



Outreach

'The Last Cambridge Spy' Talk

Our successful end-of-year talk.

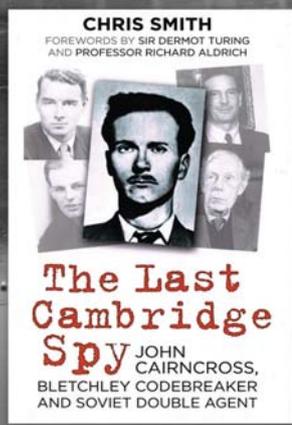
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The talk was based on his recently published book *The Last Cambridge Spy*, which traces the life and Civil Service career of John Cairncross, a Soviet double agent and the fifth man in the infamous Cambridge Spy Ring. During his career he worked in several sensitive



Friends' chairman, Tony Wakeford, with Dr Chris Smith (left), who gave our end-of-year talk about the fifth man in the infamous Cambridge Spy Ring.



A Friends
of The National Archives

CHRIS SMITH
FOREWORDS BY SIR DERMOT TURING
AND PROFESSOR RICHARD ALDRICH

The Chairman and Trustees are pleased to welcome Dr Chris Smith from Coventry University to give a talk on his book

THE LAST CAMBRIDGE SPY

The Last Cambridge Spy JOHN CAIRNCROSS, BLETCHLEY CODEBREAKER AND SOVIET DOUBLE AGENT

areas including Bletchley Park, the Treasury and the Ministry of Supply.

Cairncross was a highly intelligent, argumentative, clumsy, haphazard and forgetful character, and with an air of superiority, that would eventually lead to his undoing. It was during his studies at Cambridge that Anthony Blunt recruited Cairncross as a Soviet agent. Dr Smith's talk outlined Cairncross' activities and his eventual downfall as the net closed around Maclean, Burgess, Philby and Blunt.

The talk was followed by a short Q&A session and a book signing, where sales were brisk.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTER

1127

Christmas comes to the Archives

The chairman and trustees were pleased to fund the purchase of this year's Christmas tree, for the fourth year in a row. The purchase is now a standing annual commitment to TNA by the Friends.

Some of the trustees and volunteers with Dr Valerie Johnson, Director, Research and Collections (third from left).



Calling for volunteers to help with the Membership Secretary role

We are looking for one or two people to carry out the day to day membership administration function, including someone to provide oversight and co-ordination of this area (Membership Secretary) including:

- Processing renewals, new members and leavers
- Administering Gift Aid, and
- Reporting

These roles will be based at TNA and currently the overall commitment is around 10 hours per week. If anyone would like to know more about the role, please contact Cathy at trustee3@fna.org.uk



Conference on 21 March 2020 by the British Association for Local History

BALH
BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR LOCAL HISTORY

**Unexpected Sources
for Local History**

Taunton Castle (The Penny Magazine no.457 17 August 1839)

Lunch and tea and coffee included
Stalls for local groups and book sales
Book tickets: www.balh.org.uk
£20 for BALH members,
£25 for non members

BALH Annual Regional Conference
Saturday 21st March 2020, 10:00 to 16:30
Albemarle Centre Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1BA
(the centre is within walking distance of the railway station)
National and local sources are brought to light by seven speakers on subjects ranging from railway accidents to taxation records, the Court of Wards and house insurance

Keynote speaker: Paul Dryburgh from The National Archives.
Speakers include David Killingray, Mark Forrest, Mike Esbester, Jonathan Mackman, Esther Hoyle and David Hawkings.
The following organisations will be represented with their books for sale: Somerset & Dorset Notes and Queries; Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society; Somerset Record Society; Dorset Record Society; South West Heritage Trust.
An exhibition of local maps will also be on display.

The annual regional conference of the British Association for Local History (BALH), will be held on the 21 March 2020 in Taunton, Somerset. There are two TNA speakers, so any members who live in the West Country might like to

hear them speak on TNA records. The theme of the conference is 'Unusual Sources for Local History'. Please see the flier above, and more information and booking can be found on the website www.balh.org.uk.

Over the line: Incorporation update

Our chairman brings us up-to-date with the latest news about incorporating the charity.

For over a year now we have been deliberating and refining our proposal to convert the Unincorporated Association (UA) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Without delving too deeply into charity law, suffice to say that incorporation provides a legal identity and enables all contracts to be held centrally, rather than with individual trustees.

I am pleased to report that following the submission of our application the Charity Commission responded with full approval and a new registration. Not only that but the Charity Commission only took three days to complete the process. Clearly, we did everything right, but a lot of time and deliberation went into our preparation before the submission. In fairness, this was on the back of 31-years of endeavour, so we had a proven track record.

