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www.marketharboroughhistoricalsociety.org

The J C Davies and Michael Brown Memorial
Seminar

Saturday 27th October 2018

LOCAL HISTORY DAY

***Prominent People of the Harborough
Area***

*All Market Harborough Historical Society meetings take place at
the Roman Way Community Centre, 36, Roman Way
Market Harborough, LE16 7PQ*

*Starting at 7:30 pm. on the second Wednesday of the month
September to May. Doors open at 7:00 pm.*

Admission is FREE to members, visitors £3

Ticket Only Event, £15 to include buffet lunch

(Application form on separate sheet)

Roman Way Community Centre, Roman Way,
Market Harborough, LE16 7PQ
10:30 – 4:00 pm.

The theme for the day is: Prominent People of the Harborough Area

10:30 am. Reception and Welcome with coffee, tea and biscuits

11:00 am. – 12:00 pm.

Keynote Speaker: Kit Mayers – ‘Anthony Jenkinson: The First English Explorer’

Anthony Jenkinson was born in Market Harborough in 1529. The son of a prosperous innkeeper, he became the great pioneer of English exploration overland. He survived numerous perils and near disasters and, in two separate expeditions, reached Bukhara and Persia. Jenkinson was one of the few men that Tsar Ivan the Terrible trusted. He managed to negotiate the restoration of the Muscovy Company's trade with Russia, which had previously been banished. Kit is author of a book on Anthony Jenkinson published in 2016.

12:00 – 1:00 pm.

Jess Jenkins (Archivist Leicestershire Records Office) - ‘Mary Ellen Taylor Militant Suffragette’

This talk gives an account of the life of Mary Ellen Taylor (1863-1937), a militant suffragette and one time resident of Smeeton Westerby. Her husband, Thomas Smithies Taylor was one of the founders of the scientific instrument makers Taylor, Taylor and Hobson but was as committed as his wife to the cause of women's suffrage. Her sister Dr Elizabeth Wilks shared their passion and was briefly a household name due to her tax resistance protests. Today, however, this remarkable local family is almost forgotten. Jess is the author of ‘The Burning Question: The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in Leicestershire.’

Lunch 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

2:00– 3:00 pm.

Geoff Woodruff – ‘Sir Harold Ridley: Cataract Pioneer of Kibworth’

Prior to Harold Ridley's first insertion of an artificial intra-ocular lens in 1949, patients who had cataract surgery needed to wear heavy distorting spectacles which greatly reduce the quality of vision. Cataract extraction and lens implantation is today arguably the most successful operation ever and has been performed over 100 million times. The triumph of Ridley's persistence in the face of opposition and difficulty is epitomised by his eventual knighthood 50 years after his first lens implantation. Geoff is a Consultant Ophthalmologist Emeritus and ambassador for the Ridley Eye Foundation.

Refreshment break 3:00 - 3:15 pm.

3:15 – 4:15 pm.

Stephen Butt – ‘John Theodore Kenney: Artist and Illustrator’

John Kenney is most noted as the illustrator of Thomas the Tank Engine which sells a billion pounds of merchandise every year amounting to over 80 million books in 121 countries. The image of Thomas we see today was created by John Theodore Kenney who lived and worked in Kibworth. A fine landscape artist, he also illustrated Ladybird books and recorded the devastation in Europe following the D-Day landings. Now a Green Plaque Award is being unveiled, recognising this modest and genial man. Stephen is a well known historian, author and broadcaster and has hosted his own history show on BBC Radio Leicester.