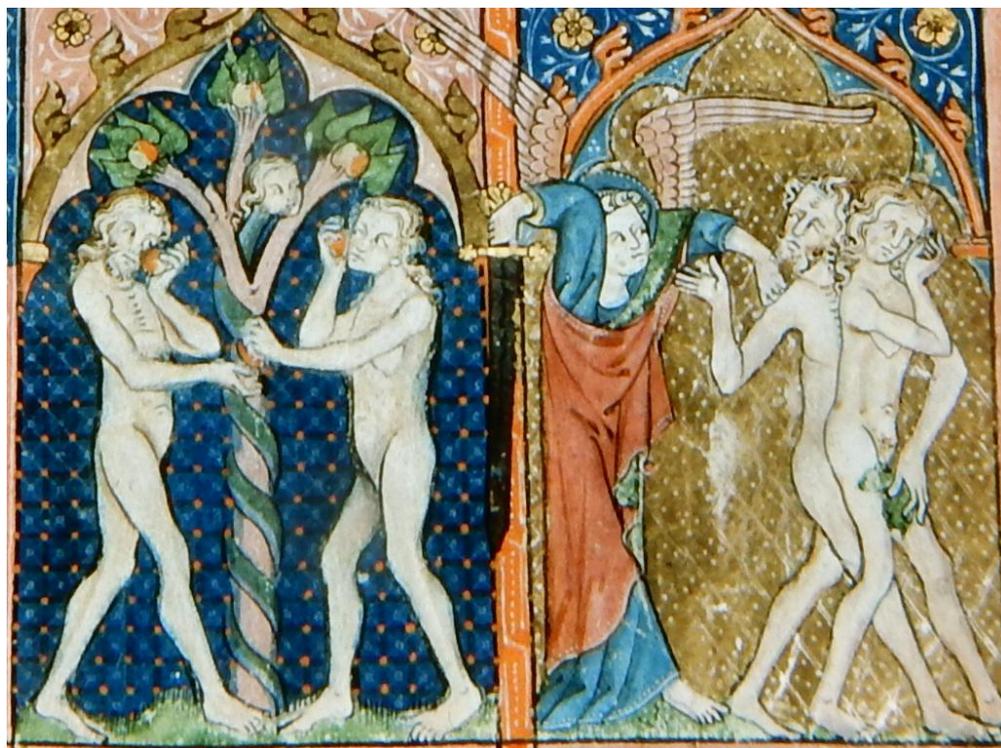


HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

ALMANACK

The Newsletter of the Huntingdonshire Local History Society

Autumn 2021



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Inside is our programme for Autumn 2021– Spring 2022, some online, some face-to-face. We hope you will find it interesting, and that you will join us for some or all of them

*Philip Saunders
Chairman*



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Lecture Programme 2021– 2022

We had originally planned that the President's Lecture would be our first talk back at the Methodist Church but unexpectedly there are essential drainage works taking place in the forecourt that, inter alia, rules out car-parking. This and the ongoing pandemic tipped the balance in favour of making this a further *Zoom* lecture, to which our President thinks it is eminently suitable for, given the illustrative content. So our first physical event will be the Goodliff Awards Presentation Evening in November, to be followed by the Christmas Social in December, both to take place in the Town Hall. After that we are returning to *Zoom* for the two winter talks in January and February, where the Committee has felt the advantages of having speakers from a distance and eliminating the uncertainties of going out on a cold and possibly snowy evening outweigh the social merits of meeting up. **All lectures start at 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 13th October The President's Lecture (by Zoom)

David Cozens, M.B.E.
The Ramsey Psalter

Complementing the several exhibitions that have taken place in the Norris and Ramsey Rural Museums our President has chosen as his topic an artwork which he has admired for many years. We know a great deal about the estates of this great Benedictine abbey that dominated Huntingdonshire for half a millennium, but of what went on within the walls the record is sparse. Yet out of it came one of the masterpieces of medieval manuscript illumination (see cover illustration), complementing the silverware recently on loan to the Norris from the V&A. David will show us something of the great treasures and unravel the story of how it comes to be split between libraries half a world apart.

Wednesday 10th November. Huntingdon Town Hall

Goodliff Awards Presentation Evening

Our President will make a tribute to Phyllis Goodliff whose generosity we have to thank for enabling the history and heritage of Huntingdonshire to be preserved, researched, better understood and enjoyed by all, and then present the awards for 2020 and 2021. If you want to see a list of these, consult previous issues of this newsletter, for Summer 2020 and Spring 2021 (on the website). It is an amazing variety of projects, popular and academic, spanning many centuries, types of history, covering the length and breadth of Huntingdonshire. We are not asking recipients of awards to tell us about the awards formally, but to bring with them something to display, be it a book they have produced or photographs of events, which we can look at and talk about individually over a glass of wine.

Do come and congratulate the successful applicants for these awards. We will do our best to make this a Covid-19 secure event. It is a large and airy room, which we will ventilate, so wear something warm. We encourage you to socially distance and to wear a face covering when possible; and not to come of course if you have any symptoms that might be attributed to the virus.

Friday 3rd December, Huntingdon Town Hall

Social Evening with the *Wyton and Brampton Military Wives Choir*

See last page if you are reading this online or separate sheet if you are reading paper version.

