

# The Rugby National Trust

[www.rugbynationaltrust.co.uk](http://www.rugbynationaltrust.co.uk)



## Autumn Newsletter 2017

Including our  
programme of talks



Photo taken from Wikipedia

*Christmas at Waddesdon Manor*

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### The RNTA Database

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters, and the management of coach trips and other activities of the Rugby National Trust Association. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

### TRIPS and VISITS

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite tiring. 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

## Insurance Cover

A member is covered by insurance policies taken out by The National Trust the terms of which are summarized as follows:

### *Public Liability Insurance*

The Association and its members are protected by the National Trust's block policy against claims made by third parties where injury or damage is caused in the course of activities organised by the Association. This includes injury or damage caused by one member upon another.

The policy extends to cover legal fees incurred in defending such claims in addition to paying any compensation which may be awarded if legal liability is shown.

There is no age limit under the policy.

### *Personal Accident Insurance*

Separately from public liability insurance, a member of the Association is entitled to recover a benefit in the event of death, permanent disability or temporary total disability.

The benefits under this policy can only be obtained if the accident occurs whilst the member is engaged in activities organised by the Association.

This policy operates only for a member aged 10 to 80 years.

**RNTA is required by law to give notice that all members take part in activities organised by the Association at their own risk.**

If you require more detailed information or further explanation or wish to make a claim please contact the Secretary or any other committee member.

## Photographs for the Review of the Year

Many of you have been taking photos when on the RNTA outings which I hope you all enjoyed and have some great pictures you can let me have for our *Review of the Year* in February. As you know by now, I like photos with people and that reflect what impressed you about the day. If you can, either let me have photos on a CD/memory stick or email your photos (preferably not reduced in size) to: [isobelpalmer@btinternet.com](mailto:isobelpalmer@btinternet.com). If you are not confident about doing that, I will be very happy to come and download them onto a memory stick from your computer.

Isobel Palmer

## Chairman's\_Letter

It only seems like yesterday that I put pen to paper to write for the Spring Newsletter. At the time of writing, in late July, the weather is still kind to us with some very hot days and at last some rain for our thirsty gardens.

I trust that you have enjoyed the visits that have taken place during the summer. It is with regret that we had to cancel two visits as there was insufficient support to make them viable. I would like to thank organizers, supporters and coordinator, Pauline, for making the visits enjoyable.

As you are all aware the main purpose of our association is the raising of funds to support the local National Trust properties. To do this we need to look for new ideas. So if any member has any suggestion of an activity to achieve this then please let a member of the committee know. I would also urge you to use the website to catch up on events, visits that have taken place and those planned for the future.

On a more serious note we need to fill some vacancies on the committee. Mike Sherring-Lucas is no longer able to fill the role of Publicity Officer. I am sure you will join me in saying a big thank you to Mike for his time on the committee. After seven years serving on the committee, three as Secretary and four as Chair, I will be standing down from my position of Chair at the AGM in January 2018. I have enjoyed my time on the committee and will miss the camaraderie. I have thought about my decision long and hard and found that I do not have the time to devote to the task and feel that it is time for someone else take on the role. I wish my successor all the best and I am sure you will support him/her in the same way as you have me.

Roy Deacon

## RNTA Website Needs You!

Our website was set up with *two* objectives:

1. To provide members with a lively and attractive 'magazine' containing timely, accurate information and news relating to the association's activities and the NT properties which we support. If you use a computer, a tablet or phone connected to the internet, type 'Rugby National Trust' into a search engine such as Google or Bing, and a list of options will appear. Choose our official website [rugbynationaltrust.co.uk](http://rugbynationaltrust.co.uk) to see what your committee has been doing this year - meeting and discussing with NT staff at Packwood and Farnborough Hall on how RNTA can help. There are also plenty of photo ideas and factual information on NT properties to visit.

**To make our website even more useful and inclusive, we need your involvement and help.**

Please look *regularly* at our/*your* website - compare it with those of other National Trust Associations who, like RNTA, have their own independently designed and maintained website. Examples include :

Walsall, <http://walsallntassn.co.uk/>, East Dorset, <http://ednta.org/> and Royston, <http://www.roystonnt.org.uk/>

Please tell us about the features you think our website should include, and also those you don't like!

