

FINEDON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



**Members of Finedon History Society on their visit to
Warkton Church 23 May 2017**

Newsletter
September 2017

COMMITTEE FOR 2017

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Officers elected at the 2016 Annual General Meeting
on
28th November 2016

President	Jacqui Minchinton
Chairman	Malcolm Peet
Vice Chairman	Michael Shipton
Secretary	Michael Britton
Treasurer	Rachel Terry
Minute Secretary	Brenda Beck

Committee Members
David Bailey Jeremy Millington
Jim Hill (co-opted)

Researcher Carolyn Smith

A new committee for 2018 will be elected at the AGM
on Monday 27th November 2017.

You are reminded that Malcolm, the present Chairman, will be standing down at the end of the year. If any member is interested in filling this vacancy or indeed standing for any other position please have a word with a member of the committee. As previously mentioned we have been running with 3 members short of the nominal strength.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2017

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- September 23/24 Making History see page 15
- September 25 Richard III and the Greyfriars Dig
Sally Henshaw
- October 23 The History of Toys
Roger Brown
- October 28 HISTORY DAY # See pages 13 and 14
- November 27 AGM
- December 11 Carol Singing CANCELLED
- 2018
- January 22 David Livingstone C19th explorer and his
Northants connections
Gloria & Ian Wright
- February 26th Social networking before WW2,
The Co-op Women's Guild
Francis Terry
- March 26th The Hiccups and Horrors of Steaming
up the Valley Roy York

Attendance is restricted to members of the Forum.
Since the Society is a member, all our members are eligible to attend. Members are reminded that pre booking is essential for this event.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly apologies for the fact that you have not received a newsletter since January.

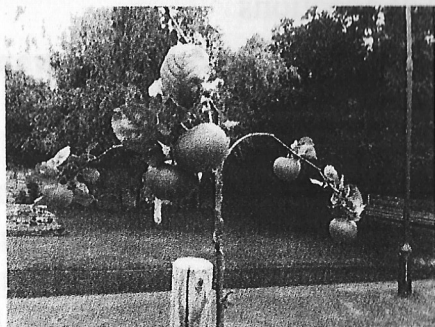
Once again, thanks to Carolyn, we have enjoyed a good selection of interesting and informative speakers, with only one exception.

The exhibition on the Volta Tower and Digby Mackworth Dolben, prepared by Ron Clayton and Mick Britton, was most successful and attracted over 150 visitors. The 2018 programme is almost complete. As yet a visit has not been arranged. If any member has a venue in mind please speak to a member of the committee.

It's very rewarding that we have retained a membership of 100 paid up members and 7 life members. Sadly we have lost a few long standing members but we have welcomed an equal number of new members.

THE BEEFING APPLE TREES

All three trees have survived the winter and are bearing fruit. The most successful is the tree planted in the churchyard which has five apples now turning a rosy red.



The tree in the school is also in good condition. It had one well developed apple that proved too much of a temptation for an autistic child, who had watched its development from blossom to fruit. He suffered no ill effects from eating the apple.

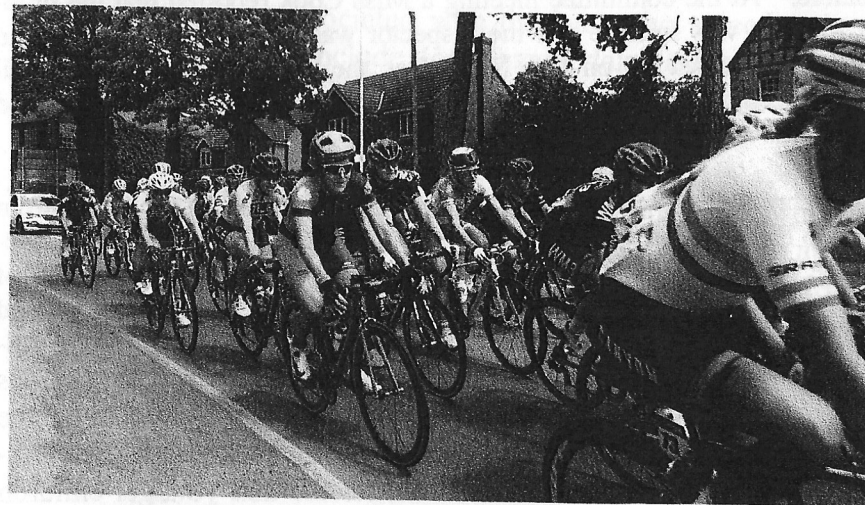
The tree at the Meeting House also bore fruit but has developed leaf curl. Urgent medical attention is being sought.

