

The Rugby National Trust Association



In support

National
Trust

Autumn Newsletter 2019

Programme of talks

Outings

Local NT properties

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Photo on the cover by Isobel Palmer ©

Packwood House

RNTA Membership

Currently, we have 302 paid up members. This is a significant drop reflecting the removal of all the members who have not returned their GDPR form. Hence, we will not be circulating the Newsletter to anyone who has not completed this form so, if you know of anyone who this affects, please ask them to contact our Secretary, Anne Turner.

The Data Base

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. This information is only kept by the people who need to use it. 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.

Please reach the coach in good time for prompt departures. It is usually in position at least 15 minutes before leaving time and a coach of 50 people takes time to load and unload.

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

Autumn Letter from the Committee

Since our Spring Newsletter, it is most gratifying to report that our Association is flourishing well. Our talks in the Spring were all excellent, attracted a large audience, and were very well received. A particular highlight was the talk on the gardens at Packwood given by the Head Gardener there, Mick Evans; on that occasion we had the largest audience for some time and were pleased to present a substantial donation to Mick in person, for more garden equipment at Packwood (see the item with picture on our website).

As this letter is being written, our summer programme of outings is in progress with an excellent variety of destinations which we hope were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Once again we must thank Pauline Springett and Pam Southern for their devoted and very efficient planning and organisation of all our visits.

A very pleasing and important aspect of our progress is the currently very strong position of our finances, especially in regard to the significant increase in income at our meetings at Dunchurch Village Hall. There was an average 25% increase in attendance in 2018-19 over the previous year; a nearly 50% increase in takings at the sales table and a healthy income from the raffles which continue to be very popular. All this helps to strengthen our ability to support and give substantial donations to our local National Trust properties and ventures. So a big thank you is due to all of our members, as well as the hard work of our Committee.

In this connection, we once again make a strong appeal to members to consider volunteering to help, or better still, join the Committee to keep up the good work. We have published on our website the outlines of what the roles of the various Committee members are, so that you can be informed as to what might be involved if you are interested in helping – none of the roles are heavily onerous or time-consuming. We also need to say that a good number of our present Committee are devotedly and willingly continuing to serve beyond our Constitution's "8-year rule", for which we are very grateful, but inevitably recruitment of new personnel will soon become essential. A note about "Volunteering", written by Isobel Palmer, appears in this Newsletter, and we commend everyone to read this. As usual, the Newsletter lists the current Committee members with their details, as well as the vacancies, on the inside of the front cover.

Cont ...

Letter from the Committee (cont)

One Committee vacancy which will need to be filled soon is that of the Membership Secretary. Please see the RNTA website for details of what is involved in this role if you would like to help, or feel free to talk to a Committee member about this.

Both the Newsletter and our website have full descriptions of our forthcoming 2019-2020 programme of lectures, which we have once again tried to make varied, interesting and entertaining. Details of our Christmas Lunch in December (this year at Rockingham Castle) are also included.

We once again highly recommend you to visit our outstanding website (www.rugbynationaltrust.org) for both up-to-date and past information about the Association, and I want to thank Michael Turner for his truly superb work in producing and maintaining that. It is very easy to use, clear, beautifully presented, and profusely illustrated with many excellent photographs.

Finally, as always, we welcome and indeed urge members to come up with help and suggestions about any aspect of our visits, talks or any of our activities. And please do commend Rugby National Trust Association to family, friends and acquaintances to come to our meetings and hopefully join us.

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

Printer Cartridges and Mobile Phones

The National Trust has a scheme for collecting used printer cartridges and mobile phones (preferably with charger) that contributes towards fund-raising. A collection box will be available at meetings.

Volunteering for the National Trust

In June, we received a letter from Hilary McGrady, the Director General, to mark the start of Volunteers' Week. This year's theme was 'Time to Celebrate' which recognised the role of 63,500 people who volunteer in different ways for the National Trust. I quote below what she said about NTAs.

'Our Associations and Supporter Groups have given so much time and enthusiasm over the years, raising vital funds for your local properties and the Trust's wider work. I want to take a moment to celebrate this because I know it takes a lot of effort to organise, particularly for those who take on positions on committees. Thank you so much for your hard work over the years.'

And 'I'd like to say thank you [to all volunteers] for your contribution. We wouldn't have made it this far without you.'

