

NEWSLETTER October 2023



Launch of Northamptonshire Battlefields Society Information Boards at

Delapré Abbey

Photograph courtesy of Northamptonshire Battlefields Society

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is always a pleasure to send a message to Heritage Forum members in the quarterly newsletter. On this occasion I want to take the opportunity to give hearty thanks to those member organisations who have provided articles for the newsletter over the past three years.

What always amazes me, when reading the newsletter, is the outstanding heritage offer in Northamptonshire and how wide that offer is. This diversity is a strength, providing something for everyone.

Celebrating achievements and promoting future events in the newsletter contributes to the core purpose of the Heritage Forum. The newsletters are sent out widely across the Midlands and the East of England. Their appearance on the website provides visitors to the site with information about the wide range of heritage activities in the county.

The newsletter also helps to bind the membership together. By understanding what is being planned and delivered across the county, members are better informed. Our members and other organisations have discovered how partnerships can be developed and collaborative projects undertaken. I have been immensely impressed with the amount of joint working between members over the past three years. That collaboration has brought success, both with regard to applications for funding and the joint delivery of events.

At the September Heritage Forum meeting at Delapré Abbey there was a very positive reporting of achievements by members during 2023. It is wonderful that so many exciting events have been organised and well attended. Congratulations to all those organisations, trustees, staff and volunteers who are reaching new audiences.

There is also a recognition that circumstances have changed in the heritage sector in the past few years, with new funding structures, limited public resources, and new ways of communication. The use of social media and online meetings has expanded considerably, enabling interested people from other parts of the country or abroad to participate.

It is pleasing to report that Heritage Forum membership continues to grow. Stakeholders are more engaged and able to work together in the best interests of the county.

An example of this in 2023 has been wide engagement in the development of a tourism and visitor strategy for the county. I am confident that stakeholder engagement will grow, which is positive for all heritage organisations.

Thank you members for all your efforts to reveal and celebrate the heritage of the county, delight your visitors and help to continue to raise the profile of heritage activity in Northamptonshire.

Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman

FORUM MEETING - 20 SEPTEMBER

Around 35 representatives attended the meeting, hosted at Delapre Abbey, and were welcomed Eleanor Sier.

Chairman, Martin Lawrence gave a review of the recent Annual Awards and thanked the team of organisers for such a great event. Thank you to all who took part and congratulations to the winners (more details on the winners can be found on the NHF website).

Martin announced that he will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM in April 2024 and that a recruitment process for his successor is already in place.

The Heritage Fair was held on Sunday 10 September at Abington Park Museum. A survey will shortly go out to members asking for feedback from those who attended and for comments on the future of the event.

The Forum website continues to attract more visitors and thanks to Lynne for her hard work.

Sadly, Shanna Wells, the new editor of the Newsletter, has had to stand down for personal reasons, and Janet Lawrence will edit the October newsletter. If anyone can take this on in the future, please do let Janet know.

Jon-Paul Carr reported that almost all the 25,000 printed copies of the NHF booklet have gone. The Forum will be looking at producing the next issue in Spring 2024. Members were reminded to check that their listing on the Forum website is up to date as information for the booklet will be taken from the website.

Enid Jarvis prompted members to send in articles for the next issue of *Hindsight* – the deadline is end of December. Word limit is 1000 and images are welcome as jpegs.

The 'Digital Day' being organized by Laura will be held in February 2024.

Jon-Paul was pleased to announce that the membership of the Forum continues to increase and now stands at 122 organisations, 40 individual members and 10 joint.

To round off the evening a small number of member groups were invited to share recent news of events and happenings. Other reports will appear in the Minutes.

Phil Curtis spoke about the potential loss of the old Northampton Bus Depot in St James which was originally built as a tram shed in the 1880s. It was recently put up for sale for redevelopment and there is a campaign to save it. A leaflet giving more details was handed out. Work is ongoing to remove and sort the large collection of files and ledgers so that they can be deposited at the Archives.

Eleanor from Delapre Abbey gave a resume of recent successful events held over the summer.

Becky from Stanwick Lakes reported on their 3 year HLF funded projects. These include the building of a replica Iron Age building which can also double up as a classroom and the construction of 3 replica Bronze Age boats.

Sophie from Daventry Museum spoke about the recent Heritage Bus tours which also included a food market and other attractions in the town centre. Phil Curtis from Northampton Heritage Transport said this was their most successful event ever as over 3,496 travelled on the heritage buses over the weekend.

Jon-Paul finished by giving a resume of the summer events held by Rushden Museum and Irchester Parish Historical Society – both very successful.

Angela Malin

THE SHOOSMITH GALLERY

COME AND VISIT US!

The Shoosmith Gallery is a registered charity located at Delapre Abbey since January 2020, with the objective of bringing public awareness to the watercolours of **Thurston Laidlaw Shoosmith** (1865-1933), and his sister **Fanny Violet Shoosmith** (1871-1925).



The Shoosmith family made a significant contribution to wider civic society in Northampton and beyond, commencing with their father William Shoosmith (1820-1907) who set up a legal practice that steadily grew, first becoming Shoosmiths & Harrison, and then Shoosmiths LLP, a nationally established legal firm with over 1,500 staff.

'Thursie' and 'Vi' as they were known to their friends, were 'self-taught' artists, visiting many scenic settings across Britain to sketch and paint. Thursie also visited many villages and towns in continental Europe to sketch and paint, during the tranquil period leading up to the First World War (1914-18), visiting France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy. He was appointed as the first President of the Northampton Town & County Arts Society and elected to the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) in 1919.

The Shoosmith Gallery is delighted to have appointed Michael Harrison (RBA) as Patron of the Gallery. His grandfather, Frank, was the first Harrison to join the Shoosmith legal practice in 1918, followed by Michael's father, Cyril, in 1927. His uncle, Lionel, joined in 1932.

Michael was elected a member of the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) in 2021, becoming the first artist from Northamptonshire to be elected, since Thursie in 1919.

If you would like to arrange a visit to the gallery and see a good selection of watercolours by both artists, we would love to hear from you!

Please email us at: info@shoosmithgallery.org / Our website is: www.shoosmithgallery.org

Mrs Paula Allen, Interim Chief Executive

If you have spare copies of the Forum Booklet that you think you won't use before a new one is published in the Spring of next year, please email us as we have members asking for copies.

and

Please check your entry on the Forum Website to make sure it is up to date. This information will be used for the new Forum Booklet.

Please email us with any corrections.

northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

GENERAL SECRETARY (PART TIME)

Northamptonshire Record Society is an educational charity with about 450 members. You can read about what we do by visiting our website:

www.northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk

We are looking for an energetic person to provide administrative support and work with the trustees in driving the Society forward. A background in governance and charity issues will be most helpful, as will experience of a members' organisation. An interest in local history would be welcome but is not a requirement.

The workload will vary over the course of a year but is likely to be an average of about seven hours per week. Some of the work will be at our office at Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BQ, but there will also be scope for home working. We envisage that the General Secretary will be an employee, but we are willing to consider different contractual arrangements if they are appropriate.

Interested? Please contact us by email for a detailed Job Description:

enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Sunday 19th November 2023

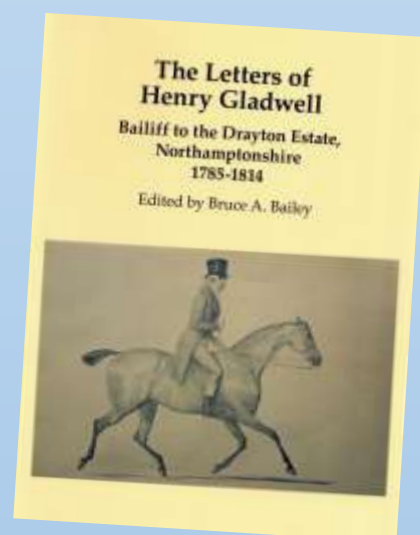


The latest book to be published by the Record Society has just arrived from the printers – *The Letters of Henry Gladwell*. He served as the Bailiff to the Drayton estate, near Thrapston, from 1785 to 1814, and the book sheds a fascinating spotlight on life in the villages around that part of the county.

The book costs £20. The Society's 450 members receive a copy as part of their annual subscription (£20 per annum), together with a copy of the Society's annual journal, *Northamptonshire Past and Present*. For more information about membership of the Society or details about this book, please contact enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk.

Workshop on history writing for publication

On Saturday 2nd December the Society will be running a Workshop for local history enthusiasts, discussing the best ways of writing up research. There are many people doing fascinating research across the county, who may appreciate some guidance on how to write up their research for publication, such as in the Society's own journal, *Northamptonshire Past and Present*. Representatives from the University of Northampton and the Society will offer tips on best practice. The Workshop is free to attend; it will be held in the Society's Library at Wootton Hall Park, 10am to Noon. Please email the Society to book a place. enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk.



SIKH MUSEUM NORTHAMPTON

Sikh-Punjabi Heritage - Tours | Talks | Teas

Talks on the Sikh Faith, What happens in a Gurdwara, Q&A session, followed by an instrumental meditation session. Guests are then provided with a guided tour of the Sikh Museum Northampton which houses exhibitions on Sikh Equality Values, heritage objects and art. The exhibitions consist of: Sikh Identity; Sikhs in World War I; Sikh Weddings; Sikh Music; Inspirational Sikh Women from the 16th Century. Punjabi heritage exhibition includes Princess Sophia Duleep Singh (Suffragette) and Punjabi history. Learn about our equality values led services that support communities to break down barriers of inequality (socio, gender, faith, and health), services such as SCCYC Food Aid and try out our tantalising teas.



