

Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

January 2014, No. 2

Welcome message from our new Chairman

Since the last edition of *Outreach* we have had a change of chairman with Anne Samson stepping down earlier this month. At the request of Council I have taken this on, at least until this year's AGM. I hope we will continue to benefit from Anne's long experience. I am delighted to see *Outreach* continuing. In this electronic age it seems a brilliantly effective way to reach many of our members with news of our activities and a valuable supplement to *Magna*. For those not online, print copies are available at Kew. If you have views about this, do please let us know.

Ian Hay-Campbell
Acting Chairman



Magna – paper or pdf? Can you collect too?

This is a reminder about the option to turn off the print version and receive *Magna* emailed to you as a pdf. The December edition was the first to be offered in this alternative electronic format. Over 50 members have now opted to receive their copy in this way. Circulating electronic versions also helps to reduce our postage costs. A number of members have also opted to pick up their magazine from TNA rather than have it posted to them. If you are regularly at TNA then this option might suit you and help us to further reduce postage.

If you would prefer to switch to a pdf version, or are able to collect from TNA, then please contact me at one of the following email addresses:

editorftna@aol.com or
ftnaeditor@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
Please include your name if your email address does not adequately identify you.

A Word From The Editor

The intention of *Outreach* is to fill the gap between the editions of *Magna*. Publishing the newsletter every two months (January, March, May, July, September and November) will enable us to keep you better updated with events and developments within the Friends and at TNA.

The newsletter provides a useful space to share information and make requests. There are several requests for volunteers and one member has already taken the opportunity to share her research interest and look for like-minded members.

I am keen for you to use this space – share research interests or pictures, particularly of our wild life neighbours at Kew. I have spoken to so many of you during our recruiting sessions and learnt many interesting things about the broad range of topics being researched. *Magna* provides the ideal opportunity to publish and I am always looking for new material on all topics that can be shared with the membership and beyond. Please do get in touch (at the email addresses opposite) if you have something to offer or request in either *Magna* or *Outreach*.

Tony Wakeford

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – IMPORTANT NOTICE

If your membership does not automatically renew by standing order then please ensure that you renew your membership as soon as possible.

Pauper Prisons ... Pauper Palaces (Midlands) Conference Ann Morton reports on a Friends' supported conference in November last year at Kidderminster

Imagine fifty volunteers, supported by Friends of The National Archives, sponsored by the British Association for Local History and with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund gathered at the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster. They were meeting to reveal details of their discoveries while cataloguing 47 volumes of Poor Law Union Correspondence for Kidderminster and Bromsgrove in the mid nineteenth century. We heard stories of child abuse (tying a boy of 8 in a sack and hanging him from a hook as punishment for bed-wetting); of attempts to emigrate for a better life being labelled as desertion; of workhouse employment being run as a family business (involving fraud and bankruptcy); of refusal to grant affiliation orders to unmarried women in Kidderminster

(where parish registers use over 70 terms for bastardy) but, in contrast, of Guardians having a whip-round to support a widowed labourer with six children to keep them out of the workhouse. Such is the richness of central government sources at TNA. What better way to spend a cold, crisp, bright Saturday in November during Archives Awareness Week (and after lunch to sing songs of poverty and exploitation)?



Member and TNA records specialist
Dr Paul Carter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 10 June 2014

The agenda and papers for the meeting will be circulated with the April edition of *Magna*. However, please note that the meeting will be scheduled to begin at 4pm. The earlier start is because we will have a full agenda with a revised constitution to be presented for discussion.

This year sees the start of the centenary events to mark the First World War. TNA have already begun their First World War 100 programme with the ongoing online publication of the WO 95 Unit War Diaries, and the launch of the MH 47 Conscription Appeals project supported by the Friends and the Federation of Family History Societies. Details of TNA's programme can be found at:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/firstworldwar

The Remembrance Image Project



Over the next four years we will be marking various events in *Magna*, based upon different aspects from the records. However, in one edition each year Simon Gregor, one of our members, will share a photograph from his project of a location taken one hundred years after a significant event and discusses the reasons for his choice..

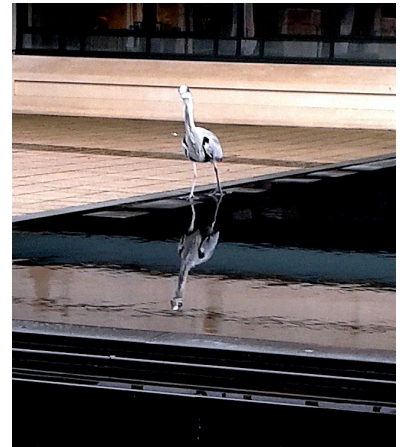
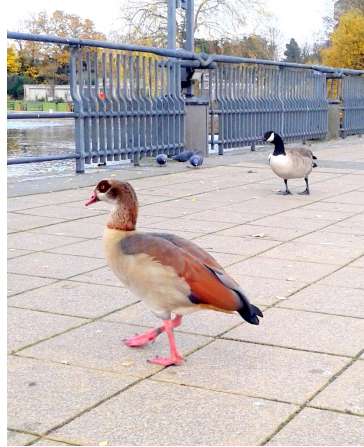
The objectives of the project

- To photograph a selection of WW1 sites at or close to their 100th anniversary. Such sites may be battlefields or memorials, or locations in the UK with a WW1 connection. The aim is to create images which are not just a record of a site at its centenary, but which capture something of the emotion or spirit of the location.
- To share these images with others, through exhibitions, interactive workshops, talks and other media; and in so doing to promote awareness and debate about the war and about the role of remembrance.
- To encourage others to create their own photographic images of remembrance, and to share these with the project as a means of opening up and spreading the discussion about the centenary.