I know, from my personal experience, how fulfilling volunteering for the NT can be. I've come to believe that it is one of the most beneficial things you can do, particularly in retirement and especially if you live alone, to keep yourself in all round fitness (using both body and mind as well as supplying social interaction).

Volunteering at a local property takes commitment but there are great rewards. Offering to do things for the Rugby National Trust Association is less exacting but equally valuable. There are a variety of roles from simply helping at the meetings (setting out tables/chairs, refreshments and occasionally, the raffles and sales table) to arranging one or two summer outings and finally being on the committee. We would dearly love more help in each of these areas.

Illness has meant that we have lost stalwarts who organised several visits each year so, if you feel you could offer to do one next year, please contact us. Our committee will also be losing members at the AGM who have done their stint and we are grateful to some others who are willing to continue, if the membership so wishes. New and younger members with fresh ideas are essential to keep the Association healthy so, please help us to continue to be a vibrant organisation which benefits local people and the National Trust.

Isobel Palmer

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting held in Dunchurch Village Hall on
18th January 2018 at 2.30pm**

George Brunavs, Vice Chair, took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming 87 Association Members. George requested members to collect the spring 2019 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 Dave and Sue Knapp and Jean and Ken Kortegas
3. **Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting** were printed in the Autumn Newsletter and were not read out at this AGM.

Mike Sherring-Lucas proposed that the minutes be approved, seconded by Rona Townsend and George Brunavs signed them as a true record.

4. There were no **Matters Arising**

5 **Treasurers Report**

The Secretary, Anne Turner, on behalf of the Treasurer gave the following report:

A summary of the Association's accounts for 2017/18 is included in the Spring Newsletter. A more detailed income and expenditure account for the year is available on request.

The surplus for the year totalled £2,718; an amount very similar to the previous year. Of this c70% came from the meetings programme, membership subscriptions and from sales / raffles with the remaining c30% from the trips and visits programme.

Total income from the meetings programme and from trips and visits both fell slightly, due to the unavoidable cancellation of one afternoon meeting and two coach trips, resulting from bad weather and other factors beyond our control. However, significant savings on speaker's costs and admin expenditure more than compensated for this.

Membership numbers held up well at 344 and we welcomed several new members to the Association during the year

As at the 30th September 2018, the total reserves of the Association stood at £11,743, an increase of £2,718 on the previous year which means that we will be able to look favourably on future requests for funding.

Already this year donations have been made, on your behalf, to Canons Ashby, Farnborough Hall and Stoneywell Cottage (further details on the website)

The annual subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples will remain the same for 2019/20 as this continues to cover the running costs of the Association, as well as allowing for significant donations to be made to local National Trust properties. The committee will however continue to consider other forms of fund raising and any ideas or suggestions that members might have are most welcome.

If there are any questions or points that require clarification, I will respond to them on my return.

Roy Deacon proposed that the Treasurer's report be approved,
seconded by Pam Southern.

5 Committee Report

The Vice Chair gave the following committee report:

We are pleased to report that our membership numbers remain healthy and, as always, are especially pleased to welcome a significant number of new people to membership of the Rugby National Trust Association during the last year. We hope that all members, whether new or long-standing, enjoy our programmes of talks and visits, and will spread the word, to friends and acquaintances, of how valuable membership of the Association is, and encourage them to join both the main National Trust and the Rugby local Association. We have also been very successful in fund-raising to enable us to substantially and materially support local National Trust properties, and yet as the Treasurer's report shows, maintain our finances in a very healthy state.

Accordingly, we are sure that all members are aware of how valuable a local Association like ours is, not only in providing material support to the National Trust, but also providing a welcome and successful social grouping and programme of activities for all our members. Thanks, must therefore be acknowledged to all our Committee members and others who help to organize our meetings, talks, day trips and walks, and thus keep our organization flourishing. These people are the driving force of our Association.

As we move on to the election of our Committee for 2019, it must be pointed out that although the present Committee all wish to stand again to serve in 2019, they may not wish to or be able to carry on for years ahead. Even at the present time, the positions of Chairman and Publicity Officer are still vacant, the role of the Chair being shared between other Committee members as they all still have their existing roles to fulfil also.

So, to avoid any danger of our Association struggling in the near future, we do need people from our main membership to volunteer to help. To try to attract people to think about joining the Committee, or help with organizing visits, we shall soon be putting in the Association website brief descriptions of each Committee member's functions.