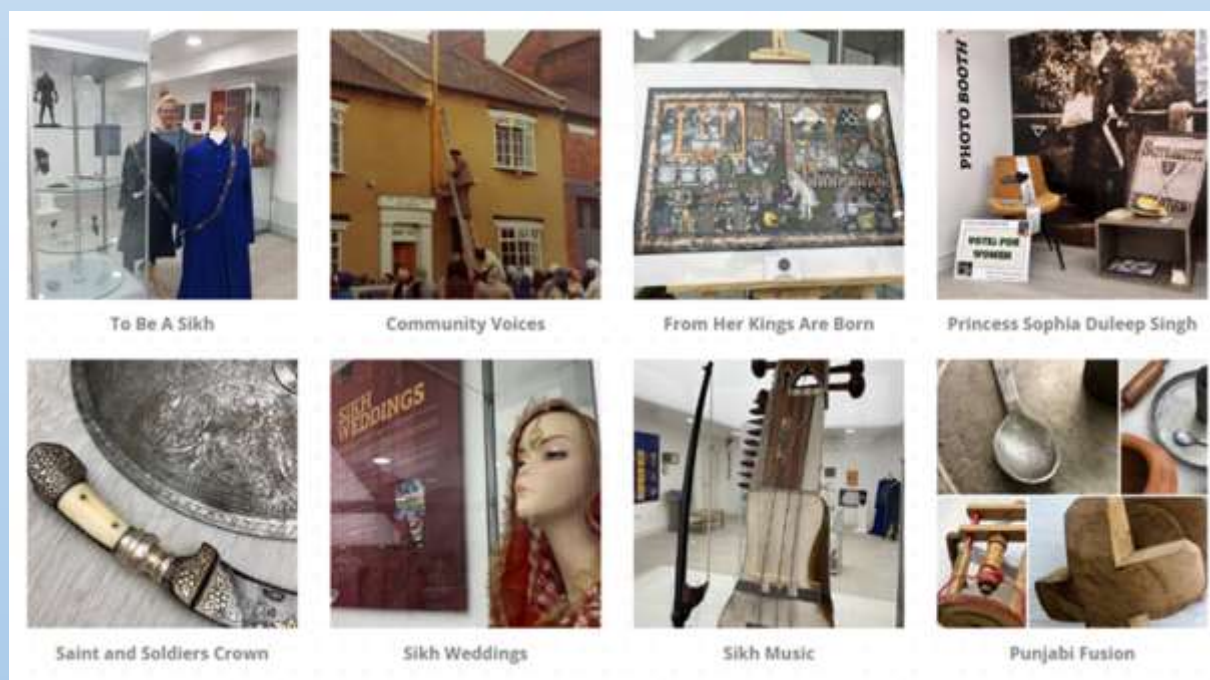
Facilitated Group Tours (£2.50 each, minimum 5 people)

Punjabi Teas in our Punjabi café area – Separate Menu

All Profit is dedicated to SCCYC Food Aid.

Email: info@sccyc.co.uk Text: 07770 088568

Website Sikh Museum Northampton | SCCYC Waterside Connect



To Be A Sikh

Community Voices

From Her Kings Are Born

Princess Sophia Duleep Singh

Saint and Soldiers Crown

Sikh Weddings

Sikh Music

Punjabi Fusion

Diverse communities attended the Gurdwara and the Sikh Museum tours and talks to learn about the Sikh Faith and core values at the **Heritage Open Day** on September 17th



Bandhi Chorr Deevas (Diwali)

Half Term Holiday Club

Friday 27th October 2023, 9:30am – 3:30pm

Following the most successful Summer and half term holiday clubs, we have organised an October Special to learn about Bandhi Chorr Deevas. There will be clay Deeva making, candle decorations, cards, Bandhi Chorr story, film showing with popcorn, cake decorating, games, sport and lunch is included! Thank you to Kirpa Kaur for the learning resources.

Pindy Kaur, Development Manager

GURDWARA
SRI GURU NANAK NAGAR
NORTHAMPTON

SCCYC
SOUTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
YOUTH CENTRE

HOLIDAY CLUB

Bandhi Chhor Diwas

Friday, 27 Oct 2023
10:00am to 3:30pm

- Bandhi Chorr Story Kirtan & Simran
- Film Show & Pop Corn
- Clay Deeva Making
- Card Making & Colouring
- Diwali Sweets Decorating
- Fun, Games, and Lunch Provided

Under 5 years must be accompanied by a parent/guardian that is 18yrs or over.

E: info@sccyc.co.uk T: 01604 475802 M: 07770 088568
Address: 35-37 St James' Mill Rd, Northampton. NN5 5JW

HIGHAM FERRERS TOURISM

Bowled over by the “beautiful tapestry” that is Higham Ferrers

Higham Ferrers might well be a beautiful medieval market town steeped in history, but there is always something new going on.

Some of the town’s activities are now on show at the Discover Northamptonshire shop at Rushden Lakes, which focuses on regional culture, tourism and heritage. A new display by Higham Ferrers Tourism, outlining the recent work of local volunteers, has just been unveiled and makes for fascinating viewing.



The showcase display tells how the Tourism Committee has just released a guide to the town’s Blue Plaque sites, how it involved children in King Charles’ Coronation celebrations and traces activities at the medieval Duchy Barn Garden in the heart of the town. Two Heritage Forum Awards are also on display, one awarded to Higham Ferrers Tourism and the other to the Friends of St Mary’s, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Grade 1 listed buildings in the town.

A mitre head dress on the top shelf is a reminder that the town’s most famous son was Henry Chichele, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1443. Chichele founded the local Chichele College, the Bede House as well as the world-famous All Souls College, Oxford.

Two replica Roman Samian-ware bowls, which were personally commissioned by Olwen Mayes, chair of the Higham Ferrers Archaeology and Research Society (HiFars), also take pride of place.

As Olwen explains in the story about the Dragendorff Form 37 Samian bowls, they represent a journey of a lifetime for her. The project from start to finish took nine years and “I’m so happy and proud to be able to share it with our local community.”

She explains that the decoration is based on original decorated sherds uncovered by the Oxford Archaeology Unit and a local resident at the Roman excavation in Kings Meadow Lane in Higham Ferrers “and I spent many happy hours researching who might have designed the wonderful decoration...and had the incredible talent to transfer that skill to making the bowl and how it was done”. Inspired by her findings, she travelled to Lezoux in central France, where Gerard Moria was making various styles of Samian pots.

Earlier this year she returned to France where she commissioned Arnau to create the replicas. She was able to film the whole process of the bowls being made on the wheel. Now a talk which will include the film footage and her personal experiences about her trip to Leroux is being drafted and information on the date and venue will appear on the HiFARS website.

In a quote by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Morcea Walker, which is on display, she notes: “The presence of its most famous son Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury and an Advisor to King Henry V...the

buildings, shops, sites of interest – including the market square, events all year round - helps to create a beautiful tapestry that is Higham Ferrers. I learn something new every time I go there and that is the joy of this town.”

Meanwhile, Sarah Scott, the Professor of Archaeology at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, refers to “special people and places revealed through a heritage trail, fascinating connections with continental potters past and present...Compelling stories of curiosity, kindness and collaboration which are having a profound impact on people of all ages...So inspiring!”

Professor Peregrine Horden of All Souls College, Oxford, also says he is always “so impressed by all the educational work being done in Chichele College and the warmth of the local community”.

Carol Fitzgerald, Chair of Chichele

Friends of St Mary’s celebrate with a Gilbert & Sullivan Extravaganza

The Bede House was packed to the rafters for an evening of celebration to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of St. Mary’s, generously sponsored by Wilson Browne solicitors. In the presence of our special guest, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Morcea Walker MBE, the audience was treated to an evening of the biting wit and enchanting music of Gilbert and Sullivan by The Wandering Minstrels. Morceau states;

“A Gilbert and Sullivan Extravaganza” and it certainly was! Thank you to the Friends who staged a most wonderful evening presented by The Wandering Minstrels who were so entertaining. Hard not to join in the singing as my school days came rushing back to me but my feet were definitely tapping! Well done to everyone for putting together such a well attended and joyful evening ,”

Decked out in period costume and with an array of props, the five singers, their pianist and lighting manager presented a programme from Gilbert and Sullivan’s famed comic operas. With words by W. S. Gilbert and music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, the programme featured songs from the Mikado, HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, The Yeoman of the Guard, Iolanthe, The Sorcerer and The Gondoliers.

It is the first time that the Wandering Minstrels have visited the town and it won’t be the last, given the obvious enjoyment of both the audience and the entertainers. Tim Hurst Brown, the artistic director, commented that “everything went splendidly and I think the audience enjoyed themselves too, so a good time was had by all!”

Profits from this event go towards the restoration of the Bede House roof to include our next exciting project, to restore the charming bell cot above the Bede House entrance and restore the bell to working order as in times past.



THE ROYAL ORDNANCE DEPOT WEEDON BEC VISITOR CENTRE

Many people fleeing conflict and/or persecution now live in the UK and I am sure NHF member organisations have welcomed some of them to their site or group. The Weedon Depot Visitor Centre is no exception with, in the main, Ukrainian refugees stepping over our threshold to embrace the heritage of their new home.

One Sunday afternoon in August three burly gentlemen arrived, one in camouflage combat dress with a familiar yellow and blue flag on his sleeve. Long story short, they were serving Ukrainian soldiers on a day off from being



taught over here to drive and maintain a fleet of British light tanks bound for the front lines. All very hush-hush! They did not speak English and we and their accompanying British hosts did not speak Ukrainian! We sort of explained the Depot's story to them with Apple Translate and a tour of the beautifully restored defensive Bastion on site. Some pantomime marching and rifle drill to much laughter along the ramparts by your correspondent helped communicate the concept of sentry duty by soldiers long ago. Now back in Ukraine, we wish the three of them well.

We have also welcomed Ksenia from Ukraine who came to the VC as a visitor and became a volunteer! Interacting with us and our visitors has seen her spoken English improve, though sadly not our Ukrainian! We have also gained several home-grown and equally keen new recruits, allowing us to increase the days and hours we are open.

Like so many others, The Depot hosted a Heritage Open Day in September with Home Guard re-enactors, members of Northamptonshire Antique Firearms Society and our volunteer Jay, staging fascinating displays. We also had a tank, the very same type being supplied to Ukraine and generously loaned from a secret source. It's not what you know but who!

Teas and cakes, baked by new volunteer Sandra, were served and with visitors 'too many to count' the event was declared a success. 17-year old Depot volunteer and Army Cadet Ewan stopped the show with a perfect and poignant Last Post and Reveille on the Cornet. And on that note (see what I did there?) can we also congratulate Ewan recently winning an Army university scholarship AND a place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. No doubt helped by a deserved good reference from the VC! It's not how you volunteer but where!

For more information or to arrange a visit to the Depot please contact me:

Steve Larner, Volunteer

07790 244542 y.larner@btinternet.com

78 DERNGATE

Traditional crafts, contemporary design

We are delighted to be hosting a group of designer makers from The Oxfordshire Craft Guild in our galleries at 78 Derngate – The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House – from October 14th to Friday 22nd December. Exhibiting a wide range of diverse styles, techniques and materials, the group has created a fantastic display which works extremely well across our extended gallery spaces.



The Oxfordshire Craft Guild provides a focus for quality craftsmanship in Oxfordshire and nearby. Membership is open to makers of proven ability in a wide range of crafts.

They make and sell unique pieces which are beautiful and useful, encouraging innovation and the development of the members' creative skills. Ideas are shared and the guild works in partnership with artists and other organisations across Oxfordshire and beyond.

All work is for sale – ideal for unique and unusual gifts... and why not combine a visit to the house, gardens and shop whilst you're here checking out the Guild's work!

