

NEWSLETTER October 2022



Heritage Organisation of the Year won by Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme

Photograph courtesy of Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2022 has been an exciting year as the Forum has celebrated its 20th anniversary. There has been a full programme of well-attended events and Forum membership continues to grow.

I would like to thank all the committee who have worked so hard to deliver our events this year and our hosts who have made us so welcome.

We are delighted to welcome as our latest member the University of Northampton, following a meeting with the new Vice-Chancellor Professor Anne-Marie Kilday who is a published historian.

Our relationship as an active partner with Museums Development East Midlands, the two Unitary Authorities, Northamptonshire Surprise and the Nene Rivers Trust have developed significantly. These partnerships enable the Heritage Forum to do more for its members.

As the year draws to a close, the Forum Committee are already planning activities for 2023. There will be a focus on providing support to small museums and other organisation that can benefit from our assistance. We are a growing family of heritage organisations within the county and will support each other during these times of budgetary constraint and cost of living challenges.

This newsletter is full of lively heritage activity and celebrates the wonderful work of our heritage communities.

2022 has seen the end of the 70-year reign of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We wish King Charles III health and happiness and are grateful for the support of the Lieutenancy during this year.

Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM AWARDS 2022

On 6th October we hosted an evening celebrating the very best of Northamptonshire's rich heritage. Held in the impressive facilities of Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, guests were welcomed on arrival by the youth string quartet *Senzatori*, courtesy of Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust.

Compered by BBC Radio Northampton's John Griff DL, the ceremony was held with a zoom link which allowed members to attend from their own homes. Honoured guests and presenters included the Hon. Mrs Amanda Lowther DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant, who spoke warmly of the enormous asset that the history societies, museums, historic houses, churches, and heritage sites represent to Northamptonshire. She remarked that the volunteers and staff teams who run these organisations do so with passion and enthusiasm, generating strong communities and a real family spirit. This theme developed throughout the night both in acceptance speeches, and by John Griff and Martin Lawrence, Chair of the Forum.

Awards were presented by local leaders, including Jonathan Nunn, Leader of West Northants Council and Cllr Helen Howell, Deputy Leader of North Northants Council. Elizabeth Moran of Museum Development East Midlands, and Mr and Mrs Dennis Meredith, Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton also presented. Rachel Mallows DL of 'Northamptonshire Surprise' presented an award, representing the county's excellent promotional website, along with Richard Barnwell, President of the Kettering Civic Society and trustee of Northamptonshire Victoria County History Trust. In addition to his role as compere, John Griff DL also presented the 'People's Choice Award' reflecting the most popular heritage organisation as featured on his BBC Radio Northampton show.

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

AWARD WINNERS 2022

1. Best Event Award won by Sywell Aviation Museum

Grand Opening and 21st Birthday Party

Their first 'Grand Opening' in 3 years (thanks to COVID) held to launch the Museum's 2022 season and celebrate their 21st birthday since first opening! The team delivered a spectacular event pulling in a record number of visitors and participants. Delivered on a tiny budget, it provided a great day out free to the public.



2. Best Exhibition Award was won by Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

We are Northampton

We are Northampton was a collaborative exhibition with the people of Northampton, who contributed their memories of the town. It celebrated the town's rich heritage and gave visitors an opportunity to explore



Northampton's character through a sense of identity and place, highlighting NMAG's collections and research of the town. There was 'something for everyone' in the eclectic mix of objects, interactives, paintings, photographs, and stories.

3. Best project under £500 won by Wellingborough Museum

Arnie the Dragon

All the Arndale shopping centres in the UK once had a wooden 'sculpture' and the Wellingborough Swansgate one was a dragon named Arnie. This was installed in 1975 and was a feature in the mall until 2003 and was played on by youngsters whilst grandparents watched. The project restored this much-loved dragon which had been in the Swansgate Centre and return it to the public



4. Best Volunteer Project Highly Commended: Kelmarsh Hall

Coalmarsh at Kelmarsh

The Coalmarsh exhibition at Kelmarsh has been put together by the Research and Archive volunteers at Kelmarsh. They have done a fantastic job of focusing on the history of coal and the link the Lancaster family had to coal from Kelmarsh. The exhibition is located in the old coal cellar below stairs at Kelmarsh, and has items, organised by the volunteers, from the National Coal Museum for the public to view, along with a model railway from the Corby District Model Railway Society.



5. Best Volunteer Project won by Northamptonshire Battlefields Society

Battlefield Volunteer Training Events

The aim was to promote the idea of volunteering with the Society and provide suitable training focused around the 1460 battlefield. The intention was to run at least two training events, with suitably knowledgeable trainers supported by professionally produced training materials. This series of workshops dramatically increased volunteer numbers and involvement at events.



6. Best Special Project completed over 5 years won by The Chester House Estate

Restoring the Chester House Estate

The Chester House Estate is a £15.5m heritage restoration project. The project, funded by North Northamptonshire Council and The National Lottery Fund (NLHF), consisted of a large 17th century (Grade II* Listed), farm including a farmhouse and surrounding barns. The restoration of the estate, and creation of new retail, accommodation and catering facilities, a new museum and Archaeological Resource Centre have delivered a wonderful new heritage asset to Northamptonshire. The project has been wildly successful thanks to the energy and passion of the volunteers and staff team.



7. Best Community Project Award won by Delapré Abbey Preservation Trust

Delapré Wellbeing

Delapré Wellbeing is a new wellbeing hub being developed for our Northamptonshire community. The Delapré team want to empower people across the town to take control over their health and wellbeing through cultural experiences, events, classes and more. This innovative and imaginative project delivered by the team is created by, led by, and designed by the community.



8. Hindsight Award for best published work, Highly Commended: Richard Blacklee

The Culworth Gang

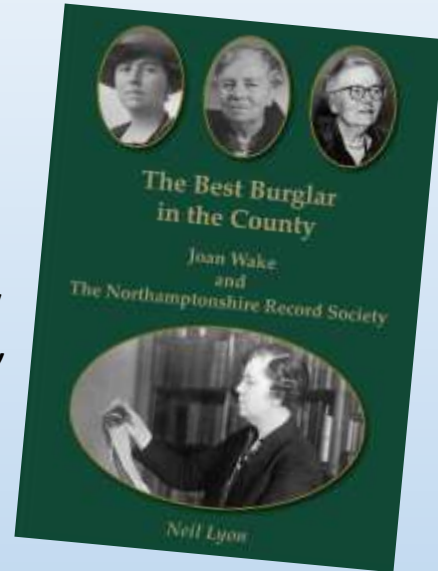


The Culworth Gang tells the previously little-known story of a gang of robbers and highwaymen who terrorised south Northamptonshire for an unprecedented period of twenty years during the eighteenth century, before being brought to justice and tried at Northampton. The book is well researched and referenced, and appeals on many levels, including true crime and historical fiction.

9. Hindsight Award for best published work won by Northampton Record Society

The Best Burglar in the County: Joan Wake and the Northamptonshire Record Society

An edited collection of the letters and diary entries of Joan Wake (1884-1974), who founded the Northamptonshire Record Society in 1920. This astonishing book reveals just how farsighted Joan Wake was, and how much today's historians have to thank for securing the written records of our past.



10. The People's Choice Award won by The Chester House Estate

This vote was for the organisation that the public would most like to visit. The Chester House team won the award taking over 20% of the vote from a shortlist of 10 voted for by the public. This Award was supported by BBC Radio Northampton and John Griff DL. Click on the link below to watch a short video and to see how the voting progressed.

<https://bit.ly/3obhwmg>



11. Judges Choice Special Commendation - Roade Local History Society

This year, the Judges were particularly impressed with the energy and passion of Roade Local History Society. The team engaged in a variety of projects and entered three awards each of which were 'runner up' to the eventual winner. The judges particularly admired the depth of original research and the imaginative ways the information was used and presented to the public. Their energy and creativity in interpretation was inspiring. Well done to all the team. The Judges look forward to seeing more next year.



12. Heritage Organisation of the Year won by Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme

Over the last five years this remarkable organisation has, under the auspices of the River Nene Regional Park, brought together and supported a vast number of local enterprises who operate in the Nene Valley. Their three-fold aim of *listening to the past, exploring the now, and securing the future* has allowed them to upskill, encourage and fund many of our membership who in turn have delivered truly excellent projects which have engaged and delighted the public, and made the Nene Valley area more accessible and resilient in the longer term.