We welcome anyone who may be, however tentatively, thinking about helping, to shadow an existing Committee member to learn about that particular role, without any obligation.

Rugby National Trust Association is doing well, but like any organization, needs necessary renewal of personnel as time goes on.

Val Brunavs proposed that the Committee report be approved,
seconded by Pauline Springett

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:	Vacant
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:	Michael Turner
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Isobel Palmer
Sales Table:	Kate/Malcolm Tennant
Meetings Sec/Vice Chair:	George Brunavs

Roger Jones proposed that the above members be elected to serve on the committee for the year 2019, seconded by Roy Deacon

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Chair on behalf of the Treasurer David Knapp advised that Ian Stimson, who was appointed as Independent Examiner for 2018, has agreed to examine the accounts again for 2019

Jan Elliott proposed that his appointment be approved,
seconded by Kate Tennant.

8. ***Subscriptions***

George Brunavs reiterated to the members present that subscriptions would remain unchanged for a further year.

Jenny Major proposed that subscriptions remained as agreed and seconded by Val Brunavs.

9 ***Any Other Business***

There was no other business

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

The 33rd Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 2:30 pm at Dunchurch Village Hall.



Letters of thanks to David Knapp for donations

from Canons Ashby—13 March

We have now purchased the terracotta pots, benches and materials to improve the wild play corner. Using yours and another donation together, we have bought 3 wheelchair accessible picnic benches and one normal bench to replace and increase our current seating in the paddock. The benches will be out and ready for picnics very soon and the pots are already in use. The wild play area is in the process of being improved – thanks for your donation towards this end.

Helena Avery-Clarke
Programming and Communications Officer

and Packwood House—1 August

The team at Packwood once again send our thanks for your very generous donation towards the taps in the plant sales area at Packwood. We have very recently further extended this area and there are quite a few more plants available for purchase, many of which can be seen in the gardens at Packwood.

During this hot weather we are especially thankful to have a cool water supply readily available to keep these plants refreshed and green and thank you for your kind donation.

We look forward to welcoming you to Packwood again soon.

Many thanks again and best wishes from me and all the team at Packwood.

Emma Dwan O'Reilly
Visitor Experience Manager

Christmas at Rockingham Castle, Nr Market Harborough, Leics

Wednesday, 4th December 2019

By coach departing from St Mark's car park at 10.25 am

Organised by Pauline Springett

Supported by Alec Springett

Rockingham Castle was built on the instructions of William the Conqueror following his invasion of Britain in 1066. Construction began shortly after the Battle of Hastings with work starting on the outer wooden defence wall. Over the following years a number of buildings including the Great Hall were put up along with a stone replacement for the wooden walls. For 450 years the Castle would have undergone many changes and improvements until it was abandoned by Henry VII in 1485. The Castle



was subsequently bought by the Watson family who restored and improved to create the Rockingham you see today.

We leave St Mark's car park at 10.25 am arriving at Rockingham in time for coffee/tea. We then split into 3 groups for the guided tour. The Castle will be decorated with a Victorian theme indicating the year 1849. Staff will also be dressed in Victorian costumes.

Lunch will be served at 1.30 in the Walker's House Restaurant.

After lunch members will be free (weather permitting) to visit the gardens at their leisure.

We leave at approximately 3.30 pm

Menu

Roast Turkey and all the trimmings

Vegetarian option – Nut Roast

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or trifle

Gluten free/dairy free can be accommodated

tea/coffee.

Wine can be purchased separately on the day.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2019-20

The Englishman's Castle is his Home

Thursday 3 October 2019
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Speaker: Keith Cattell

The castle was strictly a private family fortification, literally brought over to this country by William the Conqueror as his “secret weapon” to defeat and subdue the English. It has been with us ever since, with some of the most remarkable examples being built in the 19th century. This talk is a look at our castles and how they have changed over the centuries.



The Keep of Arundel Castle

The History of the Willans Works in Rugby

Wednesday 16 October 2019
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm

Speaker: Alain Foote

Retired Chartered Mechanical Engineer Alain Foote spent his entire working life at the Willans Works in Newbold Road, Rugby. Alain will outline the history of Willans & Robinson and describe how the company came to move to Rugby in the late 19th century. The presentation will then go on to describe how the works expanded during the 20th century before its gradual run down in the latter part of the century.

The talk will also include information on the wartime activities and the various changes in company ownership over the years. Details will also be given on the products made at the works.



