mr Green said, "Such sustained success is a brilliant accomplishment reflecting the outstanding work of sharing this unique and significant house with the community and its schools. The first-hand experiences provided are quite splendid, engineered by remarkable staff and volunteers."

The Mayor reinforced Holdenby's remarkable achievement where over a quarter of a million children have now participated in its nationally recognized living history programmes. They include being a servant in a Victorian household to an evacuee in the second World War to meeting King Charles I or Queen Elizabeth or even Beatrix Potter. Children learn by doing at Holdenby with programmes in costume, in the house and grounds, and all with hands-on activities.

Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Lowther, owner of Holdenby House, expressed his pride at receiving this award which he credited to Sylvia Park and the exceptional staff who made it happen. "We think this work is very important, as children are our future. If they understand history and the past they will be better equipped to make the future better."

Today was a proud day for Holdenby and for Northampton, home to the most awarded Heritage Education Programme in the country.

Sylvia Park & the Holdenby Education staff holding their 8 Sandford Awards. They are flanked (left) by Chris Green (Sandford Award Judge) & Councillor Rufia Ashraf, Mayor of Northampton, and (right) by Mr and Mrs James Lowther.



NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORT HERITAGE

This has probably been the most exciting period since we formed. Firstly, we are back on the road, having attended the Watford Classic and have a number of exciting trips and future events to look forward to. Please keep up to date by following developments on facebook or on our website.

We have achieved charitable status: yes, we are now a registered charity.

Our 1953 Daimler DNH 197, has not only started, but moved under her own power for the first time in over twenty years. Please help us to progress with this exciting project with a donation, however small.

Jeyes of Earls Barton have very kindly given us the opportunity of a sales outlet. Please pop in, enjoy afternoon tea and help us by purchasing a book or gift.

We are very fortunate in that we have become custodians of a very rare vehicle. VV9146 is a 1946 ex-Northampton Corporation Transport Crossley. Now back home to join our growing fleet.

Two big events are planned for September: Heritage Open Days on the 11th/12th and Return to the Market Square on the 19th will be a celebration of 100 years of United Counties.

Phil Curtis, PR Officer

HERITAGE FAIR

The Northampton Heritage Fair is booked for September 12th at Delapre Abbey.

Any members wishing to book a space are advised to contact me asap as space is limited and time is pressing. We expect to still be under some covid restrictions which has been taken into account with us utilising the stunning abbey to the maximum.

Thanks to those who have already agreed to take part in what should be an excellent day.

Phil Curtis

07929907923 philntfcok1022@gmail.com

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days (HODs) will be running in the West Northamptonshire area this year (2021) between 10th-19th September, with the theme Edible England, but events do not need to follow this theme.

HODs is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 local people and organisations, and thousands of volunteers. Every year in September, historic and cultural sites across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's a chance for the public to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE.

All sites and associated events/activities must be completely **free to access, from entry to exit**. This means that running a free tour where visitors still have to pay an admission fee to enter the site doesn't count, sorry!

So, your event(s) / tour(s) / activities must be completely free to access and ideally offer something which is not normally available.

What makes a HODs event?

- Your site is not normally open to the public – or you will show the public parts of your site which are usually closed
- There is usually an entry charge, which will be waived during HODs
- Your event will be put on especially for HODs

West Northamptonshire Council are developing a major marketing campaign to promote HOD events in the West Northamptonshire area (Daventry, Northampton and South Northants). This will include a widely-distributed printed brochure- listing your venue, social media promotion of individual sites across all West Northamptonshire Council social channels, media releases to radio, printed, TV and digital media outlets, such as BBC Radio Northamptonshire, posters in prominent locations and on digital screens in libraries across the county and information shared with our partners, including town and parish councils.

If you wish to be included in the brochure and other marketing and promotions then you will need to complete Form A.

The national Heritage Open Days website lists all events across the country and we can upload your details if you wish. **If you want us to do this for you then you must complete Form B of the form.** If you would rather register yourself and upload your details, then you do not need to complete Form B.

Forms are available by email from museums@westnorthants.gov.uk. Please return your completed forms by 12.00pm Monday 26th July to museums@westnorthants.gov.uk

If you have any questions please get in touch using the email address above.

Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager

Debra Cox, Public Programme Manager

Sara Kennedy, Communications Officer



NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY TRANSPORT DAY

We are looking for heritage or unusual vehicles to display at our Transport Day on 12th September this year as part of Heritage Open Days Weekend at Abington Park Museum.

Do you own a transport vehicle that you would like to show?

