

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

ALMANACK

The Newsletter of the Huntingdonshire Local History Society Autumn 2019



Our new President, Dr David Starkey, C.B.E.

Inside is our programme for Autumn 2019– Spring 2020. We hope you will find the lectures 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
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Lecture Programme 2019 – 2020

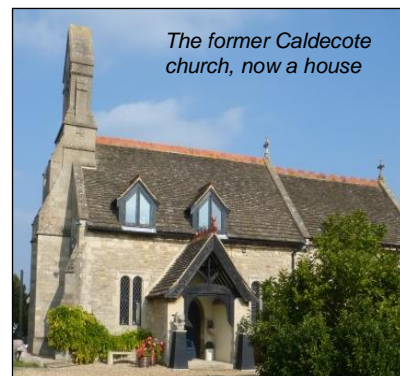
The Christmas Social, the President's Lecture and the AGM will be in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon. All other meetings will be in the Methodist Church, High Street. Meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. During building work (due to commence in October) there is Disabled Parking only at the church. Please use public car parks in Malthouse Close (off Princes Street, PE29 3AR) or Ingram Street (off Hartford Road).

Wednesday 9th October

Michael Dudley

Churches and Chapels - the past, present and future

Over many years Mike has photographed dozens, perhaps hundreds, of Anglican and nonconformist churches, interested in their history and architecture but also in the challenge they face for survival in a secular world. At this meeting he will share his large picture archive with some thoughts on the battle for preservation.



Tuesday 12th November

Eric Somerville

Opium-eating in the Fens in the Nineteenth Century

Fenland folk didn't smoke opium, they consumed it, and did so in quantities. Almost half of imported opium was consumed there. Our speaker, a retired Wisbech G.P., who has made an extensive study of the subject, will attempt to explain why this was.



Tuesday 10th December, Huntingdon Town Hall

[N.B. change of date from that printed on membership card]

Social Evening 'A Tudor Christmas' with the Bedford Gallery Quire

The **Bedford Gallery Quire** is part of the movement to resurrect the folk tradition, coined 'West Gallery Music' by Thomas Hardy, of bands of mixed instruments and voices that were a sometimes anarchic attribute the parish church until the Victorian clergy suppressed them in favour of the refined and governable, spliced choirs we know today.

We will again be providing sandwiches, etc., as well as drinks, but members are welcome to bring additional seasonal fare. 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 on 10th 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.....

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Stuart Orme

Cromwell's first campaign, 1643 – Oliver Cromwell at Huntingdon, Peterborough, Crowland and Gainsborough

In 1643 Oliver Cromwell went from being a minor Cambridgeshire landowner and MP with negligible military experience, to a significant figure in the Parliamentary cause. This talk by the curator of the Cromwell Museum will look at how this happened, from raising his regiment of 'Ironsides' in Huntingdon to his first experiences in battle and the first hints of his rise to prominence.



From a British Railways poster, courtesy of The Cromwell Museum

Wednesday 12th February

Adrian Moss

John Howland of Fenstanton, *The Mayflower* and the Great Migration: the making of the DVD

During 2020 we can expect to hear a lot about the 400th anniversary of the voyage of *The Mayflower*, one of whose 'Pilgrim Father' passengers came from Fenstanton. Our speaker has been involved in the *Mayflower 400* UK project, making a film for the commemoration that seeks to throw light on the pilgrims' world and their motivation and to see what lessons it may have for today.



Wednesday 11th March

Tom Grimes

300 Years of the Spalding Gentleman's Society

The SGS, founded by Maurice Johnson (*right*) is the oldest provincial antiquarian - or local history - society. It has remarkable collections that could be the envy of many university libraries or museums. Why Spalding? Tom Grimes, latest in a long succession of distinguished presidents, will enlighten us. Geographically it's virtually on our doorstep, and a visit to the society and other delights of this fenland market town is planned for the Spring or early Summer.



Wednesday 15th April (N.B. at Methodist Church)

Annual General Meeting and Excursions Preview

Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

Wednesday 20th May, Huntingdon Town Hall

The President's Lecture & Presentation of Goodliff Awards

Dr David Starkey, C.B.E.

Title to be announced

We are indeed honoured that so eminent an historian of the Tudor Age has agreed to be our President in succession to Dr Simon Thurley. Further details of his first lecture to us will be circulated nearer the time. This will be a ticketed event for members and recipients of Goodliff awards.

Farewell to Simon: About 30 members gathered in the idyllic setting of the garden of Island Hall (by courtesy of Christopher Vane-Percy), bathed in evening sunshine to thank Dr Thurley for being our president since 2003 and in recognition to present him with a framed copy of Kip's map of Huntingdonshire of c.1637. He assures us he will be back sometime.

Friday 15th-Monday 18th May Weekend Away - Kent

A programme is in being drawn up and will include Darwin's House, Scotney Castle, Chartwell, Riverhill Himalayan Gardens and St Thomas a Becket church, Capel. Approximate cost £380 per person sharing room, £460 single (discount for NT and EH members). For details contact Rosemary Smith (rosemarysnotes@gmail.com or 01480-350127).

Huntingdonshire History Festival July 2020

Plans are under way for next year's festival. Just one major re-enactment event is planned this time, featuring *The Sealed Knot* on the weekend of 11-12 July. As previously, there will be a full programme of talks, walks, displays and family-oriented events, and we hope for more things outside Huntingdon. The society is contributing a talk in the Town Hall by Dr Steven Parissien of the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. Further details to follow, or keep up to date by checking out the Festival's website <https://huntshistoryfest.com/>

Goodliff Awards - Information about the 2019 Goodliff Awards applications is available on the website or can be obtained by emailing goodliff.awards@gmail.com. Once again we are administering the scheme through a small working group and are looking for a variety of historical projects to support. Applications from individuals, especially members of the society, are particularly welcome 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 Goodliff committee (Kate Hadley, Jean Burbidge, the Treasurer and the Chairman) about it and in any case apply by the deadline of 31 March 2019.

Cromwell Lecture Series 2019 This series of talks will take place on Wednesdays during November, at 7.30 p.m. in Huntingdon Town Hall. Ticket prices, includes refreshments: £10 per talk (£8 for students), or combined ticket for all four talks £30 (£25 students). Discounts for Friends of the Cromwell Museum. Tickets are available in person from the Cromwell Museum or via website: www.cromwellmuseum.org, Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cromwell-lecture-series-2019-tickets-66799696691>

6th November, John Rees, writer and journalist: 'The Leveller Revolution' *Book signing after talk.*

13th November, Professor John Morrill, historian: 'Cromwell and Ireland'

20th November, Dr Ismini Pell, historian: 'Wounded, Widows & Orphans: Civil War Petitions'

27th November, Allen Packwood, archivist: 'Churchill and Cromwell' *Book signing after talk.*

Subscriptions

New subscriptions during the Autumn cover all 2020. Otherwise renewals are due on 1st January, £10 single, £15 double. Please renew promptly through our treasurer, David Smith. If you are a UK taxpayer, he can arrange a Gift Aid declaration, thereby increasing the society's income. Please tell him too if you have made a declaration in the past but no longer earn enough (£10,000) to pay income tax.

Are you making the most of the Society's Affiliations?

The society is a member or affiliated to the British Association for Local History, the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History. Current journals of all three (*The Local Historian*, *Proceedings of CAS* and *CALH Review*) are available to borrow at meetings. Details of their meetings, conferences and excursions of CAS and CALH, which HLHS members are welcome to attend, can be found in *Conduit* (printed and online at camantsoc.org.uk). Email reminders are forwarded from those organisations when possible.