



Newport Pagnell

Historical Society

Registered Charity No. 801897

Chandos Hall, Silver Street, MK19 0EN

www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020

It may be a little late but as it is the first Newsletter of the year
may I on behalf of the Committee wish you all a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Diarists – Tuesday 5th November

Julian Hunt read to us from various diaries. These included Sir Samuel Luke who was governor of Newport Pagnell, commenting on the state of the Civil War and the position of the King's Army in 1643/44. Other local diarists were John Wesley describing visits to High Wycombe, and the Reverend William Cole of Bletchley. He mentions the Newport Lace Market and £1000 of lace being transported. A tidy sum in 1765. In 1805, Harriet Wynne writes about her ideas on love and marriage.

Grace Mackarness describes the opening of the Assizes in January 1883, and also the Royal Visit of the Prince of Wales to Aylesbury in July 1883.

More recently, the schoolboy diaries of William Mead in 1928, describe school life, films and entertainment of the era, with lots of references to the weather.

Entertaining diaries and old photos **KD**

Quiz Night and Social Evening – Tuesday 19th November

Almost 70 members were there to participate in a very pleasant evening. The ladies of the committee laid on a lovely spread, as usual, and Don's quiz was as challenging and fun as we have come to expect. If you did not make it this time, put it in your diary for this year. You don't have to be a Brain of Britain to enjoy this great evening. **SP**

Maps of Newport Pagnell - Tuesday 7th January

Don Hurst presented some maps of Newport Pagnell; the earliest in 1644 at the time of the Civil War. The town was under siege for three and a half years. The map shows the Battery at the Rivers Meet where the cannons were positioned. 19th century maps show Tickford End, Clay lane (now Chicheley Street), Briars Hedge (now Broad Street), and Backside Leas (now Riverside Meadow), the Priory Estate, Canal Wharf, and plans for the Railway. The original routes of the Rivers Ouse & Lovat can be clearly seen. Flooding takes place in these areas today, as the rivers find their original course.

A 1926 map shows the Old Town Brewery, founded in 1791, where the Medical Centre stands today.

A map of St John's Street shows the area of demolition in the 1950s.

Really interesting to see how much has changed in NP. **KD**

Pictures in the Parlour - Tuesday 21st January

A packed house saw the welcome return of the ever-popular Kevin Varty, whose subject this time was "Pictures in the Parlour". This turned out to be a spellbinding magic lantern show, illustrated using an authentic ancient lantern and 200-year-old glass slides. As a member of the Magic Lantern Society, not only was Kevin well qualified to present this evening, but his engagement with the audience and his sense of humour really transported us back two centuries in time. He traced the evolution of the magic lantern from the 1650s, when the light source was just a candle, on through oil lamps, then lime light (a very dangerous combination of oxygen and hydrogen directing a flame onto a block of lime), to modern electric lamps. Unfortunately, these tend to damage the slides due to their excessive heat, so Kevin's only concession to modern technology was to use a low-heat LED lamp in his lantern.

Kevin explained that early slide shows concentrated on the three E's – Education, Enlightenment and Entertainment. Many sets of slides told a complete story, often with a moral such as the evils of drink. Others were designed to be scary, humorous or simply beautiful. The pinnacle of slide production was achieving the illusion of movement, either by slipping one slide behind another, or by mechanical means, or by kaleidoscopes. Bearing in mind that the glass slides were only 3 inches in diameter and were hand painted, the detail and craftsmanship involved were truly amazing.

Fittingly, the show ended with a slide of a flickering candle, which slowly dimmed before disappearing.

RP

MESSAGE FROM CAROL AND SUE

They would like to thank all those Members who kindly donate prizes for the Raffle which is held each meeting. Due to their generosity all the money raised can then go into the Society coffers. Without them we would have to purchase the prizes. The raffle money along with your entrance fee, helps to pay for the hall and speakers.

MUSEUM AT CHANDOS HALL

The theme for the next few months will be a Display of Artefacts that have been donated to the museum. These will be items not normally on show but purposely chosen by our Archivist, Don Hurst, for their historical interest.

MUSEUM FIRST OPENS Sunday 28th March 2pm – 4pm

During the closed period several small but important maintenance jobs have been carried out thanks to Stewart and Allen. These minor repairs, fixing lights, filling cracks, etc., keep the Museum in good shape. They deserve our thanks.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL As you are all aware, the Membership is renewed each January.

The cost remains the same as last year and Bill would appreciate being given the correct amount to speed up the collection. (£11 under 60. £9 over 60) He is delighted with the response so far. Remember you have until the end of March to pay, otherwise your name will be removed from the Membership list.

Many Thanks.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 4th February	Bawdy Georgians	Tom Jones
Tuesday 18th February	The Letters of Walter Croft WW1	Mark Steinhardt
Tuesday 3rd March	AGM	
Tuesday 17th March	Music and Memories of 1950's Childhood	Polly Feely

AGM Each year we request that one or two of members would consider joining our Committee.

It is always good to have new faces with fresh ideas. If you think you could spare a little time, please think about putting your name forward at the AGM. In addition to this appeal that appeared in the last Newsletter, we will be looking for someone to fill the position of Honorary Secretary next year.

Sadly, Brian Breacher is stepping down. **27th Jan. At this point we have a member interested.**

p Group's Local Community



As you are aware we were chosen for one the local charities to benefit from this scheme. If you would like your monies to go to the Society please go the web site below and register or you can phone the number of the back of your Co-op receipt.

[https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration.](https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration)

CHRSTMAS LIGHTS

This always attracts loads of people into the town. This year we set up our stall in the Brooklands Centre. I am pleased to report that we raised over two hundred pounds for the Society. Thanks to all those involved.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Those of you who missed this, missed a treat. This annual event gets better each year. Over 50 organisations and companies took part. Our entry displayed various pictures of places of interest around and about Newport.