<https://www.ocg.co.uk> IG @oxfordshirecraftguild

We are so pleased to announce that our magnificent extension to the rear of 78 Derngate, The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House, has reached the final for a prestigious local business awards.

The two-storey, glass-sided structure and garden extension innovative renovation project has been shortlisted for the **Northamptonshire Business Excellence Awards** in their Land and Development Award and Innovation category.

The £950,000 project which was funded by private donations and fund-raising efforts plus a huge injection of monies from The Towns Fund via West Northamptonshire Council's Regeneration Team, is now fully open to the public and stands magnificently at the gateway to the town's Cultural Quarter.

Liz Jansson, House Manager at 78 Derngate, said:

"It was a great pleasure to welcome Darren Henley, CEO of Arts Council England, to officially open this wonderful extension back in early July. We are thrilled with it and are settling in well to our enhanced surroundings! Visitors will thoroughly enjoy the added spaces inside and out, which already feel harmonious with the original heritage buildings and we are delighted to have been shortlisted among some other brilliant projects."

Cllr Dan Lister, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth at WNC, said:

"We are thrilled to see that the remarkable renovation works at 78 Derngate have made it to the Northamptonshire Business Excellence Awards shortlist. The house, which was remodelled by the renowned



architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh is truly one-of-a-kind and a testament to Mackintosh's genius, showcasing his influence on early 20th Century style in our country. With its striking design and unique charm, it has become a draw for tourists and enthusiasts alike. Being shortlisted for the Innovation Award not only acknowledges the careful restoration and preservation of this architectural gem but also highlights its contribution to the local economy and cultural landscape. It is also a testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by the entire team involved in 78 Derngate's renovation.”

The Northamptonshire Business Excellence Awards take place on Thursday 9th November at the County Cricket Ground in Northampton.

Liz Jansson, House Manager

NENE RIVERS TRUST

Nene Valley Festival

The Festival this year was a great success! A huge thank you to all our partners who took part this year and hosted events. We saw over 70 activities attended by local residents and tourists to the valley alike!

This Nene Rivers Trust supported the festival by launching the ‘Nene Valley Explorer’ badge. The badge was designed to encourage people to get out and get involved in all things Nene Valley. To collect a badge, participants just needed to take part in a Nene Valley Festival activity. Participating events included all the heritage open days, country parks and village fairs. We don’t yet have the official total, but we do know that more than 1500 badges were given out during the 9-day festival! The badges, custom designed for 2023 can still be claimed at a variety of half term events from this year’s lead ‘Explorer’ partners at Northampton Active, Stanwick Lakes, Nene Wetlands and Delapre Abbey. We are excited to be expanding this offer for next year.



We are looking forward to working with Destination Nene Valley partners for next year’s iteration of the Festival and hope to make it the best yet!

Amanda Johnson, Funding and Relationships Manager

business@neneriverstrust.org

Website: Home - [Nene Rivers Trust CIO](#)

Facebook: [neneriverstrust](#)

Twitter: [@neneriverstrust](#)



NVF event at Stanwick Lakes with Billie Pashier and Liz Williams, Stanwick Lakes and Karen Williams, Northamptonshire Hub

EARLS BARTON MUSEUM

Many visitors have enjoyed the new Village Trail we have produced for learning about what you can see exploring the village and understanding its past. Whilst in the Museum we have archives, records, photographs and census forms to help anyone researching their family background. The Museum can be visited all year round, Monday to Saturday, and we enjoy assisting with any information a visitor may be looking for. Tel: Curator Iona Flanagan [01604 811735](tel:01604811735) or email Trustee georginajeyes@yahoo.co.uk

JEYES OF EARLS BARTON

In 2006 Mark Hix, the well-known chef, wrote *British Regional Food*. The chapter on The Midlands features Northamptonshire – however it is sadly devoid of a single recipe or product!

Today in 2023 Northamptonshire boasts award-winning gin, beers, wine, cheeses, chutneys, jam, ice-cream, even charcuterie – all produced by dedicated Northamptonshire artisans.

Finding the original family recipe of **“Jeyes’s Northamptonshire Sauce – produced and sold by Philadelphus Jeyes in 1855”** we recreated The Sauce, with the help of local Friars Farm. At Jeyes of Earls Barton we have proudly displayed the history of The Sauce, using the Northamptonshire flag, our antique pharmacy pestles and mortars used to make the original sauce at Philadelphus Jeyes in The Drapery, Northampton. Other Forum members, Chester Park Estate, Delapre Abbey, Northampton Museum & Art Gallery have similar displays too. Jeyes’s Northamptonshire Sauce has become a “county treasure!”

We have supported Rachel Mallows as “Made in Northampton” for many years, celebrating local products without our own brand to display. However, entering the spirit of National Heritage weeks in September with the county flag, banner and leaflets, our stand promoted the complete range of Jeyes’s Northamptonshire Sauce products, our Heritage Centre and Museums in Earls Barton..



Georgina spent the day at The Heritage Fair at Abington Park Museum along side historical venues, churches, transport, crafts, and heritage groups stands – a good day for old style “chatting, meeting and greeting!”

Pip with April, Anna with Georgia attended The Northamptonshire Good Food and Drink Festival at Kettering Park Hotel, supporters of our county. A good day for modern “networking promoting and flying the Northamptonshire flag!”



A special thank you to Janet who helped organise the Heritage Fair and Simon and Marie from NNBN who organised the Festival.

We look forward to Heritage Weeks, 2024.

Georgina Jeyes

SPRATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We had last-minute problems with our AGM this summer when bees took over one the walls of the Village Hall. For the first time that anyone is aware of, many of the swarm somehow entered the Village Hall. Many died and the Hall had to be closed temporarily for safety reasons.

We left the Hall to the bees and moved to St Andrew's Church for the AGM and were able to make use of their splendid new technology for the speaker's presentation. We were grateful to the church for letting us use the venue and their new digital equipment at short notice.

We have a number of projects in the pipeline. Firstly our latest book is to be published this autumn : a history of our local primary school which is 200 years old!

Secondly, we are preparing a publication/website entry showing our research into the 1921 census for Spratton and the differences in the village since the 1911 census.

Finally, at the suggestions of our local shop, we are investigating the possibility of producing some postcards of the village. We have plenty of photographs, both old and present day, but need to investigate printers. Have any other organisations experience of producing postcards for sale?

Enid Jarvis, Chair

jarvis.enid@btinternet.com

www.sprattonhistory.org



Bees, who have been living quite happily for years in the walls of Spratton Village Hall, this year decided to swarm. The Hall had to be closed while the bees were 'persuaded' to go elsewhere by beekeepers.

The deadline for the next edition of the Newsletter is

Sunday 14 January 2024

NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery volunteers win an award

The Northampton Museum and Art Gallery museum **Volunteer Military Archive and Research Team** have won a national award. They were highly commended for the **Volunteers for Museum Learning Award** issued by the Marsh Trust in conjunction with the British Museum. The six volunteers make the military archive of objects and documents relating to the Northamptonshire Regiment and the Northamptonshire Yeomanry accessible by answering family history queries alongside book and other research enquiries. They support visits to the collection – in January the new recruits from C-Company Anglian Regiment visited to see the Victoria Crosses held by the museum and the volunteers were on hand to provide support.

Volunteers support each other with different skills and expertise and meet every week at the museum. In 2022 they answered 148 external and internal enquiries with 2016 hours volunteering and received lots of fantastic compliments and occasionally made people cry with happiness! If you have an enquiry about the military collections or a military ancestor or would like to donate an object to the collection contact the team at the museum.

The British Museum and the Marsh Charitable Trust have been working in partnership for the fifteenth year through the Volunteers for Museum Learning award which recognises the hugely important contribution that volunteers make to help museums engage with their visitors. The Volunteers for Museum Learning award forms part of a programme of awards presented by the Marsh Charitable Trust in the fields of science, ecology, conservation, heritage, literature and volunteering. Do consider entering volunteer teams from your organisation next year.



The 80th anniversary of the World War II D-Day landings and Operation Market Garden on the Normandy coast is on 6th June 2024. To mark the occasion Northampton Museums and Art Gallery are creating a commemorative exhibition in four Northamptonshire locations. The libraries at Brackley, Daventry, Towcester and Weston Favell will each host two exhibition cabinets to be filled with Northamptonshire stories, objects and memories of D-Day and its immediate aftermath. The exhibition will be organised by the following themes:

Telling the story of home and away the project will emphasise the Northamptonshire connection to the international event D-Day. It will look at those serving in the theatre of war and the impact on the home front.

- Northamptonshire Yeomanry at Normandy and their families supporting the war effort on the home front
- Northamptonshire airfields, the RAF and the Jedburgh teams and their families supporting the war effort on the home front
- Northamptonshire people in the armed forces at Normandy and their families supporting the war effort on the home front
- Northamptonshire Regiment soldiers seconded and active in D-Day

- Homefront support to those involved and the impact on civilian life
- A snapshot of what was happening in Northamptonshire on D-Day

The project wants to connect with local people and their family stories of D-Day. If you or anyone you know has a D-Day story or memorabilia, please do get in touch. There are also opportunities for members of volunteers to help with research, collecting people's stories, events, and creating the exhibition.

Email museums@westnorthants.gov.uk or jane.seddon@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Jane Seddon, Collections Manager

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery's temporary exhibition **Punk: Rage & Revolution** has proved to be roaring success, attracting several reviews from local journalists and writers. Andrew J Brooksbank, author of *From Arthaus to Bauhaus 1972-1979*, said of the exhibition:

'This is a very well put together collection of punk rock and post-punk history from both the capital and the local scene, it's hard to imagine that those of us who were there nearly half a century ago would see our coming-of-age now housed in glass cabinets. Glenn Campling, Tones On Tail bassist and former Bauhaus road crew member summed it up rather tactfully, "I'm now a museum piece!"'

Sara Ward of *NN Journal* said of the museum: 'It is a venue worthy of a big city and one which Northampton should be beyond proud. If you do one cultural thing this month, make it this exhibition.'

Highlights of the exhibition include:

'A 1970s living room [...] recreated alongside a giant 'Filth and the Fury' Daily Mirror headline from 2nd December 1976 whilst the now legendary (in Northampton) Acme versus Russians pie fight fills a vintage TV set, now restored, again, this was filmed back then by Graham Bentley.'



And 'Northampton's premier record store, SPINADISC, which used to be situated on Abington Street now has its shop front recreated with the original signage and window display full of period record sleeves, whilst an original framed Damned poster looks on.'



