

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

ALMANACK

The Newsletter of the Huntingdonshire Local History Society Autumn 2014



The Lost Forest of Weybridge, Huntingdonshire - see February's talk
By permission Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies

Inside is our programme for Autumn 2014– Spring 2015. We hope you will find the lectures varied and interesting, and that we shall see you regularly at meetings. Do bring along your friends. There is no formal charge for non-members, but we do invite them to make a donation of £3.00.

*Philip Saunders
Chairman*

www.huntslhs.org.uk

NB website being re-designed, but you can follow us on Facebook



Registered Charity No. 290741

Lecture Programme 2014 – 2015

The President's Lecture, the Christmas Social and the AGM will be **in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon**. All other meetings will be in the **Methodist Church, High Street**.

Meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. There is limited parking at the church and at Market Hill, and a large public car park in Malthouse Close (road next to *Waitrose*, off Princes Street).

Thursday 9 October, Huntingdon Town Hall

The President's Lecture & Presentation of Goodliff Awards

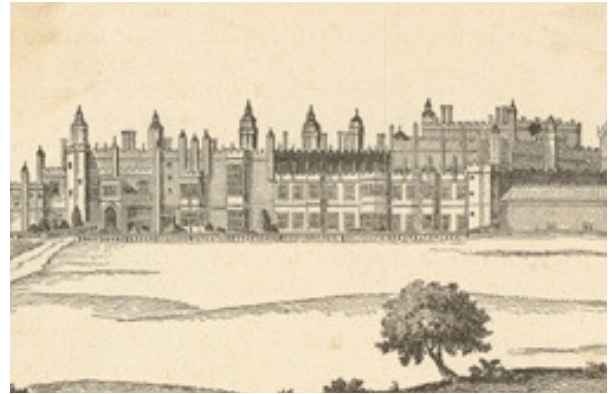
Simon Thurley

Chief Executive, English Heritage

French Fancies:

Oliver Cromwell at Home

What do we imagine? A killjoy reading the latest sermon breathing death and damnation? Bread and cheese? A cool Dutch interior? Using his intimate knowledge of the Cromwell's guardianship of the state palaces Dr Thurley once again challenges our preconceptions.



Thursday 13 November, Methodist Church

Louise Rackham, *Community Manager, Wildlife Trust for Beds., Cambs. and Northants.*

From Ice to Flight: latest from the Great Fen Project

This is the latest phase of a project that seeks to restore 3,700 hectares of fen mostly within Huntingdonshire fen to its natural state. The particular focus of current work is to unravel the complex history of Whittlesea Mere that is central to so much. This includes excavations of an Ice Age site at one extreme to that of a wartime Spitfire crash at the other, both aiming to engage the local community and teach archaeological technique.

TUESDAY 9 December, Huntingdon Town Hall

**Christmas Musical Evening with music provided by
Hinchingsbrooke School Students**

Those who recall the previous visit by a Hinchingsbrooke group will recall a wonderful display of youthful talent. We are fortunate in having their successors to entertain us.

As previously, members are requested to bring some seasonal fare to add to the drinks, etc., provided, and they may, of course, bring guests. Please complete and return the slip below. As usual, we will not issue tickets but keep an attendance list at the door.

.....
Christmas Musical Evening – reply slip

Return this slip to the treasurer, Mr David Smith, 16 Dovehouse Close, Godmanchester, HUNTINGDON, PE29 2DY (01480-350127)

I shall be coming to the musical evening in December and enclose a cheque payable to Huntingdonshire Local History Society for £.....forpersons at £5.00 per person.

No tickets will be issued but an attendance list will be kept at the door.

Name.....

Telephone number or address.....

Thursday 8 January 2015

Jason Peters

The Lost Forests of Medieval Huntingdonshire

Today's Huntingdonshire may have a few woods, but a *Forest*, that sounds hardly credible. And yet if we glance at Speed's map the evidence is staring us in the face; and was it not in the Huntingdonshire Forest of Weybridge that the unpopular John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester was found hiding and began his journey to the scaffold? Jason has been looking at the evidence and will be showing us what differences this means for our understanding of the medieval landscape.

