

**The Rugby
National Trust
Association**



in support of **National
Trust**

Spring Newsletter 2023



Talks Programme

Summer Outings

www.rugbynationaltrust.org

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RNTA Christmas lunch
at
Compton Verney
7 December 2022



Committee Report - Spring 2023

We extend our best wishes for a happy 2023 to members and hope you all had a good Christmas. Our Association is continuing to flourish although, in some ways, a more cautious verdict of “as well as can be expected” can seem to be more appropriate. However, on the positive side, our Autumn 2022 talks have been as varied and interesting as ever and we are very pleased to have recruited several new members which is always cheering. We are especially happy to welcome Tim Seakins as our new Treasurer on the Committee!

Our membership remains stable, as do our finances. At the present time there is nevertheless a kind of waiting period regarding RNTA giving donations to NT properties. Firstly, this is because the Trust and local properties are not currently sending out requests, probably due to staffing and other more pressing concerns post-Covid. We shall see if this activity can resume as we approach next summer. Secondly, we are ourselves reluctant to drain our funds too soon, as there are concerns about our income/expenditure balance in the near future.

Besides inevitable increases in costs, our income from talks is limited - It always has been - and, although our audience numbers are good, they are still not quite up to pre-Covid levels but will hopefully improve further. A more worrying thing is the much reduced number of summer visits that could be arranged for 2023, as you will see from this Newsletter. This is principally due to previous organisers retiring and, if the number of visits is to improve in future years (they are a major source of income every year), we do need members of RNTA to offer ideas for visits and to help organise them.

This is a serious appeal so see the notice that follows. A big drop in income could threaten the Association’s very existence, as will in the not too distant future, the inevitable ageing of the present committee members. While on the subject of recruitment, the Committee still needs to fill vacancies, whether in the specific roles of Secretary and Publicity Officer or in a more general assisting role. If you want to help, talk to any existing Committee member.

All this is simply a “reality check”, not some prediction of gloom and doom. We are still thriving and confident that we shall remain stable and continue to do well for some time yet – and your help, support and contributions are and will be highly

valued. And, in that context, we are still not changing membership fees nor entry prices to talks, for the next year.

*Compiled by George Brunavs (Talks and Meetings Secretary/
Vice-Chairman) in consultation with other Committee members*

URGENT!!

HELP NEEDED FOR IDEAS AND ORGANISATION OF SUMMER VISITS

The number of RNTA members organising Summer visits is now quite small and more organisers are needed if we are to run a varied and successful programme in the future; there have been already noticeably fewer trips planned for 2023 than in previous years.

If you think you might like to help, here is an outline of what is involved:

- ◆ You have someone to support you, of your own choice or from the Committee
- ◆ You find an interesting venue and liaise with them to plan the day, possibly including (if available) guided tours, introductory talks, and/or catering
- ◆ You are in charge on the day

You do NOT have to:

- ◆ Collect any money
- ◆ Provide lists of participants
- ◆ Arrange coach transport - all these are done by Committee members

An alternative to coach trips is to arrange members to travel by car to nearby venues or to organise a local walk, possibly with a meal at a hostelry.

In the first instance, contact Pauline Springett, Pam Southern, or George Brunavs for further details. There will be a meeting on:

Wednesday, 12 April 2023 at 7.30 pm

In the Committee Room at the Dunchurch Village Hall

To Plan Visits for 2024

Please do consider helping – it is no exaggeration to say that the future of Rugby National Trust Association is dependent on a successful and substantial programme of visits each year.