The town's pivotal alternative clothes shop ACME, a former workplace of many future Northampton musicians including Dave Exton (The Submerged Tenth, The Craze) and Bauhaus drummer Kevin Haskins also earns itself a place in history here.' (Andrew Brooksbank, September 2023)

The exhibition will be on display at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery until 3 March 2024. Admission is free.

Northampton Museums & Art Gallery | Guildhall Road | Northampton | NN1 1DP
 Tel: **01604 837282**
www.northamptonmuseums.com www.westnorthants.gov.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We continue with our programme of online meetings and details of our programme can be found on our website. Our next online talk is One Place & One Name Studies, of interest whether you are a beginner or a more experienced researcher. Branch meetings are held at Kettering and Weston Favell and are open to all. See: www.northants-fhs.org/



We attended the **Heritage Fair at Abington Park** Museum in September and were kept busy all day talking to visitors and answering family history queries. It was good to see so many different groups participating!

We will be taking part in the **FHF Really Useful Family History Show** in November. Friday is set aside for visitors to chat to local family history societies covering their area of interest. On the Saturday is a wide range of practical workshops – visit the show website to find out more. www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



We are looking forward to our **One-Day Conference in 2024**, to be held at **Delapre Abbey on Saturday 28 September** – more details will appear in the next newsletter. This is open to all.

Publications

If you looking for something different for a Christmas present, why not have a look at our range of family history books and memorial inscription booklets.

The full list of available titles can be purchased from the Parish Chest website <https://www.pari chest.com/northamptonshire-fhs-3500.php>

Visit our website: www.northants-fhs.org

To assist researchers, we have added many downloadable guides and resources on topics such as workhouses, hospitals, cemeteries, maps, non-conformity and more to our website. These can be found under the County Resources section. Additionally, each month we add a new blog under the Spotlight page covering different topics or stories. Do have a look!

Angela Malin, Chair

chairman@northants-fhs.org

info@northants-fhs.org

[Northants-FHS | Facebook](#)

A poster for the Northamptonshire Family History Society Christmas membership offer. It features a map of Northamptonshire and a list of benefits including monthly online meetings, a quarterly journal, and access to archives. The offer is for 18 months of membership for only £15, valid from 27 November 2023 to 2 January 2024.

Northamptonshire Family History Society
Christmas membership offer!

Join us today! 18 months membership for only £15

- Monthly online meetings (for members only) & branch meetings at Kettering & Northampton (open to all)
- Quarterly journal and monthly email newsletter
- Members' only area with back copies of journals, resources and databases - an added benefit of your membership
- Memorial Inscription booklets (over 200 parishes available to purchase)
- We have extensive knowledge of the county, the Archives and resources
- Monthly help desk at Northants Archives

Visit our website: www.northants-fhs.org for more information on how to apply for this special Christmas offer

Offer valid 27 November 2023 - 2 January 2024
Membership commences January 2024 - Offer valid for new memberships only

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHIVES SERVICE

Introducing Liz Yamada, Archive Conservation Officer

Hello, I'm Liz Yamada, the conservator at Northamptonshire Archives Service, appointed at the beginning of January this year. I finished my Masters degree in paper conservation back in 1996 and since then I've worked for a range of universities, local authorities and private conservation companies around Britain, from Dundee to London, with plenty of stops in between. My training focused on conserving art on paper (prints, drawings and watercolours) but I soon realised that I much preferred archives and the satisfaction of helping to reveal stories that had not been heard before.

Although Northamptonshire Archives has a well-equipped workshop, there hasn't been a conservator in post for several years, so my first job was to blow off the cobwebs, take stock and get an overview of the combined collections as quickly as possible.

The best way to do this is to carry out a sample survey of the total holdings. My archivist colleague, Victoria and I, assessed just over 400 items (mathematically selected) to get an overview of the whole. This gave me a fascinating introduction to the range of material in Northamptonshire Archives from 12th century deeds to 20th century videos, and an idea of condition and the level of packaging. And the results? Well, it's given us plenty of statistics to include in our Accreditation application and I won't be running out of work any time soon!

With so many items in need of treatment and a limited number of hours in the day, prioritising is essential. My practical treatments are mostly focused on cleaning and repairing items in popular collections such as wills, St Crispin's Hospital and Poor Law records that cannot currently be accessed because they are mould damaged or too fragile to be handled by researchers.

I am also looking at 20th century media, such as microfilms, audio tapes and cine-films. Most paper and parchment collections will remain stable if they are left on a shelf, in a box, in a cool, dry environment, but 20th century media are mostly a range of plastics which will degrade relatively quickly in a 'normal' environment. If we don't have a strategy for digitising some of this material it could be lost forever. The problem, especially with videos and audio tapes, is that you sometimes have to pay for copies before you know whether the content is of any interest.

One collection I have been assessing with a view to digitisation, is the Ismay/Smee film collection, which is a large collection of negatives and cine-films taken at Haselbech Hall and around the world in the 1930s and 40s by Constance Matilda Ismay and Dr Dora Smee. The tantalising titles range from 'Mandalay to Rangoon' and 'Australian Railway Kalgoorlie' to 'The Camp at Haselbech (war time)' and 'Ankle competition at Fete'.



Before and after mould removal

Ensuring good handling and storage is another essential element of preserving archive collections and I repackage a lot of items that are difficult to handle in their current format. I also monitor the temperature and humidity in the repositories and monitor insect pests to ensure that we do not have an outbreak of woodworm or clothes moths.

These preventative measures also apply to the personal collections that most people store at home and I hope to be offering a workshop for members of the public at some point, with advice and practical solutions for preserving family history collections for future generations, so watch this space!



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](https://twitter.com/NorthantsPast)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As you know, it was announced at the AGM that I would be standing down as Editor of this Newsletter. We were lucky enough to find a new editor, Shanna, who produced the July edition, but unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Shanna is unable to continue. We wish her well for the future.

We are therefore once again looking for a new editor.

All copy is provided by our members, and as you can see, there is no shortage of material. I am happy to discuss the production of the Newsletter with anyone who is interested in taking it on.

Please get in touch: nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com

Janet Lawrence

ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Saturday 8th July 2023 - Visit to The Weedon Depot

20 of us met at the Weedon Depot for a tour of the complex. What a fascinating place with so much history. Once known as The Royal Ordnance Depot, the complex was built as a secure place to store equipment, ammunition, and weapons for use by the British Army. It was also the place to which the Royal Family would have been evacuated, should the need



have arisen. The Depot fulfilled its function from the Napoleonic Wars through to the end of National Service and serviced every major conflict in-between. There was a link from the Grand Union canal into the depot with guns coming down from Birmingham and gun powder from London. The Depot serviced the military in many campaigns and the Visitor Centre has an array of artifacts including badges found on the site dating back to the Napoleonic wars. Well worth having a guided tour.

Friday 18th August 2023 – Roade Bypass Walk

A group from RLHS and Roade Parish Council were given the opportunity to walk the new Roade Bypass before it came into use on Monday 21st August. One of the Project Managers from Winvic took us on the tour and explained all the work they had to complete to achieve a much-needed diversion of large HGVs and other traffic travelling on the busy A508 away from the village. The major job for Winvic was the installation of a new bridge over the Roade railway cutting built in 1838 (details of which can be found in “Cutting Remarks”, which is for sale on our website www.roaderemembered.org.uk)



Wednesday 27th September 2023 - “Queen Eleanor of Castile – a cycle through history”

Andrew Tennet gave us a super presentation regarding the life and influence of Queen Eleanor of Castile, her links to Northampton and her impact on many of the things that we take for granted in our everyday lives. For



example, she introduced carpets and curtains, plus tableware. She was an extraordinary woman who married King Edward the First at the age of 12 and travelled with him on military campaigns. By all accounts they were devoted to each other, and they were crowned together in 1274. She also had a shrewd business mind buying lands and loans including Leeds Castle with her annual sole income of £3000. Andrew then took us on his cycle journey raising money for charity following Queen Eleanor’s funeral journey from Harby to Lincoln Cathedral, through Northamptonshire to her final resting place at Westminster. A most enjoyable evening.

Maggie Smith, Events Secretary, RLHS

Mobile: 07300 849328

WICKSTEED PARK

On 29th July we held an award ceremony where we invited the four shortlisted designers and their families to celebrate their achievements. Katherine Perkins, managing director of Wicksteed Leisure presented the award certificates to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place.



Mia, a 10-year-old from Northampton, was the winning designer. Her design was inspired by the story Jack and the Beanstalk and even taught herself how to use CAD software to make her design! Through the autumn and winter Mia will be working with the Wicksteed Leisure team to develop her design further and make sure it is up to current safety regulations. The new piece of Playground equipment is aimed to be installed before Easter next year.

The 3rd Kettering Boys and Girls Brigade are the latest tranche of young people who have completed the Young Curators programme. This week they are installing their curated exhibition in the Learning Space. The exhibition features images of the rides that you would see if you journeyed around the park on the railway. It will be open to the public on **Oct 26th 10am- 3pm**

A new addition to Wicksteed Park is one of the elements of the @Play project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The installations consist of telescopes which feature an image from our archives which shows you how the park looked in years past. They are vibrantly painted so they stand out against the landscape. Another feature of the telescopes is the audio. There is a button you can press for commentary from Charles Wicksteed and his daughter Hilda Wicksteed telling you about the area you are standing in. The locations are the playground, precinct, railway, rose garden, fountain lawn, lake, and water chute.

Our Volunteers at Wicksteed Park are taking on the big challenge of reintroducing roses to our rose garden. On 27th September our volunteers attended specialised training to learn more about the care of roses and companion planting. The plan is to introduce climbing roses to the wall that leads up to the bandstand as well as roses in the garden itself with companion plants.



We are continuing to reach out to the community to donate oral histories to our archives. We are 9 oral histories away from our original goal of 60! If you are interested in sharing a memory with us, please contact community@wicksteedpark.org.

To volunteer at Wicksteed Park please contact Ruth Rignall at getinvolved@wicksteedpark.org.

Keep an eye on our social media for updates on upcoming workshops and exhibition opening times.

[Facebook/wicksteedparkheritage](https://www.facebook.com/wicksteedparkheritage) [Instagram/wicksteedparkheritage](https://www.instagram.com/wicksteedparkheritage)

Connor McIntyre, Community and Heritage Coordinator

community@wicksteedpark.org



DAVENTRY MUSEUM



Exhibitions

Made in Daventry and Its Surrounds

Saturday 1st July to Saturday 2nd December 2023

This exciting exhibition is inspired by people and places around Daventry. The displays explore creativity, historic crafts, and manufacturing businesses in the town and beyond.



Exhibits feature roller bearing company British Timken and Cummins, Tudor Rose Woodturners, trades including whip making and thatching, as well as visual art displays by local artist Nina Cashmore and the late Daisy Smith.