We really do welcome your feedback and input - please send your letters, suggestions, photos and, if you are an artist, drawings and paintings by email to me at [magyarpeople@gmail.com](mailto:magyarpeople@gmail.com)

*I, or another committee member, will be pleased to help if you need technical advice on sending photos or illustrations by email or, if you prefer, on a USB memory stick.*

Your best topical photos (*high resolution, jpg format, please*) taken at any NT property will be selected for the website.

2. To flourish, we must publicize our purpose and activities, and encourage more to join us. The website is *our shop window*. It enables members of the public easily to find out about our association. People with energy and new ideas are urgently needed - to lead visits, suggest speakers and fill various roles on our committee.

Thank you for reading this: we look forward to hearing from you.

Tony Birch  
Web Editor

# Association News

## New Members

The Association welcomes the following new members:

Mr and Mrs F Parker

Mr and Mrs R Disney

Mrs S Whitfield

We hope you will enjoy our programme of events.



## Committee visits to Packwood House and Farnborough Hall

Tony Birch arranged a committee visit to Packwood and Ann Turner to Farnborough Hall, both of which we have supported with donations for various projects over several years. They were able to discuss how the donations were used on projects that had been thoughtfully prioritised.

At Packwood, the committee enjoyed a good lunch and had a tour of the garden with head gardener, Mick.

We very much appreciated the time given at both properties to talk about our common interests and concerns and hope that RNTA will be able to continue our collaboration into the future.





## **Christmas at Waddesdon Manor** **near Aylesbury**



Thursday, 7th December 2017  
By coach departing at 10.15 am  
Organised by Barrie Bemand  
(01788 811961 mob 07764574014  
Supported by Lynne Bemand

This year we shall be visiting Waddesdon Manor – the impressive 16<sup>th</sup> Century French style Chateau built in the 1870s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

We will leave Rugby at 10.15 am to arrive at Waddesdon village in time for lunch at 12 o'clock in the Five Arrows Hotel, opposite the gates of Waddesdon Manor. This boutique hotel was built in the late 1870s on the site of an old coaching inn by Baron de Rothschild for his architects, craftsmen and artisans working on the Manor. It is a delightful Victorian mix of authentic English style with half-timbering, elaborate Elizabethan chimneys and wrought ironwork.

Our lunch will be served in the Coach House restaurant – a traditional two course Christmas lunch of Roast Turkey, followed by Christmas pudding with Brandy ice-cream and then coffee or tea. A glass of wine is included with the meal or soft drinks/water. A vegetarian option is available.

At 2.30 pm our coach will take us up the drive to the Manor where we will be divided into 2 groups for House entry at 2.40 – 3.00 pm. The Christmas display theme this year is 'Animal Menagerie', the ground floor rooms are all decorated to reflect the same theme. From previous year's experience they are both remarkable and quirky.

Then we can visit the Christmas Market in the grounds with up to 80 stalls selling gifts, art and crafts and festive food and drink. This is followed by a Son et Lumière display at dusk with projected video images onto the front of the Manor House. This is repeated at 15-20 minute intervals.

Following this, the installation display by Lauren Booth with Neon lighting, will be switched on in the grounds of the house. She is an American who has worked in this country and the USA. In 2015 she made an installation of Neon Sculptures called *The Illumination Show* in collaboration with The Dalai Lama, Bill Clinton and Oprah Winfrey among other celebrities and world leaders. If Waddesdon's previous Son et Lumière and installations are anything to go by it should be a truly spectacular display.

We will be aiming to leave at approx. 5.45pm to arrive back in Rugby for 7 – 7.30 pm.

## LECTURE PROGRAMME 2017/18

### **Calke Abbey**

Thursday 5 October 2017  
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm  
Speaker: Allan Tyler

Allan Tyler is a member of the National Trust Talks Service and of the Leicester National Trust Association; his talk on Calke Abbey will give an overview of the house, gardens and parkland in this intriguing National Trust property, as well as its history and that of the Harpur Crewe family who lived there. The house and stables are presented as found in the 1980s – some rooms full of collections of art and natural history; others somewhat more faded and not refurbished.

### **Ferguson's Gang: The Ladies behind the Masks**

Wednesday 18 October 2017  
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm  
Speaker: Anna Hutton-North

Ferguson's Gang, formed in 1927 at Tothill Fields in London, was an anonymous and somewhat enigmatic group that raised funds for the National Trust during the period from 1930 until 1947. The inner-circle of the group consisted of six women – society debutantes – who hid their identities behind masks and unusual pseudonyms. They operated as “notorious bandits” who stole money and took on the developers and house builders to save some of our most prestigious sites and properties for the National Trust. Anna Hutton-North, who has written a recent book about these ladies, will give a fascinating and entertaining presentation about their activities.