The Friends of The National Archives CIO now formally exists as charity no.



1185971. The new charity will continue what the current charity undertakes at the moment. Since the current charity was formed in 1988, charity law, procedures and best working practices have changed. In the submission the trustees took the opportunity to revise the charitable objects so that they were compatible with current priorities and requirements around public interest, whilst remaining broadly similar to those set down in 1988.

The objects of the Friends of The National Archives CIO are for the public benefit to advance the education of the public, in particular but not exclusively,

by promoting, supporting and assisting The National Archives in the following ways:

- (1) Preserving and improving public access to documents that are of national, cultural, academic and historical importance;
- (2) Educating the public about the documents and records held by The National Archives.

The next stage is to arrange for the dissolution of the current charitable organisation and transfer the assets, liabilities and members to the CIO. I shall be writing to every member in the New Year to explain the process in more detail. We are in interesting times and a new chapter in the life of the Friends. There is much to look forward to in 2020.

It only remains for me, on behalf of my colleagues, to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Tony Wakeford
chairman@ftna.org.uk

Membership Administration

As usual at this time of year we are planning ahead for the 31 December, the expiry date for over half of the Membership. If you do not subscribe automatically, you should already have received an invite to renew from the team. Thank you to those who have already sent cheques, made a bank transfer or PayPal payment.

We are continuously reviewing our processes in order to reduce our administrative overhead in both time and physical resources. The annual issuance of over 1,000 Membership Cards (both new and existing Members) requires a significant administrative effort, as well as incurring postage costs. We have therefore decided that we will no

longer issue Membership Cards. Instead, if you have provided your email address to us you will receive confirmation electronically, or if not, a letter will be posted to you. We anticipate this happening in the second half of January for those payments received on 2 January (usually around 500) allowing time for these to be processed.

In practice, you only required your Membership Card to receive the membership discount when purchasing from The National Archives bookshop in person. You will still receive this discount in person but, instead of showing your card, you simply need to quote the Friends' Bookshop discount code (as you do



when buying books online). The code changes in January each year and can be found on the Publications page of the Members' secure area of the website.

Please note that the last day in the office before the Christmas break will be Wednesday 18 December for the Membership team. Also, we would appreciate your patience during January as this is our busiest time of the year as indicated above.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Cathy Quinn
Membership Services
membership@ftna.org.uk

FRIENDS' VISITS

Important requests and news for the Visits Programme in 2020



Planning for the Visits Programme for 2020 is currently underway and any suggestions for venues or offers of help will be gratefully received by the Visits Co-ordinator. Visits to the Bank of

England, the Supreme Court and the Stationers' Hall will be included in the first half of the year. Please contact Maggie at: visits_events@ftna.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy meeting and helping new people?

If so, and you can spare some time (on a regular or occasional basis), you could be just the person we need to be part of our team that supplies volunteers to help with various functions at The National Archives.

These include stewarding at conferences, helping with family days and other TNA and Friends events, **and especially helping staff our recruitment / members enquiry stalls (Kew Desk, or the 'pressgang')**. Which kind of activity you wish to be involved in, and how often, is up to you. To find out more about what the team does and how you might fit in please contact Howard at the email address below:

recruiting@ftna.org.uk

or drop by at one of our stalls to have a chat. The dates when the team are available can be found under the **Kew Desk Tab** (via Contact Us) on our website.

EASYFUNDRAISING

We have raised over £2,439.53 with grateful thanks to the 68 members who subscribe to this scheme. Please join us and help to raise even more funds to help support projects and activities at The National Archives.

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and create an account. Select the Friends as your charity. When you shop online go via easyfundraising who will link you to the online retailer of your choice (there are over 2000 of them!). When you have completed your purchase in the usual way, the retailer will make a donation to easyfundraising (usually between 1 and 6 per cent of the purchase price).

A Friends
of The National Archives

**NEXT TOURS: WEDNESDAY
6 MAY AND FRIDAY
25 SEPTEMBER**

Your invitation to see
behind the scenes at
The National Archives

Come on a guided tour behind the scenes.....

- Explore the vast repositories and see how documents are stored and retrieved.
- Experience cutting-edge preservation work taking place in the Collection Care department.

As a membership benefit you can book a free place on a tour to see the work of The National Archives behind the scenes.

To book email: friendsco-ordinator@nationalarchives.gov.uk
or call +44 (0) 20 8876 3444 ext. 2405

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Friends of The National Archives.
c/o Kelly Kimpton, Friends' Co-ordinator
The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU
email: enquiries@ftna.org.uk
ftna.org.uk

The Friends of The National Archives is a registered charity (number 328630), established in 1988.