



# Newport Pagnell Historical Society

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## NEWSLETTER COVID EDITION MAY 2021

Hopefully this is the last Newsletter under the "Covid" banner. Soon things will be back to relative normal. We will be able to hold our usual twice monthly meetings. Something we are all looking forward to doing. Meanwhile below is what we have planned for the coming months.

### WALKS PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER

DATE	TITLE/EVENT	SPEAKER	NOTES
18 May	Lakes Lane Walk	Don Hurst	30 people maximum. Meet at junction of Lakes Lane/Wolverton Road, 6.00pm.
01 June	Campbell Park	Kathy Dentith/ Barbara Evelyn	30 people maximum. Meet at car park by canal near Parks Trust, 6.15pm.
15 June	Ancient Woodland - Linford	Parks Trust/ Sarah Griffiths	Meet at car park at Enfield Chase, off V7 adjacent to BP garage and communications mast, 7pm. 20 people.
06 July	Walk around Stoke Goldington	Christine Feasey/ Pam Matthews	Meet Stoke Goldington meeting hall at 6.30pm.
17 July	Member's afternoon event	All	Details to follow.
20 July	Walk to Lathbury Village and Church	Tom Hart	Meet at 6.30pm at Ousebank Gardens near Ousebank House.
17 August	Bat Walk	Parks Trust/ Sarah Griffiths	Meet at Linford Lakes Nature Reserve 8pm, 20 people.

Times/numbers allowed may vary but will be shown when booking tickets through Eventbrite, the specific event links being listed on our website [www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs](http://www.mkheritage.org.uk/nphs)

### MUSEUM OPENINGS

Sunday 23rd May 2-4pm  
 Saturday 29th May 11-4pm  
 Sunday 30th May 11-4pm  
 Thursday 3rd June 10.30-4pm  
 Sunday 6th June 2-4pm  
 Thursday 10th June 11am-3pm  
 Sunday 13th June 2-4pm  
 Thursday 17th June 11am-3pm  
 Sunday 20th June 2-4pm  
 Thursday 24th June 11am-3pm

We have greatly increased the opening times of the Museum to accommodate as many people as possible.

To book a slot please go to the NPHS web site and follow the link to the booking page.

Date for future openings for Heritage Week  
 10,11,12 and 18/19 September, 10 to 3pm.

### REVIEWS

## **Georgian Olney – A Time Traveller’s Guide - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Tom Jones talked about the great changes that happened during the 1700s – The population of England & Wales was 5 million in 1700, increasing to 8 million in 1800. There was massive urbanisation, lots of people moving away from rural communities for the first time.

Coal became widely used, instead of wood, which was in short supply. Cooking was more efficient, but thicker pots had to be used. The fires caused places to be dirtier, so there was a lot more cleaning needed. Poorer people couldn’t keep up with it, and the phrase “the great unwashed” may have come from this time.

A coal seam was found in Olney, but it was not worth mining.

The first coffee house was established in London in 1652. People also began to drink chocolate; and Chinese black and green teas were seen as medicinal.

A lot of changes for our ancestors! Interesting talk. **KD**

## **AGM held on the Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

This event was carried out via Zoom. Approx. 40 members were able to join us.

All the usual formalities were carried out. Introduction from the President, followed by reports from the Chairman, Hon Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist. All the committee was re-elected with the exception of Kathy Dentith who has stepped down. The committee, on behalf of the Society, have thanked her for all her help and service over the last few years. We have since been joined by Danielle Whitton.

If you would like a copy of the minutes, please email the Society or ask a Committee Member.

The AGM was followed by a picture quiz devised and presented by Don Hurst. Don had photographed places around Newport which the participants had to identify. A testing and fun way to end the evening. **SP**

## **The Battle of Northampton – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

What an amazing talk from Geoff Morris, the research that was needed was also amazing, not something you could do in an afternoon.

The talk was a potted history of the War of Roses, as everyone knows fought between two branches of the Plantagenet family, the Red Rose of Lancaster and the White Rose of York and fought between 1455-1485/87 (depending on who you are reading)

The war was about which house would rule, sides changed many times, you could find yourself on the winning side one moment and then on the losing side with all the consequences that caused, some parties even changing sides mid-battle. At one time we had 2 Kings.