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
35th **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 19 January 2023

at 2.30 pm in the Dunchurch Village Hall

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the last AGM**
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
5. **Chairman's Report**
6. **Election of Committee** – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2023 are:

Vacant	Chair
Tim Seakins	Treasurer
Pam Southern	Bookings Secretary
Vacant	Secretary
Adrian Futter	Membership Secretary
Vacant	Publicity Officer
George Brunavs	Meetings Secretary/Vice chair
Pauline Springett	Visits Co-ordinator
Malcolm Tennant	Sales Table
Isobel Palmer	Newsletter Editor
Vacant	Web Editor
7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**
8. **Subscription**
9. **Any Other Business**
10. **Next Annual General Meeting will be Thursday 18 January 2024**

Financial report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 2021/22

INCOME	2020/21	2021/22
Membership Fees	2,346.00	2,370.00
Admission to Meetings	-	853.00
Sales Table	-	82.12
Raffles	-	121.00
Donations	233.00	189.00
Recycled ink cartridges	-	51.05
Trips and Visits	-	8473.00
Bank Interest	0.29	1.93
TOTAL	£2,579.00	£12,141.00

EXPENDITURE

Speakers	-	648.00
Hall Hire	-	783.50
Printing	178.00	636.00
Postage/Admin Expenses	301.18	382.69
Refreshments	-	140.00
Raffle Prizes	-	72.74
Trips and Visits	-	7,628.48
TOTAL	£479.18	£10,291.41

Surplus for the Year	£2,100.11	£1,849.69
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RESERVES at YEAR END

Nat West A/C 43070566	£7,843.25	£8,926.49*
Nat West A/C 43070574	£2,071.84	£2,916.36
Nat West Business Reserve A/C 43207758	£3,012.53	£3,014.46
TOTAL	£12,927.62	£14,857.31

* includes 2022-2023 subscriptions paid in advance(£80.00)

Financial report cont.

I have examined the accounts and bank records of the Rugby National Trust Association for 2021/2022 and consider that, in my opinion, the Income and Expenditure Account, as presented above, gives a true and accurate report of the Association's finances as at 30th September 2022

Ian Stimson – Independent Examiner

Report from the Treasurer for 2021/22

Pam Southern has been Acting Treasurer of the association for the past year and I became the Treasurer on 1st October.

I should like to thank Pam for her sterling work as Acting Treasurer and for keeping the accounts in good order and also Ian Stimson who is willing to continue as the Independent Examiner of the accounts.

We are able to keep the membership fees at £10 for single members and £15 for joint membership for the next twelve months.

Tim Seakins, Treasurer

Membership Update

The RNTA membership numbers are steady at 271. Sadly some members have passed away but we welcome back some who had lapsed during Lockdown.

Six new members have joined and I hope they enjoy the programme of events we have planned for the coming year.

Adrian Futter, Membership Secretary

Sales Table

I will be continuing with sales of second hand books and jigsaw puzzles which are very popular. I am still collecting printer cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling which raised over £50 last year so please bring those along as well.

Malcolm Tennant

The RNTA Database

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters and key activities of the RNTA. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2023

Trips and Visits

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite demanding . We often visit places with old and uneven floors, stairs that can be difficult with no lift options and gardens and tours that may involve quite a lot of walking. Always check with the organiser if you have mobility problems. Members who need assistance should bring a companion.

Departure Point

The Committee has made arrangements with St Mark's Church, Bilton for the use of their car park so, *unless stated*, we depart from there. We try to use as little space as possible, so please park on the side away from the church and as close together as possible.

Association Committee

Walk from Stockton

Wednesday, 3 May 2023

Meet at the Crown Inn, Stockton for 10 am start

Organised by Mark Furber

The walk starts from the Crown Inn at Stockton at 10 a.m. Passing the village church we join the Millennium Way heading towards Napton. We reach the Southam to Napton Road, turn left for a few yards, and drop down onto the tow-path of the Oxford Canal.

The towpath is fairly rough and I would advise bringing a walking pole as a precaution. We walk along the towpath passing the Napton Marina and then we join the Grand Union canal and head back towards Stockton where we can take lunch at the Crown.

If you would like lunch the menu is on the Inn's web page. Please let me know your choices so I can pre-order them with the Inn.

The walk is about 6 miles long and we should get back to the Crown by 12.45p.m.

