



# 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 COVID EDITION DECEMBER 2020

Here we are at Christmas and still no sign of an end to these crazy times. The committee have continued to work on your behalf. Unfortunately, things have not always gone to plan as new restrictions have once again put a halt on group gatherings.

The proposed walk in November was abandoned and the Museum had to close its doors. Hopefully things will improve in 2021.

### MUSEUM

The Museum did open for a couple of days at the end of October. Although it was not very well attended, it did give the committee an opportunity to see how well the Covid Safe Environment precautions worked. Hopefully when we are able to open up again more will feel able to attend. We did however have a visit from the Town Mayor, who is always eager to promote our Society.



### MUSEUM OPENING DATES in December 2020

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	2-4pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	2-4pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	2-4pm
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	2-4pm

Please book your visit via our website [www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs/](http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs/)

Four 30 minute slots (for up to 4 people in a bubble) are available for each day.

### TOWN WALK Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

We are planning a walk around Newport Pagnell 11-12.30. Walkers will start in groups of four or less (social distancing rules apply). The walk will begin with a short introduction from Don Hurst. Booking is essential for this event, please phone Barbara 07946683811. Directions and information will follow and contact information will be taken at the time of booking.

### ZOOM TALKS

The first of our Zoom talks went ahead on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Blenhiem                      Geoff Morris Online talk                      Nov 2020

Blenheim Palace is the residence of the Dukes of Marlborough. The 1<sup>st</sup> Duke was John Churchill, a soldier, who allied himself to various monarchs to further his own career, aided by Sarah, his wife, a favourite of Queen Anne.

In 1704, he led Allied armies against Louis XIV of France, and Philip of Anjou of Spain, who were threatening Vienna. His troops marched into Bavaria, building many bridges over rivers to trick the enemy.

On 13 August 1704, he defeated the Franco-Spanish at Blenheim, Bavaria. He was given the Royal Manor of Woodstock in 1705.

Soon after, Sarah fell out with Queen Anne. The building work at Blenheim was completed with their own money. John died in 1722, but his wife continued the work. There are Blenheim battle scenes on ceilings in the Great Hall and Saloon.

John & Sarah are buried at Blenheim

Thanks Geoff for this interesting insight into Blenheim **KD**

We highly recommend you take the opportunity to hear Geoff's talk. If you are able to can find it on YouTube following this link <https://youtu.be/F8EVtwwgeD8>

---

### **FUTURE ZOOM TALKS**

We also intend to do talks in 2021 on the following Tuesdays at 7.30pm

5th JANUARY

2nd FEBRUARY

2nd MARCH

The first of the talks will be "The Work of the Parks Trust". The link to this will be forwarded to you in due course and will be found on our Web Site.

Future speakers to be confirmed.

Your thoughts on content, times, format etc. would be appreciated

[nphsmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:nphsmuseum@outlook.com)

---

### **CHRISTMAS QUIZ Tues 15 Dec 2020**

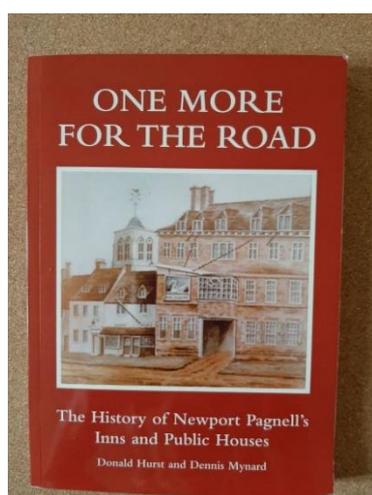
Come and join in our annual social event for members. Unfortunately, we won't be able to meet up in the church with the usual buffet and wine, due to the restrictions imposed by the government.

This year's get together will be on ZOOM. We hope that many of you will be able to participate. It's just for fun – marking your own papers, and keeping score. Feel free to get into the spirit of the event with a glass of something, nibbles and mince pies.

Joining instructions will be sent out in due course

---

### **ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD**



Copies of NPHS book by Don Hurst & Dennis Mynard are available at £10. This is the updated version of the original published in 1999. Fully revised in 2019. Read all about the history of the numerous pubs in Newport Pagnell. Lots of lovely pictures too.

The museum will be open in December, following government guidelines, for you to view a copy of the book.

We also have other publications on display.

---

### **CO-OP CHARITY FUNDING**

Thank you to all opted for NPHS as the charity of choice. We are very pleased to announce that the following was raised: -

Up until	9 <sup>th</sup> April	£1,219.86
	13 <sup>th</sup> November	£3,389.73

This will be more than enough to cover the cost of the new cabinets we planned to have made. It is our aim to have them built to the same high quality and design as the existing cabinets. Don and Pat are at present organising quotes.

---

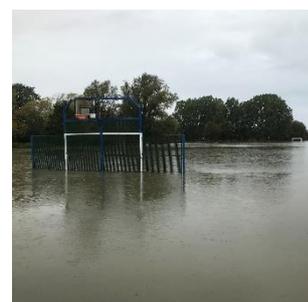
### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2021**

The committee have decided to defer the renewal until after the AGM. The new year will begin in April. A membership renewal form will be attached to the next Newsletter.

---

### **THIS YEAR'S FLOODS**

What wet Autumn it has been. Here are some photos taken by our Chairman.



---

### **Christmas Message from our President**

As we are frequently told, 2020 has been an 'unprecedented' year. For our Society, it meant we were just able to squeeze in our Annual General Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March before the first lockdown, but after that our entire programme of talks and walks had to be abandoned.

However, behind the scenes the committee have kept active by meeting on Zoom. Two trial openings of the museum took place in October with appropriate social distancing and sanitising, and a tentative programme of events has been drawn up for January to March 2021. Full marks and thanks to all the committee members, particularly Don and Pat Hurst who slaved away throughout the lockdowns cataloguing every item in the museum and recording them on the computer – a task that had been put off for years!

Hopefully the arrival of new vaccines will allow a return to near normal before too long. In the meantime I wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a non-lockdown New Year.

*Dick Parker*  
President