The project was initially granted £2.6m over five years by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and received an additional £2m of donations and the support of the University of Northampton. The current iteration of the Nenescape project is due to end at the end of October and the Judges and Northamptonshire Heritage Forum wished to congratulate the small but inspiring Nenescape team for successfully fulfilling their vision.



Click on the link for more information [Projects in Nene Valley, heritage and environment — Nenescape Projects in Nene Valley, heritage and environment — Nenescape](#)

NB: additional photos of the event are available, and to illustrate each winner. Available on request from nhfawards@gmail.com



STANWICK LAKES HOSTED THE FORUM MEETING ON 22 SEPTEMBER

Stanwick Lakes hosted our Forum Meeting on 22 September and helped us to celebrate our 20th Birthday



Our hosts, the Rockingham Forest Trust and staff of Stanwick Lakes had organised an open-house allowing us to wander around, getting to know the site and looking at the displays which they had arranged.

There were six displays available for us to view, starting with the Trading Places Barn where a display of basket weaving was taking place. Many of us were given a willow star to take home.

Greenwood Crafting had an open-air display of woodland sculptures with work taking place on a current piece of art.

The Heritage Barn contained demonstrations by The Northants Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers with the traditional spinning wheel in evidence.

The Heritage Garden, which was only set up in January 2019 exists to explain how plants were used from Neolithic times to the Mediaeval age for a range of purposes, including food, seasoning, medicine and healing as well as for decoration.

A Bronze Age Barrow is the recipient of Heritage Lottery Fund money, and it is intended to restore the barrow to its former glory in the landscape, with work already under way. The aim is to raise the local communities' awareness of the barrow's historical and cultural significance. A number of us were given a very informative tour.

Inside the Heritage Centre there is a Heritage Exhibition on the Mezzanine floor containing artefacts from the archaeological digs from the 1980s.

Our hosts provided us with a very enjoyable buffet with tea and coffee before the meeting started, and Prosecco and a slice of 20th birthday cake afterwards!

Keith Stegges, Individual Member

After looking around the site and at the displays on offer, we met up in the visitor centre for an excellent buffet and refreshments with the opportunity to chat to colleagues and catch up on news.

The formal meeting was opened by the Chairman, Martin Lawrence. The Forum now has 111 members and the Forum continues to represent the interests of all heritage groups in the wider sector.

This was followed by a talk by Kate Chadwick, Director of Rockingham Forest Trust who talked about Stanwick Lakes and their plans for the future. This includes funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to further explore strands of the site's history particularly focussing on the Bronze and Iron Age. This will involve working with volunteers, schools and other heritage groups to further interpret the long history of the site.

Martin reminded attendees of the upcoming Forum Award (see separate report on this).

The Forum website is a great asset as it contains detailed information on the member societies, museums and

heritage attractions helping to signpost website visitors to all that is on offer. Lynne Dickens was congratulated and thanked for her hard work keeping this updated.

Jon-Paul Carr spoke about the Forum booklet stating that over 22,000 copies have been distributed. Enid Jarvis reminded members about contributions for the next edition of Hindsight.

Further events including the upcoming History Day at Irthlingborough, the Quiz in November and the next meeting in January were detailed.

Katie Boyce spoke about the Open Studios initiative where 80 venues across the county are holding exhibitions bringing arts and heritage together. A fantastic achievement.

The meeting and 20th birthday celebrations concluded with a speech from Morcea Walker MBE, Vice Lord Lieutenant of the county.

Angela Malin, Individual Member



ANNUAL HISTORY DAY AT IRTHLINGBOROUGH

Our event this year on 15th October was hosted by Irthlingborough Historical Society.

The first presentation was given by Society members Roy York and Virginia Palmer entitled ***Yrthlingaburg to Irthlingborough***. The earliest known settlement is the hill fort on Crow Hill which was excavated in 1986 where in one grave, high quality grave goods relating to the Beaker people and 185 ox skulls were found. This pointed to it being a high status burial of a tribal leader. The hill fort continued in use and Offa held a Parliament there in the 8th century. This is the first known use of the name Yrthlingaburg. By the 15th century and through to the 18th century this changed to Artleborough and then Irthlingborough.

John Paile was responsible for the building of the church in the 14th century. Elizabeth Cheney inherited the estate and married Thomas Vaux of Harrowden, a noted Catholic family. There was a great tolerance within the parish towards non-conformism: by 1723 Baptists were meeting here, followed by Quakers and later the Wesleyans and Salvation Army.

The railway came in 1845 enabling easier transport of goods. Although much if the earlier employment was based on agriculture, shoemaking was important with 17 shoemakers recorded in the 1777 militia lists. This trade rapidly expanded with many factories being built. Leisure time was spent in various sporting activities.

In the late Victorian period there was a 6 year project to rebuild the church tower which was leaning dangerously. In August 1914, 50 men from the Northamptonshire Regiment paraded through the town before going off to war. Sadly, 151 men from the parish lost their lives in the conflict. Post war, ironstone mining become important, finally closing in 1966. Now, all shoe factories, tanneries and mining has gone.

This was then followed by a presentation on ***The Day the Buses Stopped*** which followed the story of the strike by local bus drivers over plans by Thomas Tillings Ltd to reduce their wages. In 1913, the Wellingborough Motor Omnibus Company came into being and offered bus services initially on local routes from the new Finedon Road depot. Over 1 million passengers were transported in the first year. By July 1922, the company had been taken over by United Counties and by 1936 by Thomas Tillings Ltd. They needed to cut costs so instigated new timetables, cut wages and hours worked. The men went on strike! There was great support from the public for the local drivers. The company brought in staff from across the country to run the services. There was much conflict from the drivers and their supporters to the buses being driven by the incoming staff and a number of vehicles were damaged. It was surprising that the perpetrators were not arrested, perhaps because of local support. What we all want to know is—what happened next?

The final presentation was by Andy Dyks from **Irthlingborough Archaeological Society** which was set up in 2015. Since then, through field working and supervised excavations, they have uncovered a number of artefacts varying from the Bronze Age to important Roman finds. They are working in partnership with Stanwick Lakes and the Chester Farm Estate, both important sites for archaeology and early settlement along the Nene Valley. A number of finds were on display for visitors to see, including a copy of this rare carved stone slab. This was nearly 3' long 1' wide and 3" thick and depicts Neptune holding his trident and riding a hippocampus (seahorse).



After a buffet lunch and a chance to catch up with friends old and new, attendees had the choice of the following options. A guided walk around the Collegiate church of St Peter, a climb to the top of the church tower with excellent views over the town, a guided walk around the town centre or an opportunity to view the Society's extensive archive of photographs and records.

Our thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the talks and events – we appreciated all your hard work to make this a most enjoyable and informative day.

Angela Malin, Individual Member



*Views from the top of the Church tower -
courtesy of Jon-Paul Carr*



*image – copyright St Peter's Church,
Irthlingborough*



ARTICLES FOR *HINDSIGHT* 2023

We are now looking for articles on any aspect of history in Northamptonshire for publication in next year's edition of the Forum's annual journal, *Hindsight*. Do you have a particular topic you have been researching, or an interesting family tree story? Perhaps museums or country houses have a heritage item that Forum members would like to read about. Are there any significant anniversaries to tell us about or people who have contributed to life in our county in the past?

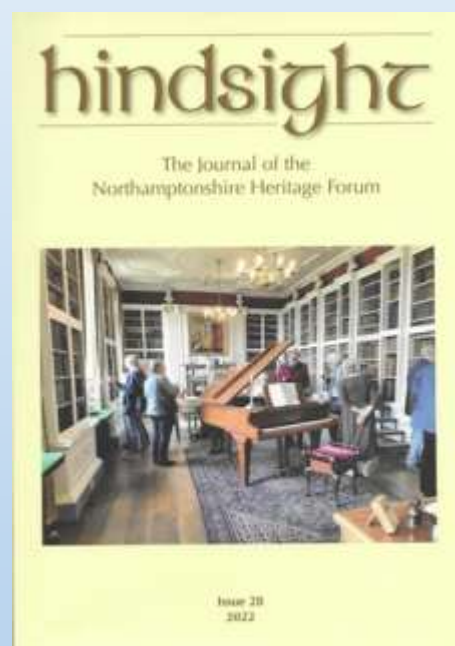
Articles should be up to 1,000 words in length and submitted by email preferably as a **Word document attachment**. One or two accompanying photographs should be sent **as jpg attachments**. Any notes should be in the form of 'End notes'. Handwritten or typed paper copies can be accepted if necessary, and shorter items are also welcome.