THE WOMENS' OVO CYCLE RACE

On 7 June the Daventry to Kettering stage of the race passed through Finedon providing an opportunity to see a professional race at first hand. The race entered Finedon via the Thrapston Road and after circumnavigating the A6 roundabout it turned sharp left down High Street and Church Street up Church Hill, Station Road onto the Kettering to Wellingborough Road.

While waiting for the race to pass the crowds were entertained by the large number of Police motorcyclists. At least one had been brought in from Wales. Additionally another 15 motorcyclists were specifically assigned to closely accompany the contestants.

Unusually the race was very spread out, the eventual winner was as at least 4 minutes in front of the field. The bulk of the riders were split into two main groups followed by several stragglers. By the time that the last few came by the police were no longer blocking the A6 nor the Wellingborough road. The direction signs were however still in place, but 3 or 4 riders failed to turn into the High street and carried on towards Burton Latimer. One of the team cars was dispatched to chase the group to return them to the correct route. They did not look happy,





How many people in Finedon realise that Finedon once had a Children's Home that was situated at 6 Church Street? Northampton Mercury on 4th October 1901 reported that the purpose of cottage homes was that pauper children now instead of being kept in the workhouse, could be cared for and equipped for life. They go to school with other children of the town, they wear no distinctive dress and are treated just like other children are, all those who pass

through the homes are reported to be doing well, and are on the way to becoming good and useful citizens. Some children were boarded out into the homes of persons within the Union area. Two homes were established by Wellingborough Poor Law Union in the early years of the 20th century. One in Newcombe Road and the other in Irchester. Each accommodated 12 children. In September 1913 a home was established in Irthlingborough to replace the Wellingborough Home. In 1914 the committee were told that the lease on the Irchester Home would expire on 30th September 1914.

A search was started in many of the local villages but none were considered suitable. On 14th July the committee agreed to inspect a property in Finedon. Unfortunately Mr Roundell, the Inspector, said that the house in Finedon was not suitable. At the committee meeting a Miss Cook reported that the property in Finedon was suitable and the Inspector was asked to visit again. An inspection was carried out on 10th November, the house in question had until lately been occupied by Miss Mackworth and it was agreed that it be approved for 10 children at a rent of £25.00 per annum.

On 2nd February 1915 arrangements were made to remove the home from Irchester to Finedon, the cost of the removal was £2.10 shillings. Miss G Macdonald the foster mother at Irchester moved to Finedon on the same salary of £32.10 shillings. Mrs Dantes of Irchester resigned as deputy foster mother and was replaced by Mrs Rose of Finedon. Mrs Rose was to be paid £2.10 shillings plus £1.10 shillings for the extra duties required for the foster mother's annual holiday. Violet Symonds born 25.12.1902 was admitted on the 1st February 1915 when she was 12 years old. Later admissions of Cottage Home children to the Girls' School indicate that younger children to the home went to the Mulso Mixed Infant School. Living at the Cottage Home must have been a stable existence as all of these girls remained at the Girls' School either until they were old enough to leave and go into work or they moved on to the Mulso Senior School.

Can you help? FARMING IN FINEDON

7

A major new publication from the Finedon Local History Society

After extensive research this publication, which charts the history of farming from mediaeval times to the present day, is nearing completion.

Briefly the book consists of 250 pages, some in colour, which includes 11 maps and 255 photographs. It covers the main external factors influencing farming. The Lords of the Manor: Mulso, Dolben and Mackworth Dolben had a huge bearing on farming in Finedon. The Enclosure Act of 1805/06 changed the face of the countryside but the most significant changes in farm ownership occurred when the Finedon Hall Estate was sold following the death of the last of the dynasty, Miss Ellen Mackworth Dolben in 1912.

