

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

The 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. It 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 2019 – 2020

www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

MHHS Programme Notes 2019 – 20

September 11th

Joanne Mungovin: Joseph Merrick of Leicester, The Elephant Man

The story of Leicester-born Joseph Merrick, 1862 - 1890, has passed into the realm of legend. Known as the elephant man because of severe physical deformities he was displayed as a freak; in 1980 he was the subject of a film depicting cruelty and suffering at the hands of his manager until his eventual rescue by Dr Frederick Treves of the London Hospital. But the truth is quite different. Joanne's interest in Joseph Merrick stems from her passion for and 20 years research into the history of Leicester, the home town she shares with Joseph.

October 9th

David James: Blacksmithing and Conservation today

David James is from the firm of George James and Sons, Blacksmiths; it still uses the same premises as when it was founded in 1841 as a village blacksmiths at Broughton near Kettering, but it did install a new forge in 1950. Today it specialises in conservation and creative work. The firm restored the 18thC gates to Kings Norton Church, and the gates at the entrance to the Memorial Gardens in The Square as well as gates and railings by Jean Tijou at Hampton Court Palace. Cathedrals and churches (including Great Bowden) have seen his beautiful new creative gates and railings. David will explain the magic of working hot iron and how the repair and creative work is accomplished.

Saturday October 26th – History Day A History of Market Harborough from Iron Age to the 19th Century

November 13th

Steve Dimmer: Tales from the Trenches

Steve Dimmer will retell some of the myths and legends that came out of Great War. The Angel of Mons and The Christmas Football Match are relatively well-known, but other tales such as The German Ghost Spy, The Monocled Mutineer and The Comrade in White will be less well-known. The evening traces the story of these myths and examines the likely explanation, shedding fascinating new light on many curious and unexplained wartime tales, such as the zeppelins, the actual assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand, the Kitchener poster, propaganda, the real plan behind

Churchill's despatching water closets to Russia and the small personal story of one single soldier.

December 11th

Robin Jenkins: Church Monuments of Leicestershire and Rutland

The two counties have a wealth of fine funerary monuments which besides being works of art in their own right, reflect the historical attitudes of society and its leaders. There are some nationally outstanding monuments as well as many others reflecting their time in history and the aspirations, wealth and feelings of worthiness of those they commemorate. They can be found in churches, both small and those wrought as extensions to the importance of the ruling class. From Sleeping mediaeval knights and their wives, small children to those killed in distant colonial wars the churches of the two counties display them. Robin Jenkins, senior archivist at the Leicestershire Record Office, will help us explore this wealth of art and social history.

2020

January 8th

Nat Alcock: Cruck Building in Midland England

Crucks are the pairs of curved timbers used in the construction of both stone and timber-framed buildings in parts of England. They are found in humble cottages as well as, in modified form, in the halls of the great (as at Nevill Holt). Dr Nat Alcock is an expert on vernacular architecture and has made extensive studies of cruck construction. An acute observer and recorder of vernacular architecture he will give us an account of cruck buildings in the midlands, in its wider context

February 12th

Alan Langley: The Harborough Workhouse, who were the inmates?

Parishes had long had workhouses for the homeless and poor but after the Poor Law Act of 1836 these were consolidated into large unions. The new Market Harborough work house at 33 Leicester Road (now St Luke's hospital) served the town and 42 surrounding parishes. But who used them? Why were they admitted? How long did they stay? Alan Langley has been studying the Market Harborough workhouse records to find out more about the unfortunate people who stayed there.

March 11th

Sarah Wilson: Flag Fen

Flag Fen, on the outskirts of Peterborough is at the junction of the land with the low lying Fens. Here in the early 1980s was discovered a bronze age causeway, since subject to much archaeological study and re-construction. It shares the same prehistoric landscape with the recent discoveries of the platform settlement at Must Farm near Whittlesey. Sarah Wilson is the archaeologist at Flag Fen and can tell us about the discoveries, their significance and conservation and careful reconstruction of the Bronze Age landscape. Flag Fen has enabled an understanding and appreciation of the life in the Bronze Age.

April 8th - AGM followed by

Len Holden: Paddy Logan and his suffragette daughters

John (Paddy) Logan (1845-1925) was a radical and outspoken entrepreneur, engineering contractor and property dealer. He made a fortune building railways and docks. He built himself a large country house at East Langton and in 1891 became MP for Market Harborough. He gifted the town the play area and housing development around Logan Street as well as paying half the costs of the Harborough swimming pool. Less well known is that he had two daughters who became suffragettes and played a significant role in promoting women's rights and suffrage in Leicestershire. Len Holden will tell their story.

May 13th

Mike Stroud: William Knibb of Kettering

William Knibb 1803 – 1845 was a Baptist minister from Kettering who took up the cause of fighting slavery in the West Indies. To him the whole concept of slavery was totally abhorrent, and he determined to do all within his power to "slay the monster" that was slavery. He followed the Kettering Baptist Minister Andrew Fuller 1754 – 1815 who in 1792 co-founded the Baptist Missionary Society. Indeed leaving school aged 12 he worked as an apprentice printer to Fuller's son. William Knibb became a missionary to Jamaica, much influenced life there where he died aged 42. Mike Stroud will recount the life and work of this great man

June 10th

Summer Outing – tbd