We need articles to be sent to the Editor preferably before **18 December 2022**, but no later than 31 December 2022.

Many thanks to those who have already submitted articles.

Enid Jarvis, Editor, Hindsight

jarvis.enid@btinternet.com



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

If you have any comments, queries or suggestions for future editions, please let me know.

I can be contacted at: nhforumnewsletter@gmail.com

The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 15 January 2023

Janet Lawrence

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BRIXWORTH

Brixworth Church is a rare and magnificent survivor from the past and poses many questions. Situated atop a hill on the north edge of the village, it was built in the Dark Ages when Roman Britain was dead and the Anglo-Saxon era had not fully emerged. The Church is the largest surviving Anglo-Saxon building in England and has been in continuous use as a centre for Christian worship for over 1300 years.



It is a Grade I Listed Building, being of exceptional interest both architecturally and historically. At the east end of the church the remains of a ring-crypt can be seen, while at the west end there is an external stair-turret, one of only four in England.

The church has seen many changes, been altered and partially rebuilt since Anglo-Saxon times, but much of the structure still survives. In the mid-1800s the Victorians were responsible for a great deal of the restoration work in the church, but this helped preserve and sympathetically enhance the appearance of the magnificent building you can see today.

The Friends of All Saints' Church Brixworth

The Friends organisation is a Registered Charity and was formed in 1983 with the sole purpose to assist in caring for and preserving the ancient Parish Church at Brixworth by offering financial support through member subscriptions and fundraising. The Friends of Brixworth Church is a secular organisation with members from the local community and further afield, including some from overseas.

“The objectives of the charity are to maintain, improve, supplement and keep in repair the fabric, fittings, furniture and furnishings of the Parish Church of All Saints' Brixworth and its churchyard and Heritage Centre and to hold the Heritage Centre in perpetuity. The Friends of All Saints' Brixworth also aim to foster interest in the Parish Church from near and far, not only as a place of worship but also for its significance to the area's local history”.

Over the years The Friends have supported the Parochial Church Council with sizable donations to meet detailed requests for assistance and have helped with ongoing work of conservation, restoration and enhancement.

This year The Friends have made contributions to the following projects to complete the immediate requirements of the 2021 Quinquennial inspection:

- Repairs to the roof
- Repairs to the external stonework
- Repairs to the Saxon door
- Repairs to three windows
- Upgrading of the internal lighting to LEDs to facilitate energy savings going forward.
- Handrails have been fitted to either side of the steps to the Apse to aid safe passage to and from that area.



The Brixworth Lecture

Since 1983 an annual lecture has been held in the church on the nearest Saturday to All Saints' Day (usually the first weekend in November). The lectures are arranged in conjunction with the Department of Medieval History at Leicester University.

Contact brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com for further details or to reserve tickets.

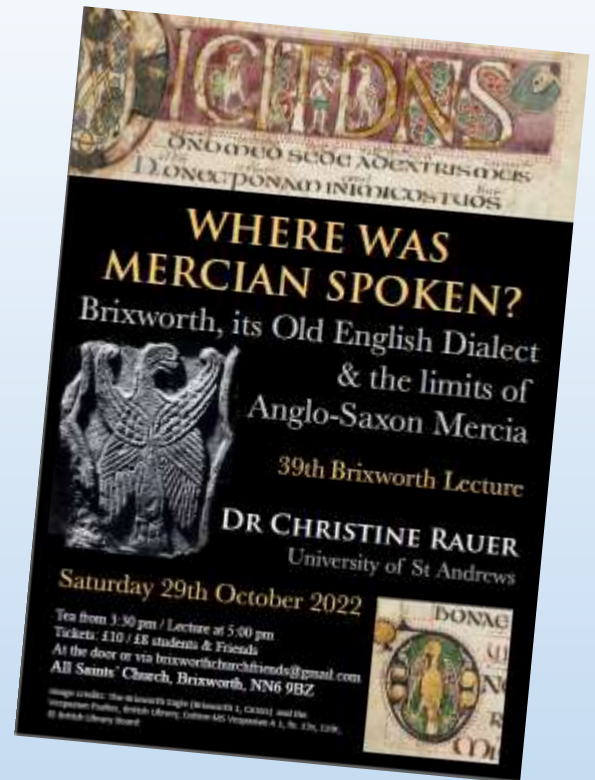
Kate Knight, Trustee

Phone: **01604 881810**

Email: brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

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

Website: www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk



SYWELL AVIATION MUSEUM

Museum Seeks Donations

Thanks to previous donations earlier this year, Sywell Aviation Museum is making great progress in the restoration of its 1969 Handley Page Jetstream aircraft with the newly refurbished tailplane recently fitted.

The Museum charges no entry fee and relies on donations to survive. With that in mind we are appealing for donations of aviation books, model kits and accessories, diecast models etc to help raise funds. If sufficient donations are received then another of the popular book and model sales is planned for early 2023.

If you're able to assist – we can collect – please contact sywellaviationmuseum@gmail.com or call **07968061708**.

Many thanks!

Ben Brown, Secretary

BRIXWORTH HISTORY SOCIETY

Our summer visits continued with a visit in July to the Silverstone Motor Museum where we found out about the farming origins of the site; its use in World War Two as a bomber training ground and then the history of motor racing there. It was a most interesting visit with different aspects that appealed to everyone. The café is also good where refreshments can be consumed outside - especially exciting if there are testing exercises going on at the time on the track!

In August we paid a visit to the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery in Guildhall Road. The exhibits are well laid out and appeal to anyone who is interested in the town; from the shoes to the history of the town itself, there is something for everyone. All agreed that further visits were in order.

Early September saw the sad death of our Queen; in the village there were two books of condolences; one at All Saints' Church and the other in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop. The flags were flown at half-mast, flowers were left outside the Community Centre around the flag and children left posters dedicated to the Queen on the lamp posts in Spratton Road:

September 15th saw the resumption of meetings held in the Village Hall, which occurred shortly after the death of the Queen, we had a small display dedicated to her and a minutes' silence before the start of the meeting.

John Kightley gave a talk entitled *Northampton Underground and Holy Sepulchre Church* which at first seemed to be about two different topics. How wrong we were! Some years ago, there were excavations at Holy Sepulchre because the building needed repairs and this is where the tunnels under Northampton were found. It wasn't about any clandestine movement that the church was involved with! Who knew that the tunnels extended from Holy Sepulchre to the Market Square and beyond - some believe that they went as far as Delapre Abbey. This was a most interesting evening and we went away feeling that we had learned something about our town.



Our display at the Heritage Centre featuring All Saints and some of the iconic buildings in the village was taken down at the end of September when the centre closed for visitors at weekends.

We look forward to the next meetings: on November 17th Graham Evans will talk about Northamptonshire's country house sieges during the Civil War. We finish the year on December 15th with our annual social. Our meetings start at 7.30pm on Thursdays and take place in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Pauline Kirton, Chair

pakirton6@gmail.com

Rosemary Hardie, Secretary

jandrhardie1@gmail.com

[Website: brixworthhistory.org](http://www.brixworthhistory.org)

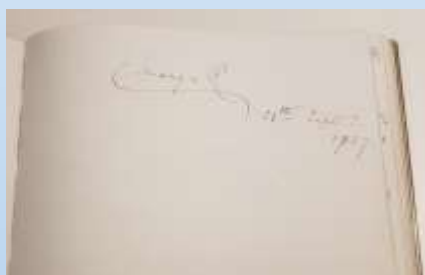
SULGRAVE MANOR AND GARDEN

Royal Connections

As Sulgrave's flags flew at half-mast during the period of national mourning, we looked back in our archives at past royal visits to the Manor.