Alain is an RNTA member

The Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich

Thursday 7 November 2019
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: Derek Clarke

Derek Clarke, who gave us previous outstanding presentations on the restoration of the Birmingham Back-to-Backs and of Tyntesfield, Somerset, returns to describe the extensive repair of all the external elements of the major buildings forming the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

The privilege of repairing four of Sir Christopher Wren's 18th century buildings with World Heritage status has to be a career special.

The presentation takes the audience on sky walk inspections, close up visuals of the highest quality stone decorations, and explains in detail the major

obstacles that had to be overcome; including the part played by "Jason". The exceptional skills of the conservation workforce are illustrated to show the extent of their dedication.



Norfolk: Broads, Churches and Windmills

Wednesday 20 November 2019
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Roger Hailwood

At the time of Domesday Book, Norfolk had the largest population of all English counties. Centuries of momentous changes have now left it with an exceptional number of ruined churches. Roger Hailwood's talk is a tour of Norfolk taking in some of the notable churches, ruined or still working, and some of their surprising features and interiors, including an unusually large number with round towers; also taking in some interesting windmills and the experience of a little sailing on the rivers and Broads, with one of their true heroes.

The English Civil War

Thursday 5 December 2019
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: John Dacombe

John Dacombe has been a member of the Sealed Knot for 33 years, and his talk gives the background and causes of the English Civil War, describes weapons of the period, their use and historical military tactics, and takes in local events such as the taking of Rugby and the attack on Kilsby. It ends with an account of one of the local battles, either Edgehill or Naseby (Battlefield guides for both of these will be available). John and his wife Liz come in 17th century kit and bring reproduction weapons and other kit from the period.

RNTA Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16 January 2020
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

Followed by.....:

The Women's Land Army during World War I

Speaker: Helen Frost

Helen Frost will give an illustrated talk about the quite incredible contribution made by this oft-forgotten, overlooked Army of women who during the Great War years were recruited mainly from towns and cities to work on the land, in large numbers, and often for the first time. She will also bring a display of photographs of the Women's Land Army working in all their various roles, as well as a reproduction uniform.



Remembered at the National
Memorial Arboretum

Information about the Summer 2020 Visits

Thursday 6 February 2020
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm

This will include (as usual) a retrospective look at the Summer 2019 visits based on your photos!.



From Leicester in April

to Kelmscott in August



Railway Crime

Wednesday 19 February 2020
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Mike Riley

Mike Riley, who has given us previous lively talks on the Great Central Railway and Railway Accidents, returns to give a fascinating illustrated run-down of notable crimes on the railways of Britain during the last two hundred years. (We all know about the famous Great Train Robbery of 1963, but what of the murder of Elizabeth Camp, the first woman ever to be murdered aboard a train in Britain (1897), and of the Merstham Tunnel Mystery (1905)?)

Attingham Park

Thursday 5 March 2020
Dunchurch Village Hall 2.30pm
Speaker: Linda Thomas (NT)

Linda Thomas, from the National Trust team at Attingham Park near Shrewsbury, will give a talk about who lived at Attingham, the history of the house and the Hill family. It is a story of love and neglect, changing fortunes, revival and rediscovery.

It is proposed to run a coach trip to Attingham Park following this talk, in June 2020.

Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold

Wednesday 18 March 2020
Dunchurch Village Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Gillian White

In June 1520 the king of France and the king of England met in a field outside Calais to celebrate peace. The celebrations that accompanied this meeting have become known as the Field of Cloth of Gold because of their extravagance and luxury, a magnificence captured in the famous painting at Hampton Court. Textiles, armour, goldsmiths' work, painting and even a dazzling temporary palace were all called upon to impress the watching world. The diplomatic negotiations were ultimately worthless but for Henry VIII and Francois I it was a chance to compete for honour and glory. This talk explores the history and especially the artistry of this magnificent yet futile event.

What's going on at Canons Ashby?



September is the time Canons Ashby celebrates the harvest and autumn. There are beautiful decorations in the church and house, a family harvest trail (£2 with lovely prizes) and Apple Harvest Weekend on the 28th-29th September.

Behind the scenes there is plenty of work going on in the garden, where we're harvesting constantly. Any produce we don't use in the tea-room gets put on the produce bench, where you can take it home for a donation.

In the house they are doing a lot of careful cleaning after a busy summer: lots of people mean lots of dust and concern for our special, vulnerable building needs a constant check that the house and collection are healthy.