### **The Repairs and Restoration of Tyntesfield**

Thursday 2 November 2017  
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm  
Speaker: Derek Clarke

Tyntesfield was a major acquisition by the National Trust – a significant Gothic Revival house with fine and exceptional masonry work and other substantial decorative features. The house needed lots of “tender loving care” to undertake repairs to all of its building materials.

The presentation will show the “headaches” and efforts taken to resource matching materials for these works whilst the property remained open for the visiting public. As a result, one of the largest temporary roofs was erected over the house to keep everything watertight as the damaged roofs and chimneys were repaired and 12.25 miles of scaffold tube was, over many months, carefully erected and subsequently taken down.



### **Real Bread**

Wednesday 15 November 2017

Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Paul Raddan

Paul Raddan, a Rugby baker, will talk about his passion for the art and the work of the Real Bread Campaign. The presentation will include a demonstration of making Sourdough bread along with an explanation of the basic science behind it, as well as a Q and A session on bread-making and other related topics. Some sourdough will be handed around during the talk, for people to taste, and some bread and other items will be for sale afterwards.



## **Tudor Christmas Customs**

**Monday 18 December 2017**

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith



Martin Sirot-Smith, former Director of Sulgrave Manor, dressed in full Tudor costume, will lead a presentation on the beliefs, customs, preparations, celebrations and religious practices around Christmas in the sixteenth century in England.

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## **RNTA Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 18 January 2018**

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

(See AGM Agenda on page 16)

Followed by.....:

## **The National Memorial Arboretum**

Speaker: Roger Hailwood

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance - a spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen; recognises service and sacrifice; and fosters pride in our country. Roger Hailwood, a volunteer at the National Memorial Arboretum will talk about its history, development, its monuments and features and their significance. A remarkable and important place to visit.

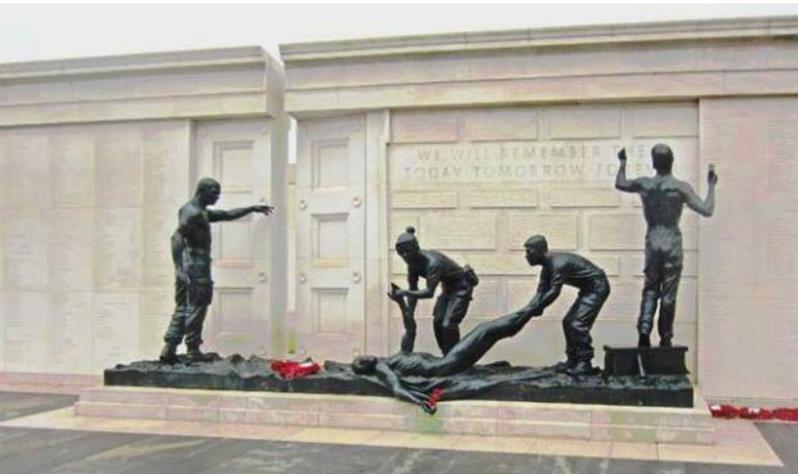


Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

The  
Armed  
Forces  
Memorial

## **Information about the Summer 2018 Visits**

Thursday 1 February 2018

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

This is a chance to get a flavour of our visits programme for 2018 and an opportunity to talk to the various organisers particularly if you have any mobility problems. After the break, as usual, there will be a retrospective look at the visits and events throughout the past year using photographs taken and provided by members of the Association.

## **Capability Brown and Compton Verney**

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Gary Webb

Gary Webb is Head Gardener at Compton Verney and will give a most informative, interesting and in-depth talk on how Lancelot “Capability” Brown changed the landscaping of the grounds and water features on the Compton Verney estate in the 1770s, as well as adding some buildings of his own design as architect.



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## **A Camera in the Cotswolds**

Thursday 1 March 2018

Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Keith Holmes

The market towns of the Cotswolds with their merchants' houses, cottages and fine churches are a legacy of the wealth from the trade in wool centuries ago. The landscape is a blend of rolling uplands and meandering rivers. Besides the ever popular Burford and Chipping Campden, some "hidden gems" are revealed, for example, Broadway and Stanway, and a section on the Cotswold house in general.