Queen Mary, grandmother of the late Queen Elizabeth II, visited the Manor on 12 September 1937 while staying at nearby Althorp House. She was shown around the house and gardens by Earl Spencer, (shown together in this photograph) a key member of the Sulgrave Manor Board (now Sulgrave Manor Trust).



During her visit she signed the visitor book and both the book and the pen she used have been carefully preserved as part of the museum's collection.

Sulgrave clearly left an impression on Queen Mary. Two years later after a visit to Mount Vernon, George Washington's home in Virginia, she gifted a rare pear wood snuff box featuring a portrait of Washington to the Manor which is a prized part of the collection to this day.

Events at Sulgrave

Jemstones at Sulgrave Manor

26 October 2022

Halloween Family Fun Day

30 October 2022

Sulgrave Seminar Series

30 November 2022

Christmas Family Fun Days and Santa's Grotto

10 & 11 December 2022

Shanna Wells (she/her), Marketing and Events Manager

enquiries@sulgravemanor.org.uk

www.sulgravemanor.org.uk

OUNDLÉ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the summer, as in previous years, we had two well attended visits to most interesting places, the first to Nassington Prebendal Manor. Jane Baile the owner, saviour of the Manor and its restorer, gave us the most wonderful insights, having paved the way with a fascinating talk in April.



The second visit to the interesting, and contrasting, Rutland churches of Exton and Teigh was led by David Bond our knowledgeable Chair. An excellent tea was provided by Exton Church.



Exton Church



Teigh Church

In August we were lucky to take part in an event sponsored by Oundle u3a at which a number of clubs and societies were able to promote themselves to u3a members. We gained some new members as a result, and have gained new members at our recent meetings too.

Spring 2022 saw Committee members Philip Kitchin and Carew Treffgarne editing the late Julia Moss's research. Julia was a noted local historian and one of the founder members of the Society. Julia's book, *Discovering Northamptonshire - some Northamptonshire*

Villages, was published by the Society and the Oundle Museum Trust. Copies (£5) can be obtained from Oundle Museum or by contacting the Society at oundlehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

On 9 September our programme continued with an excellent talk by Neil Lyon, who is known to many, on the fascinating story of the incredible and indomitable Joan Wake and her life's work in collecting and preserving notable local archives, culminating in saving Delapre Abbey and the creation of the then Northants County Record Office. Neil's talk was well attended given the tragic death of the late Queen Elizabeth, and greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

Work is well advanced on our programme for next year. Our November and subsequent talks are listed in the Diary. We are delighted by the new membership and look forward to the remaining programme. Non members are welcome at our talks for a modest entrance fee of £2.

Philip Kitchin, Membership Secretary

www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk

ROADE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Saturday 23 July: Visit to Alderton Mount and St Margaret's Church

Charles Reece gave an excellent talk on the history of the Mount, the site of an ancient ringwork castle. In 1997 it was bought by Derek Batten, who brought in Time Team and organised plays and other events. He sold it to Charles who continues the good work.



Afterwards we were given tea and superb cakes in the Church followed by a fascinating talk by Margaret Hall-Townley about a rare oak effigy of a knight who would have lived in the castle - Sir William de Combemartin, who died in 1318. The effigy has been conserved and is in a temporary position until funds are raised for a tomb chest and move to the north side of the chancel. All our entry fees and donations went to the Knight Fund.



28 September St Mary's Church Hall: Links between Hartwell, Roade and Ashton

We were treated to a talk by Angela Malin who is Chair of the Northamptonshire Family History Society. She covered the historical links between Hartwell, Roade & Ashton including records going back to William the



Conqueror's Domesday Book, and the villagers who lived in Roade, Ashton and Hartwell since the 14th Century. Amazingly some of the family names are still with us. A well-attended and well-received talk - recommended to all similar societies. Many items were from the Duke of Grafton estate collection which owned much of the land in the three parishes until the early 20th century.

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

We are pleased to be welcoming Andy Chapman who will be taking us through finds he has excavated from Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in Northamptonshire.

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

Originally performed at The Deco Theatre in Northampton, this poignant play written by one of our members, Ron Johnson, is going to be shown at the cinema in The Lings Forum. The story is of the loss of three brothers whose names are engraved on the Roade War Memorial. Make sure you bring a tissue for this very moving show. For tickets call **01604 838333**



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

Colin Haddon and a group of his Home Guard colleagues will be putting us through our drills! They will be giving a talk on the Home Guard and showing us various artifacts and equipment from WW2.

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

www.roadehistorysociety.org.uk

Margaret Smith, Events Secretary

Mobile: 07825 826244

PYTCHLEY CHURCH HERITAGE TRUST

Pytchley Church Heritage Trust was pleased to welcome five local artists into All Saints Church over the weekend 10/1 September as part of the Northants Open Studios event. This was the first time we had held an art exhibition in the church and it was well attended given that the nation was in mourning at that time.

The artists (Jo Archer, Louise Crookenden-Johnson, Jodie Neely, Sophie Kilpatrick and Maureen Anderson) set up in the north aisle, an ideal exhibition space, and thought the church was a beautiful setting in which to display their work. We hope to be part of next year's Open Studios event, with even more exhibitors involved.

PCHT is currently fundraising towards a new sound system for the church and we are delighted that Frumenty will be coming back to Pytchley Church with their Christmas Concert on Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm. *"A mainly light-hearted look at the festive season in words and music, both religious and secular"*.

Tickets are £10 each, to include a glass of wine or soft drink – please book in advance and then pay on the door.

Contact Mike Walsh (01536 790984, mikeawalsh@me.com) or Kate Everard (07999 570435, kate_everard@btinternet.com).

Kate Everard, Treasurer



DELAPRE ABBEY

TALKS AND TOURS

Medieval Tour

13th Nov, 2pm £8 incl. general admission. Under 18s free

It's 1538 and you've stepped into the world of Delapré Abbey at the end of its life as a Cluniac Nunnery.

Unusual Happenings

30th Oct, 3pm £8 incl. general admission

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

Mystery of the Lady in the Library

Mon 14th Nov, 11am & 2pm £12 incl. cream tea

Discover the fascinating story of our Gainsborough portrait: who she was, what she did, and where she is now.

Candlelit Tours

Various dates in Nov & Dec, 5pm, 6pm & 7pm, £15 incl. refreshments

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

EXHIBITIONS

Joan Wake the pioneer: her passion and legacy

Sunday 29th May – Sunday 30th October 11am-4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

Entry included in the price of general admission (£8 adults, under 18s go free)

'I must gather the strength of a lion for the campaign.' Joan Wake, Jan 1956

It's the last month to visit our temporary exhibition detailing the story of one woman's tireless fight to rescue the county's archives from destruction and to save Delapré Abbey from demolition. Joan Wake was a fierce and dedicated individual and was distraught at the thought that Delapré Abbey would be demolished by the council in 1954. What came next was years of fundraising, campaigning, and anxiety, right until the last stroke of midnight on the day of the deadline for raising funds to save the Abbey.

Discover Joan Wake's personal story in which she broke free from the confines of her upbringing; her passion for history and the preservation and publication of archival material which led her to establish the Northamptonshire Record Society, and the creation of the Northamptonshire Record Office to house the growing collection.

See records and images lent by the Northamptonshire Record Office, follow the journey of how Delapré Abbey is still standing today, and find out more about the Northamptonshire people that shared and supported Joan Wake's passion for protecting and celebrating the county's history.

This exhibition is presented by Northamptonshire Record Society and marks their 100th anniversary which occurred in 2020 whilst the country was in lockdown.

FAMILIES

Spooky Stories

27th Oct, from 11:30am, kids free Adults £8 incl. general admission

Join Preacher the Storyteller for family-friendly spooky stories.

Delapré Spooktacular

30th Oct, 4-8:30pm £5 per child, adults free

Bring your little monsters along to the Abbey to take part in a family-friendly Halloween trail.

Winter Light Trail

18th Nov - 2nd Jan, 4pm-8:40pm

Discover an array of magical light installations throughout the stunning grounds of the Abbey.

EVENTS

Christmas Fair

26th & 27th Nov, 3rd & 4th Dec 10am-4pm, £1 plus a food donation

Pick up unique, handmade gifts from a variety of carefully selected stalls.