To find out more about the project, please contact Simon at: www.riproject.wordpress.com
Facebook: Remembrance Image Project Twitter: @rememberip email: simongregor04@hotmail.com

POCKET PARK PATROL

Your intrepid editor ventured outside to see what was happening and met the swans coming the other way.



Thank you to member Robin Hurst for the photograph, top right. Elsewhere in the park the geese were much in evidence: a colourful Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) and the more familiar Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). Meanwhile, the Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) watches and waits.

Introduce a Friend

The first draw has taken place for this recruiting initiative. If you introduce a new member and they put your name and postcode on their application form (and you email the membership secretary to confirm) you are entered into a prize draw. The more people you introduce the more chances you have to win a book voucher.

Congratulations to the following members:

First Prize £25 bookshop voucher
Elaina Rothman

Joint Second Prize £10 book voucher
Charmian Manning & Diana Harley

Third Prize £5 book voucher
Pam Smith

Our next draw will be at the AGM in June.

MEMBER'S RESEARCH INTEREST

I am recording the memories of British Army veterans who served in Palestine during the final years of the Mandate and, in conjunction, searching through army records in The National Archives. Whilst the recordings are my priority I am also developing a website:

www.britishforcesinpalestine.org

If your research is in a similar area I would be most interested to hear from you. Please contact:
Sue King at **suehanorah@yahoo.co.uk**.

Beryl Crawley

We are sorry to learn that Beryl passed away on 20 January, aged 86 years, after a short illness. Beryl had been a member for many years. We send our condolences to her daughter Caroline and family.

We have raised over £700!
Please join the 34 members using easyfundraising to help us raise even more funds.

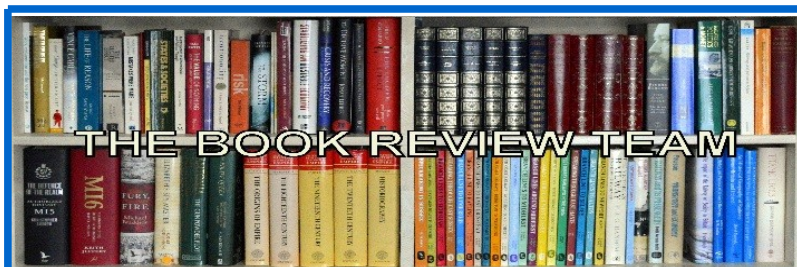
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

VACANCIES – AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE FRIENDS' COUNCIL

Due to recent resignations and a restructuring of our roles and responsibilities we currently have two vacancies. Further vacancies will also arise when some serving members stand down at the AGM in June.

We are looking for new members who have the time and energy to commit to help us consolidate the Friends' successes and support for TNA, set against the background of an increasing membership. In particular we are looking for someone to help with active fund-raising and to co-ordinate fund-raising sites such as *Easyfundraising*. If you have a flair for fund-raising, or are interested in finding out more about the wider role that Council members play then please contact us at:

friends.tna@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk



Thank you to everyone for their support in getting the Book Review Team rolling in 2013. We have reviewed 25 books so far, and several more are in the pipeline. Most have now been published online

New books for review are slowly trickling through and I am looking forward to a productive year supporting the Bookshop Team.

Tony Wakeford
Editor



I am pleased to report that at the January meeting of the Friends' Council it was agreed to the setting up of the group. I am now in discussion with TNA regarding establishing a schedule of monthly talks that will begin in April. The intention is to have the talks open to all as a further means of recruiting. A dedicated group will also be set up on TNA's online community. There is much to organise but we are on our way.

Thank you for those who have already indicated a willingness to give a talk. I should be grateful for more offers and suggestions as I get things arranged. I am also exploring the possibility of producing guides and other finding aids to the records. Again, if anyone has any suggestions please do get in touch. I hope to publish an initial programme before too long.

Tony Wakeford
Editor

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CAN YOU HELP?

Our recruiting team (fondly referred to as 'the Press Gang') finished the year with 121 new members signed up. At the end of 2013 we reached our highest membership ever - 890! As we strive to reach over one thousand members we are looking for volunteers to join our friendly and happy team to help us make a difference and further increase our membership. There are other opportunities for volunteering to help and support The National Archives. If you would like to join us and get more involved, or would like more information, please contact:

Friends.TNA@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk or
editorftna@aol.com

Visits and Events

Andre Palfrey-Martin has taken up the role of Visits and Events Co-ordinator. He has set up a new email for his role and can be contacted directly at: ftnavisits@gmail.com We have upcoming visits to Museum of London (6 March) [sold out], Library & Museum of Freemasonry (24 March) [20 places still available] and Foreign & Commonwealth Library (4 June). [sold out]