What's coming up?

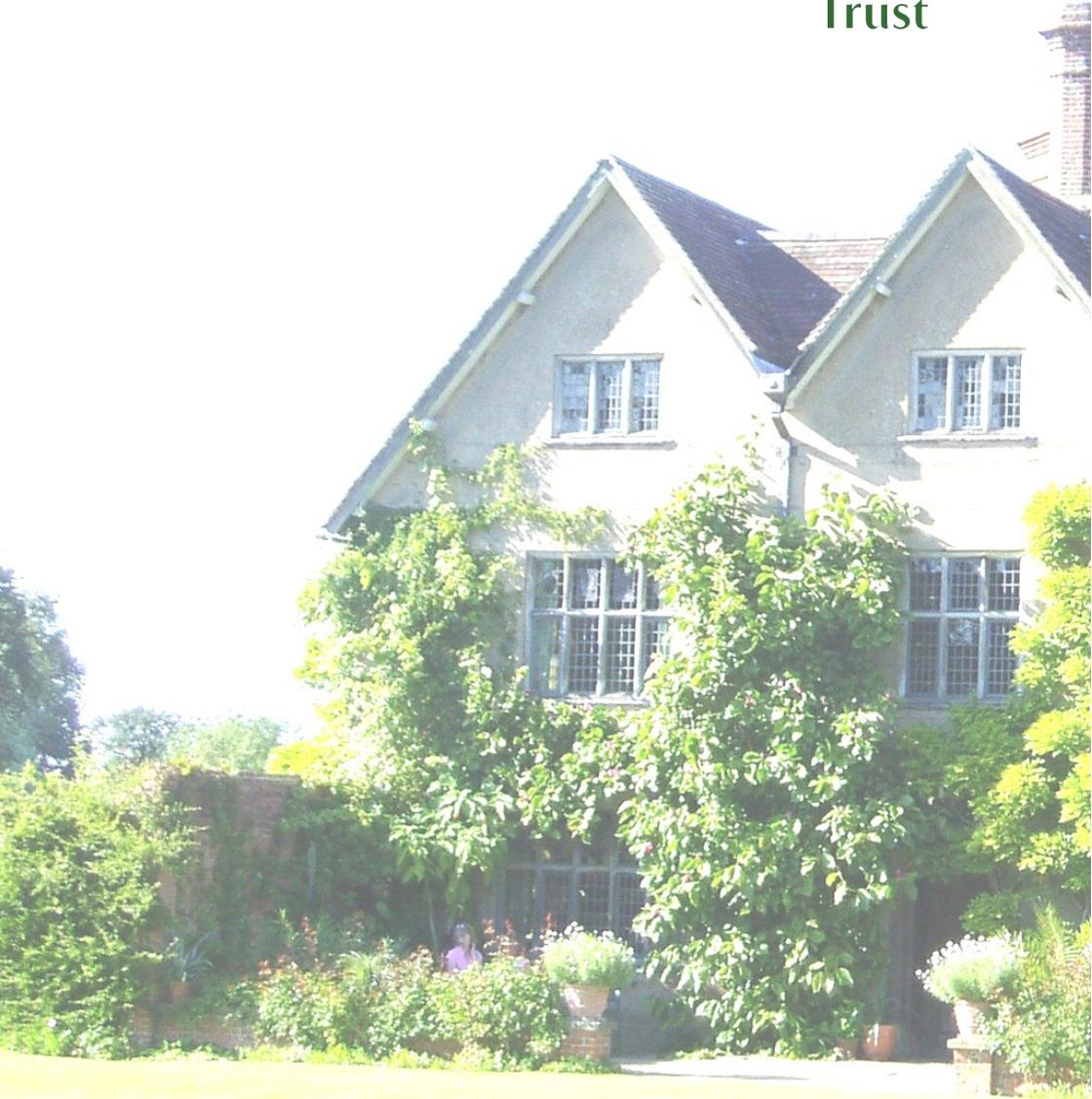
For a full list of what's on, more information, or to book any events please see our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby

Activities include: Halloween Bat Trail and 'Spooky story writing' in October
Hedgehog or Rabbit Sculpture workshop then Festive wreath making workshops
and Christmas music in the church in November
Carols in the Courtyard and the house open for Christmas in December.

Helena Avery-Clarke
Programming and Communications Officer



in support of **National
Trust**



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2019

Printed by Steers Printing