Wreath Making

Various dates in December 10am & 2pm, £20 incl. refreshments

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

Pumpkin Carving

Wed 26th, Thu 27th, Sun 30th October 11am – 3pm, £3 per pumpkin

Create your own pumpkin monster in our Walled Garden and take it home with you for trick or treating! Pumpkins and carving tools provided just bring along your spookiest ideas.

All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Rebecca Goodman, Marketing Assistant

Delapré Abbey, London Road, Northampton NN4 8AW

Tel: [01604 708 675](tel:01604708675)

JEYES HERITAGE CENTRE AND THE ROYAL ROOM, EARLS BARTON

As the news came through on Thursday, 8 September that the Royal Family were hurriedly on their way to Balmoral to say goodbye to their mother and grandmother, we, as a country, prepared to say goodbye to our Queen Elizabeth II.

Her passing was, aged 96, inevitable but it still came as a shock – only days earlier we had witnessed her, smiling but frail, welcoming in a new Prime Minister. As a family it was our natural instinct to cancel the plans we had made for supporting English Heritage Weekend here in Earls Barton.

Our Royal Room, however, became a special haven for visitors to share their memories and pay their respects to Her Majesty. Radio Northampton, who had previously been to celebrate the Jubilee, were welcomed back over the weekend as presenters, Tim, Jules, Tom and Annabel, used their rescheduled programmes to reflect and respond to their listeners' feelings. Television channels used the Royal Room as a friendly, sympathetic place to reflect too. We were proud to have been chosen to just "be there".

The Village Primary School has asked us to keep safe the condolence memories of the children - paintings, colourings and simple loving comments. It is a responsibility and an honour to have been entrusted with such a special historic record of Earls Barton.

Georgina Jeyes

NEWS FROM THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HERITAGE FORUM HUB

Since the opening of the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Hub at Jeyes of Earls Barton on 21 March 2022 many visitors have been attracted to the Royal Room display. Following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Jeyes of Earls Barton provided a Book of Condolence and made a feature of a facsimile of the proclamation of King Edward VIII in January 1936, which is in their collection. The Jeyes team appeared on GB News and Anglia Television and made a number of radio broadcasts.

Visitors to the Heritage Hub will know of the popularity of Jeyes Sauce. The family will appear on television in the Channel 4 series *Aldi's Next Big Thing* which is being broadcast on Thursdays at 8pm. The Jeyes family appear in Episode 5

If you have not already brought your leaflets or local publications to the Hub please contact Georgina Jeyes.

Martin Lawrence MBE, Chairman

WICKSTEED PARK

We've had a busy summer at Wicksteed Park with our Festival of Play programme as part of our National Lottery Heritage Funded @Play project. We hosted a range of activities in crafts, play, heritage, wellbeing and more. As part of this programme, we hosted another National Play Day with an obstacle course, large games, entertainment and crafts. The day was a success thanks to DG Fitness, Steve Kaos and the hard work of our staff and volunteers.



Throughout the festival we also continued to increase access to our archive material through our continued maintenance of our online archive and a range of exhibitions in our Learning Space. We started the summer with *Around the World with Charles Wicksteed* looking at the export of his play equipment around the globe, and then moved onto the park in the 1920's to coincide with our centenary celebrations which included film footage of the first regatta held at Wicksteed's lake in 1921!

We were overjoyed to finally be able to celebrate our Centenary this year with our Regatta after having to postpone the event last year due to COVID restrictions. The day looked to recreate the regattas of old with a marquee, live music, boat races, market stalls, deck chairs, and even a cake competition! We also had a pop-up heritage display celebrating the park throughout the years.



The celebrations will continue with our 1920's themed Centenary Ball coming up!

We were delighted that on 22 September our Water Chute was announced as the Best Historic Ride in the UK at the 2022 UK Theme Park Awards. Not only that, but we were recognised by Modeshift Stars for our efforts in increasing levels of walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel.

Summer may be over, but the Community and Heritage Team are still hard at work promoting the heritage of Wicksteed Park. Having taken down our Inventions and Innovations exhibition to coincide with Heritage Open Days, we just opened our latest exhibition looking at fashion through the years at the park as well as staff uniforms! We are also running two new Heritage Now placements working with individuals to produce exhibitions and provide practical work experience in the heritage sector – from this we have two new exciting exhibitions coming up looking at Wicksteed Park Gardens and 'The High Life' looking at the tallest rides and playground equipment from the park as well as the dinner dances hosted in our Pavilion.

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

Connor McIntyre

On behalf of the

Community and Heritage Team

Wicksteed Park, Barton Road, Kettering, Northants NN15 6NJ

T 01536 512475 E hello@wicksteedpark.org

WELLINGBOROUGH DISTRICT HINDU ASSOCIATION

Connecting Communities - Queen's Jubilee Celebration 5 June 2022



On 6th February 2022 Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms, and the Commonwealth. In celebrating this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives were undertaken across the country. WDHA decided to mark this occasion by bringing together representatives from various communities, in the spirit of unity and friendship and showcased traditional dances, songs and talks from people who represent our diverse multicultural community across Northamptonshire.



Guests included Vice Lord-Lieutenant Morcea Walker, Professor Simon Gregory MBE DL, Mayor of Wellingborough, Councillor Jon Ekins and Mayoress, Mrs Jackie Ekins, Councillors, Martin Lawrence MBE, Chair Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, and other community leaders. Over 200 people joined in the celebrations and enjoyed the culturally diverse performances.



The passing of Her Majesty the Queen enveloped the nation with a sense of collective grief. As the longest serving Monarch, she demonstrated unflinching dedication to service and will be remembered for her many great achievements in life.

We were very pleased that our Chair, Vinod Patel, was invited to speak for our community at the Service of Prayer and Remembrance, in Thanksgiving for the Life of Her Late Majesty, which was held at All Saints Church, Northampton on Sunday 18 September.

Ishver Patel MBE

Patron Better Lives Foundation

Email ishverpatel@msn.com

WDHA Facebook <https://en-gb.facebook.com/theWDHA/>

The “Daventry” Experiment – 26 February 1935

A Re-enactment of the Original Experiment in Miniature — The Discovery of RADAR

On Saturday 17 September, Daventry Museum welcomed over 200 visitors and marked Heritage Open Days by embracing this year's theme 'Astounding Inventions' and recreated the famous Daventry Radar Experiment with the help of visitors, to show how radar works and tell the story of its discovery.

This experiment was a scientific approach to the problem of detecting the presence of invading enemy aircraft in the years leading up to World War Two.

A powerful short wave transmitter at the BBC station on Borough Hill, Daventry was used to send a radio signal to a receiver set up in a field in Litchborough, to the South of Weedon.

A Heyford bomber aircraft was then flown across the radio beam and its presence was observed by a dot moving up and down on a screen connected to the receiver. The plane had been detected several miles away, the experiment was a success!

In Daventry Museum's miniature representation of the experiment, the “Daventry” transmitter is a small ultra-high frequency transmitter, with a wavelength of 0.5 metres instead of the original 49 metre transmission.

The receiver at the Weedon end is connected to a modern version of the oscilloscope used in the original experiment. The display on the screen is exactly the same, the spot rising and falling as the plane is walked between the two stations.

In the museum's experiment, the dot on the screen rises and falls every 0.5 metre of movement of the model plane, the wavelength of the transmission. This is because the reflected signal from the plane adds to and subtracts from the direct signal from “Daventry” as it moves between the two. Originally the bomber would have to move 49 metres to produce the same up and down movement of the dot, it was traveling at 120 miles per hour.

This simple trial experiment led to the development of the system that detected the presence of enemy aircraft approaching the country during World War Two and significantly contributed to outcome of the Battle of Britain.

To see a video of the Daventry Experiment in miniature, please visit <https://daventrymuseum.org.uk/learn/> and go to 'Collected Conversations'.

Rod Viveash, Volunteer Museum Curator

BBC – A Centenary of Sights & Sounds

2nd July 2022 — 3rd December 2022

Daventry Museum is celebrating the BBC's centenary this year with a commemorative exhibition about the BBC and its impact on Daventry. On 27th July 1925, the BBC opened its transmitting station on Borough Hill, Daventry.