Wednesday 12th January 2022, (by Zoom)

Susan Kilby

Naming Elton's Medieval Fields: A Scientific Perspective

Dr Kilby's paper on the medieval peasants of Wellingborough was a *Midland History* prize essay back in 2009, but since then she has become particularly interested in the value of locality names. She is now honorary visiting fellow of the Institute of Name Studies at the University of Nottingham, an institution that bridges the academic divides of Language and History. Her recent book *Peasant Perspectives in the Medieval Landscape* has been applauded for its interdisciplinary approach. For Huntingdonshire we still depend on a place-name dictionary compiled almost 100 years' ago, something that surely needs putting right.



Photo ©Dr Stephen Upex

Wednesday 9th February (by Zoom)

Peter Flower

The Life and Times of Dr Reginald Grove, a Victorian Country Doctor

25 year-old Reginald Grove took over his father's practice in St Ives in the 1890s. Drawing on Reginald's diaries and letters, Peter Flower, his grandson, will describe, with lots of anecdotes, what it was like to be a country doctor, Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for the Workhouse in the horse-and-trap years before the First World War. Reginald continued in practice until his death in 1948, just as the NHS was being launched.



Thursday 10th March, Huntingdon Town Hall

Simon Thurley

Stuart Royal Progresses in and around Huntingdonshire

We welcome Simon back, now as Provost of Gresham College and Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Latterly he has been concentrating work on the Stuart Court, recently publishing *Palaces of Revolution: Life, Death and Art at the Stuart Court* and leading a lecture series on the Stuarts at Gresham (see [link](#)). His lecture to us is a happy by-product of this research.



Wednesday 13th April, Huntingdon Methodist Church

Jasmine Allen, Director & Curator, The Stained Glass Museum, Ely

From Medieval to Modern: The Radiant Art of Stained Glass

This talk will shed light on the unique art of stained glass, its history and stylistic development from the medieval period to the present day. Using illustrated examples from the UK's only museum dedicated to stained glass located in Ely Cathedral, it will uncover a number of illuminating and inspiring works from across Britain and Europe. We plan to include a visit to the museum in our visit to Ely as part of the 2022 summer excursions programme.



Wednesday 11th May

Provisional Date for Annual General Meeting

Details will be circulated in the Spring.

May Weekend Away

Our 2020 weekend was a casualty of the pandemic and the difficulties of planning any time ahead make it difficult to plan for anything in 2022. A reminder though that we are looking for someone willing to organise this in the future. Rosemary Smith (rosemarysnotes@gmail.com or 01480-350127) is happy to give you benefit of her experience over last decade.

Huntingdonshire History Festival July 2022

After a gap of two years, plans are under way for next year's festival. This one will happen. Keep up to date by checking out the Festival's website <https://huntshistoryfest.com/>

Goodliff Awards 2022 Once again we are looking for a variety of historical projects to support and an enlarged sub-committee, now with Caroline Clifford as administrator, will be encouraging groups and individuals to come forward. Information available on the website. If you have queries, email goodliff.awards@gmail.com. As usual, the deadline is 31 March.

Cromwell Autumn Lecture Series 2021 A further series of Zoom lectures during November, See website: www.cromwellmuseum.org,

3rd Nov. [Professor Alan Marshall on 'Intelligence, Espionage and Cromwell's Protectorate'](#)

*10th Nov. [Dr Rebecca Warren on 'God's Architect: Cromwell's construction of a Godly Church'](#)

17th Nov. [Dr Linda Porter on 'The Tenderest Sight: Cromwell & Charles I's children'](#)

24th Nov. [Professor Ronald Hutton on 'Oliver Cromwell: Saint or Serpent?'](#)

**This clashes with the society's Goodliff Presentation evening, but please note that Cromwell ticket purchasers are able to view recordings of these lectures after they have been given.*

Subscriptions

New subscriptions during Autumn 2021 cover all 2022. 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. Tell him too if you have made a declaration in the past but no longer earn enough (£12,570) to pay income tax.

7.30 p.m., Friday 3rd December, Huntingdon Town Hall

Social Evening with the *Wyton and Brampton Military Wives Choir*



Who can dispute that the English singing tradition is alive and well? Perhaps not since the choral societies of the 19th century have we seen such a growth in music-making with the voice in our communities. But the rise within a decade of the British Military Wives' choirs from that at Catterick Camp under Gareth Malone to currently 72 on bases worldwide has been amazing. We are fortunate to have one of the best on our doorstep that has been rehearsing remotely this past year but is now back together, preparing to provide entertainment for our annual Christmas social. Do come and hear something very special.

This year, mindful of cross-infection risks, we shall be providing all food and drink for refreshments. Our charge of £10 per person goes towards this, to the hire costs of the room and to a donation towards the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA).

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Christmas Musical Evening – reply slip

Either:

(Print and) 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 3rd December and enclose a cheque payable to *Huntingdonshire Local History Society* for £.....forpersons at £10.00 per person.

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

Name.....

Telephone number or address.....

Or, if you have internet banking, you can transfer this money direct to the society's Natwest bank account, sort code 60-18-17, account number 72654848, identifying the payment as *Social*. If you do this please email the treasurer (info@huntslhs.org.uk) David Smith so we know how many to cater for and he expects to find the payment in the account. You may like to pay your 2022 subscription at the same time this way.

Or pay on the door. Please have exact cash or cheque ready, but also please email or phone (01480-350127) David Smith so we know how many to expect.