

- 1. Welcome and Introduction (David Muston)
- 2. Tribute to Robert Excell Led by Neil Loudon
- 3. Apologies received
- 4. Minutes of previous meeting 22/6/22 and Matters Arising
- 5. Committee Vacancies Secretary + Members
- 6. HoDs 2022 Report (pp Rachel Fleet)
- 7. Council Report (pp Shane Downer)
- 8. Arch-MK update (David Muston pp Anna McEvoy)
- 9. New Town Heritage Register update (Charlotte Hall, Alan Cooper)
- 10.IT/Web Report (Alan Cooper, David Muston)
- 11. Treasurer's Report (Charlotte Hall)
- 12. Grants to members (Neil Loudon, Charlotte Hall)
- 13. Review of Constitution & Business Plan (Neil Loudon)
- 14. Members reports (all)
- **15.**AOB



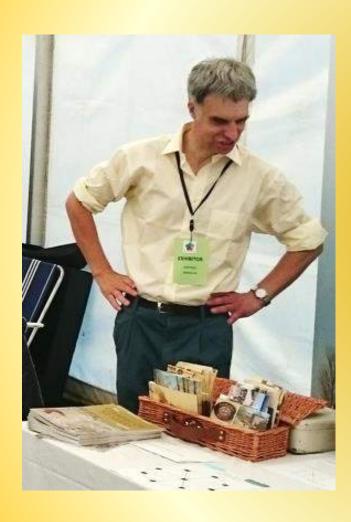
#### ITEM 1: Introduction - David Muston

#### **Topics:**

- Robert remembered
- Re-planning ArchMK programme
- Other Archives
- HODs breaking records



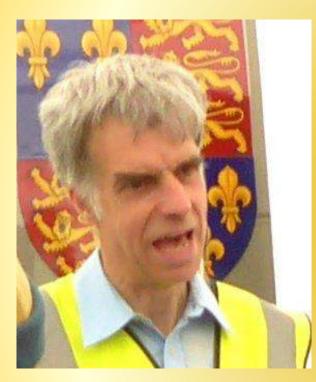
## ITEM 2: Tribute to Robert Excell – Led by Neil Loudon



- Curator London Transport Museum
- Founder Member MKHA Executive Committee 1993
- Secretary, Association of British Transport & Engineering Museums (ABTEM):
- Ridgemont Station Heritage team, Collections Adviser.
- Joined Living Archive Board 2016
- Vice Chair (Archives) LAMK
- Led funding application for 2019 Festival of History
- Represented MKHA at Arts & Heritage Alliance
- Led ArchMK project with Anna McEvoy
- Panel member on New Town Heritage Register 2022



#### ITEM 2.1: Just some Tributes to Robert from members



- He was a great and committed champion of heritage in Milton Keynes, an engaged and supportive member of AHA, and a very kind, knowledgeable and thoughtful man whom we will miss. - Francesca Skelton AHA-MK
- Milton Keynes has lost a great enthusiast and advocate for the importance and significance of heritage in the life of our city. Living Archive MK
- He was a fantastic man who loved his heritage. Shane Downer Culture Team, MKCC
- He was a lovely chap who did so much for MK heritage, and usually behind the scenes. Dr Noël James Director & CEO, MKCDC
- I am so so sorry to hear this very sad news. Jacqui Garrad, Director, The National Museum of Computing.



#### ITEM 2.1: Just some Tributes to Robert from members



- He was an integral part of the Ridgmont Station
   Heritage team and a good friend. Stephen Sleight,
   Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Officer
- He will certainly be a huge loss to the heritage family.
   Cheryl Butler ex DVHS
- Robert was in may ways 'Mr Heritage' across MK and wider, he will be very much missed on a personal level and wider. Mike Whittle ex St Marys, Bletchley
- He was a good friend and had worked tirelessly for the MKHA right from its inception. We hope it will be found possible to commemorate him in some way.
   Geoff & Joy Dawe ex TVAT