Thursday 12 February

Evelyn Lord

Parochial Tyranny? The Village Constable in 17th & 18th-century Huntingdonshire

We are indeed fortunate in attracting the Cambridge University lecturer and former reviews editor of *The Local Historian* into researching our ancient county. After studying Huntingdonshire breweries and the villages along the A14 she has now turned her attention to one of our parochial institutions for which some unusually good records survive.



Thursday 12 March

Philip Saunders

The Huntingdonshire Manor and its Records



For centuries the Manor was a pivotal institution in English society, overseeing property, regulating trade and agriculture, policing relationships, and yet the records it generated are relatively little used. Philip has had the good fortune to spend much of the last year helping to update the Manorial Documents Register for The National Archives. He will tell us of some of the discoveries for Huntingdonshire and the value of the project

Thursday 9 April

Melanie Backe-Hansen

The Secrets Behind your Front Door

Have you ever wondered about the history of your home or been curious about the stories of people who have crossed the threshold before you? House historian, Melanie Backe-Hansen, author of *House Histories* and *Historic Streets and Squares*, will be speaking about researching the history of houses. She will be discussing some tips for researching the history of your own home, with advice on the key tools and sources, as well as revealing some of the fascinating stories of houses she has researched in the past.



Thursday 21 May at Huntingdon Town Hall

Annual General Meeting and Excursions Preview

Once again we plan a preview of what is planned over the summer or other brief presentation with some social element to the evening to be organised nearer the time.

Weekend Visit

Members who have enjoyed our weekend May trips will know that for the first time in many years we have no weekend visit to advertise. We are looking for people who would be willing to jointly organise one and so ensure this much valued part of the society's programme does not die. Please speak to Philip Saunders (01954-250421) if you would be willing to assist.

Website and Goodliff Awards - The society's website, that has been beset by problems, is being re-written, redesigned and relaunched over the Autumn. It will have the same web address. Information about the 2012 Goodliff Awards applications will be available there or can be obtained by emailing goodliff.awards@gmail.com. We are administering the scheme through a small working group this year. As usual, we are looking for a variety of historical projects to support. In particular we should like to see more applications from individuals, so if you have a piece of historical research you would like some financial help with, by all means speak to a member of the committee about it and apply by the deadline of 28 February 2015.

The Big Family History Fair Following the highly-successful event in 2012, Huntingdonshire Family History Society is organising another Fair at the Burgess Hall, St Ives, Saturday 2 May 2015. The society will be having a stand there, with many others, and there will be talks etc.

2014 Cromwell Collection Lecture

7.30 p.m., Wednesday 12th November, Huntingdon Library

Dr Andrew Barclay

Cromwell as MP for Cambridge

Tickets £3.00 (£2.00 for Museum Friends from Library or Museum). Early booking is advised

Further Cromwellian Nevves

7.30 p.m., Friday 24 October at All Saints church: 'A Cromwellian Entertainment – featuring Cromwell's Talking Head performed by Gareth Calway and music from the period performed by Spirits of the Ayre'. (£8 (£5 for Friends of the Museum and Cromwell Association members) including a drink; tickets from the Museum)

10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Saturday 25 October at Huntingdon Library– Cromwell Association Study Day at on theme of Cromwell's Army. Book through the Museum.

Members may like to note that a separate search facility to search the **Cromwell Collection** in Huntingdon Library is now available through the main Library catalogue. The collection website is no longer being updated.

Other Talks at Huntingdon Library

7.00 p.m., Wed. 22 October. Roger Leivers: 'Eighteen Stirlings to Essen: 10th April 1942' (£3.00 in aid of the memorial fund)

7.00 p.m., Wed. 29 October. Maureen James: 'Cambridgeshire Folk Tales' (£2.00)

Subscriptions

New subscriptions during the Autumn cover all 2015. Otherwise renewals are due on 1st January, £10 single, £15 double. Please renew promptly through our membership secretary, Mrs Jean Burbidge, Wild Goose Leys, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2LB (01487 773349; goslingwing@gmail.com). If you are a UK taxpayer, Jean will be delighted to arrange a Gift Aid declaration, thereby increasing the society's income. Please tell her though if you have you have made a declaration in the past but no longer earn enough (now £10,000) to pay income tax or the society could be surcharged for over-claiming sometime in the future.