

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, Eric Whelan, is happy to give help and advice to anyone engaged in the preparation of local historical and archaeological topics. He can be contacted

editor@marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

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

The Methodist Church Hall, Northampton Rd, Market
Harborough, LE16 9HE

Doors open 7:00 pm; talks begin at 7:30 pm.
All are welcome. There is a £1 door charge to help
with room hire. Non-members pay an additional £3.

Market Harborough Historical Society



Programme 2022 - 2023

www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

MHHS Programme Notes 2022–23

September 14 David Holmes: Kibworth Harcourt Windmill
Kibworth Windmill (Grade II*) is an ancient post mill. Standing on its 2 foot square oak post it has dominated its area of Kibworth for over 400 years. Added to and diminished over the centuries it is the only post mill to have survived from the many which once existed in the area. It has recently been the subject of much conservation and research. David Holmes will tell us about the mill and its history and bring us up-to date with recent discoveries and events. He talked to the Society about the mill in September 2011, now much more is known about it following its recent restoration.

October 12th David Osborne: Denys Watkins-Pitchford (B B)
The artist Denys Watkins-Pitchford (1905-1990) was born, brought up and educated at Lampport Rectory in the early 20thC. He was imbued with the Northamptonshire countryside which inspired all his many writings and over 60 books. A countryman and keen observer of wildlife he wrote many varied books and articles under the name B.B. He illustrated his books and children's books with his own exquisite watercolours and evocative etchings / scraperboard drawings. David Osborne, the Secretary of the B B Society, will tell us about this remarkable man and his works.

November 9th Denis Kenyon A Work Greater than the Pharaohs – the creation of the Imperial War Graves Commission

For our Remembrancetide meeting Denis Kenyon will talk on developing and changing attitudes to the commemoration of war dead. He will talk about the time when the War Office ignored “other ranks” through to the Great War and Sir Fabian Ware’s initiative to the creation of the moving cemeteries and memorials which bring a lump to the throat. He will also make a comparison between military memorialisation in Britain, France and Germany. Some members may recall Denis on Remembrance Day 2009 when he spoke on the war memorials of Leicestershire; the brilliance of his talk left us speechless and stunned.

December 14th An evening with Peter Urmston

Peter is a freelance Historical Reconstruction and Architectural Illustrator who has recently produced a book about Market Harborough in the year 1400. He does much work for English Heritage. Look at many guides, information boards, visitor centre/museums and academic reports to see “An artist’s impression of . . .” which are interiors or 3D birds-eye views of buildings, places and sites, referring to an earlier age. Peter draws these complicated reconstructions adding historically accurate people to make the buildings/site more humanly realistic. He will talk about his work and engage in conversation about the way he approaches and researches his creations.

2023

January 11th Jennifer Browning: The Rutland Mosaic

Jennifer Browning from ULAS was the leading archaeologist involved in the recent excavation of the stunning Rutland Mosaic. This is a remarkable 11 x 7 m Roman Mosaic in a large high-status villa near South Luffenham golf course. It has been called the most exciting Roman mosaic discovery in a century. Discovered during lockdown in 2020 its existence and excavation was announced in November 2021. Uniquely to Britain (and rare in Europe) it shows, across three panels, representations of the Trojan War from Homer’s Iliad. Jennifer will talk about the mosaic and its excavation as well as the archaeological studies of the site of this previously unknown major villa. 109

8th February Maxine Johnson: Laurence Saunders, a Marian Martyr

Laurence Saunders was born at Welford c 1518, one of 12 children of Thomas Saunders and Margaret Cave of Stanford on Avon. After Cambridge he was ordained and became Rector of Church Langton. In the 1550s, a time of intertwined Machiavellian political and church upheaval, Laurence became a preacher in London where he was arrested in his church. Imprisoned and tortured, he was found guilty of heresy and sedition. He was publicly burnt at the stake on 8th February 1555 in Coventry thus becoming one of many martyrs for his

beliefs under Queen Mary. Maxine Johnson has studied the life and death of this remarkable man and will tell us about him.

8th March Richard Bullock: Elizabethan and Stuart Turbulence in Leicestershire Society

From mid Tudor times into the early 17th Century there were sporadic outbreaks of riots, generally connected with land and enclosures and influenced by the actions of powerful landowners and gentry. The outbreaks in the East Midlands were serious: starting in Northamptonshire after the 1607 May Day celebrations they were finally bloodily put down at Cotesbach near Lutterworth and at Newton by Geddington in June 1607. Tensions between various local gentry affected these riots and turbulent midland history into the reign of Charles I. Richard Bullock will trace these disturbances and the conflicts within the county gentry that sparked them and influenced their course.

12th April Michael Stroud The Tresham family and their Buildings

The Treshams were notable landowners in north Northamptonshire. Sir Thomas Tresham (1543 – 1605) a Catholic, was frequently imprisoned for his beliefs. He designed and had built a number of buildings to express his beliefs. These include the extraordinary and exquisite Triangular Lodge at Rushton, Lyvedon New Build near Oundle, and the Market House at Rothwell. The Tresham family had connections with Deene Park, the Gunpowder Plot and the final suppression of the 1607 Midland Riots at Newton. Their great dovecote, bearing the Tresham trefoil badge, still stands in a field at Newton by Geddington. Mike will talk about this important local family, their buildings and activities.

May 10th Susan Barton: Thomas Cook and his organised outings

Susan Barton has been interested in Victorian working-class organisations and popular tourism for many years. The role of Market Harborough’s son, Thomas Cook, figures much in this. She has recently researched him focussing on Cook’s tours to Switzerland, particularly the first of 1863, that was documented by Jemima Morrell. Such social history has had a profound influence on the way tourism has subsequently developed.