

Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

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Loyalty and Dissent Audio Plays

Eileen Wicks, vice chairman, reports on our recent additional funding support to extend the Loyalty and Dissent project.

On Monday 11th September, The National Archives Outreach and Learning Officer Iqbal Husain invited Trustees Eileen Wicks, Cathy Quinn and Maggie Deighton to the welcoming of the Artistic Director of the Tamasha Theatre Company Fin Kennedy and cast to the Archives for the audio recording of the *Loyalty and Dissent* Plays.

Funded by the Friends, the five plays emerged from the successful project undertaken in the autumn of 2016 which focused on the torn loyalties and motivations of South Asian servicemen, their families and representatives during WW1. The audio recording will allow for a much wider audience and we look forward to their launch in November 2017.



Friends' trustees Cathy Quinn (left, front row) and Maggie Deighton (second left back row) with Iqbal Husain (left, back row), Fin Kennedy (third right, back row) with members of the Tamasha Theatre Group.

An important date for your diary!

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a members' event at TNA on Tuesday 5 December from 5-7.30pm. The event will take place in the new events space on the first floor. We are delighted that our president, Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield will be joining us to give a talk on *Writing the history of one's own times*.

There will be a buffet from 5pm and the talk will begin at around 5.45pm, to be followed by questions and answers, and then a book signing to conclude the event. The bookshop will stay open for the occasion until 7.30pm and members will be able to enjoy an additional discount throughout the day.

Invited members of staff, who have been supportive and directly involved with us during the year, will also be attending.

The event is free but members may bring a guest at £5 per head. Guests will be restricted to no more than two per member. Should a guest wish to join on the day of the event then £5 will be offset against the subscription. It is essential to book so that we can accurately calculate the catering requirements. Please book through eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-friends-evening-event-buffet-talk-and-book-signing-tickets-38910978785>

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www.friendsofthenationalarchives.org.uk, or www.ftna.org.uk

THIRTY YEARS YOUNG



PRO 62/7: Photograph showing a visit of HM The Queen to the Public Record Office at Kew, 23 February 1978.

Next year will be one of celebration: our 30th anniversary and 40 years since Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the then Public Record Office. The Friends' trustees are interested to receive suggestions from members about ways in which we can mark our anniversary with talks and events. For example, it may be an event on a particular topic, or you may know of an author or researcher that you feel would be worth contacting to arrange a contribution during the year. Indeed, you may wish to make a contribution yourself – we would be pleased to hear. If you have any ideas or suggestions then please do contact us: secretary@friendsofthenationalarchives.org.uk

Note that there is an Eventbrite booking fee for guests' tickets of £1.44 (inclu VAT).

You can also complete a booking form (available in our lounge and recruiting point). Details about paying for guests are set out on the form.

We look forward to seeing you at what will be an interesting and enjoyable evening to round-off the year.

MEMBERSHIP COUNTER

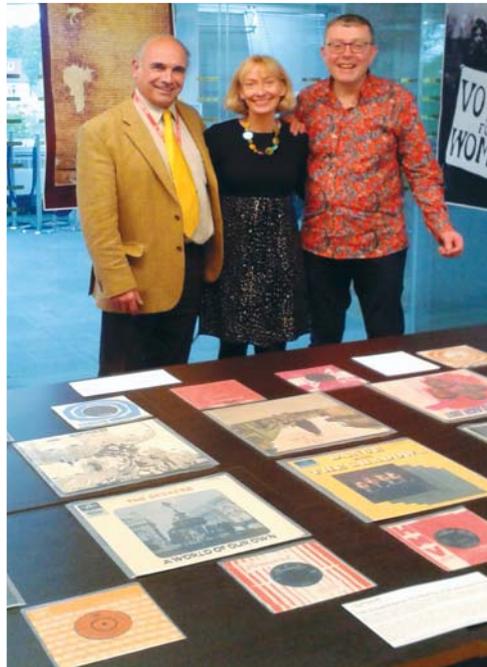
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PIRATES, POP AND PROTEST

The Friends recently helped to support an event marking 50 years since the Marine Broadcasting Act in 1967.

On 7 October, Mark Dunton, principal record specialist - contemporary, gave an interesting illustrated talk about the background leading to the era of the pirate radio stations anchored and operating outside territorial waters, and the Government and public's reaction. Radio Caroline was the first ship-based pirate radio station to start broadcasting in 1964, and was soon followed by others, becoming hugely popular and attracting large audiences. The pirate radio stations fulfilled the public's demand for more pop music to be broadcasted than what the BBC was then currently able to provide.

The Government's position and eventual decision to implement the Marine Broadcasting Act, and the subsequent restructuring of the BBC to create Radios 1, 2, 3, and 4, were highlighted in the talk and in an accompanying document display. There was also a selection of vinyl records provided by our chairman from his private collection. These were a representative example of what would have been played by the pirate radio stations between 1964 and 1967. It was the heyday of pop music – the Beatles and Rolling Stones in



Tony Wakeford (l), Sara Griffiths and Mark Dunton (r)

particular, along with many other groups: the Beach Boys, Freddie and the Dreamers, the Hollies and individual artists such as Cilla Black and Dusty Springfield. However, the soundtrack to pirates, pop and protest was often more mainstream.

In 1965, Ken Dodd's *Tears* was the biggest selling single of the year (and the third biggest in the decade). Tom Jones *Green Green Grass of Home* was the top selling single in 1966, and Engelbert Humperdinck's *Release Me* followed suit in 1967. In the album charts, the soundtrack of *The Sound of Music* dominated during 1965 and 1966. It was the top selling album in 1965 and had the longest time at No.1 in 1965 (20 weeks) and 1966 (35 weeks). The Beatles' albums *Beatles for Sale*, *Revolver* and *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* were the top selling albums of 1964, 1966 and 1967 respectively. Most of these records were included in the display.