Wightwick Manor, Staffordshire

Wednesday, 17 May, 2023

By coach departing at 9.15 am

Organised by George Brunavs

Supported by Val Brunavs

Wightwick Manor is a house of real beauty, built and furnished under the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Morris wallpapers, furniture, textiles and carpets, William de Morgan tiles, Kempe stained glass and Benson metalwork set off paintings and drawings by Ford Madox Brown, Holman Hunt, Millais, Burne-Jones and Ruskin. Also, Jacobean furniture, oriental porcelain and Persian rugs complement rather than compete with the nineteenth-century work.



Built in two stages in 1887 and 1893, Wightwick was commissioned by Theodore Mander, a paint and varnish manufacturer, from the Liverpool architect, Edward Ould, and was designed in a traditional half-timbered idiom. The western 1887 half follows the Norman Shaw “Old English” manner, while the 1893 eastern half is more richly decorated and is clearly inspired by the Tudor buildings of the locality. Decorative black and white timbering, in stripe, swirls and quatrefoils, sits on a plinth of local stone, with banks of spiral Tudor-style chimneys crowning the gabled roofline. In keeping with the late-medieval-style, the heart of the house is the magnificent great parlour, like a great hall, complete with a minstrels’ gallery and open timber roof. A really beautiful room.

Cont ...

Wightwick cont ..

Entrance
Hall
and
Inglenook
fireplace



The attractive 17-acre garden slopes down to a little valley and has terraces, clipped yew hedges, topiary, orchards and winding paths, the creation of the Edwardian landscape architect Thomas Mawson.



Timetable for our day:

Depart from St. Mark's, Bilton, at 9.15 am.

Coach directly to Wightwick Manor, arriving 10.45-11.00 am.

Welcoming tea/coffee (included), followed by introductory talk after which you are free to explore the house and garden.

Lunch (not included) is available in the Tearoom until 2.30 pm.

Depart Wightwick at 4.30 pm, arriving back in Bilton at 6.00 pm.

Don't forget to bring your NT membership cards!

Non-members will be required to pay the entrance fee (£13 in Nov 2022)

JCB Uttoxeter

Monday, 5 June 2023

By coach departing at 8.15 am

Organised by Pauline Springett

Supporter required

JCB first began in 1945, the company has always been driven by innovation and that is at the very core of The Story of JCB. There are 22 plants on four continents which makes it one of the world's largest manufacturing companies. In the 1820s, the Bamford family were originally blacksmiths in Uttoxeter. During the late 50s JCB became renowned for its branding (its logo and use of colour). The brilliant yellow and red livery was introduced and the famous JCB logo appeared. JCB started in a lock-up garage. The first product was a tipping trailer made from wartime scrap. JCB is renowned for its "world firsts" (from 1945 to 2011, 204 Patents have been issued to JCB)

Our day starts by leaving St Mark's car park at 8.15 am arriving at JCB visitors centre at 10 am. On arrival coffee/tea/water will be served with biscuits.

Members will be split into groups of 10 and then escorted to the cinema where we will be given a talk on the history of the company, followed by a visit to the gift shop and a tour of the factory. After the tour members will be taken to the dining room to be served a hot 2-course buffet lunch, including a dessert. On the booking form members should indicate any dietary requirements. Lunch will be served at approximately 12.00 – 12.30. We will leave Uttoxeter at approx. 1.30 arriving back in Rugby by 3.15 pm.

This photo was taken in June 2008 when RNTA last visited JCB.

I wonder what their machines will look like 15 years on!



Holdenby House, Northants

Wednesday, 21 June 2023

By car to arrive for 2pm

Organised by Barrie Bemand

Supporter Lynne Bemand

The house is rarely open to the public being mostly used for corporate events and weddings. It has also been used for TV filming including the BBC's adaptation of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations.

Arrangements for the afternoon are that we will be divided into two groups: one to have a tour of the house while the other group explores the gardens. Then we will change round after which refreshments of tea and cakes will be provided at approx. 4.15 pm and we'll leave about 5.30.

Getting there

The post code is NN6 8DJ. From Rugby take the A428 towards Crick and on through East Haddon. It is about 20 miles and the journey takes about 20 minutes .

