



## Newport Pagnell Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 801897  
Chandos Hall, Silver Street, MK19 0EN  
[www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs](http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs)

### NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 2018 & JANUARY 2019

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**The Story of the Unknown Warrior – Tuesday 6th November** Roger Laing gave us an extremely interesting talk on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, a subject you know about but also know nothing about.

On November 11th 1920 unknown warrior was interred in the nave of Westminster Abbey while at the same time a unknown warrior was interred in France under the Arc de Triomphe.

The origin of this all began with the Rev. David Railton who saw a grave in a French garden with a simple marker saying an Unknown Warrior. The Dean of Westminster put his idea into effect in August 1920

In November 4 anonymous bodies were selected from 4 major battlegrounds, Aisne, Somme, Arras and Ypres and taken to St Pol where on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, one was randomly selected, the others being re-buried. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the plain coffin was taken to Boulogne escorted by French soldiers.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> the body was placed in a zinc-lined coffin made of 2inch thick English oak with a 16th century crusades sword and covered with Ypres/Padre flag.

The coffin was brought to England aboard the HMS Verdun.

11<sup>th</sup> November the coffin was taken to Westminster Abbey through crowd lined streets via the cenotaph and buried with soil from France so was in the same soil as his compatriots.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> 1921 the black Belgian marble slab was added, the brass lettering made from spent shells.

The Queen Mother began the tradition of brides placing their bouquets on the grave as she had lost a brother in the war.

No one is allowed to walk on the tomb, not even the Queen, which is how it should be.

A wonderful memorial to those people who sacrificed so much for us. **YS**

**Quiz Night and Social Evening – Tuesday 20th November** For those of you who were not able to attend, I am sorry to say you missed a very enjoyable evening. Don did us proud with yet another testing but entertaining quiz which was won by Geoff Morris and his team. The committee laid on a tasty buffet which was served at half time. Be sure to put it in your diary for this year. **SP**

#### **The 100 Days – Waterloo - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Another almost full house of enthusiastic local historians, Geoff Morris gave a comprehensive, colourful and informative talk about The Hundred Days War, in France.



This event marked the period between Napoleon's return from exile on the island of Elba, to Paris on 20 March 1815 and the second restoration of King Louis XVIII on 8 July 1815 (an interval of 111 days). This phase in the history of Europe, involved the War of the Seventh Coalition, and included the Waterloo Campaign, the Neapolitan War, as well as several other minor campaigns. The phrase *les Cent Jours* (the hundred days) was first used by the prefect of Paris, Gaspard, comte de Chabrol, in his speech welcoming the king back to Paris on 8 July.

Napoleon returned while the Congress of Vienna was sitting. On 13 March, seven days before Napoleon reached Paris, the powers at the Congress of Vienna declared him an outlaw, and on 25 March Austria, Prussia, Russia and the United Kingdom, members of the Seventh Coalition, bound themselves to put 150,000 men each into the field to end his rule. This set the stage for the last conflict in the Napoleonic Wars, the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, the restoration of the French monarchy for the second time and the permanent exile of Napoleon to the distant island of Saint Helena, where he died in May 1821.

Geoff related a great deal of detail, including bloodshed and carnage, human suffering; the mutilation of bodies, including horses; courage, stamina, determination and strategy; as well as torrential rain, mud and some confusion. Most importantly, he told of significant intervention on the part of the Prussian Army, under the command of Field Marshal Blücher, in partnership with the Duke of Wellington.

Both Wellington and Blücher, were justifiably feted by their respective countries for defeating Napoleon, in such a bloody and hard-fought battle. **BB**

**The Bow Street Runners – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** A very informative talk was given by Steve Bacon.

The first recorded term “Runner” was in 1780. It was a lowly job, and when it was attributed to the Bow Street law enforcers, it was deemed an insult.

There was no Police Force as such before this time; local parish constables were responsible for their areas. It was not tradition in England to have armed men on the street, as it was on the continent, and there was no retained army to keep the peace.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, newspaper circulation grew and more crimes were reported, fuelling the fear of a more lawless society.

Government encouraged the use of home grown grains to produce gin, which was cheap. People became addicted, turning to crime to finance their habit.

Parliamentary Rewards were introduced to catch criminals. You could get paid £40 for reporting a burglar. Jonathan Wild, a self-styled Thief Taker, ran his own gang and abused the system, doing the crimes, and also pocketing the rewards. There was no offence at the time for “handling stolen goods”

In 1740 Sir Thomas de Veil opened a courtroom in offices in Bow Street and set himself up as a magistrate. He was succeeded by Henry Fielding who set up The Police Gazette, advertising crimes. They started to match crimes to known criminals. The government paid for six principal officers who worked with Royal authority and commanded respect. They carried a tipstaff and used it to touch people when they were arrested. They wore their own clothes.

John Fielding carried on his brother's work, and instigated foot and horse patrols. They eventually got a uniform, red waistcoats and blue coats – not to be confused with the military, and they carried swords and pistols.

In 1829, The Metropolitan Police operated from another office in Bow Street. Their uniform was blue, with top hats, and they were a very visible presence on the street. They were largely there to prevent crime, not to investigate it.

The Principal Officers were highly intelligent individuals, and actually the first detectives, employing a forensic approach to crime.

Very informative talk **KD**

## MUSEUM AT CHANDOS HALL

The next theme centres around the Society's collection of Deeds pertaining to Buildings in Newport

### **MUSEUM OPEING TIMES**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	2pm – 4pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm – 4pm

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** Bill has been delighted with the initial response to this year's renewal campaign. Many members have already paid and we have several new members. As usual you have until the end of March to pay before being withdrawn from the register. Bill will be at the meetings to collect your monies.

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### **FORTH COMING EVENTS**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	There's no place like Homeworld	Dianne Sutton
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Away with the fairies	Kevin Varty
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	AGM followed by Brooklands video	Irene Henderson
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	MK that Never Was	Tim Skelton
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	A Landscape History - Olney	Tom Jones

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**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FARMERS MARKET.** I am sorry to report that the revenue raised from these two events was disappointing, much lower than previous years. A big thank you to the members of the committee for their contribution on both days. We managed to raise just over £100.

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### **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

We received a lovely thankyou card from Julie Eldridge, the organiser of the event, for our contribution. We based our tree on the austere trees of War time. The Tree was erected and adorned with homemade decorations by the Ladies of the Fund Raising committee.





**This is the text of the cutting shown below with the medal. It has 1963 written on it.**

**Death of former Newport postman**

A postman in the Newport Pagnell district for forty two years. Mr. Henry John Tame died at the home of his son, 222 Kingsley Avenue, Kettering, on Wednesday week. Mr. Tame who used to live at 13 Bury Avenue, Newport Pagnell was 89 years old and had been in good health until recently. Mr. Tame was a postman for the rural area for 18 years and during that time walked daily to Moulsoe. He then became a postman in the town for the rest of his service. When he retired in 1933 he was presented with the Imperial Service Medal.

His wife, the late Mrs. Mary Ann Tame, died in 1953 and Mr. Tame moved to Kettering.



**These photos and the medal were donated to the Society by Mr. Tame's grandson in 2018.**

**The medal will be on display in the museum.**

