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The RNTA Database

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters, and the management of coach trips and other activities of the Rugby National Trust Association. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

TRIPS and VISITS

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite tiring. We often visit places with old and uneven floors, stairs that can be difficult with no lift options and gardens and tours that may involve quite a lot of walking. Always check with the organiser if you have mobility problems. Members who need assistance should bring a companion.

Departure Point

The Committee has made arrangements with St Mark's Church, Bilton for the use of their car park so, *unless stated*, we depart from there. We try to use as little space as possible, so please park on the side away from the church and as close together as possible.

Association Committee

Chairman's Letter

I am writing this after the hottest week of the year and hopefully, when you read this, we will have enjoyed more warm and summery weather.

I trust all of you who have been on the outings this summer have found them interesting and entertaining. I know that we need to give a big and sincere thank you to all the organisers and supporters for the hard work and commitment in arranging the trips because without them the trips would not occur.

I am pleased to report that this year 2016 we have been able to donate £5350 to various local properties for them to take forward their projects. Charles Paterson has also helped by donating his fees for talks that he has given and for this a thank you is merited. However he has advised us that *circumstances have dictated that he must 'shut up shop'*. His efforts will be sorely missed.

Included with this newsletter is a questionnaire regarding our Autumn and Winter lectures. I hope you will be able to spend a few minutes to complete and return it so your committee can organise talks for the future. It has been necessary to take this step as speakers costs are increasing annually.

The meetings take place in Dunchurch Village Hall and prior to the meeting the hall has to be prepared and set up. This responsibility has been undertaken by members who for various reasons can no longer continue to do it. Therefore, I am asking if anyone can spare an hour before the meeting to assist. If you can, could you please contact me or any committee member.

In conclusion I look forward to meeting you during the forthcoming Autumn/Winter meetings. *Roy Deacon*

Input from Members wanted

RNTA Website

Regular changes and updates are made to keep it fresh and up-to-date so it is worth visiting www.rugbynationaltrust.co.uk **to see what's happening**. We are hoping to widen our readership appeal in order to attract new members, so tell your friends about it.

Photographs for the Review of the Year

Many of you have been taking photos when on the RNTA outings which I hope you all enjoyed and have some great pictures you can let me have for our *Review of the Year* in February. As you know by now, I like photos with people and that reflect what impressed you about the day. If you can, either let me have photos on a CD/memory stick or email your photos (preferably not reduced in size) to: editor@rugbynationaltrust.co.uk. If you are not confident about doing that, I will be very happy to come and download them onto a memory stick from your computer.

Isobel Palmer



Walkers stop to examine this ruined church spire at Little Brington.

7 July 2016

Association News

New Members

The Association welcomes the following new members:

Mr and Mrs J Caunt

Mr B Edge

Mrs V Smith

We hope you will enjoy our programme of events.



PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for Autumn 2016

Exploring Mediaeval Canons Ashby

Sunday, 6 November 2016

By car to meet in the car park at 10.30 am

Organised by Isobel Palmer (mob: 07710552940)

Supporter: required

It is six years since I first did this leisurely history walk for the RNTA in the grounds of Canons Ashby House to parts people often miss. The time is spent largely exploring the pre-Dryden period but, where appropriate, I'll point out nuggets of information pertaining to the family.

We start by visiting the Mediaeval Village which was mentioned in the Domesday Book; followed by investigating the Norwell and the area around the priory church. We will then head across the field to look at the Stew Ponds. These have recently been excavated so, instead of viewing just the upper pond as before, we can now see all three of them. This was a major piece of work carried out last winter so anyone who came before might be interested to see the changes. Already we are seeing some interesting wild-life moving in.

We will next visit the Motte. Since our last visit, an archaeological dig was carried out there and I can bring you up to date on the findings.

The total distance is only about 1½ miles, taken at a reasonable pace with plenty of stops. It involves going into several fields (sometimes there is livestock around) **which can be uneven so good stout shoes or boots are necessary. In the past, I've** been very lucky with the weather but warm and maybe waterproof clothing should be worn.

In November, the house is open at weekends so you will be able to obtain lunch (not included) in the tea room and visit the house if you wish to do so. For the more active, there are walks in the area ranging in distance.