Please contact us by emailing museums@westnorthants.gov.uk by 16th July if you would like the details of how to enter.

Please note, all vehicles must be booked in prior to the event and no arrivals on the day can be permitted.

We hope to see you there!

Louise Hannam-Jones, History Curator, Museums Service



FRIENDS OF KETTERING ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

The work has started!

Things carry on with a lower level of activity but enthusiasm maintained. There will be more to report next time as our schedule of activities related to the HAZ project are rolled out.

David Brown



KETTERING HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

Investment secured from Historic England for new cultural programme in Kettering

Historic England have announced that Kettering is one of over 60 High Street Heritage Action Zones to receive funding for local arts organisations to create and deliver community-led cultural activities on their high streets over the next three years.

Kettering Cultural Consortium, a group of the leading cultural groups in the town working with North Northamptonshire Council, will receive £90,000 from Historic England for an exciting program of artistic, cultural and heritage events around the town centre. Events will include guided walks and talks, exhibitions of art, heritage, photography, local industries and street theatre.

The cultural programme will sit alongside the £1.48million of funding from Historic England towards a High Street Heritage Action Zone awarded to Kettering in April 2020 and £3million of funding from the Government's Get Building Fund to revitalize and extend Kettering's Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Manor House Museum.

David Brown, from the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum commented, "There will be opportunities for members of the public to express their views on the past, present and future of the high street, and relate stories about their own experiences of Kettering, alongside opportunities to find out more about the ongoing development of Kettering town centre including the renovation works at the Gallery, Library and Museum."

For more information, follow Kettering Cultural Consortium on social media and through the websites of consortium members: Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum, Kettering Civic Society, Picture the Difference and Wicksteed Park, and associates; Friends of Kettering Library, Kettering and District Art Society and Northamptonshire Heritage Forum.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE KETTERING CULTURAL CONSORTIUM



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY AT DEENE PARK

Situated within the beauty of the East Northamptonshire countryside, Deene Park is a real hidden gem.

Deene has been the home of the Brudenell family since 1514 and was the seat of the Earls of Cardigan, most notably the famous 7th Earl who led the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War of 1854.

This largely sixteenth century House has an interesting yet complimentary mixture of styles, including a considerable collection of family portraits, possessions, and memorabilia from the Crimean War, however, its most endearing feature is the fact that it is still a much-loved family home.

Deene Park is open to the public each year between April and September, and we are looking to recruit volunteer room guides for the 2021 season, specifically on Sunday and bank holiday Monday afternoons, and Wednesdays in September.

Our team of wonderful volunteers are vital in bringing Deene Park to life, welcoming our visitors, and imparting their knowledge of the Brudenell family and the history of the House in a fascinating and enjoyable way.

Room guides also play a valuable role in safeguarding the interiors and collections.

This role would suit individuals who have an enthusiastic and friendly manner, who have an interest in local history and enjoy meeting new people.

Experience is not essential as full training will be provided.

As a volunteer the role is unpaid, although travel expenses are reimbursed.

In recognition of the support our Volunteer Guides provide they are invited annually, prior to the start of the season, to have lunch in the formal Dining Room hosted by Mr and Mrs Brudenell. In addition we also organise a Guides Day Out to a local place of interest.

If you think volunteering at Deene would be of interest to you please contact our House Administrator on 01780 450278, or e-mail admin@deenepark.com

Deene Park, Deene, Nr Corby, Northamptonshire, NN173EW

DEENE PARK



ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our AGM had to be postponed and will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday 28th July, followed by ‘**Down Memory Roade – recollections of Roade residents past and present**’. Some of Roade’s characters will come alive again at the Society’s first meeting after the long lockdown. Read by our talented acting team (members of ‘The Every Brothers’ cast), the words of the late Reverend Sharland, Job Sturgess and cattle-rustler Job Shipp from The Swan Inn, will shed light on life in the village long ago, whilst those of present residents will bring back memories of more recent times - all with a background of ‘*magiclantern*’ images.

On Saturday 31st July Roade will mark the centenary of the unveiling of our war memorial with a ceremony at the memorial at 11 am and an exhibition at Roade Primary School. The event, ‘Roade Remembers 100’, is being organised by the Roade & District Branch of The Royal British Legion with the help of RLHS and other local organisations.

Following the success of its first showing in 2019, Ron Johnson’s play “The Every Brothers – Their Story” is to be restaged at The Deco theatre, Northampton at 7:30 pm on 14th



November. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01604 491005 or via the website www.thedeco.co.uk. Tom, Jack and William Every were all killed in WW2, and this is the story of how the tragedy affected their family. Based on family papers, letters home, descriptions of life in POW camps and even the winning of a Military Medal, the play explains how the boys’ names became engraved on Roade’s war memorial.