Known as the 5XX, it was the world's first Long Wave transmitting station and enabled the broadcast of a national programme, which most of the nation were able to tune in to and listen. At the opening ceremony, a poem written especially for the occasion by Alfred Noyes, was recited and coined the saying 'Daventry Calling' which was heard across the nation when the programme started.

Exhibits include radio receivers from the start of the BBC through to the pop music revolution, and an early television in a 1950s room setting entitled, "Television comes to Daventry".

The exhibition also celebrates the 90th anniversary of the Empire Short Wave Service from Borough Hill, which opened in December 1932, marking the first broadcast to the Empire from the UK.



Doctor Who Display

3rd September - 3rd December

As part of the BBC's 100th Birthday celebrations, the third and final Doctor Who special will air this autumn, with a new, 14th Doctor being revealed. To celebrate, Daventry Museum is holding a small community display of Doctor Who memorabilia featuring collectible figurines of the Doctors, companions and monsters including Daleks and Cybermen. There's even a life-sized TARDIS in the main museum room and you can also dress up as your favourite Doctor!

During your visit, why not get involved in our Doctor Who Trail around the museum, have a go at our 'Are you a Whovian' quiz and take part in a Doctor Who drawing competition to be entered into a prize draw!



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

DESBOROUGH HERITAGE CENTRE

Desborough Heritage Centre is in full flow again, open for six days a week, thanks to some of our already fully-committed fifty volunteers. Our monthly History talks have resumed on the last Monday of the month, as have the monthly talks of the Desborough & District Group of the Wildlife Trust (maintainers of our heritage nature reserves), these are on the second Tuesday of each month.

Desborough in Bloom (a branch of Desborough Civic Society, the parent body of the Heritage Centre) is much in evidence in a multitude of flowering tubs and baskets soon to be planted with bulbs.

Our Family History Group meets weekly with monthly zoom meetings for those at a distance and some of its own publications. Our monthly Desborough Scrapbook continues on sale, crammed with local history though its 200th number will be out in October.

The displays in our four rooms continue with “permanent” displays from 2000 years of Desborough’s history being ever updated and with new displays from our overflowing store rooms. Most immediately, one of our window displays, with newly-dressed mannequins and an internal display shop window, features local late Victorian photography and cycle shops with a recent acquisition of a racing penny farthing bicycle, together with an adjacent small display of Victorian Wheels from carriage type to roller skates.

We have just put on a special additional display to our World War II material. This was added in time for Desborough’s 1940s Day, at which usually we receive about a thousand visitors; the Day was cancelled because of HM Queen Elizabeth II’s death. However, the display’s purpose is to accompany a Heritage Centre event. In WWII a Lancaster bomber crashed in a Desborough field. Our Civic Society has erected on that place a memorial to the RAF crew. The place is now in a new housing estate. Descendants of the crew, including some coming from Australia, came to Desborough for a service of dedication on October 15, followed by a gathering in the Heritage Centre.

School classes continue to visit us, from the whole range of primary school ages, some to look at the whole of Desborough history, some its Industry, others on special subjects such as old toys, according to teachers’ requests.

We have been welcoming quite different groups, such as the U3A who also enjoy teas and cakes.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Belinda Humfrey, Chairman

Desborough Heritage Centre, 72 Station Rd, Desborough, Kettering NN14 2RS

01536 765734

NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORT HERITAGE

Despite missing out on our two biggest events of the year there have still been many highlights.

Our 1946 Crossley won best double decker at the national buses festival.

Then a very successful first event in Daventry. This was run in conjunction with the museum and town council.

This saw us carry over 2,000 passengers !

Thanks to everyone concerned.

The beach and splash shuttle bus was also a first for both us and Wellingborough.



An exciting new acquisition, which was driven home from Orkney during the storms.

This lovely ex United Counties Bristol coach.



If you have anything Northamptonshire transport related, please let us know.

Keep up to date by following us on facebook or on our website.

PS Another new acquisition arriving soon !

Phil Curtis

[facebook far cotton history group/northampton transport heritage](#)

tel [07929907923](tel:07929907923)

email philntfcok1022@gmail.com

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHIVES SERVICE

We were pleased to welcome many new faces to the Saturday event that we held during the national Heritage Open Days. This gave a welcome chance to show off some lovely archives to people who did not know anything about the Service and provide a tour behind the scenes to both newcomers and some familiar faces. We do not often open the repositories where the archives are stored to the public, because of the need to regulate temperature and humidity in this area. But there is nothing like seeing the collections *in situ* to appreciate the scale of our operation and the importance of the county's archival heritage. It was delightful to see everyone's level of interest in all aspects of the Service and we hope that those who came will be returning to do research. Remember that you do not need to be an academic to use the archives – they are here for everyone's learning and enjoyment.

The Service has been busy over the past few months making preparations for an important accession: the records from St Andrew's Hospital, Northamptonshire. The hospital was the county's private asylum, set up in 1838 with intention of providing humane care for the mentally ill. Today St Andrew's Healthcare is a registered charity providing specialist mental health care for patients with some of the most complex mental health needs in the UK. It is also a leading teaching and research hospital. The archives tell the story of the development of the hospital as well as telling us about the treatments and experience of individual patients. As an archive it is going to be invaluable for medical and social historians, but also, of course, for family historians.

Many of the records will be closed to public access for the remainder of my lifetime. But there are two series that will be of especial interest to any of you who think your ancestor may have been in the asylum, remembering that although patients had to pay for treatment, many poorer people did end up there, sponsored by local philanthropists (such as the JP or lord of the manor): the patient admissions 1838 – 1971 and the case books 1838 – 1922. (These will be subject to a 100-year closure rule.) The whole collection will be arriving in instalments between now and Christmas. So, watch this space. We are hoping to be able to offer access to the older material in the New Year. Please hold off the email enquiries for now and I shall make sure you are kept up-to-date, as we work hard to create the lists that will enable us to make this material available to you.

Don't forget the very useful Family History 'surgeries' provided by the Family History Society on the first Saturday in each month at the Archives Service. Guidance can be given on the sorts of resources that can be found here, and how to navigate the various hard copy catalogues and indexes. We are aware that being faced with an array of old-fashioned index drawers can be baffling, but staff are always here to help and explain. We are now doing more frequent document retrieval through the day, so that when you visit you can work through more material. But we do still recommend that you book a space in advance.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sarah Bridges, Archives and Heritage Services Manager

archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, MAREFAIR

The summer of 2022 will be remembered as one of mixed emotions.

In August at St Peter's, in full sunshine, we celebrated the anniversary of William Smith, "father of English geology".

Our guest on this happy Sunday 24th was Dr Ursula Lawrence, retiring chairman of the Geological Society's Engineering branch. She explained how Smith's understanding of rock sequence and the theory of strata was key to the development of below-ground construction. To mark her visit, Ursula set a vibrant flower-filled planter at his tomb.

She presented the Friends with a superbly illustrated book as a memento – a beautiful and generous gift.



The month ended on a high with a 'sold out' performance of *Pride and Prejudice*. St Peter's looked magical in the evening light. **THIS IS MY THEATRE** company is now a firm favourite in Northampton.



We began Heritage Open Days with a fascinating free Zoom talk on restoration at the Old Black Lion. The courtyard of the inn was open to view and meet the team on Friday 9th Sept. **See the video on our webpage.**

All was well – and then the shock registered: on 8th September, our Monarch of 70 years, 'Queen of Blessed Memory' died.

Like so many others, St Peter's swung into mourning. The tenor bell rang the knell. It has tolled for the death of monarchs since 1734.

Visitors were invited to come to St Peter's on advertised opening times for quiet reflection on the passing of an era and a life devoted to service. The bells rang out our sadness on Saturday and then before the funeral on Monday.



Our three open sessions attracted the same attendance recorded for HODS in 2019 – pre-Covid.

It was comforting to know how many people appreciated their time at St Peter's as National Mourning began.

Now we settle to plan future events

For midwinter we decorate the church with evergreens:

Saturday 3rd December: We hope to plant our tree for Queen Elizabeth's Green Canopy – *details to follow.*

On **14th December** there is a welcome return of **THIS IS MY THEATRE** to help us celebrate the festive season with a performance of **The Nutcracker & The Mouse King**. Book tickets at <https://www.thisismytheatre.com/northampton>



The **ROYAL AND DERNGATE**

COMMUNITY CHOIR bring us a Carol concert on **Tuesday 20th December**.