Kids can get creative with our free and fun activities including colouring in, a Made in Daventry quiz, searching for museum objects and a bee themed scavenger hunt.

Daventry During World War Two

Saturday 13th January to Friday 14th June 2024

Exhibition inspired by the 80th Anniversary of Normandy Landings (D-Day). Displays focus on Daventry Soldiers who fought on D-Day, the events leading up to D-Day and the Normandy Landings, and what life was like in wartime for those on the front, and for those at home.

Remembrance Display

Saturday 4th November to Friday 10th November

Temporary Remembrance display by local historian, Gerry Thompson. The display will reflect on the Daventry soldiers who lost their lives during World War Two.

Daventry WI will also be at the museum on Saturday 4th November from 10am to 4pm, making poppies to place on a wreath.

Events

Free Half Term Halloween Crafts

Wednesday 25th October from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Drop in anytime between 10.30am and 12.30pm to create some scary (but cute!) Halloween decorations. There will

also be the return of a Halloween themed scavenger hunt and other activities around the museum. For more details please go to <https://daventrymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/free-half-term-halloween-crafts-2/>



Press Release - Creativity Unwrapped at Daventry Museum

To mark Heritage Open Days 2023, Daventry Museum invited local creatives and crafters to join in the celebration of this year's theme, 'Creativity Unwrapped', to inspire visitors to learn new skills. This free, family-friendly event took place on Saturday 16th September and attracted just under 200 visitors to the museum.

Daventry Women's Institute (WI) celebrated WI Day at the museum with some crafty demos and opportunities for visitors to try prick and stitch cards, cross stitch, knitting and crochet.

Members of Tudor Rose Woodturners demonstrated their acrylic pen making skills and Rural Studies Teacher, Bert Manton, encouraged visitors to try their hand at Corn Dolly Making.

The museum invited its Pen Pals at Caring Kindergartens to join in the 'Creativity Unwrapped' theme and they didn't disappoint with their wonderful artwork inspired by the art of Nina Cashmore, on display in the museum. Daventry Caring Kindergartens are due to move



from their current location on London Road to Browns Road, which has inspired them to create their fabulous vision of their new home.

Nina Cashmore commented on Caring Kindergartens art project: "I'm really chuffed with these and feel highly honoured. The children have done some wonderful work and the colours are beautiful. Well done to them!"

Alongside the Pen Pal artwork and creative craft demonstrations, visitors were able to view the museum's current exhibition, 'Made in Daventry and its Surrounds', with exhibits featuring local pottery, embroidery, and local art.



Young visitors engaged with the museum's free and fun activities including colouring in, a quiz and themed scavenger hunts and wordsearches.

Daventry Town Council (DTC) and Daventry Museum partnered with Northampton Transport Heritage, who brought their classic buses to the town on the same Saturday Heritage Open Day, offering visitors free bus tours. Together with the popular DTC Daventry Foodies Market, the Town Centre was a hive of activity and visitors were treated to a full day of activities and attractions within the town.

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

Museum Opening Times:

Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm

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

STANWICK LAKES

Summer has been busy at Stanwick Lakes, with heritage projects and events in full swing!

We hosted the Nene Valley Festival and

Heritage Open Days on the 9th and 10th September which were a huge success.

We had two living history experiences set up over the weekend - Dr James Dilley from Ancient Craft set up his Bronze age living history camp showcasing the magical art of casting bronze tools, and The Bifrost Guard set up their Viking camp with hands on craft activities and demonstrations taking place for visitors to get involved in. The Northants Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers showed off their natural dyeing and spinning techniques and had many members of the public having a go. Our resident heritage blacksmith John Wills spent the weekend creating a replica Iron age "Fire Dog" and inviting the public to watch him craft.

Within the Visitor Centre we hosted the Northants Open Studios with their "Meet the Artist" weekend, and our heritage willow weaver held a two-day basket making course. There was also an array of produce and local and heritage recipes available for the public to mark the festival and celebrate the Nene Valley.

It has been a brilliant summer for all our heritage project teams. Our volunteers have spent over 2000 hours on the projects so far which is an amazing feat, and we are extremely proud to be working with such an amazing team!



Restoration of the Bronze Age Bowl Barrow

The Bronze Age Round Barrow at Stanwick Lakes is a scheduled monument, and part of our Heritage Lottery funded project includes work to maintain and protect the site so that it stays as a visible part of the landscape here for many more generations to come.

The Barrow has now been fully covered with a protective mesh that will allow the grass and wildflowers to grow through but will protect it from erosion. The new access path that now encircles the Barrow has proven very popular with the public, offering a different view over the monument. Work will continue on the general maintenance of the hedgerows and area of the Barrow throughout the Autumn, overseen by Pre-Develop Archaeology.



Bronze Age Boat Build

Volunteers have continued to work on the Big Bronze Age Boat Build.



We now have three very clear boats starting to take shape. Our main log now has a very clear prow section and the team have been working on chipping away at the inside of the boat using replica Bronze Age tools such as axes and adzes. On boat two, the volunteers have been working on various methods to burn out the inside as accurately as possible - helped by generous layering of lake silt to protect the parts that don't need burning! We are trying this method as an experiment, linking to a number of preserved Bronze

Age Boats found across Europe which appear to have used fire during construction to soften or loosen the wood during the digging out process.

Boat three is smaller and has been more difficult to shape because of a number of large knots and branch joins. This is in the process of being shaped using smaller hand tools such as chisels, as it needs much more careful work.

The volunteers will continue over the Autumn and winter, and we hope that by early 2024 we will have three fully functional replica Bronze Age Boats.

Iron-Age Settlement

The second roundhouse structure is almost complete, with volunteers now working on the willow roof structure and the settlement fencing. We are extremely lucky to have an abundance of natural resources at Stanwick Lakes, so we are making use of utilising the willow and hazel for this build.



The next stage will be the roof covering, with plans for it to be turfed later this Autumn.

We know from archaeological excavations across the British Isles that many roundhouses were turfed / grassed and that they would have utilised accessible and local materials to create their dwellings. Once the roof is complete, the roundhouse will be much more weatherproof, meaning that we can keep the roundhouse open for the public to enjoy.

We are already thinking about the types of experimental builds and crafts that we can do in this area next year – including the creation of a kiln and a four-post granary structure, linking into those found on the site during the 1980's excavations.

Weaving and Textiles and Heritage Gardens

The Northants Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers continue to explore Iron Age textiles, replicating the clothes of Huldremose Woman.

The summer has been all about natural dyeing, with the guild members experimenting with different plants and techniques to get just the right shades for the garments. The heritage barn is now full of beautiful skeins of wool in variety of bold and beautiful colours – it's safe to say that the Iron Age certainly wasn't a dull, grey time for clothing!

They have also been using the lime bast from the boat build to create cordage that will be used both on the boats themselves and in other textile projects exploring prehistoric times.

The Guild are preparing to start weaving the replica garments over the Autumn and Winter months.



Heritage Gardens- Legacy Project.

Our volunteer heritage gardeners have worked their magic over the summer, maintaining all of our heritage garden spaces, which have been very popular with visitors over the holidays! They have been concentrating on the

development of the Iron Age Garden at the roundhouse, marking out the beds and fencing and getting ready to add the first plants over Autumn.

To keep updated on the projects, visit our website:

www.stanwicklakes.org.uk/news

Dates for your diary: www.stanwicklakes.org/whats-on

October Half Term – 21st – 29th October - Including a Spooky Half Term Trail and Halloween craft activities.

Willow Lantern Workshop – 21st – 27th October

Christmas Frost Fair – 25th and 26th November

Santa's Grotto – 25th November – 23rd December

Wreath Workshops – selected dates in November and December

Yule – The Festival of Midwinter – 17th December

Lantern Walk & Lakeside Christmas Carols – 21st December.

Becky Gill, Heritage Manager

Rockingham Forest Trust, Stanwick Lakes, Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6GY

Tel: **07866476445**

RAUNDS & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

We usually meet at Raunds Library, High Street, NN9 6HT on the 1st Thursday of the month, 7 -9 pm Access & toilet for all abilities. £3 per person including refreshments. 01933 461480 or raundshistory22@gmail.com We are also on Facebook. **Our Society is on page 45 of the Heritage Forum booklet.**

November 2nd Keeping Faith at the Front during the First World War.

A fascinating talk by Helen Frost.

December 7th A history of Christmas Food. A delicious! talk by Ria Jefferies.

Saturday January 6th. Our traditional 12th Night party for our members and family.

Susan Copperwheat

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, MAREFAIR

We have been lively at St Peter's Marefair this summer.

Much new activity came with the Churches Conservation Trust [CCT].



CCT National HQ is now in Northampton, at the Vulcan Works Guildhall Road. The Office base will move into the Old Black Lion once building work is finished. A particularly happy occasion was the CCT whole staff gathering.



Venues for this conference included Holy Sepulchre church, the Guildhall and St Peter's ... Northampton's finest made a big hit. It was business with pleasure and great enthusiasm for the town's heritage.

Without doubt the highlight of the season was Heritage Open Days 2023. During the 3 open days about 400 people visited. This was a record since HODs began.

Some 80 of these visitors took part in the Old Black Lion tours. This CCT regeneration project will unite the coaching Inn with neighbouring church. Demonstrations of stone masonry and carpentry provided great interest.



It's always good to have new groups visit this magnificent 12th century building.

Recently we welcomed The Wellingborough Archaeological and Historical Society. Such enthusiastic visitors are a joy.

The Northampton Indian Hindu Welfare Society came to us as one of their regular Chai and Chat meetings. Delicious homemade food for lunch arrived with the group. Tea was taken. Next on the menu was a talk about the early history of this part of town. Then a walk around the building ended a most happy occasion.

A visit from one of the many groups in the thriving Northampton U3A has established a good link with their members interested in local history and architecture.

If you or your would like to come along just contact us to fix it by emailing stpetermarefair@gmail.com

As autumn approaches our volunteer gardeners will turn their attention to preparing for a new planting along the east boundary wall. This year's target of introducing more pollinators has worked so well. Roses, salvias and cranesbill Roseanne gave us our blue and white theme. A bee population duly appeared and were clearly busy.

It's very satisfying to see that the enhanced number of visitors were not the only ones buzzing about and bringing Marefair to life.

We always welcome new members and anyone interested in volunteering. St Peter's is one of those places that makes people happy.

For details see our webpage <http://www.fostp.org.uk> Friend's contact no. 07522 792 392

Jean Hawkins, Chairman

JOHN BUCKELL—SPEAKER

John offers the following talks:

Slavery and Anti-slavery in Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire's connection with slavery in the Caribbean and the national campaign to abolish it.