A section on smallholdings, allotments and garden fields, which during and after the war were an essential source of food for many people is also covered.

The Society is especially indebted to local farmers, farmers' wives and others associated with the land who agreed to be interviewed. These include Joe Chamberlain, Mick Parsons, Peter Groome, Roy Hillson, Gill Letts, May Parker, Pete Donaldson and Gerry Needle.

To assist with the publication costs the society is seeking sponsorship from both companies and individuals. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the publication. If you are able to sponsor this project please complete the form enclosed in this newsletter. If you would like additional information please contact Malcolm Peet, Chairman, Email malcolm-peat@btinternet.com of Finedon Local History Society.

Tell: 01933 680773.



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FROM THE WELLINGBOROUGH NEWS

In 1945 At least 3 suggestions were made for a Memorial to remember the contribution of Finedon men in the War.

1 Build a Memorial Hall

At a meeting of the British Legion the suggestion to build a suitable Hall with appropriate rooms for meetings should be Finedon's memorial. Although there was at least 3 public halls, The Town Hall, The Co-operative Hall and The Star Hall in addition to the halls at the various Clubs none were suitable.

Finedon's ex servicemen strongly favoured a Community Centre or a Memorial Hall for Finedon's own War Memorial. Mr C H Manning gave an extract from the recent Annual Conference report which stressed the necessity, in the interests of all, including ex service personnel, that steps should be taken to establish Community Centres in which local voluntary organisations, including the British Legion, could take part.

2 Provide a Paddling Pool

Reduce the depth of the static water tank in High Street to two feet, lengthen it by removal of the unsightly heap of leather refuse. Plant a box hedge round it and use it for a paddling pool for the youngsters.

3 Plant 50 Trees

It has been suggested that an offer made by an organisation at Wellingborough to the Urban Council to plant trees might well be emulated in Finedon. As there are over 50 different organisations in Finedon, a tree from each of them would be not only lasting but if placed in the Recreation Field it would help to beautify it and supplement those now in their glory which were given by the late Mr Arthur Parker some years ago.

RESIDENTS WILL BE AWARE THAT NONE OF THESE SUGGESTIONS CAME TO FRUITION

PATIENTS FROM FINEDON.

Request to Wellingborough
Cottage Hospital.

AVOIDING JOURNEY TO NORTHAMPTON.

Wellingborough Cottage Hospital will be asked to receive patients from Finedon for treatment in certain cases. It was decided at a meeting of the Finedon Hospital Committee on Tuesday evening.

Mr. J. W. Avery, G.O., said the merger made it possible for Finedon people to seek admission, and he also mentioned that recently two accident cases from Finedon had been received at the Cottage Hospital instead of being taken to Northampton General Hospital as hitherto.

He urged that Finedon people should apply for periodic treatments, which could be given at the Cottage Hospital, to save them the time and expense of journeying to Northampton.

A discussion favoured the suggestion. It was stated that the Finedon Hospital Committee would have funds, irrespective of the Northampton General Hospital's contributory scheme, to make grants for treatment at Wellingborough.

Mr. Avery's proposition that the hon. secretary should write to the Cottage Hospital authorities at Wellingborough with a view to an arrangement for Finedon patients was adopted with only one dissentient.

PIT ACCIDENT.

Two Brothers Nearly Buried at Finedon

On Saturday morning an alarming accident happened to two brothers named Robert and William Mayes, whilst working in the ironstone pits on the Station road, Finedon, worked by Mr. Barlow.

They were working on the top of the stone bed when there was a sudden fall of earth, which partly buried them and their barrows. Help was soon at hand, and when they were extracted it was found that their faces were badly cut, and their legs severely bruised, but fortunately no bones were broken. They were considerably shaken.

A conveyance was secured, and they were taken home, where their injuries were attended to by Dr. Barland.

FINEDONS LEGACY FROM UNDERGROUND MINING

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Finedon is virtually surrounded by underground mines, one the reasons given for the lack of a bypass. The horrendous delays on the A6 at peak times will only get worse with the Rushden Lakes development and the Industrial park at Burton Latimer. Collapse of the land is also claimed as a major factor in the lack of significant housing estates. The collapse of the football pitch is the most widely published but a larger problem is the farmer's loss of equipment and land.