The event concluded with a DVD screening of a drama performance by students from the Wren Academy. The project was introduced by Sara Griffiths, TNA's outreach manager, who explained that the performance was the outcome of collaboration with TNA and the V&A and focused on some of the key themes and events of the 1960s, including the Vietnam War, race riots and the pirate radio stations.

Making new friends and contacts

Tony Wakeford reports on a recent visit by the Small Charities Coalition

On 18 September we welcomed Mandy Johnson, the recently appointed new CEO of the Small Charities Coalition (SCC), to The National Archives. Mandy's visit, at our invitation, was part of her fact-finding tour of the SCC's members.

The Friends joined the SCC earlier in the year as the trustees unanimously agreed that we should network more widely in the charity sector to pick up ideas about best practice around aspects of governance, membership management and fundraising. The SCC is an umbrella charity providing support, training and advice with mentoring opportunities for its members.

There are many challenges facing those small charities, as we well know, that do not have a critical mass in terms of resources and financial capacity. I am keen to ensure that within our limited resources we adopt a 'smarter not harder' approach.

Being able to pick up tips and ideas from other organisations of a similar size will be valuable and beneficial. Membership of the SCC also enables us to contribute and may be offer help and mentoring to others. We are first and foremost a charity so we must ensure that our governance and management remains effective and meets the requirements and expectations set by the Charity Commission and other regulatory bodies such as the Information Commissioners Office.

Eileen Wicks (vice chairman) and Cathy Quinn (membership secretary) joined me in the constructive and interesting wide-ranging discussion with Mandy Johnson. We hope that we can arrange to co-host an event at TNA for trustees of SCC member organisations where we can share ideas, best practice and discuss the issues and challenges that small charities have to deal with.



Eileen Wicks (l), Tony Wakeford and Mandy Johnson (r)

POCKET PARK PATROL

Your intrepid chairman ventured out and about on a quiet autumn day to find the park quiet and peaceful with only a handful of residents around. The cygnets are slowly growing; the Heron who normally poses for pictures was camera shy; a lonely Cootie drifted by.



Visits Programme 2017

Tim Grimes sums up the recent visits as the programme for this year is completed.

We have just completed the 2017 visits season with yet another visit to the Parliamentary Archives at the Victoria Tower. This continues to be a popular venue, but might be the last occasion when we can see the archives at the Palace of Westminster, as they may be on the move.

The season had kicked off with a very entertaining guided tour of Highgate Cemetery (the West part of the cemetery which is only open by appointment) and, later, some of us wandered around the East part of the cemetery, in the sunshine, to pay our respects to Karl Marx. The visit to the BA Heritage Centre was on another scorching day. We were entertained for a couple of hours by a really enthusiastic volunteer guide who took us around the exhibits in the museum at BA's HQ at Heathrow

In July we were privileged to visit Lambeth Palace where the Assistant Archivist showed us around the archives

and library. The following month found us at the British Library. Although we did not see everything that had been arranged, conservators showed us some of the projects they were working on, and how their techniques were being developed by practice. It was interesting to compare the work there, with that at TNA's Collection Care Department

It was gratifying that each of these visits was over-subscribed, so we seem to be offering venues that Friends are keen to see. But we have to be realistic and, to maintain a high level of interest in every venue we decided to cancel one visit, earlier in the year, for which there was less support

Friends should look out for another behind-the-scenes visits programme next year when Maggie Deighton, who has recently joined Council, will be taking over. The 2018 programme will be published in March.

Update from the Membership Secretary

Cathy Quinn

The summer has been a successful recruiting period for the Friends and current membership has risen to 1135. We welcome all these new members. As always a few members have chosen not to renew for various reasons and we are sad to see them leave. Thanks to everyone who renews automatically or sends payment promptly when requested – this does make my role much easier. If your current has expired and you have not received a new one please do contact me so that I can investigate.

**Membership@
friendsofthenationalarchives.org.uk**

Out and about

Tony Wakeford highlights a recent event away from Kew where the Friends were represented.



The chairman with our stand in Pagham Village Hall

On Saturday 26 September we joined the West Sussex Archives Society (WSAS) at their Maritime Sussex conference held in Pagham Village Hall, just to the south of Chichester. We do not often venture out away from TNA for events and this was an ideal opportunity to join colleagues of the local archive society and promote and share our mutual interests.

We joined nine other family, local and maritime history societies and had a promotional stand showcasing our work and support for TNA. It was also an opportunity to give our new roller banner an airing.

There were four illustrated talks, followed by questions and answers after each session. The first talk was very appropriate as one of our members, Dr Caroline Adams, discussed the Elizabethan trade of Chichester and drew examples from the C 190 series containing the Port Books. This nicely made the link between nationally held

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and local records. There were interesting talks on naval shipbuilding in Chichester Harbour in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the role of Pagham Harbour in Sussex Maritime trade. The day concluded with a lively presentation about smugglers and coastguards.

It was a thoroughly interesting and informative event – so congratulations to our friends at WSAS. There was plenty of interest in our role and work in supporting TNA, and hopefully we will gain some new members as a result. The event has got me thinking about ways in which we can foster and maintain some active and practical links with other Friends organisations supporting local archives.

I would be interested to hear from any members who are involved with other Friends of archives organisations to see if it would be possible to develop an event about the mutual interest of linking national and locally held records.

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, as well as helping staff our recruitment / members enquiry stalls (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@friendsofthenationalarchives.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.

EASY FUNDRAISING

We have raised over £1915 with grateful thanks to the 57 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).