This is a **FREE** event. Start at 7 pm, and access to the church from 6:30 pm. The performance will last about one hour with the possibility of refreshments afterwards.

Meanwhile, Individual and group visits to St Peter's can be arranged:

Email stpetermarefair@gmail.com or call: **0752 2792392**

Follow us on Facebook: [Friends of St Peter's church Marefair Supporters](#)

More details about St Peters on

The Friends Webpage: <https://www.fostp.org.uk>

We always welcome new members and volunteers. Do get in touch.

78 DERNGATE

Get Creative with a 'Bubbles & Baubles' Evening

Thursday 10th November, Thursday 17th November and Thursday 1st December 2022

6:30pm-9pm

Inspired by our highly popular Prosecco & Paint at 78 Derngate evenings, we are now excited to announce: **Bubbles & Baubles** !! Attendees can enjoy entry to the Charles Rennie Mackintosh House – after hours – where unique and eclectic interiors can be found; two of which will be decorated with a nod to the festive season. After a quick guided tour, guests are invited to sit down in the Upstairs Gallery to paint their own Christmas baubles whilst enjoying a glass or two of fizz on the side. We will be hosting **THREE** of these jolly evenings over the festive period: Thursday 10th November, Thursday 17th November and Thursday 1st December. They will run from 6:30pm-9:00pm Tickets are £30 pp (£25pp for a soft drink) and tickets are available on the website www.78derngate.org.uk



The **Network Arts Group** will be exhibiting in our galleries here from Saturday October 22nd to Sunday December 18th, showcasing a huge amount of talent, demonstrating a raft of styles and techniques, all the works will be available to purchase. Why not combine a visit to this exhibition with a visit to our hidden gem: The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and take in tea at The Dining Room to round off the day!

The makers of BBC's popular show, Bargain Hunt, came to film at 78 Derngate in the summer for this hidden gem of a Charles Rennie Mackintosh house to feature as part of the main programme. We can now announce that it was due to air on BBC1 on Friday 21st October at 12.15

We are also running an **Autumn Raffle**, which is due to be drawn on Saturday Dec 10th—with an array of prizes to be won! Tickets for this can be obtained in person from 78 Derngate which is open Tuesday-Sunday 10am to 4.30pm

Liz Jansson, House Manager



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Zoom meetings will be continuing each month and remain popular as we have a variety of talks specific to family history research. Branch meetings at Northampton and Kettering are held each month and I am pleased to say that attendance has been gradually increasing. We have a steady trickle of new members. Our quarterly journal is packed full of interesting stories, articles on how to further your research, and each edition includes a Parish Profile which will be of interest to local historians as well.

Our revamped and improved website has been launched. It now has many downloadable guides on topics such as maps, non-conformity, union workhouses, cemeteries and more. All of these will help the researcher to find resources and records. Additionally, a new members' area has been set up which includes **all** the back copies of our journals for the last 40+ years and a number of databases – a definite incentive to join!

We will be attending the Family History Federation's Online Show on 11-12 November. As well as the opportunity for visitors to chat to local family history societies, there are a large number of talks which will be available for a week after the event—really good value for money. Come and talk to us there.

If you are stuck for an idea for a Christmas present we will soon be launching our popular **Christmas gift voucher scheme**.

For more information about the Society, membership and talks, please visit our website www.northants-fhs.org

Angela Malin, Chairman



FAMILY HISTORY Federation Online Event
Friday 11th November 6pm-10pm +
Saturday 12th November 10am-5pm

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

FAMILY HISTORY Federation **PARISH CHURCH**

Full Price **TICKETS £12**

Northants FHS will be there
We have extensive knowledge of the county, its' archives and resources - do come and chat to us

Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**
LEARN MORE and BUY NOW at
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

STOP PRESS

New memorial inscription publications available

- ◆ Byfield ◆ Chipping Warden ◆ Daventry
- ◆ Edgcote ◆ Everdon ◆ Norton
- ◆ Ravensthorpe ◆ Weedon Lois (with Weston Baptist and Plumpton) ◆ Woodford Halse

See our publications page

[Publications](#) | [Northamptonshire Family History Society \(northants-fhs.org\)](http://Northamptonshire Family History Society (northants-fhs.org))

ST ANDREW'S HERITAGE SOCIETY

On 24 and 25 September 2022, members of St Andrew's Heritage Society and friends performed a specially written play about 14th century Spratton and the Lord of the Manor, Sir John Swinford. The play, *If Stone Could Talk*, was originally written in 2004 when the Friends of Spratton Church undertook a substantial churchyard project, with Lottery funding, which included restoration of the churchyard cross mentioned in the play. It was intended to perform the play again in 2020 as part of the 900th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Spratton's Grade I listed church. However the pandemic prevented that from taking place. The playwright is a colleague of one of the original organisers in 2004 and now lives in Leeds. She attended both performances in September 2022.

Pam Townsend from Guilsborough was the director, and visual effects, sound and lighting were provided by Jonathan Pykett of EMGraphics. The ghost of Sir John rose from his tomb to tell his story, so the lighting effects were an important part of the production. Medieval banners and costumes were lovingly made by Marian Brown and Judith Elliott. Seventeen villagers and friends took the parts of tourists, aristocrats, church people and villagers, while school children joined in as dancers for the medieval wedding that ended the play. The church was packed for both performances and money raised will go towards the maintenance and improvement of the fabric of the beautiful 1120 church.



The stone cross repaired in 2004

Enid Jarvis, Chairman



The builders of the stone cross in the Churchyard



The Master Builder and the Verger

CANON'S ASHBY—NATIONAL TRUST

Christmas at Canons Ashby

Experience a magical Christmas visit at Canons Ashby, with festive decorations inspired by myths of wizards, knights and dragons drawn from the pages of Arthurian legend, which sparked the imaginations of Dryden family writers hundreds of years ago.

For little adventurers, explore with the Christmas Quest trail, find all the ingredients on the list, and help Merlin complete his spell. Wrap up warm and venture into the Spinney, ding-dong the bells and chimes and spot the Arthurian clues on the Magical Wood Trail; don't forget to pick up your festive prize!

During the evenings, walk the house after hours on a candlelit tour, or sing along in the courtyard with Eboracum Baroque at the traditional Christmas concert with seasonal favourites.



Enjoy warming treats in the Coach House tea-room and take inspiration from the seasonal gifts and decorations in our gift shop; or why not have a go at crafting your own Christmas wreath with the flower team on a workshop.

To find out more about our festive events, and to book, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canonsashby. The wreath making workshop, musical concert, and evening tours need to be booked in advance and have limited tickets.

Helen Cable, Marketing & Communications Officer, National Trust

South Warwickshire & South Northamptonshire

Email: helen.cable@nationaltrust.org.uk Canons Ashby **01327 861900**

THE FRIENDS OF KETTERING ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

The planned work on the Art Gallery extension has been very difficult and the Friends are in discussion with North Northamptonshire Council. With regard to the Manor House Museum, extensive work is required on the fabric of this Grade II listed building. It is now closed and will remain closed 'for the foreseeable future'. In these times of budgetary constraint, we are very concerned for its future. The Friends have also been very active in opposing the rebranding of the Heritage site as 'Cornerstone'

Following the ending of lockdown, the committee decided that the members had probably had enough of sitting around indoors. We have therefore organised several town tours, cemetery tours, a day's outing to the Derby Museums, a picnic at Boughton House, and a play at Lyveden Old Bield. A further outing to Drayton Manor is planned for the autumn.

In the meantime, lacking our usual venue in the Gallery, we have been using Bonkers Playhouse for our occasional meetings. Our November talk will be on the Geddington Riots by John Padwick hopefully in the new Gallery building.

David Brown, Chairman

KETTERING CIVIC SOCIETY

The last newsletter reported progress that we are making with our children's magazines. Since then, we were absolutely delighted to learn that we were successful in our bid for a community grant of £5,000 from Kettering Town Council.

We hope to produce magazines covering about 12 different topics on Kettering and copies will be given to year 6 pupils.