Development of our new website is nearing completion and we aim to switch to it before the launch of Chris Hillyard’s book **CUTTING REMARKS *The Illustrated***

History of Roade’s Railways and Cutting.

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

Vivian Blyth, Secretary

The deadline for material for the next edition is Sunday 3 October 2021

DELAPRE ABBEY - NEW APPOINTMENT

Eleanor Sier joins the team in this crucial new role which will lead on the Abbey's engagement and inclusion activity alongside displays, exhibitions and events.

Eleanor's appointment comes at an exciting time for the Trust as it embarks on a new strategic plan which aims to reach and engage more people with heritage, culture, wellbeing and ecology, than ever before. Eleanor has a wealth of experience in the heritage sector having previously held the roles of Heritage Learning and Participation Manager at Toynbee Hall, Learning Officer at Fulham Palace Trust, and Heritage Officer at Phoenix Cinema Trust.



Richard Clinton, Chief Executive of Delapré Abbey Preservation Trust said: *"We're excited to welcome Eleanor to the team. Eleanor impressed the team with her passion for learning and engaging audiences. As we embark on our new strategic journey her genuine understanding of the Trust's values and their place in developing a positive culture for both our communities and our organisation will help make Delapré Abbey more accessible and relevant to a wider audience."*

I look forward to working with Eleanor, the team, and our partners on developing new programmes and activities that bring people and communities together."

Eleanor added: *"I'm delighted to join the team at Delapré Abbey. It's a privilege to work somewhere so beautiful with such a rich history. I'm looking forward to meeting our volunteers and local people to find out what intrigues them about Delapré Abbey."*

The Abbey has over 900 years of exciting and turbulent history which can be explored through a unique hands-on visitor experience. The site of the Wars of the Roses Battle of Northampton has an intriguing past for visitors to explore – from its origins as a Cluniac nunnery, heyday as a country house, and its time as the Record Office before the recent restoration.

During the pandemic, the Trust has refocussed its efforts to broaden its impact and diversify audiences, working with a range of partners from across the town to devise and deliver programmes that connect people to nature and heritage, and improve wellbeing.

If you're an organisation, school, community group, historian or member of the public and you'd like to say hello, then please do get in touch: eleanor.sier@delapreabbey.org.

Aimee Holmes, Head of Audiences and Communication

aimee.holmes@delapreabbey.org.

For general information about Delapré Abbey please visit our website www.delapreabbey.org

DAVENTRY MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Victorian Leisure; a spotlight on entertainment and science

18th May to 4th December 2021

This exhibition has been inspired by the 150th anniversary of The Royal Albert Hall, London and explores an era full of wondrous scientific discoveries, theatre and entertainment.

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

There's a fun family quiz and object hunt available to do at the museum, as well as free peg doll making kits for visitors to take home, along with a free craft book, and templates for making your own Victorian puppet theatre.

Visitors need to pre-book their visit on Saturday 3rd July by going to www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching for 'Victorian Leisure'. Alternatively, you can call the museum on 01327 301 246 to book your free entry.



50th Anniversary display of Mr Men & Little Miss

20th July to 4th September 2021

The museum is commemorating 50 years since the first Mr Men book was published in 1971 with a display bursting with colour and familiar, funny characters.

Find out how Roger Hargreaves' Mr Men series began with Mr Tickle and his extraordinary long arms!

Rare items on display include a beanbag chair from the mid 1970's, a working Mr Bump radio from 1979, a Mr Tickle mirror from 1980 and 2 old records with actor, Arthur Low narrating the stories.

The museum will be running a competition to create your own loveable character during the summer holidays, and there will be a chance to win some Mr Men prizes! Be sure to keep an eye out on the museum's social media for more competition details in the coming weeks.



Heritage Open Days – Edible England

10th to 18th September 2021

This year's Heritage Open Days' theme is 'Edible England' and the museum is celebrating with a new exhibit within the trader's exhibition area, exploring the town's culinary heritage and culture.

Displays will include old kitchen utensils such as butter pats and various moulds, and some familiar cooking devices that are still in use today. Daventry Pubs and Inns will feature alongside photos from the archive of past food retailers and celebrations in the town.

The museum will also be sharing tips from wartime cookbooks and traditional Northamptonshire recipes. Why not pop along to the Farmer's Market on Daventry High Street on 18th September from 10am to 3pm and pick up some local delicacies!