#### ITEM 2.1: Just some Tributes to Robert from members



- He always conveyed a sense of quiet, intelligent confidence. Bob Adams
- He was a stalwart for heritage and culture, and there won't ever be another like him. Lynne Cairns MK Heritage
- I would like to send our condolences to the family, friends and the committee members of MKHA, on hearing the very sad and sudden news of the passing of Robert Excell. Kay Turrell, Vice Chair, Sherington Historical Society
- We will miss him and are grateful for all his advice and support over the years. Vivian Bythe, Secretary, RLHS
- We regarded Robert as a good friend and a fine ambassador for MKHA, and we will greatly miss him.
   Keith Harry, Grafton Regis Historians



## 3. Apologies received

Shane Downer – MKCC, Vivian Blythe - RLHS, Anna McEvoy - Stowe House, Keith Harry - Grafton Regis Historians,

## 4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting 22 June 2022

- Any errors or omissions?
- Approval of previous Minutes

## 4.1 Matters Arising

- Any others not covered by following agenda items
- Any AOB items



#### 4. MKHA Executive Committee - Vacancies

Positions available for up to 4 new committee members

#### What's required:

- Approx. 10/11 executive meetings per year
- Committee members also attend MKHA quarterly meetings (including AGM)
- Secretary to take notes and produce abbreviated minutes from new simplified template
- Representatives to liaise with other organisations
- Ready support from other committee members



# 6. Heritage Open Days – David Muston pp Rachel Fleet



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# 6. Heritage Open Days – David Muston pp Rachel Fleet

#### **A Great Success!**

- All previous attendance records broken, with 20,346 people including 4873 children taking part in HODs events
- **50+** HODs registered MK Organisations groups running **176** local event sessions (despite some late withdrawals in respect of the Queen's death)



# 7. Culture Team Report - David Muston pp Shane Downer

MKHA Members Meeting Wed 30 Nov 2002

**Culture Team Report** 

Shane Downer – MK City Council





# Milton Keynes - Update

- City Status 2022
  - A new 'Schools Box' design Tender is out –
     see Culture Team website for details
- WEURO 2022 Heritage Programme, Jul 22
  - Completed with 30,000+ visitors to activity
  - WEURO Exhibition new permanent home outside at MK Museum
- Archive-opia, Oct 2022
  - Alison Davies, Urban Fabric and Pooleyville together delivered a 3 week programme the highlight being the WikiPavilion.
  - INTI and AHA-MK events delivered with heritage, culture and community groups to agree a new City Archive vision.





# MK City Archive Phase 1

**Central Library and Local Studies** 

- Ongoing partner engagement following on from Archive-opia
- Capital Options by early 2023
- Operational late 2023
- Needs approval by The National Archives and Historic England

ARCH:MK - MKHA Member groups assess their own collections and how they will link (or not) to MK Archive



# CMK Trail(s)

- Homeworld at 40 prototype combination of interpretation Boards with Digital Trails App
- With Living Archive, MKCC reviewing MK Trails App early 2023 for futureproofing and more use
- CMK Trails launched summer 2023 will profile CMK's new town design and link to New Town Register





#### **New Towns Sports Cities**

Lead: Grand Paris Sud (FR)
Milton Keynes, Nissewaard
(NL), Nova Gorica (SLO)

- Learning Visits completed Nov 22
- Online Platform launched Dec 22 for groups and organisations to find out case studies and best practice in new towns incl trails
- Further projects planned in 2023 with heritage components



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union











# 8. ArchMK Update - David Muston pp Anna McEvoy

#### **Archive training - New round Introductory session**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023\*, 2.00pm at The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park:

2.00pm Arrival and refreshments (archive material on display)

2.15pm - Intro of background to the project and previous rounds

- Intro to participants and archival material held by each

- Intro to 4 sessions and what they involve

2.45pm Break into small groups to look at scoping own archives

3.15pm Group discussion

4.00pm End

Free archive storage material starter pack for all attendees



# 8.1 ArchMK Update - David Muston pp Anna McEvoy

#### 2023 programme plan:

Monthly sessions from Jan at The National Museum of Computing. 'In-between' hands-on session at the Living Archive hut at MK Museum to help with cataloguing and practical archiving issues.