The upper stew pond soon after it was first dug out in March

Christmas at Sulgrave Manor, Nr Banbury

Tuesday, 6th December 2016

By car arriving at 11 am

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634 mob 07733148004)

Supported by Alec Springett

How many places can lay claim to being the birthplace of a Super Power! Sulgrave Manor is just such a place, for it was here, in 1602, that a son was born to the Lords of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury whose political actions led to the founding of a new dynasty in the Colony of Virginia. The tour guides at Sulgrave tell the wonderful and fascinating story of a quite remarkable family from the first known member who bore their famous name in the late 12th century (well almost as he went by the name of Wyssington) to the man who led his people to freedom and independence some 600 years later. It is a story of rags to riches and riches to rags, of **treading the fine line in Tudor times and of open support for a “wanna-be”** despotic King in the 17thC. A penniless man arriving in the colonies in the 1650s who makes good, marries well and dies, just seventeen years after

first setting foot there, wealthy, respected and with position. It is a story that is resonant of the ambitions of the many millions who have settled in the United States since, to find a new life and seek their fortune.

The family name is of course Washington and they started building Sulgrave Manor in 1539 and lived there for 120 years. The house is now owned by an **independent Charitable Trust which holds the property “...on behalf of the peoples of the United Kingdom and United States ...”** and is unique in that respect. Again, how this came about has a story and one that visitors learn is the result of a collaboration between the two countries and a celebration of **a friendship, peace and dare one say ‘special relationship’**. **Sulgrave Manor is a gem that has an unrivalled historic story.**

Members should arrive in time for coffee/tea which will be served at 11 am. After coffee, members will be taken on a guided tour of the Manor.

A 2-course lunch will then be served.

MENU

Main

1. Roast turkey
2. Beef bourguignon
3. Stuffed portabello mushrooms

All served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Dessert

4. Christmas pudding
5. Chocolate & cherry roulade (GF)
6. Lemon Posset (GF)

All served with pouring cream

Wine/beer can be purchased if required

Directions The post code for Sulgrave Manor is OX17 2SD. If using the A361 go through the village of Byfield, take left turning for the village of Culworth. After Culworth you should see signs for Sulgrave. On entering Sulgrave village look for the Post Office situated on the left. Just after the Post Office take the road to the left and you should see the Car Park sign for the Manor House.

Members should leave the property around 4 pm at the latest.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2016/17

Two Queens and a Countess
Thursday 6 October 2016
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: David Templeman

David Templeman, Elizabethan historian, will talk on the interaction between the three most colourful and charismatic women in Elizabethan Britain – Mary, Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I, and Bess of Hardwick. Their story traces **their entry into a 100% dominated man's world, as they challenge it against a** backdrop of suspicion, deceit and intrigue.

Through Wildest Russia
Wednesday 19 October 2016
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Roger Butler

This illustrated talk explores two wild and little-known regions of the former Soviet Union. The first part visits the spectacular Caucasus Mountains on the border of Russia and Georgia and includes a week-long trek around Mount Elbrus – the highest peak in Europe – with high glaciers, huge snowfields, fascinating geology and remote villages. The second part describes a journey through the high and rugged Tien Shan range in wildest Tadjikistan, with deep canyons, azure lakes and hardy mountain nomads – plus a visit to the fabled Silk Road city of Samarkand.

The Great Central Railway: Past, Present and Future
Thursday 3 November 2016
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: Mike Riley

Mike Riley, ex-Commercial Manager at Brush Traction and holding a similar position after that with Bombardier, will talk about the history of the Great Central Railway, its decline and closure, and restoration as a Heritage Railway, **and looking forward to the future with “Bridging the Gap” and Leicester Museum projects.**

Wild Britain Diary
Wednesday 16 November 2016
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Chris Ward

The British Isles are home to many great wildlife spectacles, including many at National Trust locations. Chris Ward, a wildlife photographer and lecturer, will show us some of his favourite sights – both established and less well known ones. These range from wintering wildfowl in Norfolk to spring flowers, from breeding seabirds to a rich diversity of summer wildlife found in wetland, woodland and heathland, and from autumnal gatherings of wading birds to exciting mammal displays.



Ocean Liner Art: Ships that Shaped Our Lives 1800-1950
Thursday 1 December 2016
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: James Taylor

The vision and genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel underpins this global story of hopes and dreams, disasters and triumphs. The talk illustrates a wide range of ships, including *Great Britain* and *Great Western*, *Lusitania* and *Mauretania*, *Olympic* and *Titanic*, and arguably Britain's most popular liner the *Queen Mary* brought to life through a wide range of artworks, including striking Art Deco posters.

RNTA Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19 January 2017
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
(See AGM Agenda on page 16)

Followed by....:

Alice Suffragette
Speaker: Peter Barratt

Peter Barratt will give a most absorbing, informative and very popular account of the exploits of his great-grandmother, Alice Hawkins, who lived in Leicester, his home town, and was a suffragette 100 years ago and who went to prison 5 times in her fight for the vote.