Geoff said unlike the Civil War, this war was not countrywide, intensive battles but most of the country was unaffected. One of the most fierce battles was at Towton in Yorkshire, one of the most bloodiest battles on English soil, both sides deciding to give no quarter and they didn't. It is said the river ran red with men either dying from severe wounds or drowning as the Lancastrians fled. The battle was fought on Palm Sunday, in snowy weather, with the House of York being victorious.

The conflict was settled finally at the Battle of Bosworth when Henry V11 defeated Richard 111 leading to the Tudor dynasty. **YS**

## **I’m not really old, it’s those tablets! - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

When we signed in on the Zoom meeting we did not know what to expect. But as Hugh Granger was the speaker we knew it would be enjoyable, and we were not disappointed. He entertained us for 45 minutes with a string of funny stories and jokes. Here are just a few of them.

A farmer’s wife was so fed up with her husband always to be found tinkering with his tractors in the shed, she gave him an ultimatum. It was either they go, or she would. The farmer reluctantly got rid of all the old tractors. As a reward and thank you his wife booked to take him to his favourite restaurant. When they arrived they found it crowded and full of cigarette smoke. The wife was ready to leave but the farmer said he could deal with it. He poked his head in the door and inhaled several times and the smoke was cleared. His amazed wife asked how he had managed to do that. He replied “It’s easy for an ex-tractor fan”

A man called his dog five miles. When asked “why” he explained that his Doctor said he had to do more exercise. Now he could truthfully tell the doctor that he walks “five miles’ twice a day.

Driving along a country road one day a man was over taken by a three-legged chicken. Amazed he followed it into a farm yard. Seeing the farmer, he inquired about it. The farmer explained that he, his wife and son all liked the leg of roast chicken. So his son had genetically modified a chicken to have the three legs. The man then asked “How does it taste” to which the farmer replied “We don’t know we haven’t been able to catch it”.

Finally, Hugh said that every man over the age of 50 is encouraged to take Statins. He takes them but when you read the leaflet inside it says they may cause blurred vision, weight gain, hair loss, stiff joints. and memory loss.

You see.....I’m not really old – it’s those tablets. **SP**

### **A Walk Around Bury Field – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

On a lovely Tuesday evening, in groups of six, we took a walk around Bury Field. As this was one of Don Hurst's walks we were regaled with snippets of knowledge as we walked. Did you know that the wall around Queens Avenue, which was originally the perimeter of Bury Field, is partly made from the black slag from the Gas and Coke works previously in Caldecote Street? The tall red brick building with the long window overlooking the field was once a dairy on the dirt track which is now Lakes Lane, leading to Kickles Farm. There has been a building on the site of the farm since ancient times and Kickles, in various forms of spelling, is thought to have been a Norse name which is a good indication how old this area is as the Danes are believed to have been the first occupants of the town.

The second field, Bury Meadow, has remnants relating to the building of the railway to Olney that never happened. The two posts marking the position of the bridge which was to cross the Ouse near what is locally known as The Beach, are no longer there.

A pleasant and interesting walk. Thank you, Don and Pat, for arranging and planning it. **SD**

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### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Pat Hurst has asked me to remind you that your Membership should have been renewed by the end of March. You will of course be able to re-join when the meetings return, but it would make Pat's duties easier if you can re-join before then. Also, this will be your last Newsletter if you are no longer on the Member's list.

Again if you should need any assistance returning your form, please contact Pat on 01908 612356 or email [nphsmembership@outlook.com](mailto:nphsmembership@outlook.com)

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### **LIST OF CURRENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### COMMITTEE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	RICHARD PARKER	CHAIRMAN	PETER SEAR
VICE PRESIDENT	DON HURST	HON. SEC	CHRIS NELSON
TREASURER	BARBARA EVELYN	MEMBERS SEC.	PAT HURST
ARCHIVIST	DON AND PAT HURST		

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STUART ARMSTRONG, SUE DONALD, ALLEN MULLETT, STEPHANIE PROCTOR, YVONNE SURRIDGE, CAROL WALKER AND DANIELLE WHITTON

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### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

It has been the custom over many years to reward long standing committee members with a Lifetime Membership. Recipients in the past have been people like Dick Parker, Bill Watson and Don Hurst amongst others. This is to recognise the years of service and dedication to the Society. This year the committee decided that such recognition should go to Carol Walker and Peter Sear. We thank them for all that they have done and continue to do.

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# **Annual Plant Sale**

## **8th May - 15th May.**

>>Allen has requested that his contact details not be included on this NPHS website version of the newsletter.<<