It originated as a Tudor Palace build by Sir Christopher Hatton, a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I. It was the largest and most magnificent house in England built around two courtyards with 123 huge glass windows. It was owned by royalty until it was sold after the Civil War in 1660 to a Parliamentarian who demolished most of it, leaving a single wing. After the restoration, it was eventually sold to the Clifden family since when it has descended in the female line of the Lowther family who still live there today.

The existing wing was adapted during the 1870s by Richard Carpenter in two stages with Gothic influences. The present house is only about one eighth of the size of the original Palace.

All that remains of the Palace are two Grade II listed arches in the gardens and kitchen wing incorporated into the Victorian rebuild and a nearly identical arch bearing the date 1659 on the lawns—possibly built by Baynes, the Cromwellian owner.

Stonleigh Abbey
Thursday, 6 July 2023
By car to arrive for 2pm
Organised by Barrie Bemand
Supporter Lynne Bemand

We meet at 2 pm and have a guided tour of the house followed by refreshments in the Vaulted Hall. Then there will be free time to explore the gardens .

Getting there:

It is located just off the A46 on B4115. Head south from the A45/A46 junction then take the 1st exit, Warwick Art Centre/Stoneleigh exit. Turn left and after 100m turn right at crossroads signed B4115 Stoneliagh Abbey/Ashow. After 1.5 miles, the Abbey is signed as a left turn. **Follow signs not Sat Nav**

It is about 15 miles from Rugby and the journey takes about 30-35 minutes.

It was founded in 1154 as a Cistercian Abbey. At the dissolution in 1539, it was purchased by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk but was left in a state of disrepair until purchased by Sir Thomas Leigh in 1571. The second Thomas Leigh transformed the old monastic buildings into a manor house and it was the family home of the Leigh family up to 1990.

The greatest transformation took place under the ownership of Thomas, 3rd Lord Leigh, who had been on a Grand Tour of the continent in 1710. He married a wealthy heiress and employed the architect Francis Smith of Warwick. The west wing which took 6 years to build is thought to be Smith's greatest work. The only traces of the medieval monastic building are in the Gate House.

One of the finest rooms is the Salon with a plasterwork ceiling in the Rococo style showing the Labours of Hercules. Further fine plasterwork is in the chapel which was used by Jane Austen as her model for Sotherton Court in her novel, Mansfield Park. Jane visited in 1806 with her mother, sister Cassandra and her mother's cousin the Rev Thomas Leigh after he had inherited the property. Her visit inspired her to include descriptions of the interiors, grounds and cameos of the family in her novels.

In 1808, the Rev Thomas Leigh invited Humphry Repton to suggest improvements to the grounds which resulted in widening the river to create a lake in front of the house and a reflecting pool on the south side of the property. The bridge, designed by John Rennie, was built in 1813.

Dates for your Diary in 2023

Date	Title	Time
2 Feb	Treading the Duckboards—Speaker: Kate Wills	2.30 pm
15 Feb	The Magic of Morocco—Speaker: Roger Butler	7.30 pm
2 Mar	Sophistication in British Art Deco Glass Speaker: Charles Hajdamach	2.30 pm
15 Mar	“The most dissolute man in London”: The 1 st Duke of Devonshire and the Building of Chatsworth Speaker: Gillian White	7.30 pm
12 April	Visits Planning Meeting—DVH committee room	7.30 pm

Outings

Wed, 3 May	Walk from Stockton	to meet for start at 10 am
Wed, 17 May	Wightwick Manor	9.15 am
Mon, 5 June	JCB Factory	8.15 am
Wed, 21 June	Holdenby House	to arrive by 2 pm
Thurs, 6 July	Stoneleigh Abbey	to arrive by 2 pm

Talks

5 Oct	Victorian Splendour in Glass—Charles Hajdamach	2.30 pm
18 Oct	Knitters, Nailers and Traitors—David Skillen	7.30 pm
2 Nov	Welcome to Japan! Speaker: Laura Malpas	2.30 pm
15 Nov	Canals and Watercourse Worldwide Speaker: Anthony Addams	7.30 pm
7 Dec	A Norfolk Journey Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2023

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Cover photo of Charlecote Park by Isobel Palmer ©