A Tunnel, thought To be close to Top Lodge Farm



Partial collapse of a Tunnel, despite reinforcements

These pictures have kindly been provided by Mr Joe Chamberlain

Finedon Local History Society and Northamptonshire Heritage Forum

HISTORY DAY

Saturday 28th October 2017
at Finedon Dolben Cricket Ground

FINEDON

Finedon has evidence of Neolithic inhabitants; Viking and Roman artefacts have also been found. Records from 1065 exist showing that Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor, held the great Soke of Peterborough and Tingdene, (Finedon's name at this time). By 1086 the Manor was in the hands of William the Conqueror. During this period in history Finedon was a very important place and there were only three places with larger populations: Northampton, Brackley and Rushton.

From c.1400 John Mulso became Lord of the Manor followed by nine generations of his family and subsequently the Dolbens and the Mackworth Dolbens. Their names are preserved in many of the street names in the town. Several Lords of the Manor held important positions outside of Finedon, one Sir English Dolben 'beautified' many of the listed buildings including: the Hall, Pytchley Row and the Bell Inn, claimed to be the oldest licenced Inn in England. Following the death of Ellen Mackworth Dolben in 1912 the Hall and estate including the many farms were sold. The Hall and several of the outbuildings have now been converted into private residences.

The large parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, was built in the Decorated period (c.1350) and contains many notable features including a fine collection of Green Men.

Until 1850 the main occupations were agriculture, lace making and boot making. This all changed with the introduction of iron ore mining and processing as well as the mechanisation of the boot and shoe industry. By the early 1900s the population was in excess of 4000. In the 1950s at least 14 businesses were involved in the boot and shoe industry, now there are none and iron ore mining was discontinued in the 1960s.

From 1894-1935 Finedon was controlled by its own Urban District Council but was subsequently absorbed into Wellingborough Urban District Council and later the Borough Council of Wellingborough. In 1983, Finedon Parish Council was established, to provide better local representation. The 2011 Census showed the population of Finedon was 4309.

Website: www.finedonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Northamptonshire
HERITAGE FORUM

SPEAKERS

MALCOLM PREET

Malcolm is Chair of the Finedon Local History Society, and will present an overview of the history of Finedon from before the time of its significant entry in the Domesday Book through to the present day charting the major points in its rich and varied history.

Malcolm has lived in Finedon all of his life. He is a founder member of the society (2000) and has contributed to many of its publications and exhibitions. Additionally, he is the Editor of the society newsletter.

RON CLAYTON

William Mackworth Dolben was a Finedon born naval officer. Stationed on the west coast of Africa he carved himself a reputation as an explorer of the Victorian era. Shortly after taking command of HMS Investigator in 1863 he drowned off the coast of Lagos. The Volta Tower, an iconic gothic edifice, was designed and built in Finedon to commemorate his life. The Volta Tower collapsed in 1951.

Ron is a society member and retired teacher. He was shortlisted for The Wendy Golland Award for Quality Research at the 2015 East Midlands Heritage Awards for his meticulous long-term project.

MICHAEL BRITTON

The story of John Hodson, one of three Finedon men who, between 1828 and 1836, were convicted at Northampton Assizes and transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), never to return. Researched, from a wide range of local, national and international sources by society members: Carolyn Smith and Michael Britton.

FRANCIS TERRY

Drawing on the minute books and documents of the Guild, which flourished in Finedon from the early 1920s, Francis Terry will explain its social activities, political aims and community work. With meeting attendances close to 100 members, the Guild played a vital part in promoting women's education and self-help, as well as providing social services and entertainment in an age before the NHS, television or modern communications.

Francis has lived in Finedon for 24 years. Recently retired from research and teaching in the social sciences, he is the author of an illustrated booklet on the ironstone railways and tramways around Finedon.