#### The sessions will cover:

- 1. Handling & Scoping
- 2. Cataloguing & Storage
- 3. Copyright & Digitisation
- 4. Exhibiting & Display

'Fast track' £150 grants available to all participating groups for archive storage materials.



# 9. New Town Heritage Register – David Muston





# 9. New Town Heritage Register – David Muston

#### MK New Town Heritage Register consultation - MKCC

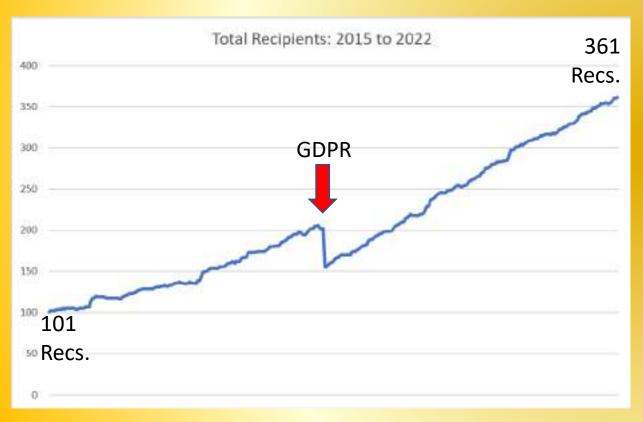
Over 240 new town era places have been nominated by the public as having local heritage significance. These places will be considered by a selection panel, made up of local and national experts and stakeholders, which will make recommendations to the Council.

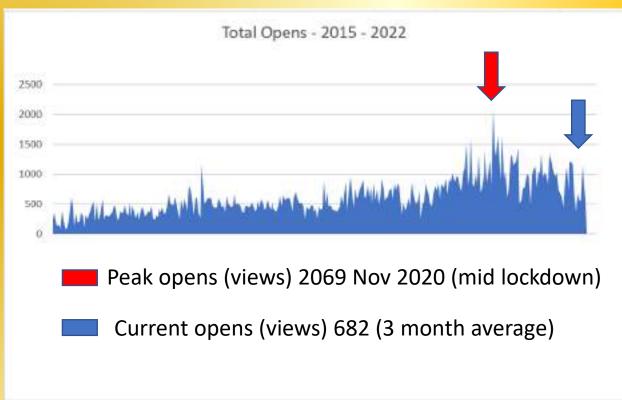
The first 160 places will be considered by the panel in January 2023. Your views are sought on how any of these assets meet or do not meet the adopted Selection Criteria.

Closing date is Wednesday, 11th January 2023



# 10. MK IT/Web update – MKHA Newsletter Alan Cooper

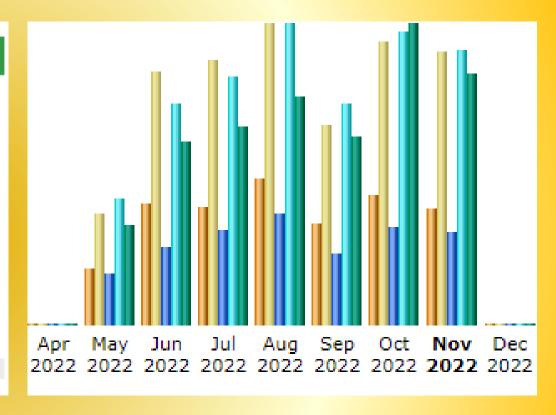






# 10. MK IT/Web update – MKHA Web Stats Alan Cooper

					,
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2022	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2022	0	0	0	0	0
Mar 2022	0	0	0	0	0
Apr 2022	0	0	0	0	0
May 2022	4,646	9,167	90,556	223,812	3.54 GB
Jun 2022	9,906	20,864	138,230	393,157	6.45 GB
Jul 2022	9,634	21,787	168,406	440,819	7.02 GB
Aug 2022	11,966	24,735	198,926	534,462	8.10 GB
Sep 2022	8,317	16,471	126,782	393,627	6.64 GB
Oct 2022	10,710	23,292	174,621	521,259	10.65 GB
Nov 2022	9,512	22,514	164,200	489,557	8.89 GB
Dec 2022	0	0	0	0	0
Total	64,691	138,830	1,061,721	2,996,693	51.30 GB



Web statistics reset in mid-May 2022 when our host moved the website to a new server. Since then the website has had over **60,00** unique visitors who have viewed over a million web pages.