Sophie Good, Museum Officer

Daventry Museum, Daventry Town Council, 3 New Street, Daventry, NN11 4BT, www.daventrymuseum.org.uk

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



EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Organisations concerned with the arts and heritage are increasingly aware that equality, diversity and inclusion need to be part of the essential bedrock of their values. Arts and heritage organisations, as they emerge from lockdown, are expected to operate within a challenging new environment at the end of the Covid-19 crisis. National funders recognise that it is more vital than ever before to address inequalities and to become more representative of society and the communities in which trustees and volunteers live and work.

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum will produce a statement outlining how it will encourage its members to establish a more equal, diverse and inclusive culture amongst our trustees, workforce, volunteers and audiences.

The committee will communicate the new statement for Forum members outlining key commitments to principles that promote equality. The Forum will be looking for champions or ambassadors who will promote good practice within Northamptonshire heritage organisations.

Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - EVENTS

In Their Own Write: The Testimony of the Victorian English and Welsh Poor

Friday 23rd July 2021 2:00pm

The National Archives

[Further details](#)

Rochford District Heritage Tapestry Community Project Exhibition

Tuesday 27th July 2021

The Rochford District Heritage Tapestry was created over 20 months through a community project involving 90 adults and 80 children. It covers 1,000 years of local history and is displayed in ten tapestry panels, each measuring over 2ft high by 3ft wide.

[Further details](#)

BALH Local History Hour: Marginalised lives in localities

Thursday 29th July 2021 7:00pm

Our series of Local History Hour talks with a variety of speakers from the local history world.

[Further details](#)

Historical Pageants Day

Saturday 7th August 2021 11:00am

A day of talks, exhibitions and performances of historical pageantry from local history organisations, museums, theatre groups, musicians and dancers.

[Further details](#)

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference

Saturday 28th August 2021

[Further details](#)

'The Northern Way': The Archbishops of York and the North of England

Thursday 23rd September 2021

'The Northern Way' is a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and based at the University of York in partnership with The National Archives and with the support of York Minster. Their conference is to be held over two days in September.

[Further details](#)

For more information click on Further details above, or visit www.balh.org.uk

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION—NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRANCH

The Western Front Association was formed in 1980 to maintain interest in the period 1914-1918, to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of those on all sides who served their countries in France and Flanders and their own countries during the Great War. It does not seek to glorify war and is non-political. Our branch was formed in 1995. We normally hold monthly meetings with a speaker of interest. Our meetings are held at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Church Lane, Northampton NN1 3NL.

Our group is not just concerned with the fighting in France and Belgium. The Northamptonshire Regiment saw action in Turkey (at Gallipoli), Egypt and Palestine. The Northamptonshire Yeomanry fought in the Italian campaign against troops of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Due to the current Covid regulations, our meetings so far this year have been held via the Zoom platform. This has allowed us to hear talks from speakers who, because of their home location, we might not ordinarily be able to engage. Two of our recent speakers are based in Aberdeen so you can imagine the difficulties, let alone the cost, of inviting them down to Northampton for a night.

We had hoped to hold a “normal” meeting in July, but this is not now possible, so we will be on Zoom on Wednesday 14th July. Further details of the talk will be posted on our Facebook page and, hopefully, the Forum's page as well.

Saturday 31st July sees the 104th anniversary of the death of Lt-Colonel Edgar Mobbs. We hope to hold a service of remembrance at Abingdon Square, Northampton, where there is a statue in his memory, at 1400 hours on that afternoon. Obviously, this will be subject to any Covid restrictions in place at that time. Again, please check our FB page for confirmation.



Our August meeting will, we hope, be a walk around Northampton town centre in which we will highlight some of the town's military past. Again, please check social media.

If you would like any further clarification on our activities please contact me, at sec.northantswfa@yahoo.com. We have a monthly newsletter WHIZZBANG - to receive a copy email: whizzbangwfa@gmail.com

Steve Watkins, Secretary

Part of the Edgar Mobbs memorial, which is on Abingdon Square. The memorial was originally placed on the Market Square but was moved to the new Garden of Remembrance in 1937. It is Grade II listed.*

SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

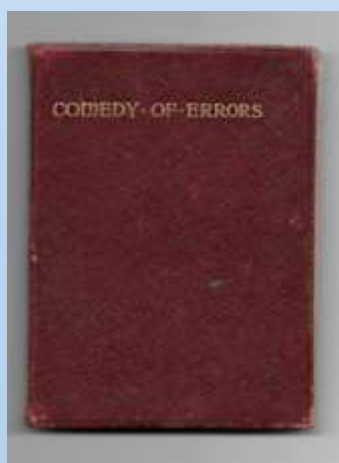
SHAKESPEARE LEAVES SPRATTON

The library at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-on-Avon contacted Spratton Local History Society as they were trying to find out more about the donor of a rare 1632 edition of the 2nd Folio of Shakespeare's Works presented to them in the 1930s. It turned out to have come from Miss Bevan of Spratton House, Church Road, Spratton. Mildred and Ulrica Bevan were the daughters of Mr Richard Bevan of Brixworth Hall. They moved to Spratton in 1900 after their father died and Brixworth Hall was sold. It is thought the valuable edition of Shakespeare came from the former library at the Hall. Spratton LHS were able to send photos and information about Mildred Bevan and her sister from their extensive archive. (see www.sprattonhistory.org)



SHAKESPEARE RETURNS TO SPRATTON

We've just been sent a lovely little book from America. It's a copy of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* and was sent to Louisa Elsie Wykes (of



Spratton) by her mother, Sarah Ann Milward Wykes in 1919. Elsie then passed the book to her daughter Patricia Ruland (Smith) and when she died in 2018 it passed to her daughter Barbara Bailey (née Smith) who lives in America. Barbara has no relatives to pass the book on to so she wanted to return it to Spratton where it all began in 1919. It is now in Spratton Local History Society archives.

Photos and information recently put on the SLHS Facebook page have had responses from distant Wykes' relatives in Northampton.



Enid Jarvis, Chair

The deadline for material for the next edition is Sunday 3 October 2021

COGENHOE & WHISTON HERITAGE SOCIETY

We are offering the following lectures, by Zoom - free to members

costs just £8pa. <http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk> / bookings@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk

Wednesday 14 July 2021

78 Derngate

Robert Kendall

78 Derngate was owned by Bassett Lowke and in 1916 was renovated by the architect Rennie Mackintosh of Glasgow fame. His most famous work is owned by the museum which has burned down for the second time. The style is quite astonishing. They have just one wooden chair on display which is on loan and is worth £250,000. The restoration project cost millions and is really worth a visit.

Wednesday 11 August

The Battle of Waterloo

Roy York

A blockbuster film was made in Irthlingborough in 1913. The 70 minute presentation describes choosing the area, the filming, world wide distribution before the loss of part of the film following WW1 – the discovery of part of the film by the Irthlingborough Historical Society – plus a tragic ending. We show 19 minutes of the rediscovered film and also the Evan Bros 'parody' Pimples Battle of Waterloo.

Wednesday 8 September

Northampton to Bedford Railway

Richard Deacon

Not just another Railway history, but a detailed look at how to go about the legal process of building a railway in Victorian times and then a journey following the railway then and now of what was chronologically the last railway to link Northampton to another town.

Robert Vaughan, Secretary

AYNHO HISTORY SOCIETY

Our first event of the year is a presentation by Mareen Paterson, a house guide at Waddesdon, entitled "The Waddesdon it-girls".

It will be held in Aynho Village Hall on Wednesday 28th July at 7:30 pm. Entry £2.00

We hope some of you can make it.

Thank you.

Keith McClellan, Chairman

WOLLASTON HERITAGE SOCIETY

Our museum is now open again, as is Curiosity Cottage, the Barn and Beacon Hill. The gardens have been open for the past month and during the good weather we had a few visitors. Hopefully we will be able to go ahead with our first indoor meeting on September 23rd at 7.30pm when Ian Addis will talk on H.E.Bates. We have been posting news on our village Facebook page and our web site for those who are able to use it.

We have been trying to encourage people to give us their family histories and we received the story below:

Since when has riding a bicycle been seen as outrageous! Annie Sanders wanted to marry a man 28 years her senior, the same age as her father, but her father sent her suitor packing! He went off to the Holy Land to console himself and bought Annie a bicycle as a parting gift. In 1897 this was the equivalent of buying her a Ferrari! She could be seen riding round the village in long skirts, boots, and boater hat delivering largesse to the poor, attending meetings of the Mother's Union and being a very active member of St. Mary's Church.

John Woodrow returned with a davenport bureau made out of olive wood from trees on the Mount of Olives as a wedding gift for his bride in 1997. He also brought a phial of water from the River Jordan which was used at the christening of their 4 children. They moved to Ormskirk where he was the vicar. After his death Annie returned to Wollaston with her children and stayed at The Limes with her parents. The Limes in the High Street was then a farm, the outbuildings are now known as Wollaston Courtyard.