The Women's Suffrage Movement in Northampton or Wellingborough and Kettering

The story of our local suffragettes and suffragists and how they related to the national movement

Margaret Bondfield

Pioneering woman trade unionist and socialist. Northampton's first woman MP and the first woman cabinet minister.

Northampton Conscientious Objectors in World War I

The story of the 60 men from Northampton who refused to fight on grounds of conscience. (In some cases there may be an option to extend this to other parts of the county).

Hastings Lees-Smith - Northampton's Forgotten MP

Soldier, peace campaigner, champion of women's rights, Lees-Smith's political career mirrors the first half of the 20th Century.

johnbuckell@btinternet.com

01604 620367

69 Cavendish Drive, Northampton, NN3 3HL

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

This year's **Ride & Stride** event took place on Saturday 9th September, one of the hottest days in recent months. It's too soon to tell how many people took part by walking or cycling between churches or manning them, or how much sponsor money was raised, but many made an effort to avoid the heat, by starting and finishing earlier than planned, or adopting extra headwear, such as hats or tea towels, for protection from the sun.

The **Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust Annual Report for 2022**, containing several articles and other news, is now available to download, free, from <https://www.nhct.org.uk/Main/AnnualReports>

Vacancy for Honorary Treasurer: Eddie Byland, our very effective and long-standing Treasurer, has recently announced that he will be retiring next April, and so someone is needed to take over. Please contact Andrew Presland (01933 316927) or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more details.

Andrew Presland, Trustee

NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORT HERITAGE

Recent months have been a busy period (as always at this time of year) for Northampton Transport Heritage with members events that we travel to with our vehicles but also (now) our three main events.

What has become a regular fixture in the calendar, now, is Buses Festival at Sywell organised by the Key publishing of "Buses" magazine. As, arguably, the foremost "local" preservation group we now have a regular spot at this festival with pride of place at the top of the line of vehicles! Now in its second year at Sywell Aerodrome, moving from Gaydon Motor Museum, the weather has been very kind both years which has been boosted people and vehicles attending, though, it has to be said the heat did keep numbers a bit lower this year. We brought five vehicles along, three of which provided free trips for visitors.

Next up was the annual, and much looked forward to Heritage Open Days events. Again due to extreme heat, passenger numbers were down this year but we still enjoyed good patronage with an interesting lineup of vehicles.

On the second weekend of HOD's we took over Daventry town centre for the now annual Daventry Heritage bus rides. This was our second visit to Daventry, after the big success of 2022. This year though was even busier and we smashed our ridership figures by around 600 people! We recorded an incredible 3496 passenger journeys on our free services! We also recorded some very useful donations that will help defray our costs. The success of this event could not be achieved without our fantastic volunteers but also the wonderful team at Daventry Town Council, in particular AJ and Carrie. They have a real can do, want to attitude and we manage to work out most, if any problems. We have already had a post event debrief with a view to convening in the new year to discuss next years event which will be now be on a different weekend in September, Saturday 7th.

As well as planning for events and maintenance of

vehicles other items also occupy our minds, such as archiving and preservation of, not just documents, but structures as well! In this case the St James Tram Car Sheds and Omnibus Depot. A lot of work had been done ten years ago in terms of campaigning to protect the building, when First Bus closed their operation and sold the building to Church's via the Borough Council. Back then we also secured a large amount of records of Northampton Corporation Tramways/Transport which have had in storage since. Recently, with the acquiescence of Church's, we have been back up in the loft of the 1933 office building to finish the job! We have secured the acquisition of approximately twenty-three bags/boxes of documents. These will now have to be sifted to ascertain what is relevant, can be kept (legally) and what will need to be disposed of. Our archiving officer, Neil Farmer, is leading on this project with the guidance of Northamptonshire Records office and assistance of other knowledgeable volunteers. We have secured a room at Doddridge Centre for the purpose with generous donations from the St James Residents' Association, NTH members and the general public. This will give us six months as a base to carry out the project. However, we would very much like to stay there for a much longer period and have this as our office and archiving centre. We do not currently have any premises of our own.

We are in the process of applying for funding to complete the project and make our records accessible to the wider public. If you feel that you could help by either giving your time or you would like to make a financial contribution, then please get in touch by contacting Neil at archives@ntheritage.org or visit our fundraising page at www.ntheritage.org where a link can be found to make a donation.

We mentioned structures, and of course our fabulous Tram Depot/Bus/Garage is currently under threat. It has now been sold (STC) but there is some conjecture as to who has actually purchased the site or if Church's have changed their mind and sold it to someone else! The

dichotomy is, one apparently wants to keep the building (a multi-national company) and use it for storage, the other initially wanted to flatten the site to build social housing. Obviously any scheme that involves reusing the

So, if we find vision and a will to create something really special, we could have a first class visitor attraction for the town and county that brings one of the towns historic buildings into the twenty-first century with new



uses and a bright future. Of course, we would like to see a portion (if not all) of the building converted to a large exhibit transport museum. Northants currently does not have any such facility. Our museums are not capable of housing such exhibits and it is what people like to see. Just take a look around the country to see other examples. These are real visitor attractions.

If you would like to know more or wish to help with our

structure helps with our aims. We are completely opposed to any scheme that proposes complete demolition. NTH does not want to preserve the building in aspic and preserve every detail, we feel that the building could lend itself to imaginative conversion, such as happens in other towns and cities. Indeed Northampton's twin town of Marburg has allowed a marvellous transformation of a former locomotive roundhouse, that lay derelict for many years.

campaign, then please visit our website, facebook page (Save St James Tram & Bus Depot) or **email** savethedepot@ntheheritage.org

In any event we are currently preparing an application to Historic England for a listing designation in order to achieve the protection this building sorely needs.

Graham Croucher, Chairman

It is now the "Lokshoppen" with shops, café, restaurant, offices and hot desking. Even the former turntable has found a new use as a water feature/paddling pool!

MADE WITH MANY

Wellingborough Stories Festival 2023: Volcanoes, Seagulls and all

Blog by Tom Briggs (Producer at Made With Many)

At Made With Many we know that there are stories in our communities that are at risk of never being told, nor garnering the attention they deserve.

The best stories are sometimes the ones that reflect our experiences and sometimes they are the ones that surprise and delight us. How could we ever have known that several of our neighbours lost their home to a volcano, or that one accidentally stole a bomb or that another has her own flock of seagulls (you may, in fairness, have noticed the seagulls?)

Wellingborough Stories Festival was created to celebrate all of our stories, the little ones we share about the places we miss, the people we loved and the extraordinary achievements often going unremarked upon.

In May 2023 three venues across Wellingborough partnered with us to celebrate some of the stories that we have been gathering since 2019, when we started working in Wellingborough. What started with interviewing residents as part of South Asian Heritage Project during the Covid-19 lockdowns has become a project interested in embracing everyone's journeys to and within Wellingborough.

Three artists were commissioned to make new artworks that reflect the breadth of stories gathered. Ruth Pigott created five short puppetry films about the lives of Wellingborough residents taking on subjects as diverse as wartime Wellingborough to living with disability. Makers of Imaginary Worlds created an interactive living room in a unit in the Swansgate Shopping Centre that told residents' stories, based on how you interacted with the furniture. Illustrator Kremena Demitrova worked with residents and school children to create huge collages that are still decorating the Swansgate Centre now (you can go and see them in some of the shop windows).

By the end of the month over 19,000 people had engaged with local heritage in person and thousands more online. Most excitingly lots of participants brought their own stories to include, from drawing diagrams of the Stewart & Lloyds Ironworks, to sharing memories of old buildings and old friends. The festival ended officially in May, there are several lovely films made during the project you can find on our website (at www.madewithmany.org/wellingborough-stories) and a publication on the way which will share some of the oral histories collected alongside the artworks.



Equally, we know that there are so many more Wellingborough Stories to tell and frankly we can't wait to hear them!

Finally, we'd love to hear from our communities about what arts, cultural and heritage projects you'd like to see happening in Corby or Wellingborough in the next 18 months of the programme and beyond. We invite you to visit www.madewithmany.org/feedback to tell us your ideas or what inspires you in our Creative Communities survey.

Marian Anderson, Marketing Manager

KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

Twenty years ago, a small Civic Society committee organised the steam train, *The Union of South Africa* which took 500 passengers over the Harringworth viaduct on a day trip from Kettering to York. The buzz and excitement and enormity of that day was repeated on 16th September when we held the Kettering Festival of Literature. This time an enormous community effort brought about through many years of networking and forming partnerships with other likeminded organisations. In addition, support came from Waterstones, Kettering Huxloe Rotary, The BB Society and The H.E. Bates Discussion Group.

A large number of volunteers were involved not only in the planning but also on the day. Without their support the festival would not have been possible and would not have been such a great success.

The festival was registered with Heritage Open Days. Fuller Church, Fuller Heritage Museum, Toller Church, the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, the Parish Church Hall, Kettering library and the Cornmarket Hall were host to some twenty-two speakers, performers, a folk group Frumenty and workshops too. A variety of authors from different genres and for different age groups took part, both famous locally as well as those from outside the county. Over seven hundred visitors experienced the day attending several events; some coming from far afield including Paris and London.

The Cornmarket Hall offered authors a space to sell and sign their books and The Good Loaf provided refreshments.

A writing competition took place for children and adults with the winner being announced at the end of the day at a wonderful gathering in the Parish Church. Presentations were made by Kettering's mayor, Councillor Emily Fedorowycz.

We continue to make sure that Kettering station gives a warm welcome to visitors and we have just completed winter planting.

Deputy Lieutenant Air Vice-Marshal Luck CB MBE presented the Society's Annual Rose Bowl award to Ian Addis for his great contribution in recording Kettering's past and contributing to the civic scene. Ian has written numerous local history books; many stimulated by his love of sport, literature and his native county.

Further news can be read on www.ketteringcivicsociety.net



Monica Ozdemir, Kettering Civic Society Secretary

KELMARSH HALL

Hidden Treasures from the Archives - Including the mysterious leg bone!

On Thursday 14th September, Kelmarsh Hall opened its doors for a special one-off exhibition to celebrate the Heritage Open Day Festival taking place across the UK. The festival takes place every year throughout a week of September, made up of free events celebrating history and heritage.

The special exhibition at Kelmarsh was curated by the volunteer Research and Archive team, who are highly dedicated to the maintenance and care of the archive in the Hall. The archive itself contains many exciting items, from paintings to books, from personal letters of previous owners to old table lamps once on display. For this special event, the focus of 'Hidden Treasures of Kelmarsh' was on items previously unseen by visitors which had all been retrieved from various areas of the archive, including the old safe.