# 10. MK IT/ Web update – Alan Cooper & David Muston





#### OLNEY & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

HOME

NEW

FAM HIST

TRAILS

**EKNIGHT** 

**FEATURES** 

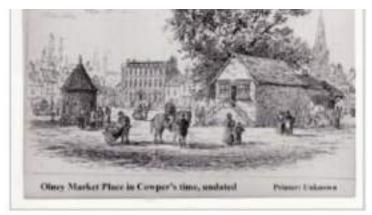
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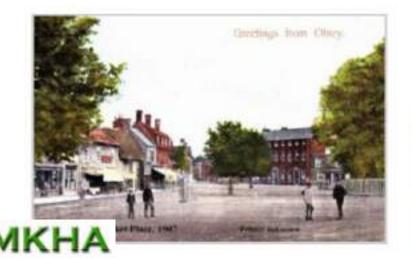
C&N MUS

#### A SELECTION OF OLNEY POSTCARDS





















# 11. Treasurers Report – Charlotte Hall

Banking / Money Matters: (as at 29/11/22)

Treasurers Account: £20,906.65

Business Account : £3,437.00

Hampshire Account: £5,396.06

Total: £29,739.71



# 12. **Grants Report** – Neil Loudon

£5,000 allocated to MKHA – thanks to MKCC - to be used by members to support heritage projects and promotional material

- •To be used to support promotion of MKHA new roller banner, leaflet reprint, bookmarks, articles etc.
- Also to be used to support Archives 'legacy' project eg.
   conservation materials and external speaker costs
- •Funds still available for more grants please approach Exec. with any proposals eg. Next Heritage Open Days 2023



#### 12.1 New Grants News – Neil Loudon



- New grant applications: Newport Pagnell HS for Signage for Chandos Hall c. £550
- New enquiry: MK Forum
   Funding for book on
   'Homeworld'
  - 'Fast Track grants available for ArchMK projects (£ 150 per participant group)





# 12.2 Grants Management Report – Neil Loudon

#### **Next steps:**

- Meeting Shane Downer in early January 2023 to discuss MKHA work and grants
- Grant report will be required to MKC in early 2023
- Application to MKC for grant for 2023/24
- Need to review and update grant application and outturn forms

MKHA gratefully acknowledge continuing grant support from Milton Keynes Council



#### 13. Review of Constitution & Business Plan - Neil Loudon

MKHA policy documents – need for timely review (and update where necessary)

**MKHA Constitution September 2016** – being reviewed by Exec, minor tweaks needed, and will bring forward to next AGM

**MKHA Business Plan v8.1** – requires major overhaul to reflect current work of MKHA Following policies to be reviewed – probably only minor changes, but some legislation changes:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (formerly Equal Opportunities Policy)
- Data Protection Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Education Policy New policy to be drafted
- Digital Policy (covering MKHA digital activities)



# 14. Members' Reports

Reports and images received from:

- Stowe House Preservation Society
- Deanshanger Village History Society
- Western Front Association
- Grafton Regis Historians
- Woughton Heritage