Annie bought a house in Irchester Road and named it Ormskirk and eventually moved into The White House, Little Lane which her youngest son, Stanley Woodrow, had built for her. She was a lady of some standing and determination. Having been an ardent member of St. Mary's she wanted to be buried in the church yard where there were already 250 years worth of family buried. She persuaded her cousin, Ginny to give up her space in the family grave and thus when she died in 1964 aged 94 she became the last person to be buried in Wollaston church yard.

There is a picture of Annie Woodrow with her son in Wollaston Museum. Share your family histories with us.

Sue Woodrow, Chairman

EARLS BARTON MUSEUM OF VILLAGE LIFE (WITHIN JEYES OF EARLS BARTON)

June saw two special events for The Museum of Village Life as we had our first taste of "normality".

The opening by Alderman George Blackwell of the exhibition celebrating the story of The Earls Barton Church Lad's Brigade was a day to remember. The 1898 bass marching drum had been found, by chance, in Weedon and was rescued by David Jeyes and returned home to the village museum. Trustees, the committee, volunteers, and the Parish Clerk gathered safely, for the first time, for afternoon tea, catch-ups and stories of their days in the Brigade and their Covid lock-down time.

We then welcomed children (two small groups over two days) from Weston Favell Primary School to help with their project learning about the local boot and shoe trade – their thank-you letters to Iona are special. They enjoyed the mini-bus adventure too! We are back on the road again.

Georgina Jeyes on behalf of Iona Flanagan

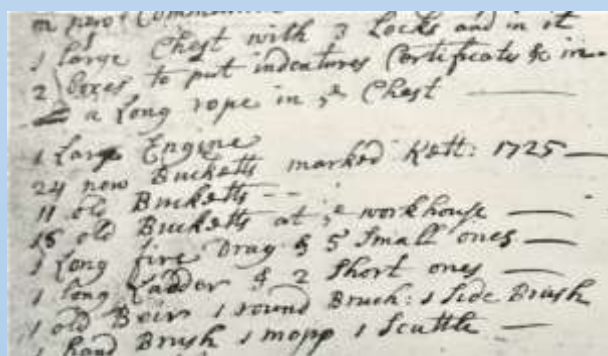
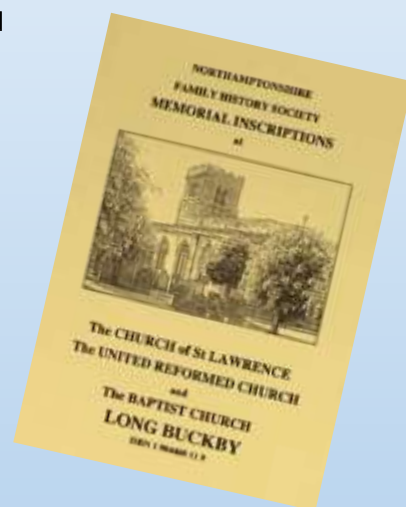
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Over the last twelve months we have held 24 online meetings for our members and the programme of talks has proved very popular. We shall restart these on the 1st Monday of each month from September. We also hope that we will be able to re-commence our branch meetings at Kettering and Weston Favell on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays and eagerly await further details of lockdown restrictions being eased and the halls being able to open. On the 4th Monday of each month we plan to run a series of 'local interest' talks. Each will centre on a particular area of the county and will give members some background to the parishes and the resources available to them for research in that area.

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

We plan to restart our memorial recording programme in July starting at Chipping Warden. We have completed over 200 parishes and the booklets are available to purchase from Parish Chest.

www.parishchest.com/monumental-inscriptions-2491.php



One of the great things about researching past events is that you often come across some wonderful snippets. This image comes from the Churchwarden's account book for Kettering in 1725. (Image © Northants Archives) It shows that the churchwardens owned one large engine (fire?), 24 new buckets, 11 old buckets, 18 old buckets at the workhouse, one long fire drag and five small ones, a long ladder and 2 short ones. Presumably this is an early attempt to help prevent the

town being engulfed by fire, bearing in mind that most houses at that time would have been thatched and the streets a lot narrower than they are now!

We will be attending the Heritage Fair at Delapre Abbey on Sunday 12 September and will have our full range of publications available. Do come and chat to us. Further information about the Society can be found on our website: www.northants-fhs.org

Our one-day conference, in celebration of our 45th anniversary, has been postponed until next year, and will now be held on Saturday 14 May 2022 at the Park Inn Hotel, in Northampton.

