Join the Market Harborough Historical Society

Please send this application form to:

MHHS Membership Secretary
Mike Stroud
7 Orchard Close
Desborough
Kettering
NN14 2LR

Membership is £14 per year for a single person and £20 for a family. The membership year commences 1st August and expires 31st July the following year...

Cheques should be made payable to:
Market Harborough Historical Society

Name(s):

Address:

Post Code:

Email:

Telephone:

THE MARKET HARBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Registered Charity 2014 No. 1157244) was founded in 1931 and has been active ever since as a forum for those interested in the history and archaeology of the area. The Society holds a series of talks running from autumn through to early summer and organises an annual summer excursion to a local place of interest. The membership application form can be found overleaf or alternatively downloaded from our web page at:

www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

THE HARBOROUGH HISTORIAN

The Society's journal is produced annually and was first published in 1984 and contains articles relating to the history and archaeology of the local area. Members receive a copy as part of their subscription fee. We welcome the submission of articles up to 2,000 words in length. Shorter articles and book reviews are also welcomed. The editor, David Holmes is happy to give help and advice to anyone engaged in researching local historical and archaeological topics. He can be contacted via email at

editor@marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

All meetings of the Society take place on the second Wednesday of the month at:

The Roman Way Community Centre
36 Roman Way, Market Harborough, LE16, 7PQ

Doors open 7:00 pm; talks begin at 7:30 pm
All are welcome. Admission is free to members; visitors are charged £3

Market Harborough Historical Society

Programme 2017 - 2018

www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

MHHS Programme Notes 2017 – 18

September 13th
Ian Aldis: The story of Wicksteed Park Kettering
In 1913, Charles Wicksteed, a Kettering industrialist with strong northern Unitarian roots from a prominent philanthropic family, purchased some land on the edge of Kettering to provide a safe space for families to go for recreation. It formally opened in May 1921. It remains to this day a large parkland area with space and attractions, including the recently listed 1926 water shoot. Wicksteed Park has pioneered children's playground equipment. Ian Aldis will tell us the story of this special place.

October 11th
Daniel Connor: Roman and Iron Age settlement on Lubenham Hill
Daniel Connor of Allen Archaeology Lincolnshire was in charge of the extensive archaeological investigation at Lubbenham Hill in the summer of 2016. This study was made in advance of the major housing development now taking place there. While much of the site is under houses built in the 1980s, evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and the remains of Iron Age and Roman field systems and industrial sites were discovered. Daniel will explain why and what was found and how it tells a previously unknown story of settlement in the Harborough area.

Saturday October 28th – History Day
Crime and Punishment in Leicestershire

November 8th
Brian Johnson: Their name liveth for evermore – the work of the Imperial War Graves commission
Millions of men died during the great war; the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission was set up to provide cemeteries and memorials for this lost generation. Brian Johnson, a family historian, discusses how the IWGC came into being and the different forms of the cemeteries along the Western Front. The talk will show some of the monuments and how they were made and designed; it will discuss some of the individuals commemorated, and the wording on the monuments. This is a moving talk which is very pertinent in this centenary of the Great War.

December 13th
Peter Liddle: Mercian Leicestershire
Mercia was the powerful large Anglo-Saxon kingdom covering central England from the Wirral to London, and from the Welsh border to the Wash. Amongst its leaders were Penda and Offa, amongst its treasures the Staffordshire hoard and the sculptures at Breedon-on-the Hill. It was dominant in the 8 -9th Centuries. Leicestershire was at the heart of Mercia. Peter Liddle, from his lifelong experience as an archaeologist in the county, will discuss how archaeology is revealing more about this important ancient kingdom.

2018

January 10th
Douglas Clinton: The Anglo-Saxon Monastery at Breedon on the Hill
Leicestershire possesses a gem in the fascinating ancient hilltop church of Breedon-on-the-Hill dedicated to St Mary and St Hardulph. Standing proud on its hill, protected by the banks of an Iron Age hillfort, the church urges us to look heavenwards. Once inside, there is an unrivalled cornucopia of mid-Saxon sculpture, the largest collection of any place in the country. Douglas Clinton traces the sources and kinship of these magnificent carvings, as well as telling of the ghosts of the monastic library there and the riddles composed by Tatwine (c 670 – 734) the scholarly abbot of Breedon who was later Archbishop of Canterbury.

February 14th
Mary Matts: The Flora of the Grand Union Canal
Mary Matts has spent most of her life on and around canals and waterways so has an unrivalled knowledge of it. Canals are now so important being linear ecological havens across a brutalised landscape. Here taken through the seasons she gives an account of the wild flowers, plants and trees in waterway locations. She gives details of their characteristics, medicinal and culinary uses, myths and legends.

March 14th
Dr Stephen Parry: The Stones of Harborough in their geological setting
Stephen Parry is a geologist at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth (Notts) who specialises in the stone used for building.

He will put the geology of the Harborough Area in context; the underlying geology is the key to the landscape and explains the differences between Northamptonshire to the south and Leicestershire to the North. From the local geology came the traditional building materials of the area: clay for bricks and some stone. Harborough is at the junction of stone and brick. Dr Parry will make us look at our built environment [or built landscape if you prefer] and in a different way.

April 11th - AGM followed by
Paul Wintersgill and Dave Cail: Working in Stone in Harborough District
Dave and Paul of Harborough Stone are the successors of William Allsop, who was responsible for the stonework on HG Coales's many Harborough buildings, and of his successor Alf Herbert under whom they trained. For the last 30 years they have continued their craftsman tradition in stone and letter-cutting working in the Harborough area. They have repaired war memorials, churches, tombstones and houses. Stone needs upkeep and maintenance, but good conservation is not noticeable. Dave and Paul will discuss how they work and some of the many projects with which they have been involved.

May 9th
Roy Smart: Another Icarus? The story of Percy Pilcher
Percy Sinclair Pilcher 1866-99 was killed at Stanford on Avon (MHHS outing 2009) during a demonstration of flying. He was Britain's aviation pioneer who had developed a glider, the Hawk, in which in 1897 he had actually flown. He went on to develop a triplane to carry an engine to create the first powered flight. He was the first Englishman to die in the cause of 'the conquest of the air' when on the cusp of becoming the most famous name in aviation history. Roy Smart presents this magnificent man, his flying machines and the historic, but as yet unheralded, achievements of his sister Ella who helped him in his work.

June 13th
Summer Outing – tbd