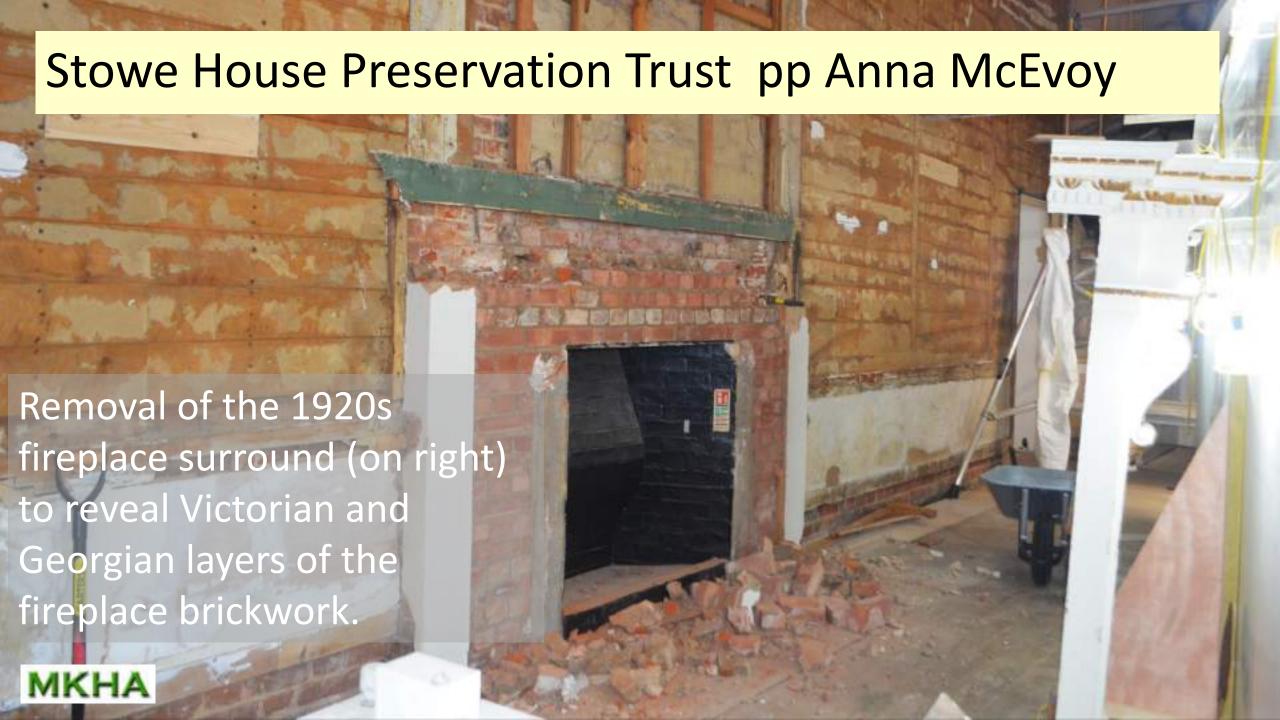
Other members are invited, in turn, to give brief verbal activity report since last meeting together with future plans.



# Stowe House Preservation Trust pp Anna McEvoy













# Western Front Association – Anne McIntyre



# MK WFA

Report to MKHA Members Meeting
November 2022





#### **WFA Recent Talks**



- Never Fired A Shot –William Coltman VC MM & bar, DCM & bar' - Tim Coltman
- Before the Music Sounded the Naval Career of Baron Georg Von Trapp' – Michael O'Brien
- The Welsh Walter Mitty' Marietta Crichton Stuart
- Bedford's Highlanders Richard Galley











# Other Events – Heritage Open Days





- on a display at MK Museum this year highlighting innovations resulting from the Great War not just military advances of tanks, grenades, trench warfare and the like but also many things we now take for granted from blood banks and mobile x-ray machines to vegetarian sausages and tissues with a lot more in between.
- There were also hands-on displays of artefacts, an exhibition on how to research a soldier, and details on war artists and war poets





# Cenotaph

- On November 11<sup>th a</sup> number of our members attended the WFA wreath-laying at the Cenotaph in London and the Service of Remembrance in the Guards Chapel. This was a very moving and evocative morning.
- We followed it with a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey







# Our 2023 WFA Talks Programme

January 20 <sup>th</sup>	'My Uncle – the Battle of Britain VC' – James Nicolson
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	AGM, Quiz and Buffet
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	'The Russian Front' – Phil Tomaselli
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	'Jig-a-jig Tommy?'The importance of a soldier's sex life to his morale – Dr Bruce Cherry
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	'I shall hope to try an officer and at least one corporal for cowardice' – Michael de Cicero
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	'Now the War is Over' – Dr Daniel Weinbren
July 21st	'Britannia's unruly stepchildren' Americans in the British Armed Forces- Michael O'Brien
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	No meeting
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	tbc
October	Seminar tbc
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	'He didn't talk about it' analysing veterans' silence – Julian Walker





# **Our WFA Venue**



- We now meet in Wolverton Working Men's Social Club
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 7.30pm







During 2022, our fund-raising activities comprised three historical walks under the name *Grafton Regis: 1,000 Years in 100 Minutes,* which took place in May, June and September.

In the Church we hear from Lady
Crane about the destruction of
Grafton House during the Civil War,
about the Grafton Portrait of
Shakespeare, about the FitzRoy
family, Dukes of Grafton, and about
the history of the Church.



# Woughton Heritage – Charlotte Hall







#### **Vision & Mission**

- Vision to reinvigorate Ridgmont Station House
   House as a Heritage Centre and become a focal point for the history of the Marston Vale Line
- Mission to provide a high quality visitor experience and a 'step back in time' through personalised tours & interpretation of the collection





#### **Heritage Centre Aims**

- To maintain the financial viability of the building and Heritage Centre
- To maintain railway and museum partnerships to generate greater use of the Marston Vale Line
- To improve facilities for rail passengers at Ridgmont Station
- To continue to recruit and develop volunteers
- To improve management of collections through documentation and efficient storage
- To increase the number of visitors and diversity of visitors
- To continue to improve, maintain and develop the displays to provide a high quality visitor experience
- To establish a brand identity for the Heritage Centre





#### **Season Highlights (1)**

- Trip Advisor Traveller's Choice Award
- Healthy visitor numbers
- Retired Transport Professionals, Bedford Tour Guides and other group visits – some by train
- Restart of education programme
- New displays around the building
- New Heritage Centre website <a href="https://ridgmontheritage.org.uk">https://ridgmontheritage.org.uk</a> the first standalone website for the building





#### **Season Highlights (2)**

- Heritage Centre open at all advertised times with only a few exceptions – thank you!
- Approximately 1,500 hours contributed in 2021/22
- Participation in Heritage Open Days in conjunction with Milton Keynes Heritage Association ad Living Archive MK
- Heritage Centre promoted at stalls at Trains at Trinity (Biggleswade),
   Bedford River Festival, Milton Keynes Over 55s Exhibition, Festival of
   Older People in Flitwick & Ageing Well Exhibition in Bedford
- Bedfordshire Brickworks Exhibitions in May (part of the Greensand Country Festival) and September (part of Heritage Open Days)





# **Bedford College Foundation Students Visit – May 2022**



Further visits planned





#### **Resumption of Marston Vale Line Service**



- •Services resumed 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 after being suspended since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- •Full service reinstated on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (no full timetable since December 2019)





#### **Our Survey Said....**

- 140 surveys returned so far most by Freepost
- Results will be analysed at the end of the season
- Heritage Centre is maintaining an average rating of 4.5 out of 5 very satisfied
- What Did You Like Best About Your Visit?
   Recent replies include:
- \* 'The station master who explained everything nicely'
- \*'Helpful chap who talked about the railway history'
- \*'Teas! And lovely gent who explained a lot about trains!'
- Large number of respondents signed up to receive MVCRP bulletins (including Heritage Centre updates)



# 14.1 Members' Reports - verbal

#### Simpson History Group – Peter Barns

For HODS the Group put on a Simpson then and now display old and contemporary views of Simpson. This included replication aerial views using a drone. There was also a guided walk round the sites in the photographs.

#### **BPHS - Dianne Sutton**

Tim Skelton and Dianne Sutton are intending to publish a book about Homeworld in the new year with the assistance of an MKHA grant.

#### WDAHS – Roger Emory

They can recommend the talk Recovering Artefacts from the Halsewell by the speaker Bob Errington. They are compiling a list of books they have for sale.



