

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 £15 per year for a single person and
£21 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 2023 - 2024

www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

MHHS Programme Notes 2023–24

September 13 Dr Pamela Fisher: Lutterworth

The Victoria County History (VCH) founded in 1899 is a major project to write the history of the whole of England county by county and parish by parish. Dr Fisher, a research historian, co-ordinates work on the VCH in Leicestershire. She has recently published for the VCH a history of Lutterworth. From John Wycliffe to Frank Whittle this small town has been significant in the history of Leicestershire. Pamela Fisher will talk to us about this interesting neighbour of Market Harborough.

October 11 Matt Beamish: The Enderby Shield

In 2015, during pre-development excavations at the Everards site to the south of Fosse park, ULAS found an exceptional Iron Age shield made of bark. Analysis by specialists at the Universities of Leicester and York, and at the British Museum has revealed fascinating details on the construction of the shield. Using simple tools available in the Iron Age, a number of similar shields were made using experimental techniques on a site north of Leicester between 2018 and 2022. The bark when combined with the other parts of the shield proved remarkably strong and lightweight. Matt Beamish will tell the story of the Enderby Shield.

November 8 Dennis Kenyon: They shall grow not old

For Remembrancetide Dennis will present a tour around the Great War memorials in the Harborough area giving the back stories of them. The evening will include Black and White contemporary films of Market Harborough, of the public welcome to service men 1919 and the unveiling of the Harborough war memorial Cross in the town's Square.

December 13 Roy York: The pre Great War film industry of Irthlingborough and the Battle of Waterloo

An American entrepreneur living at Irthlingborough near Wellingborough decided in 1913 to make a film about the Battle of Waterloo in the landscape which the Duke of Wellington had compared with the field of Waterloo. More films were made in the village, but the incipient industry did not survive the Great War eventually settling in Hollywood. Roy York from Irthlingborough will give an entertaining account of the actual making of the film and show an extract – all that remains - of this epic early silent film.

2024

January 10 Dame Sara Cockerill KC: Eleanor of Castile

Eleanor of Castile (1241 - 1290) was Queen, constant companion and advisor to the Plantagenet Edward I. Her political marriage at age 13 became a love match. Her influence was covertly strong in politics and she was a notable landowner in her own right - building a vast property empire whose heart lay close to Market Harborough. She was an influencer of her day – her passionate interests influenced many aspects of society and living. She died aged 49 at Harby in Nottinghamshire. Her body was taken to London for burial at Westminster Abbey stopping en route at Geddington as part of the funeral procession that resulted in the famous Eleanor Crosses. Sara will give an account of this remarkable woman - and her links to the area. his creations.

Feb 14 Ned Newitt: The Rupert Street revolt in Leicester

The Great War did not bring prosperity to the common man; the hardships faced by Leicester's unemployed led to a riot in September 1921. This is a story of the conflict between the hopes of those who came back from the war and the reality of the 19th century Poor Law. The riotous scenes of 1921 were just one of the many skirmishes that ultimately paved the way for the Welfare State. Ned looks at the Poor Law in Leicester against the conflicting social attitudes of the time: society has a responsibility to those thrown out of work through no fault of their own versus the belief that poverty was the consequence of indolence and drunkenness.

March 13 Peter Liddle: Abbeys and Priors of Leicestershire

The Middle Ages saw the foundation of many religious houses, some small others mighty as Leicester Abbey whose desire for sheep runs was responsible for the depopulation of still empty areas the county. Religious Houses were an important aspect of life in mediaeval Leicestershire but were swept away in the 1530s. Peter will talk about these abbeys and priories, what now remains of their buildings and what became of them after the Dissolution.

April 10 Bozena Kucewicz: The Postwar Polish Resettlement Camp at Husband's Bosworth

World War II saw the invasion of Poland by the Germans from the West and 10 days later by Russia from the East. Hitler snatched thousands of young Poles to work as slaves to feed and enable the economic expansion of the Third Reich. Stalin was determined to reclaim the Polish Eastern Borderlands that he considered historically Russian and remove all the newly settled Polish families. Over a million Poles were brutally transported in cattle trucks and dumped in Siberian labour camps and gulags. Bozena tells the story, often from a personal perspective, of these displaced Poles, how they survived the war and ended up stranded making what they thought were temporary homes in vacated British military camps, one of which was Husbands Bosworth.

May 8 Professor Elizabeth Hurren: Landscapes of Punishment in the Countryside: The Golden Age of the Gibbet

Elizabeth, a social historian from Leicester University, has recently been involved in a comprehensive and multidisciplinary study funded by the Wellcome Trust in London to map gibbets in the English countryside. This form of post-mortem punishment was reserved for the worst enemies of the 18th and 19th century state that committed murder, treason, piracy or robbed the Royal Mail and taxman. Gibbets were often erected at crossroads in wasteland areas, on the boundaries of communities. She brings to life the landscape placement, costs, technology and craftsmanship of gibbets, as well as popular superstitions. Concentrating on Leicestershire and the East Midlands, she will speak about the Golden Age of the Gibbet.

June 12 Outing: - to be announced.