Information about the Summer 2017 Visits
Thursday 2 February 2017
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

This is a chance to get a flavour of our visits programme for 2017 and an opportunity to talk to the various organisers particularly if you have any mobility problems. After the break, as usual, there will be a retrospective look at the visits and events throughout the past year using photographs taken and provided by members of the Association.

Secrets and Scandals of Canons Ashby
Wednesday 15 February 2017
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Laura Malpas

This talk includes a romp through 1000 years of the history of Canons Ashby told through the lives of the people who have inhabited the place, from the original Augustinian Canons through to the goldsmith Louis Osman in the late 20th century. The talk also includes the architectural rise, fall and subsequent restoration of the building by the National Trust.



Louis Osman remembered >

A Taste of Cornwall
Thursday 2 March 2017
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: Keith Holmes

Cornwall's coastline attracts millions of visitors each year with its beaches, surf, cliffs and harbours. Whilst tourism is now a mainstay in the County's economy, for generations of Cornish people it was mining, fishing and agriculture that provided a living.

In recent years there has been a new dimension to Cornwall's economy with fine restaurants serving locally sourced food and drink for the discerning diner.

From the towering cliffs and surf of the north coast to the pretty coves and harbours in the south, this talk makes an epicurean journey through **England's most westerly county. There's the award-winning vineyard** in the Camel valley and the Tregothnan estate, the only place in England to grow tea commercially. Take delight in the magical Lost Gardens of Heligan where the productive gardens are still worked in a time-honoured way, to see how pasties are made on the Lizard and finally visit the fishing village of Portloe **for a cream tea. There's lots of history on the way.**

Worcester Porcelain with Royal Connections
Wednesday 15 March 2017
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Harry Frost, Ceramic Historian

Our speaker will transport us on a dazzling journey where we will experience in detail examples from some of the finest banqueting and other services produced by the Royal Porcelain Works at Worcester. Ornamental presentation pieces will also be seen, illustrating the magnificent artistry and skill of generations of craftspeople who created porcelain for our Royal Family for over 200 years.

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held in Dunchurch Village Hall
on 21st January 2016 at 2.30pm

Roy Deacon took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming **Roy Mitchell from the National Trust**, the invited speaker, and 70 Association Members. Roy also requested members to collect their newsletters from the table in the entrance lobby before the AGM as they contained the agenda, **summary of the accounts and the minutes of last year's AGM.**

- 1 *Apologies* had been received from **Anne Turner, the Association Secretary, Michael Turner and Bob Elliott.**
- 2 *Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting* were printed in the Autumn Newsletter and were not read out at this AGM.

Isobel Palmer proposed that the minutes be approved, seconded by Martin Stammers. The proposal was carried unanimously and Roy Deacon signed them as a true record.

- 3 There were no *Matters Arising*
- 4 *Treasurers Report* which included:

A summary of the income and expenditure for 2014/15 is printed in the Spring Newsletter. A more detailed balance sheet is available on request.

The surplus for the year was £4,635 which is c£400 higher than the previous year. Just under half of this surplus (c£2,100) came from the annual programme of trips and visits. The remainder (c£2,500) came from the sales table, raffles, refreshments, printer cartridge recycling, talks given to other organisations and groups, and the collections taken at meetings.

Annual subscriptions totalled £3,210 which was down slightly on the previous year, reflecting a fall in membership of c20 to 380. The annual subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples continue to cover the running costs of the Association in terms of the printing and **distribution of two newsletters each year, speakers' fees, new/additional equipment and the hire of this hall.**

As at the 30th September 2015, the total reserves of the Association stood at just over £14,000, an increase of c£4,600 on the previous year. However, donations totaling £4,300 have since been made in support of

a number of projects at six properties in the Midlands region. A further £1,500 has been transferred to the Supporter Group Account which is held on our behalf by the National Trust. This means that we currently have £5,000 being held in reserve and waiting for a decision as to how it should be allocated. Any ideas and/or suggestions from members are always most welcome as to projects worthy of our support.

Ken Kortegas proposed that the Treasurer's report be approved, seconded by Jenny Major and carried unanimously

5 ***Chairman's Report***

Since our AGM in January 2015 we have had three phases of activity. Between January and March we had the annual visit information briefing and three lectures covering the topics of Glass, Conservation and Waterways. During the summer there were two walks and nine visits took place of varying interest. I am pleased to report that these visits were well supported and all were able to go ahead. The visits are an integral part of our activities and provide an opportunity to socialise with other members and provide funds to support the work of the National Trust. In October through to December we embarked upon the Autumn Lectures and welcomed back Gerald Lesinski, James Taylor, Charles Hajdamach and David Templeman with talks on various interesting and enjoyable subjects. The year concluded with the Christmas lunch at Doddington Hall near Lincoln.