# 14.1.2 Members' Reports - verbal

#### **Towcester Historic Survey – Brian Giggins**

Recent buildings surveyed include an estate agent's pre-18C cellar. They would like to secure permission to survey for the Church tower in time to include it in their report before publication. It's worth bearing in mind how useful planning applications are as a source of information on the history of buildings.

#### **CLASP – Steve Bacon**

They have carried out two digs near the A5, including uncovering the original line of Watling Street and two female skeletons. They exhibited at Bradwell Abbey for the Festival of Archaeology and for HODs.



# Next Meeting date

Thursday, March 30th 2023 From 6.30pm site tour 7.00pm Refreshments 7.15pm Meeting start Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre, Bradwell Abbey, Alston Drive, Milton Keynes MK13 9AP



# **Meeting Closed**

Have a safe journey home



#### For reference: Fuller text of Tributes to Robert Excell

- He was a great and committed champion of heritage in Milton Keynes, an engaged and supportive member of AHA, and a very kind, knowledgeable and thoughtful man whom we will miss. - Francesca Skelton AHA-MK
- Milton Keynes has lost a great enthusiast and advocate for the importance and significance of heritage in the life of our city. Living Archive MK
- He was a fantastic man who loved his heritage. Shane Downer Culture Team, MKCC
- Robert was a quiet, unassuming man, Chair of MKHA and a friend of the Bradwell Abbey site, often seen walking around and cleaning our outdoor site panels, just because he wanted to. He was a lovely chap who did so much for MK heritage, and usually behind the scenes. Dr Noël James Director & CEO, MKCDC
- I am so so sorry to hear this very sad news, if there is anything we can do to help please let me know. Jacqui Garrad, Director, The National Museum of Computing.



#### For reference: Fuller text of Tributes to Robert Excell

- I am really sorry to hear about Robert. It is quite a shock. He was an integral part of the Ridgmont Station Heritage team and a good friend. Stephen Sleight, Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Officer
- He will certainly be a huge loss to the heritage family. *Cheryl Butler ex DVHS*
- Robert was in may ways 'Mr Heritage' across MK and wider, he will be very much missed on a personal level and wider. Mike Whittle ex St Marys, Bletchley
- He was a good friend and had worked tirelessly for the MKHA right from its inception. We hope it will be found possible to commemorate him in some way. Geoff & Joy Dawe ex TVAT
- Oh dear, what a sad loss all round. He always conveyed a sense of quiet, intelligent confidence. Bob Adams
- I and, no doubt many others were sad to hear that Robert had passed away. He was a stalwart for heritage and culture, and there won't ever be another like him. Lynne Cairns MK Heritage



# ROBERT

#### Full text of Tributes to Robert Excell

- I would like to send our condolences to the family, friends and the committee members of MKHA, on hearing the very sad and sudden news of the passing of Robert Excell. Kay Turrell, Vice Chair, Sherington Historical Society
- Please would you send our condolences to his family on behalf of our Committee. We will miss him
  and are grateful for all his advice and support over the years. Vivian Bythe, Secretary, RLHS
- .We regarded Robert as a good friend and a fine ambassador for MKHA, and we will greatly miss him.
   Keith Harry, Grafton Regis Historians
- We are very sad to note the passing of Robert Excell, much-loved Chair of MKHA. Robert was
  instrumental in helping do develop the presence of heritage in Milton Keynes, and achieved so much
  with his quiet grace and unassuming approach. He will be greatly missed. Condolences to his friends
  and family. MKDC



#### Full text of Tributes to Robert Excell

- We have received the very sad news that Robert Excell died suddenly at the age of 66 on Sunday 22nd while visiting relatives. Robert regularly attended our monthly talks and was heavily involved in local history and heritage and also instrumental in setting up the MK History Festival. He was a remarkable person who will be greatly missed. Anne McIntyre WFA
- I was so sorry to hear the news of Robert, I knew him through MK Arts & Heritage Alliance. What a loss to Milton Keynes, you must all be very shocked. *Jacky Scott, St Marys, Willen*