Volta Tower

Finedon Local History Society

PROGRAMME

- 8.00 Hall opens for organisers and speakers.
- 9.30 Registration and coffee.
- 10.00 Welcome and Finedon –
A Timeline Through Its History, Malcolm Peet.
- 10.45 Lt. William Mackworth Dolben RN and
The Volta Tower, Ron Clayton.
- 11.30 Coffee.
- 12.00 From Finedon to Van Diemen's Land –
The Transportation of 19th Century Convicts
Michael Britton.
- 12.30 'Social Networking' before World War II:
The Co-op Women Guild, Francis Terry.
- 13.00 Lunch.
- 14.00 Choice of Guided Tours
 - a) Tour around Finedon with visit to
Finedon Heritage Centre.
 - b) Tour of St. Mary's Parish Church.
 - c) Visit to Finedon Heritage Centre
- 16.00 Tea, Closure and Depart

Finedon Heritage Centre.

LUNCH MENU

Main Courses:

- A) Chicken Madras
served with Boiled Rice and Mango Chutney.
- B) Beef Lasagne
served with Mixed Salad and Garlic Bread.
- C) Individual Ploughman's Lunch
Gammon and Cheddar.

Desserts:

- D) Cheesecake served with Cream.
- E) Fruit Salad served with Cream.

Vegetarian Meal:

- F) Vegetarian variations of the main menus above can
be provided.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS ?

If you have a special dietary requirement please list
against the member's name on the form below.

DISPLAY SPACE

There will be limited space for members to bring display
material. The table size is 6ft x 2ft. Space will be allocated on
a first come first served basis. Please include your request
with this booking form or contact the Forum Treasurer:
Jon-Paul Carr on 01933 382476.

Email: northamptonshireheritageforum@gmail.com

HOW TO BOOK

Please complete the form below and return to:
Northamptonshire Heritage Forum History Day,
c/o Irchester Library, High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA.

Please enclose a cheque for £19.50 per person payable to
'Northamptonshire Heritage Forum' this includes the cost of
refreshments and lunch. Please include a stamped self
addressed envelope. Confirmation of your booking will
be by way of a map and directions to the venue.

CLOSING DATE: 14th OCTOBER 2017.

Bookings for the event is available to Forum Members in the
first instance.

Website: Northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk

Please include FULL NAMES of ALL attendees in CAPITAL LETTERS, only one single contact address is required.



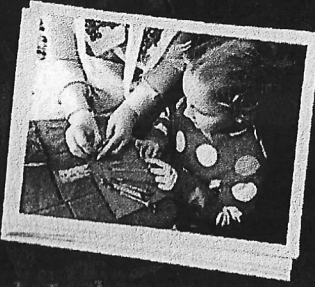
Attendees Names	Main Course	Dessert Course	Vegetarian	Special Dietary Requirements
1	Please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Please tick box <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact Address _____ Post Code _____

Organisation (if any) _____ Email _____ Telephone _____

The Northamptonshire Heritage Forum gives formal notice that it makes arrangements for this event as Agents on behalf of each member attending
and no liability can be accepted by the Forum for any injury, loss or inconvenience caused by any person in consequence of the event.



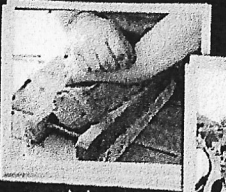

Northamptonshire

Trading Places and Stanwick Lakes present

Making History

Step back in time; meet the traditional craft
people and join in the fun! The event marks
the completion of our four year Heritage
Lottery Project 'Trading Places'







Discover what the people & communities
in this area have been doing to bring to life the
traditional trades & crafts that were once
so important in our towns and villages.


23rd & 24th September

11am - 4pm


A weekend of authentic Victorian celebrations –
with Traditional Crafts demonstrations, Morris Dancers and
the amazing re-enactor group 'The Ragged Victorians'!



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



heritage
lottery fund



ROCKINGHAM
FOREST
TRUST

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VILLAGE QUIZ ¹⁶

The quiz provided a lot of entertainment and encouraged a great deal of thought. All who entered, we are sure, have enhanced their knowledge of the county.

Eleven entries were returned, the winners being **Peter and Gill Clark** with a winning total of 51 out of 55. Three entries scored 50 out of 55

The correct answers are all given on our web site.

www.finedonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Thanks to all who took part.

Mr & Mrs M Shipton
10 Rockleigh Close
FINEDON
Northants
NN9 5DT