The first issue has been successfully received by both adults and children. The text is being compiled by me using mostly Ron Greenall's accurately researched book, *The History of Kettering*, with Kathy Haigh editing.

What could be seen as a rather uninteresting set of historical facts has been made fun thanks to Max Champion's wonderful characters bringing the magazine to life. His design skills and sense of humour make the magazines entertaining as well as informative. Learning at any age can be fun!

So far, the themes have been the non-conformists which includes William Knibb; the Kettering Mosaic, and the third is about Kettering's industries.

We have received valuable input from Karen Adhemar, Kettering Museum Manager, and Lynn Thomas Head of History at Barton Seagrave Primary School.

Monica Ozdemir, Secretary

KETTERING CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

Kettering Cultural Consortium, a group of the leading cultural groups in the town working with North Northamptonshire Council, has received a substantial grant from Historic England for an exciting programme of artistic, cultural and heritage events around the town centre.

Kettering is one of over 60 High Street Heritage Action Zones to receive funding from Historic England for local arts organisations to create and deliver community-led cultural activities on their high streets until March 2024.

The programme includes:

Heritage Trail – The Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum are creating a trail of QR codes telling the history of buildings throughout the town centre. There are already over 15 codes in place around Market Place with more to follow. These have been supplemented by heritage walks in both the town centre and cemetery.

The Story of the Mosaic – Kettering Civic Society are working with UK Film School and local young people to create a film that tells the history of the mosaic previously installed on the old Tresham College building, and the historical significance of the motifs within the mural design.

The Knibb Talks – Designed to enable local people to share their own stories, a series of spoken word workshops led to an evening of storytelling at Kafe Bloc run by Picture the Difference. Another iteration of this is planned for 2023.

Kettfest – The consortium supported this year's Kettfest, the first since 2019, which saw the town centre filled with creative activities including music, dance, poetry, painting and a vibrant market place.

Volunteer Training – The Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum are running a training programme for volunteers, including front of house and giving talks, across the 3 years of the programme.

Events Programme – The consortium have also contributed to a number of cultural and heritage events in both the town centre and at Wicksteed Park.

The consortium are currently working on plans for activities during 2023, including the continuation of the above projects.

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

Helen Willmott, Programme Director

Made With Many

www.madewithmany.org

PIDDINGTON ROMAN VILLA MUSEUM

Piddington Digs Again!

The Upper Nene Archaeological Society was very excited to be digging again in August after a 3 year break. The plan was to complete the investigation of an area begun in 2019 which looked as though it might have some kind of ritual significance. The small area yielded some exciting finds which illustrated the wide geographical links that existed at Piddington during the Roman period. Local pottery sherds made in the second century AD at Ecton kilns were found near fragments of a fine Gaulish amphora, which would have contained imported wine. The Ecton pot has decorated shoulders and is in the process of reconstruction. Six cattle jaw bones were also found, the last of which was typically released from the trench in the last minutes of the last day of the dig. Conservation will hopefully reveal the purpose of a small metal item; possibly a medical instrument or part of a scoop for ointment or similar.

The area has now been back filled and this glimpse of Piddington's Roman past has been hidden once more. Planning has already begun for 2023 digging.

Sue Germain, Membership Secretary



HOLY SEPULCHRE (NORTHAMPTON) RESTORATION TRUST

The directors of Holy Sepulchre Restoration Trust are pleased to offer bookings for comprehensive tours of the world famous church to be extended through this Autumn period. It would appear that we are now into COVID catch up time so do please be in touch by calling [01604 754782](tel:01604754782) to see if we can accommodate a date and time of your preference.

LAMPOR HALL

Join us at Lamport Hall to celebrate the festive season with a varied and exciting calendar of Christmas events.

26 November - A Cheesemonger's History of the British Isles - A Cheese and Wine Tasting with Ned Palmer, 6pm

Back by popular demand after the resounding success of last year's event, cheesemonger Ned Palmer takes us on a delicious journey through time across Britain and Ireland to uncover the histories of cheese. This is a cheesemonger's odyssey, a celebration of history, innovation and taste. Ticket price includes cheese tasting with local artisan breads and a selection of red, white and sparkling wines. £60 per person.

3 & 4 December – Christmas Market, 10am-4pm

Get into the festive spirit by visiting our Christmas Market. Come along to shop over 90 stalls of gifts, crafts and produce – you're sure to find something for all the family. Indulge in an array of festive food and drink options, visit Santa in the magical Christmas woodland and explore the Hall festooned with winter foliage. Grotto and Hall & Gardens are open both afternoons, 1-4pm, by separate entry. See the website for details of tickets and entry times.

10 December – *Fifty Words for Snow* – A Christmas Talk with Nancy Campbell, 6pm

In this lyrical, evocative talk Nancy Campbell digs deep into the meanings, etymologies and mythologies of snow around the globe, demonstrating the many ways in which we are connected to one another and to our planet. *Fifty Words for Snow* was a Waterstones non-fiction Book of the Month in *The Bookseller*, and a *Herald* Christmas Book of 2020. Enjoy this fascinating lecture which includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, all enjoyed in the sumptuous surroundings of the Hall decorated for Christmas. £27.50 per person.

16 December – Danny Tompkins Christmas Feast, 7pm

Indulge in a four-course Christmas menu with local award-winning chef Danny Tompkins. Using only the finest seasonal ingredients, this is sure to be an unforgettably delectable festive delight. More information on menus and pricing available on the website nearer the date.

Email events@lamporthall.co.uk for more information on Christmas at Lamport or visit the website on www.lamporthall.co.uk.

Sarah Stringer

pp Engagement Officer

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engagement@lamporthall.co.uk

EVENTS DIARY—by Organisation Name

Organisation	Event	Speaker	Date	Point of Contact	Email/ telephone
Aynho History Society	The 3 Norman Churches of Brackley and AGM	Rosemary Leeper	26-Oct	Keith McClellan	01869 810346
Brigstock Historical Society	Brigstock History Day		30-Oct	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Brigstock Historical Society	Rise and Fall of Footwear Manufacture in East Northants		23-Nov	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Brigstock Historical Society	Christmas Party		14-Dec	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Brigstock Historical Society	History of the Pantomime	Martin Heath	25-Jan	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Brigstock Historical Society	For the Duration - stories of Northampton Women in WW1	Andrea Pettingale	22-Feb	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Kelmarsh Hall	Hansons Auctioneer Days at Kelmarsh Hall		17-Nov	Eleanor Laverick	01604 686543
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	What to do with your Research	John Hanson	07-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	The Enumerator Strikes Back	Dave Annal	28-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Christmas Social evening		05-Dec	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	Northamptonshire Archives	Sarah Bridges, Archivist	23-Jan	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING	My Boer War ancestors	Keith Steggles	14-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING	The Brudenell Family of Deene	Delia Thomas	12-Dec	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society KETTERING	tbc		09-Jan		chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON	Northampton and the Great War. The role of postcards and the portrayal of wartime. Northampton	Douglas Goddard	21-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Northamptonshire Family History Society NORTHAMPTON	Members evening		16-Jan	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs-org
Oundle Historical Society	Saxons in the Nene Valley	Prof Stephen Upex	11-Nov		www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk
Oundle Historical Society	Mastering Laxton's Free Grammar School	Colin Pendrill	12-Jan		www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk
Oundle Historical Society	AGM and Presentation "Peterborough Morris"		10-Mar		www.oundlehistoricalsociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Fifty Years of Archaeology in Northamptonshire	Andy Chapman	26-Oct	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	The Every Brothers	Lings Forum Cinema	10-Nov	For tickets	Tel. 01604 838333
Roade Local History Society	Roade at War!	Colin Haddon	23-Nov	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Discover your Family History	RLHS Committee	14-Dec	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Blair Swannell	Graham Mckechnie	29-Mar	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk
Roade Local History Society	Silverstone WW1 to F1	Gerald Lovell	26-Apr	Maggie Smith	events@roadehistorysociety.org.uk

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Brigstock Historical Society	Brigstock History Day		30-Oct	Sally Wilks	01536 373428
Northamptonshire Family History Society by ZOOM	What to do with your Research	John Hanson	07-Nov	Angela Malin	chairman@northants-fhs.org
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