Also featured is Hidcote, an arts and crafts garden laid out in the early part of the 20th Century by the American, Lawrence Johnston. It is described as a garden of rooms each with a feel and theme that is quite different from the next. The garden reveals a quiet corner, a lush glade or wonderful vista at every turn. In the care of the National Trust since 1948 and now restored to how it was in its heyday, Hidcote is a magical place to visit.

## **Signal Danger**

Wednesday 14 March 2018

Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Mike Riley

Mike Riley, ex-Commercial Manager at Brush Traction and holding a similar position after that with Bombardier, came to us in November 2016 and gave us his immensely interesting and entertaining presentation about the history and revival of the Great Central Railway. He is returning to us again and will talk about the history and drama of railway accidents in Britain and the ingenuities of signalling down the years to prevent them.

## Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in Dunchurch Village Hall on 19<sup>st</sup> January 2017 at 2.30pm

1. Roy Deacon took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming 80 Association Members. Roy requested members to collect the spring 2017 newsletters from the table in the entrance lobby before the AGM as they contained the agenda and summary of the accounts
2. **Apologies** had been received from Muriel Paterson, Charles Paterson, Michael Turner, Sue Knapp, Janet Frankl, Pat Downton, Sid Downton, Terry Murphy and Ilona Murphy.
3. **Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** were printed in the Autumn Newsletter and were not read out at this AGM.

Kate Tennant proposed that the minutes be approved, seconded by Isobel Palmer. A show of hands confirmed that the proposal was carried unanimously

4. There were no **Matters Arising**
- 5 **Treasurers Report** which included:

A summary of the income and expenditure for 2015/16 is printed in the Spring Newsletter. A more detailed balance sheet is available on request.

The surplus for the year totalled £3,860; a fall of just under £800 on the previous year. Once again, approximately half of this surplus (c£1,900) came from the annual programme of trips and visits. The remainder (c£1,900) came from the sales table, raffles, refreshments, printer cartridge recycling, talks given to other organisations and groups, and the collections taken at meetings. Whilst our total income for the year remained almost the same, there was an increase in expenditure on trips and visits (c£550), speaker's fees (c£80) and printing costs (c£160).

Annual subscriptions totalled £3,066 which was down slightly (c£140) on the previous year, reflecting a fall in membership of c20 to 360. The annual subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples do, however, continue to cover the running costs of the Association in terms of the printing and distribution of two newsletters each year, speakers' fees, new/additional equipment and the hire of this hall.

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the total reserves of the Association stood at just over £6,243, a fall of c£4,300 on the previous year. But, during the course of the year, a total of £6,650 was donated to 14 separate projects at 8 local NT properties. In addition, a further £5,000 being held by the NT on our behalf was

(Cont.)

also allocated to these same projects, making a total funding a allocation for the year of £11,650. A full breakdown of the projects that have received our support is available on request.

Rona Townsend proposed that the Treasurer's report be approved, seconded by Tony Birch and carried unanimously

## 5 ***Chairman's Report***

It only seems like yesterday that I stood here and gave you the report last year – how time flies.

RNTA was formed in 1987 so this year will see us reach the 30th Annivesary. To mark this occasion we will be having a celebration cake at our meeting on the 2nd February 2017 and all members will be most welcome.

Something we all need to celebrate is the fact that in the last 12 months, RNTA has donated a total of £11,650 to various local properties. The beneficiaries have been Baddesley Clinton, Canons Ashby, Charlecote Park, Coughton Court, Farnborough Hall, Packwood House, Stoneywell Cottage and Upton House. We have received letters of thanks expressing their appreciation from some of these properties and these will be displayed on the notice board for you to peruse.

I am pleased to report that membership numbers have remained steady. We have had 12 new members this year. On the downside for various reasons some have not renewed, The committee have had a request to see if it is possible to remain as member of RNTA even if not a member of the National Trust. We have consulted the Midlands Supporters Group and at the present time we are looking into the possibility but there are some issues within the Constitution to be overcome before it can come to fruition. In February we will be having a get together for new members to meet the committee to formally welcome them. On the downside for members, the MSG has advised that the age limit on the insurance is 80 years and anything above that is not covered. It is my obligation as Chair to inform you of this situation.

With the Autumn 2016 newsletter we included a questionnaire to seek members' thoughts on the meetings that are held between October and March. We had a limited response hence we have been unable to draw any hard and fast conclusions from the exercise. However the majority of those who did respond seemed to be regular attendees and the results effectively reflect their views. The range and variety of topics seems to be well received hence no major modifications of approach in selecting and booking of topics seem to be called for. We also received a tentative approval of a slightly increased attendance fee for exceptional speakers which means that we could possibly try to have some of these occasionally. On the question of retiring collection we

are proposing to rename this as attendance fee and with effect from October to collect it on entry rather than at the end of the meeting. If any member has any comment on this then please let me or David our treasurer know.