Angela Malin, Chairman



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/>*

MADE WITH MANY

We are a community-led arts programme in North Northamptonshire (primarily focussed on Wellingborough and Corby) which produces events and activities designed to inspire more local people than ever before to take the lead in experiencing, creating and taking part in high quality arts and cultural activities. Through conversations with local people and community decision-making panels, we put local people at the heart of commissioning artists and producing new and exciting events.

Made With Many is part of a national **Creative People & Places** (CPP) network, funded by Arts Council England to increase engagement in the arts and heritage in areas where people have fewer opportunities to get involved. CPP is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in art experiences in the places where they live. There are 30 independent projects, each located in an area where people have traditionally had fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts.

South Asian Heritage Month (18 July – 17 August)

As part of South Asian Heritage Month, we will be launching the South Asian Heritage Project Wellingborough, alongside Support Northamptonshire and Human Values in Action. The oral history project has gathered stories from South Asian communities in Wellingborough, which will be shared in an online publication and series of short videos, produced by local Photographer and Filmmaker Rooful Ali.

To view the project during South Asian Heritage Month, visit www.madewithmany.org

Wellingborough Stories 2021-2023

We have received funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a programme to engage under-represented audiences in Wellingborough in capturing the untold oral history of the town since WWII. The stories will be shared through commissioned art works and a Wellingborough Stories Festival for spring 2023. There will be 10 community grants available from July 2021 for groups or volunteers wishing to lead on research or events that gather communities to share stories.

For more information visit www.madewithmany.org or email Sarah@madewithmany.org.

Wellingborough Windrush Programme

Led by Wellingborough African Caribbean Association, in partnership with Made With Many, the Wellingborough Windrush Programme will run for one year from June 2021 to June 2022, to celebrate the culture of the Windrush era through a number of activities, events and groups. The launch event, *Taste of the Windrush Era*, took place to celebrate Windrush day (22 June 2021), was accompanied by the distribution of creative Windrush packs for the local community. Further information on the project will be available on www.madewithmany.org/windrush.

Wellingborough Homeless Stories

Working with the Wellingborough Homeless Forum and Support Northamptonshire through the first National Lockdown, Made With Many commissioned local writer Ryan Leder to work with homeless communities in Wellingborough who had been housed for the first time. The result is a publication, *You Must Stay at Home*, that features stories from Wellingborough's Homeless community. You can view the online publication at www.madewithmany.org/stay-at-home or you can order a copy of the publication by emailing Sarah@madewithmany.org.

Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone Cultural Programme (September 2021)

Led by a consortium of local cultural and heritage organisations who have received a grant of £90k from Historic England for a 3 year cultural programme, we have been contracted to facilitate the consortium and to deliver a pop-up project in the town centre. 'Views of the High Street' will see 15 local artists creating new work live in the town centre over 2 weekends in September, which will be exhibited with associated heritage interpretation.

Corby Pole Fair (June 2022)

We are working with the volunteer committee in planning this 'once every 20 years' heritage festival, taking place on the 3rd June 2022 in Corby Old Village. HD Media CIC have recently produced an archive film of previous fairs, which will be available on the Facebook page soon. <https://www.facebook.com/CorbyPoleFair>

For more information on all our projects or to get involved (for local communities in North Northamptonshire) visit www.madewithmany.org

Sarah Brown



78 DERNGATE

'Hand-stitched Stories' by Sabine Kaner, incorporating two furniture pieces by Professor Jake Kaner

We are delighted to announce that renowned textile design artist, Sabine Kaner and her husband, Professor Jake Kaner, Associate Dean of Research at the School of Art and Design, Nottingham Trent University will be exhibiting some of their work in the Upstairs Gallery at 78 Derngate throughout August to October.

Sabine attended art school in London and Manchester studying printmaking, but it was later on that she changed direction and began working in mixed media. Very much informed by her own experiences as well as her studies, Sabine's identity as a biracial person is intertwined with the work she produces. With a strong interest in mental health and outsider art, Sabine has also worked on various community projects, including an artist's residency in a school focusing on developing early creativity.

Previously Head of Research and Professor of Furniture at Buckingham New University and an editorial board member of the Institute of Conservation, Jake was called upon in 2004 to create replica Charles Rennie Mackintosh furniture for the restoration of 78 Derngate. He also presented a special talk for us during the centenary exhibition in 2017 and we are very pleased to welcome him back with some of his own designs.