These activities have been organised by members of your committee with help from many volunteers. I would like to thank them for their efforts

I am pleased to report to you that in 2015 we were able to donate £4300 in support of local properties.

It is disappointing to report that our membership numbers have fallen this year to 344 for various reasons. Consequently, we must advertise our attractive programme of events wherever possible. This is where I ask you as members of RNTA to be our best recruiting officers to persuade your friends or anyone you know to join us if they are interested in lectures, outings, walks etc.

I conclude by saying I look forward to your support at our meetings and to join in the visits that are being organised for 2016 to enable us to continue supporting National Trust properties.

Isobel Palmer proposed that the Chairman's Report be approved, seconded by Martin Stammers and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee

6.1 Committee

The following members of the committee offered themselves for election or re-election and the following were proposed:

Chairman:	Roy Deacon
Secretary:	Anne Turner
Treasurer:	David Knapp
Membership Secretary:	Patricia Downton
Dep. Mem. Secretary	Jean Kortegas
Bookings Secretary:	Pamela Southern
Visit Co-ordinator:	Pauline Springett
Web Editor:	Tony Birch
Publicity Officer	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor	Isobel Palmer
Sales Table:	Kate/Malcolm Tennant
Meetings Sec./Vice Chair	George Brunavs

Martin Stammers proposed that the above members be elected to serve on the committee for the year 2016, seconded by Rona Townsend carried unanimously and so confirmed and declared, by the Chairman.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Treasurer David Knapp advised that Ian Stimson, who was appointed as Independent Examiner for 2015, has agreed to examine the accounts again for 2016.

Brian Williamson proposed that his appointment be approved, seconded by Jan Elliott and carried unanimously.

8 *Subscriptions*

Roy Deacon reiterated to the members present that subscriptions would remain unchanged for a further year, as agreed at the 24th Annual General Meeting for 5 years (2011 – 2015).

Jenny Major proposed that subscriptions remained as agreed and seconded by **Ken Kortegas** and carried unanimously.

9 *Any Other Business*

A correction to an error on the 2016 Events card concerning the programme of talks was confirmed and clarified. The programme is correctly printed in the Spring 2016 Newsletter.

10 *Date of the Next Annual General Meeting*

The 30th Annual General Meeting would be held on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 2:30 pm at Dunchurch Village Hall.

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 19 January 2017

At 2.30 pm in Dunchurch Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Chairman's Report
6. Election of Committee – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2017 are:
Roy DEACON (Chair),
David KNAPP (Treasurer)
Anne TURNER (Secretary)
Patricia DOWNTON (Membership Secretary)
Jean KORTEGAS (Deputy Membership Secretary)
Pam SOUTHERN (Bookings Secretary)
Mike SHERRING-LUCAS (Publicity Officer)
George BRUNAVS (Meetings Secretary/ Vice chair)
Pauline SPRINGETT (Visits Co-ordinator)
Malcolm TENNANT (Sales Table)
Tony BIRCH (Web Editor) and
Isobel PALMER (Newsletter Editor)
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Subscription
9. Any Other Business
10. Next Annual General Meeting will be Thursday, **18** January 2018

Dates for your Diary in 2016 /17

Date	Title	Time
2016		
6 Oct	Talk—Two Queens and a Countess Speaker: David Templeman	2.30 pm
19 Oct	Talk—Through wildest Russia Speaker: R Butler	7.30 pm
3 Nov	Talk—The Great Central Railway: Past, Present and Future Speaker: Mike Riley	2.30 pm
6 Nov	Walk—Exploring Mediaeval Canons Ashby	10.30 am
16 Nov	Talk—Wild Britain diary Speaker: Chris Ward	7.30 pm
1 Dec	Talk—Ocean Liner Art Speaker: J Taylor	2.30 pm
6 Dec	Christmas lunch at Sulgrave Manor	11 am
2017		
19 Jan	Rugby NTA AGM followed by: Talk—Alice Suffragette Speaker: Peter Barratt	2.30 pm
2 Feb	Visits for 2017 & Review of 2016 outings	2.30 pm
15 Feb	Talk—Secrets and scandals of Canons Ashby Speaker: Laura Malpas	7.30 pm
2 March	Talk—A taste of Cornwall Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm
15 March	Talk—Worcester porcelain with Royal connections Speaker: Harry Frost	7.30 pm



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer
The Rugby National Trust Association 2016
Printed by Steers Printing