Once the team started planning the exhibition, four themes fell into place:

- The 'Mysterious Leg Bone in the Safe' - a journey of enlightenment
- The de Crespigny War Medals - a family narrative of heroism
- Lazy, Hazy, Recreation and Vacation Days - the Lancaster family at play
- Books, Books and More Books! - treasures from the Kelmarsh library

Items on display for the exhibition included precious books, an old travel case, paintings, personal postcards, and a real leg bone. The mysterious leg bone attracted a lot of attention as it was discovered in the safe by the volunteers, and stored in what looks to be an old wine box, and has its own very interesting story! Some items from the exhibition will be out on display in the Hall during next year's open season, including some of the books from the library, and the de Crespigny war medals, so visitors can discover more.

The team were delighted to have welcomed 216 visitors to the exhibition, and hope that next year's display will be just as intriguing.

Kelmarsh Hall, gardens, the old servants quarters and exhibitions can be visited during the open season which runs from Easter weekend until the end of September each year. Please visit the Kelmarsh website for further information on opening days and prices: www.kelmarsh.com

Eleanor Laverick, Events and Marketing Coordinator

01604 686543

marketing@kelmarsh.com

NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Snapshot in Time - virtual heritage walk

Discover Northampton town centre's rich and varied heritage through the 'Snapshots in Time' trail which is available on the Explore Northampton app. From large civic buildings, to family-run businesses that are still trading today, this trail highlights how historic places in some of Northampton's most prominent streets have evolved over the years, with photos from bygone days.



Download the free app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Diwali Festival of Lights

Saturday 4th November, stalls and entertainment from 10am and parade at 6pm – St Giles' Square, Northampton

This annual community festival organised by IHWO is now in its 23rd year. Visitors can enjoy cultural activities such as henna painting and saree dressing,

while browsing community stalls and enjoying Indian food and drink.

Free live entertainment is set to take place throughout the day and at 6pm, a magical lantern parade will begin from Mercers Row and follow a route along St Giles' Street, continuing down Hazelwood Road, and back along Derngate. Harminder the elephant and Shanti the giant bird are among the large-scale puppets which form this twinkling procession of Hindu Deities, to be joined by local schools and community groups.



Fireworks Spectacular!

Sunday 5th November, entertainment from 4pm and fireworks at 6pm, The Racecourse, Northampton
Sponsored by Maintenance Services Electrical Ltd and Midshires Electrical & Lighting Ltd

The Town Council's free fireworks display is a popular event that attracts thousands of visitors every year. Join the crowds for a spectacular evening of entertainment for all the family, including a funfair, live music stage, plus food and drink stalls, along with fire and pyrotechnic performances.

New for this year, 'The Gunpowder Plot' history of Northamptonshire will be played on big screens, culminating in an epic pyro-musical fireworks finale.

Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service

Sunday 12th November 9.30am – 12 noon, Northampton Town Centre

To mark this special occasion, a military parade and band will march through the town centre, starting from Derngate at 9.30am then following a route onto St Giles' Square, along Wood Hill and down Mercers Row, pausing for a Service of Remembrance at All Saints' Church, between 10 and 10.45am.

A ceremony will then take place at the war memorial on Wood Hill, with the playing of the Last Post and a two-minute silence observed at 11am. At 11.45am the parade will re-assemble and march past the Guildhall to salute dignitaries, before continuing along St Giles' Street and ending on Castilian Street.

Christmas Lights Switch-On in the Park – Saturday 25th November, 11am – 6pm, Becket's Park, Northampton

Join Panto stars and special guests for the Town Council's annual Christmas Light Switch On. The free event is taking place at Becket's Park, just five minutes' walk from the town centre and the perfect setting for a day of festive family fun!

The day will begin at 11am, with Christmas themed children's activities and rides, interactive workshops, seasonal films and Christmas karaoke on the big screen, plus themed food and drink stalls. Live stage entertainment will include choirs, bands, dancers and kid's entertainment shows, along with some famous faces joining The Deco and Royal & Derngate Theatres' Panto stars, ahead of the countdown to a glittering light switch on at 5pm.



Carols and Crafts - Saturday, 16th December

Festive musical performances and Christmas entertainment will take place at various locations in the town centre – the perfect backdrop to your Christmas shopping ahead of the big day!

For more details about town council events and projects visit: www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/events or get in touch with the team: events@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk or follow Northampton Town Council on Facebook and Instagram for the latest event updates.

Sara Kennedy , Communications Officer

07563 024749

BURTON LATIMER HERITAGE SOCIETY

D J Hornsby Lacemaking Supplies, Burton Latimer

It all began with an email to the Hornsby Lace Supplies website at the very beginning of August this year.....

We were at the early stages of setting up our Autumn Exhibition and the High Street survey was complete. I began my work with the building immediately opposite our own High Street site.

149 High Street was built in 1833 as a Wesleyan Chapel, it still carries the original date stones and from the outside looks very much as it would have looked then. The building was converted into two homes in 1873 by Alfred Ambler.

I knew friends who had, years ago, bought lacemaking supplies from Denis and Mercy Hornsby, trading from 149 High Street and I was intrigued to find out the story of the chapel, home, lace supplies progression. A quick internet search gave me the Hornsby website. I wrote to the "ask a question" address, to be honest, more in hope than expectation. I would have been happy with permission to use some of their photographs and perhaps a copy of an old catalogue.

How many messages have been sent out over the years asking for help/information/advice on a particular topic. No one could have received a more generous reply than the one I received from Bill Hornsby, son of Denis and Mercy. This generosity was followed up by Bill driving from Canterbury with boxes of Hornsby artefacts to be loaned for our display (a display which more than doubled in size from that originally planned!) and spending hours telling us all about the business.

It was not until the 1950s that Denis and Mercy Hornsby, with their son William, moved into 149 High Street and the house was restored to one dwelling. Denis was a builder and carpenter and had a large, well equipped, workshop built at the rear of the garden. As a hobby, during his retirement, Denis used this workshop space to



develop his interest in wood turning. We have examples of domestic goods made by Denis – egg cups, a pencil sharpener and trinket boxes on display. We also show skittles and cheeses, made by Denis.

The art of woodturning was becoming rare and Denis' skills were such that he was asked to give displays and exhibit his work. It was in 1975 that a chance request from a fellow exhibitor at a Craft Fair in St Mary's Church, Burton Latimer caused Denis to depart the stand, leaving it to be looked after by Mercy.



He reappeared some hours later with his response to the request – he had made bobbins for a lace maker! Word soon spread, as friends of friends passed on news of Denis' skills. The demand increased exponentially.

This early encounter coincided with the revival of lace making in this country and in the world beyond and in a relatively short time Denis' "hobby" had become a business. With Mercy's help and support Hornsby's Lace Supplies came into being. As well as his own output of lace bobbins Denis was prepared to order in bulk supplies of specialist threads, pins and other peripherals – everything a lacemaker needed. Mercy made a significant contribution to the growth of the business by putting her skills as a trained tailoress to the creation of covers for lace pillows together with specialist bags for transporting lacemaking kit to and from classes.

Eventually Hornsby's began to supply not only bobbins, threads and lace making cushions but also patterns, books and eventually the whole A to Z of Lace Making supplies. This whole endeavour was run from the former Wesleyan Chapel at 149 High Street, Burton Latimer.

Denis and Mercy's son Bill joined the business in 1983 and developed his own style of woodturning. Between them Hornsby's were fulfilling orders nationally and internationally to over 57 countries. Family members travelled the country to attend lace fairs where sales were often such that replacement stock was often needed part way through the fair. This occurred to such an extent that there were regular "meets", in lay-bys halfway between Burton and the fairs, for stock to be delivered to the Hornsby manning the Lace stall by the Hornsby bringing the supplies. At one point a concerned member of the public, who lived near the lay-by, contacted her local police force. Over several weeks, she reported, she had observed the same two vehicles arrive in the early hours of the morning and transfer bulky goods from one to the other. Happily the innocence of the Hornsby's was quickly established once the police arrived and all was explained, but I think I do understand why these irreproachable behaviours might have appeared to be nefarious dealings!



Denis Hornsby's hobby and "little business" had an enormous impact on the lacemaking world. Denis' last bobbins were turned a few weeks before his death in 1993 and Mercy welcomed her last customer to the house just three weeks before her death in May 2009.

149 High Street, Burton Latimer is once again a simple dwelling, but it will forever hold its place as the home of D J Hornsby, Lace Making Supplies.

Penny Lucas,

Burton Latimer Heritage Society



Exhibition "Our Changing High Street".

Documenting changes along Kettering Road, the High Street and part of Higham Road. Featuring many local businesses, including Hornsby's (lace making items) and a slide show of the history of the Co-operative society in Burton Latimer. Open Thursdays and Saturdays 10am-1pm until 2nd December. Free admission. Other days or times by appointment with Linda Gregory (**07944 083170**). Heritage Museum, Harold Mason Centre 120 High St Burton Latimer NN15 5RH. Parking available.

Saturday 28th October Burton Latimer Revisited, a talk by John Meads - John Yeomans Hall, Meeting Lane Burton Latimer. 7.30pm.

An updated talk by John Meads on old Burton Latimer. £4 members, £5 non-members. Please book tickets at the Heritage Museum or with Linda Gregory (**07944 083170**)

Thursday 2nd November 2.00-3.30pm "Afternoon to Remember" in the Harold Mason Centre.

"An Afternoon to Remember". Browse our old photographs and reminisce with friends. Free. Small charge for

refreshments. Our researchers will be available to help with specific questions and we will have vintage/antique postcards on sale.

Thursday 2nd November 3.30pm – 6.30pm extended opening of the Museum.

To accommodate visitors who cannot come on a Thursday or Saturday morning, we are having this trial of a later opening time.

Saturday 11th November War Graves Walk led by Tony Dacre (a volunteer with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission). The walk will begin after the two minutes silence and Last Post have taken place at the War Memorial at 11am. People can join the walk at the War Memorial or at the Cemetery in Church Lane. It is free, but donations to the British Legion are welcomed.

Saturday 2nd December 10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning in the Harold Mason Centre.

Autumn Exhibition closes with a Coffee Morning and tombola. The Museum is open from 10.00am. Free entry.

Linda Gregory, Trustee and Events and Projects Group Co-ordinator

LAMPOR HALL

Last year Lampport Hall were very excited to announce the comeback of the Festival of Country Life, which was re-branded as Rural Life at Lampport Hall, in association with Hannington Vintage Tractor Club.

Rural Life was a huge success and has set good firm foundations in order to develop and grow the event each year. From live demonstrations, thrilling main arena acts, the evolution of farming, outdoor sports, grand parades and working machinery that all showcase rural life - there was something for all the family.