Their joint exhibition runs from Saturday 7th August to Sunday 15th October and entry to the gallery, which is open Monday to Friday between 10am – 4pm, is free.

Liz Jansson, House Manager

www.78derngate.org

www.sabinekaner.com

WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Whilton Local History Society held a Woad Walk in June, following the trail of some of those involved in woad growing here from the late 1600s and through the 18th century. The blue dye obtained from the plant brought wealth to some and an itinerant way of life to their workers. We considered woadman John Lawson, who organized a lease for woad in Brockhall from 1737 – 1741, and whose rented house still stands in Whilton. We also heard about the problems of the Thomas family, “people working at the woad comoditie”, who fell on hard times and were sent back to Brington in 1702, but became chargeable to Whilton in 1710.

We walked in Wadd Close and the larger Second Wadd Close and looked at other closes where woad was grown. Landowners raised their rents for woad-growing periods, making it a desirable crop in many ways, as it helped



clear out wireworm where farmers wished to grow cereals. In Whilton the Enclosure of the open fields in 1778 coincided with a woad period, one of the Commissioners being James King, who himself rented woad grounds in Whilton.

Although there is evidence that some of the itinerant woad people lived in the village for a few years at a time, some were based at Glassthorpe between Nobottle, Harpole and Flore, where the woad would have been processed.

I am interested to know if anyone has more knowledge about Glassthorpe. It was a deserted medieval village, but its name suggests an older heritage. “Thorpe” has

Scandinavian roots, meaning “outlying farmstead” of a more major community, perhaps enclosed for a particular purpose. Can this be similar to Thorplands, an early enclosure of Moulton, with references to “people at the wad in Thorpland” from about 1700?

The prefix “glas” has Celtic roots, taken up by the Romans, including Pliny, in their word, “glastrum,” meaning woad. Is it possible that this was a woad growing or processing place in the Danelaw? If that is the case, was there a faint folk memory of this, which took woad people back to Glassthorpe in the 1600s?

Any information would be helpful.

Anthea Hiscock, Chair

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

The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 3 October 2021

Janet Lawrence

EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email/ telephone
Althorp House	Summer opening of House and Gardens		06 July to 30 Aug		info@althorp.com
Brigstock History Society	That Woman - the life of Wallis Simpson	Roy Smart	September	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	The History of the true Romanies	Gloria Wright	October	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	Duke John and the Africans	Cispin Powell	November	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	River Nene - its history and beauty	Peter Gout	Jan-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	A working canal family	Barry Watson	Feb-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	The great fire of Northampton	Ruth Thomas	Mar-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	Daily life in the Bronze Age - Flag Fen	Chris Car	Apr-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	Eleanor of Castile and the Eleanor crosses	Chris Rowe	May-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock History Society	The ladies of Fermin Hall	Sally Wilks	Jun-22	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Finedon Local History Society	Memories on Stone - historic Graffiti in the Garden Lodge at Lyvedon	Susan Lees	26-Jul	Michael Britton	finedonlhs@outlook.com
Great Doddington Heritage Group	Annual heritage weekend, photographic competition, and book launch		25 and 29 Sept	Barbara Tompkins	gdheritage2020@yahoo.co.uk
Northampton & Lamport Railway	Kids for a quid		25-Jul		enquiries@nlr.org.uk
Northampton & Lamport Railway	Summer Gala		28 - 30 Aug		enquiries@nlr.org.uk
Northampton & Lamport Railway	Grandparents Day - Grandparents ride free		03-Oct		enquiries@nlr.org.uk
Northamptonshire Family History Society	19th C emigration - looking at the development of the emigration system	Ian Waller	06-Sep	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs.org
Northamptonshire Family History Society	Dating old photographs	Stephen Gill FRPA	04-Oct	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs.org
Northamptonshire Family History Society	What makes a marriage - rules and records - an entertaining look at the laws and rules of modern and historical marriage	Anthony Marr	01-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs.org
Roade Local History Society	Horton Hall - one of Northant's lost country houses	Maureen Williams	22-Sep	Vivian Blyth	www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	The Best Burglar in the County - Joan Wake and the Northamptonshire Record Society	Neil Lyon	27-Oct	Vivian Blyth	www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Sulgrave Manor	Dappled Sounds - outdoor concert		25-Jul		www.sulgravemanor.org.uk
Sulgrave Manor	The Tempest - open air theatre		04-Aug		www.sulgravemanor.org.uk
Sulgrave Manor	Murder Mystery Evening		18-Sep		www.sulgravemanor.org.uk

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

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