I reiterate my request to advertise our attractive programme of events wherever possible. This is where I ask you as members of RNTA to be our best recruiting officers to persuade your friends or anyone you know to join us if they are interested in lectures, outings, walks etc.

Finally I look forward to your support at our meetings and to join in the visits that are being organised for 2017 to enable us to continue supporting National Trust properties. These activities have been organised by members of your committee with help from many volunteers. I would like to thank them for their efforts

Brian Williamson proposed that the Chairman's Report be approved, seconded by Jean Kortegas and carried unanimously.

## **6 Election of Officers and Committee**

The following members of the committee offered themselves for election or re-election and the following were proposed:

Chairman:	Roy Deacon
Secretary:	Anne Turner
Treasurer:	David Knapp
Membership Secretary:	Patricia Downton
Dep. Mem. Secretary	Jean Kortegas
Bookings Secretary:	Pamela Southern
Visit Co-ordinator:	Pauline Springett
Web Editor:	Tony Birch
Publicity Officer	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor	Isobel Palmer
Sales Table:	Kate/Malcolm Tennant
Meetings Sec./Vice Chair	George Brunavs

Martin Stammers proposed that the above members be elected to serve on the committee for the year 2017, seconded by Jenny Major and carried unanimously

**7. *Appointment of Independent Examiner***

Treasurer David Knapp advised that Ian Stimson, who was appointed as Independent Examiner for 2016, has agreed to examine the accounts again for 2017.

Jan Elliott proposed that his appointment be approved, seconded by Isobel Palmer and carried unanimously.

**8. *Subscriptions***

Roy Deacon reiterated to the members present that subscriptions would remain unchanged for a further year, as agreed at the 24th Annual General Meeting for 5 years (2011 – 2015).

Pauline Williamson proposed that subscriptions remained as agreed and seconded by Jenny Major and carried unanimously.

**9 *Any Other Business***

There was no other business.

**10 *Date of the Next Annual General Meeting***

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting would be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 2:30 pm at Dunchurch Village Hall.

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION  
**31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, 18 January 2018

At 2.30 pm in 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 2018 are:  
Vacant (Chair),  
David KNAPP (Treasurer)  
Anne TURNER (Secretary)  
Patricia DOWNTON (Membership Secretary)  
Jean KORTEGAS (Deputy Membership Secretary)  
Pam SOUTHERN (Bookings Secretary)  
Vacant (Publicity Officer)  
George BRUNAVS (Meetings Secretary/ Vice chair)  
Pauline SPRINGETT (Visits Co-ordinator)  
Malcolm TENNANT (Sales Table)  
Tony BIRCH (Web Editor) and  
Isobel PALMER (Newsletter Editor)
- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 8. Subscription**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Next Annual General Meeting will be Thursday, 17 January 2019**

## Dates for your Diary in 2017/18

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>2017</b>		
5 Oct	Talk—Calke Abbey Speaker: Allan Tyler	2.30 pm
18 Oct	Talk—Ferguson’s Gang: The ladies behind the masks Speaker: Anna Hutton-North	7.30 pm
2 Nov	Talk—The repairs and restoration of Tyntesfield Speaker: Derek Clarke	2.30 pm
15 Nov	Talk—Real bread     Speaker: Paul Raddan	7.30 pm
7 Dec	Christmas lunch at Waddesdon Manor	10.15 am
18 Dec	Talk—Tudor Christmas customs Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith	2.30 pm
<b>2018</b>		
18 Jan	Rugby NTA AGM followed by: Talk—The National Memorial Arboretum Speaker: Roger Hailwood	2.30 pm
1 Feb	Visits for 2018 & Review of 2017 outings	2.30 pm
14 Feb	Talk—Capability Brown and Compton Verney Speaker: Gary Webb	7.30 pm
1 March	Talk—A camera in the Cotswolds Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm
14 March	Talk—Signal Danger     Speaker: Mike Riley	7.30 pm



in support of **National  
Trust**

Our December meeting

has been changed to

**Monday, 18 December 2017 at 2.30 pm**

Refreshments will have



a festive flavour



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2017

Printed by Steers Printing