This year, Rural Life will take place on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May, 2024. If you feel you could help us develop the event further in any way, from obtaining some more rural crafters to join our database that would potentially like to exhibit, to passing information on to heritage farming enthusiasts. We are always looking for ways to innovate and create a fun, educational event for all the family.

Please contact Lucy: events@lamporthall.co.uk

Eleanor Carter, Head of Revenue Development

Lampport Hall Preservation Trust Ltd, Lampport Hall, Lampport, Northamptonshire, NN6 9HD

+44 (0) 1604 686 272

engagement@lamporthall.co.uk

DELAPRÉ ABBEY

Witches' Children's Trail

Sun 1st – Sun 29th October

Every Wed, Thu and Sun, 11am-4pm (last entry 3pm)

£1.50 per child plus entry fee for general admission (adults £8, under 18s and annual pass holders free)



Join us for an enchanting hat hunt, a spellbinding quest to uncover the hidden witches' hats scattered throughout the nooks and crannies of the historic Abbey.

Witches' Afternoon Tea

Sat 21st – Sun 29th October, 1:30pm & 3pm

£24.95 per adult, £16.95 per child

Join the witches of Delapré Abbey for afternoon tea in our atmospheric cellars!

Witches' Spooktacular

Sat 28th & Tue 31st October

Timed entry at 4pm, 4:30pm, 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm

Tickets £5 per child including a trick or treat goodie bag (adults go free)

Recommended for ages 12 and under

Bring your little witches and wizards along to the Abbey to take part in a family-friendly Halloween spooktacular.

Tour: Unusual Happenings

Sunday 29th October, 2pm

Tickets £8, includes general admission to explore the Abbey before and after your tour

For ages 18+ only

Explore Delapré Abbey's paranormal past on this special tour.

Wedding Showcase

Sun 19th November, 11am – 3pm

Free admission

Glass of prosecco and canapes on arrival

See the beautiful Grade II* listed Delapré Abbey dressed as it could be for your special day

Winter Light Trail

Fri 24th November – Sun 31st December

Off peak (Tue, Wed, Thu):

Adult £15, Child £13, Senior £13, Family £52

Peak (Fri, Sat, Sun):

Adult £17, Child £15, Senior £15, Family £60

To book tickets and for FAQs visit winterlighttrail.co.uk

With an all new, interactive trail for 2023.

Christmas Fair

Fri 1st December, 4pm – 8pm, £5 entry* including a welcome drink (under 5s free)

Sat 2nd December, 10am – 8pm, £1 entry* (under 5s free)

Sun 3rd December, 10am – 3pm, £1 entry* (under 5s free)

Hourly timed entry

Enjoy a great day out for all the family at our annual Christmas Fair.

Santa's Grotto

Fri 1st, Sat 2nd, Sun 3rd, Fri 8th, Sat 9th, Sun 10th, Fri 15th, Sat 16th, Sun 17th December

Half-hourly timed entry between 11am and 7pm

£10 per child / £9 with annual pass (adults free)

Meet Father Christmas at the Abbey, have your photo taken, and receive a present lovingly wrapped by his team of elves.

Community Festive Light Switch On

Fri 1st December, 4pm – 6pm, Free

No pre-booking required

Join us for a special festive light switch on in our 19th century stables.

Workshop: Wreath Making

Adult: Mon 4th, Tue 5th, Sat 9th, Sun 10th, Wed 13th, Thu 14th December

10am & 2pm, £20 per session, Coach House

Price includes tea/coffee and festive refreshments

Child: Sat 16th December

10am & 1pm, £10 per child, Coach House

Price includes refreshments

Max. 2 adults per child

Make your own wreath using natural materials foraged from the grounds of Delapré Abbey.

Workshop: Make a Bauble

Wed 6th and Mon 11th December

Sessions at 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm (sessions last 90 mins)

£10 per person, including refreshments of tea/coffee and Christmas biscuit

Make your own festive bauble using moss, berries, and a sprinkle of Christmas magic!

Candlelit Tour

Thu 7th and Wed 13th December

Tours at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm

£15 per person including refreshments

Experience the Abbey come alive by the soft glow of candlelight on this wonderfully festive, special out-of-hours tour.

Workshop: Christmas Crackers

Children: Sat 16th December, sessions at 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm

£10 per child including refreshments

Suitable for ages 5 and up

Max. 2 accompanying adults

Adult: Tue 19th December, sessions at 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm

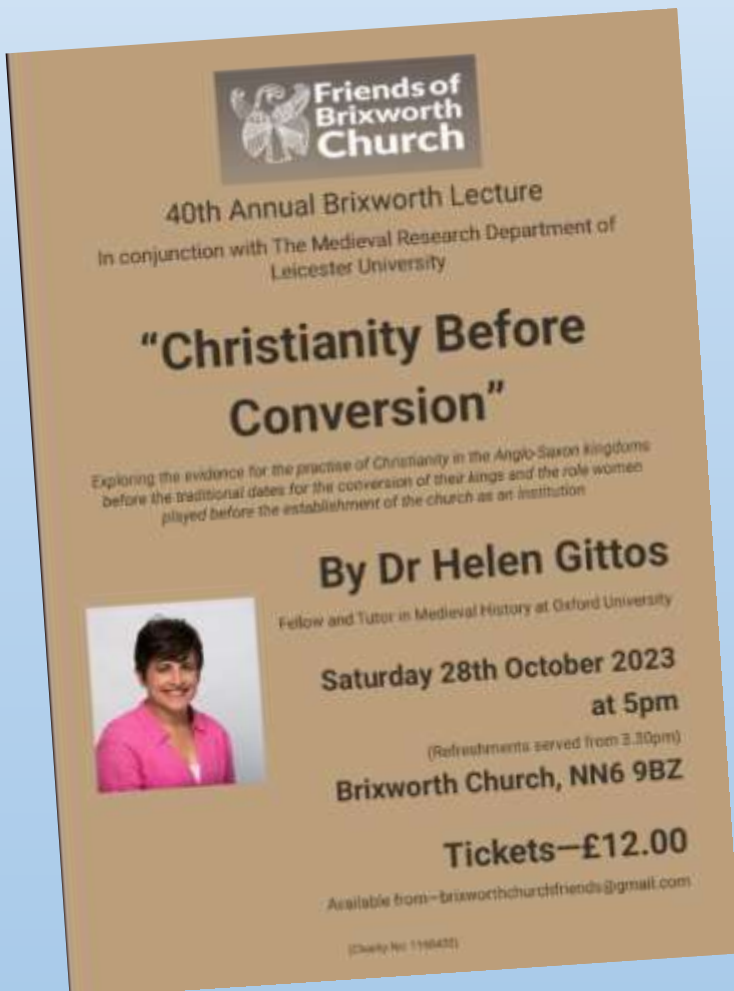
£15 per person including refreshments, tea/coffee and Christmas biscuit

Join us in the Drawing Room for a festive craft workshop! Make and decorate your own crackers.

Eloise Sands, Marketing Officer

Tel: **01604 866704**

Email: eloise.sands@delapreabbey.org



Friends of Brixworth Church

40th Annual Brixworth Lecture
In conjunction with The Medieval Research Department of
Leicester University

"Christianity Before Conversion"

Exploring the evidence for the practice of Christianity in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms before the traditional dates for the conversion of their kings and the role women played before the establishment of the church as an institution

By Dr Helen Gittos
Fellow and Tutor in Medieval History at Oxford University

Saturday 28th October 2023
at 5pm
(Refreshments served from 3.30pm)

Brixworth Church, NN6 9BZ

Tickets—£12.00

Available from—brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

(Charity No: 1198402)



10th Anniversary Conference

The Other Battlefields of Northamptonshire

Saturday 10th February 2024 10:00am - 4:00pm
Delapré Abbey - London Rd, Northampton NN4 8AW

2024 will see the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society. To mark this landmark the Society, together with its partner the Delapré Abbey Preservation Trust, will be hosting a one day conference. This event will bring together recognised experts in their fields to discuss the lesser known battlefields of Northamptonshire. Given the county's rich history, even these battles are significant milestones in our nation's history. The conference programme will cover:

- Boudicca's Last Battle:** Dr Simon Elliott will bring us up to date with the latest work to identify the location of what could be the largest battle ever fought in England.
- Castles and Northamptonshire:** Dr Dan Spencer looks at the role of castles in medieval warfare and how that impacted Northamptonshire.
- Northampton 1254:** Dr Sophie Ambler discusses the attack on Northampton in the 2nd Barons' War, between the forces of Simon de Montfort and King Henry III.
- Diggers and Levelers:** Graham Evans, the Society's Chair, concludes the conference with a look at the 17th century revolutionary movements and their antecedents in the county.

Attendees will also have exclusive access to view the Abbey interior, including the Everard Bosworth Waterloo sword and medal.

£45 per person, £40 for members of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society or Battlefields Trust. Ticket price includes refreshments and a light lunch.

Visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northantsbattles> to obtain tickets.

Delapré Abbey is on several bus routes, with a bus stop on the London Road. It is a 30 minute walk from the Railway Station. Car parking at the Abbey is free.

Visit our website: <https://northantsbattles.com> Follow us on Facebook: Northamptonshire Battlefields Society

EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Also refer to articles within Newsletter for other organisations

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email/ telephone
Aynho History Society	Blenheim/Churchill	Pippa Gwilliam	November	Helen Mackenzie	07866 044985
Brigstock Historical Society	Northamptonshire Railways	John Promfret	22-Nov	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Brigstock Historical Society	The Kettering Mosaic	Monica Ozdemir	24-Jan	Robin Phillips	01536 370144
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	One Name, One Place	John Hanson	07-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Christmas Social		04-Dec	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Update and News from Northants Archives	Sarah Bridges	22-Jan	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Ragged, Poor and Mischevious or Young Thieves and Street Arabs - researching criminal children	Linda Hammond	26-Feb	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	The Northamptonshire buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham	Paul Stamper	13-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING branch	Family Fortunes: the Tresham, Brudenell and Montagu families	Delia Thomas	11-Dec	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON branch	A medieval Christmas - traditions, myths and plants of the period	Michael Brown	20-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Prebendal Manor, Church Street, Nassington	Steve Young Live		02-Dec	Jane Baile	01780 782575
Roade Local History Society	Walter Tull and Frank Anderson	Graham McKechnie	22-Nov	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Catch Me If You Can	Ron Johnson	13-Dec	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Rushden & District History Society	The Literary Heritage of Northamptonshire	Ian Addis	17-Nov	Marion Darnell	01933 353366
Rushden & District History Society	The Great Exhibition 1851	Maria Greenhill	15-Dec	Marion Darnell	01933 353366

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