

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

ALMANACK

The Newsletter of the Huntingdonshire Local History Society

Summer Excursions Edition 2022



Inside you will find the programme of this summer's excursions. We hope you will find them interesting and will join us on several.

*Philip Saunders
Chairman*

www.huntslhs.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 290741

An evening visit to Buckden Towers, Wednesday 29th June

For 600 years Buckden provided a palace for the Bishops of Lincoln, more central than Lincoln to the enormous diocese that stretched from the Humber to the Thames and more convenient for the many needs of state and church that generally went with being its bishop. The Towers, occupied since the 1950s by the Claretian Missionary Brothers, contains the Great Tower built in brick by Bishop Rotherham in 1470 and several subsidiary buildings. The guided tour of the site by one of the Friends will include a look inside several buildings (depending on other bookings – this is now a study centre), the restored Knot Garden, and finish with tea/coffee and cakes.



Meet in Claret Centre car park off High St. (north end of castellated wall) at 7.00 p.m.

**Cost: £8.50 (proceeds to the Towers' Friends)
Book by Wednesday 15th June (*please note early deadline date*)**

Afternoon, Thursday 14th July St Kyneburgha's church, Castor & nearby Roman Remains

This is a massive Norman church with fabulous decoration, that the building alone with its unique dedication to a Mercian abbess itself beckons the local historian to know better, but we are privileged to be able to take up an invitation from Dr Stephen Upex, authority on the Roman Nene Valley, to guide us round the nearby Roman site and give us a talk in the church about the palatial Hadrianic building that was excavated by Edmund Artis (1789-1847) and other archaeological aspects of the site. Stephen is planning to show us some of Artis's original drawings and will also have a surprise for us connecting Artis with an important contemporary.



Antonia Pounsett of the Friends of St Kyneburgha's is kindly organising tea/coffee and cakes for us afterwards.

Meet at 2.30pm at church. (Turn off Peterborough Road in village to park in entrance road to church)

**Cost: £12 (includes refreshments)
Book by Thursday 7th July.
Maximum 25 persons**



Full day at Spalding (St Mary and St Nicholas church and Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Monday 8th August

We begin at the magnificent late medieval church, enlarged repeatedly in 14th-15th centuries, remarkable for the number of aisles and monuments, as well as for its Victorian stained glass. The monuments include those to the Johnson family, prime among them Maurice, founder in 1710 of the country's oldest antiquarian society outside London. The vicar or his assistant will show us round. After lunch (own arrangements) we reconvene at SGS in Broad Street, ten minutes' walk away, at 2.00 p.m. for a guided visit to what retains its Enlightenment feel as a cabinet of curiosities. But what a cabinet it is!

Please note the first floor is difficult to access – please ask if this is a concern.

Meet at church, 11.30 a.m. There is *Pay & Display* car park in The Vista (approach road to church). We are not arranging refreshments for this visit, but early arrivers especially might note that the café in Ayscoughfee Gardens near the church and there are many places for lunch in the town centre. The station is also not far away, so a train excursion may be an attractive option.

Cost: £12.00 Book by Sunday 31st July.



Afternoon: Ely Stained Glass Museum & Cathedral, Wednesday 14th September

Members who attended Dr Allen's talk in April will know what treasures the Museum has and how it tells the story of the craft from before the Conquest to the 21st century. Here then is the chance to take up her invitation to a guided visit. Please note however that the Museum is in the triforium, up a spiral staircase of 40 steps. Afterwards we have a guided tour of the cathedral, mindful that whilst many will have visited the cathedral on occasion, they may have missed much in this magnificent building which an expert guide can point out.

Members with energy wanting to make full day of it may like to visit the newly-refurbished Ely Museum or consult records in Cambridgeshire Archives (relocated to Ely in 2019) in the morning or simply potter round a charming fenland town.

Own or public transport. Best car park is probably Barton Road.

**Meet outside West Door of the Cathedral at 1.15 p.m.
Cost: £12.00, or Cathedral tour only (at 3.00 p.m.) £8.00.
Book by Wednesday 31st August. Please note early deadline. Maximum 30 persons**



Excursion Notes

- Booking is essential. Preferably, use the accompanying form and pay in advance by cheque. Otherwise, email David Smith info@huntslhs.org.uk or phone 01480-350127 and have correct money ready to pay on the day.
- Note especially the 'Book By' deadline. Early booking is helpful. However do telephone if you are able to come at the last minute. Where possible we will accept you. Any late bookings for Buckden visit to Philip Saunders on 01954-25021.

- We are not providing any coach excursions this year as we thought covid concerns would keep interest in coach trips below what we need to make them viable, which has itself risen due to higher fuel costs. But please tell us if you miss coach excursions and would come on one despite higher cost. If you need a lift please let us know and will try and arrange.
- Non-member guests are very welcome.
- The Society undertakes to make arrangements for the excursions but cannot accept liability for any mishap or loss connected with them.

Goodliff Awards

The Society is delighted to announce awards towards the following projects:

£500 to Mike Addis for 'The Victorian Entomologist' – a personal project to teach children about the 19th-century discovery of the natural world

***£3,000 to Huntingdonshire Archives**, for an archivist to re-catalogue to modern standards the first instalment of the records of the Duke of Manchester's Kimbolton Estate

£300 to the Norris Museum, to work with local youth charity KICK to create a local history 'story mat'.

***£250 to Peter Cooper**, for a will transcription (from records at TNA) and analysis project for Holywell-cum-Needingworth and making this available on website.

***£250 to the Annie James** for a further instalment of work on Huntingdonshire convicts who were transported.

£750 to the Cromwell Museum, for redesigned display of exhibits in the museum dealing with Cromwell's early life, including new acquisitions,.

£350 to Martyn Smith, for an A3 printer to support his Huntingdonshire Cyclists' project.

£600 to Ken Sneath, for publication of a volume of essays by different scholars on 'the long Reformation' in Huntingdonshire

£450 to the Godmanchester Museum, for additional boards for display of copied family photographs from local people.

£500 to Stephen Upex, to publish a facsimile edition of Edmund Artis's seminal archaeological text *Durobrivae*

£1,500 to Huntingdon BID, for external display boards in Literary Walk Huntingdon on literary figures with Huntingdonshire connections

£250 to Ramsey Rural Museum, for audio-visual equipment to give introductory information about the museum collections

**Awards using in whole or in part the account created from transfer of funds by former Huntingdonshire Family History Society aimed at projects of genealogical interest.*

Two dates for your diary from Godmanchester Museum:

7.00pm, Sat.11 June: David Ingham of Albion Archaeology will be talking on the important Romano-British *Dairy Crest* site at Fenstanton, including the discovery of evidence of a crucifixion, only the second such discovery in the UK.

2.00pm, Sun.24 July: The museum is launching its exhibition on the remarkable story of the town's early women mayors, Grace Prescott, her sister Louise Bernice Gray and Dorothy Carr, with a short talk to put this in context by Philip Saunders. We hope Grace and Louise's great nephew Sir Mark Prescott, the racehorse trainer, will be there.

Huntingdonshire History Festival, postponed from 2020, will be taking place during July with the usual mix of talks, walks and reenactment events. This time it will extend across the District. 53 events are currently planned. Look out for publicity, being launched this month.

The Local and Landscape History Research Group is a subscription free for anyone actively engaged in research, centred on Cambridge but covering the whole modern county and beyond, now meeting by *Zoom* and producing a digital Bulletin. The next seminar meeting has Prof. Tom Williamson to speak to it on landscape history. If you want to join, email evelyn.lord@ntlworld.com