

# Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

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## Tudor Takeover Day

Paul Dryburgh, Collections Expertise and Engagement Department, highlights the recent successful event.

On Saturday 21 July TNA brought to life the sights, sounds and smells of the court of the young Henry VIII during our Tudor Takeover Day, which was generously supported by the Friends. Over 200 visitors spent the day watching live combat displays performed manfully in 30C heat by Stuart, Dean and Wayne from 3Swords, and a live falconry display with the chance to fly the birds from Becky of Hawkwise Falconry. There were also six public lectures, attended over the day by about 180 people, on topics as diverse as Women of the Tudor Court and Henry VIII's Palace at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. The talks were accompanied by a display of original documents that really made an impression on the steady flow of visitors. The Education team ran classroom sessions on Henry but also a craft corner, where children could make swords, crowns and ruffs, and a dressing up booth.

The day was organised and delivered by the Medieval team in the Collections Expertise and Engagement Department, with the assistance of the What's On, Venues, Security and Estates and Facilities teams, and a wonderful team of Friends' volunteers.

### Eileen Wicks, Vice Chairman, echoes Paul Dryburgh's comments.

The Friends would like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers who came forward to assist TNA staff at their Tudor Takeover Day. The time and hard work they generously gave helped immensely in it's smooth running. This was noted afterwards by the numerous glowing messages the Friends received from TNA to pass on to all of those involved.

From directing members of the public,

[ftna.org.uk](http://ftna.org.uk)



Friends' volunteers (l/r) Susan Dani, Eileen Wicks, Elvira Bronham, Jane Pearey, and Anne Ramon.



dressing up in the selection of period costumes and taking a selfie.

Mention also needs to go to Stephen King who not only went out of his way to dress the part but also gallantly stepped up to assist the armourers with

their heavy loads of costume and arms under the hot sun in Pocket Park.

The brilliant organisation of Paul Dryburgh and his team made this a really enjoyable day for the public and volunteers alike. The Friends definitely look forward to being part of another event in the future.

to the craft and dressing up corners organised by the Education Department, it was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves. The Archives came alive with children young (and a little older) able let their creative imaginations run, having fun making crowns, masks, ruffs and swords, or by

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**MEMBERSHIP COUNTER**

**1116**

## An overview from the Chairman

Tony Wakeford notes some recent developments and progress in our support for TNA.

It is often said that you wait ages for a bus and then two come along together. Well, it seems to be much the same with several Friends' funded projects coming to fruition at the same time. I am pleased to see that the funding decisions we took for projects earlier in the year are now reaching their successful conclusion. Eileen, our vice chairman, highlights these in more detail.

One particular project I am delighted to support is the completion of the Gascon Rolls (TNA series C 61). A project of many years standing is about to be completed with funding from the Friends. The series begins in the reign of Henry III and continued to 1467, even though the English had lost control of Gascony some fourteen years earlier. The series is of significant interest to medieval historians as it provides important economic and political information of the area. More information can be found at: <http://www.gasconrolls.org/en/>

Our logo will soon be added to the distinguished list of supporting institutions.

The Friends' sponsored Summer Lecture Series has gone from strength-to-strength with good audience attendances and lively participation in the Q&A sessions. Each talk has been accompanied by an excellent document display. I am grateful to TNA colleagues for compiling and managing each display. The final talk in the series *Great escapes: the story of MI9's secret maps* is on 30 August and presented by one of our members, Dr Barbara Bond.

Elsewhere, we are progressing with plans to hold joint events: one with the Friends of Nottingham Archives, and the other with the West Sussex Archives Society. I am keen to reach out to other like-minded Friends groups and share ideas, knowledge and best-practice. We have a busy time ahead and much to look forward to.

## An update from the Vice Chairman

Eileen Wicks highlights some recent activities.

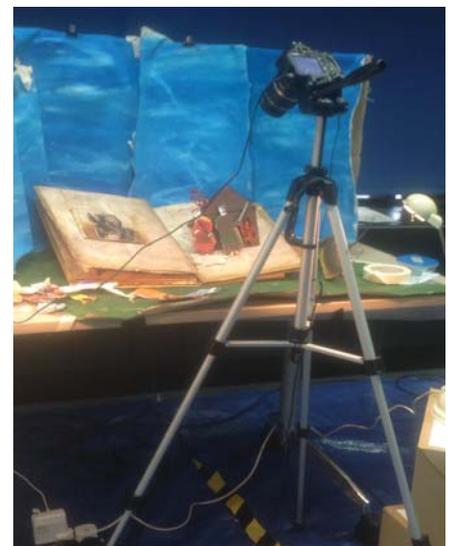
### Holding History



Following on from the Education Team's successes of *The Somme Tales* and *Suffrage Tales* the Friends are this year again helping to fund their latest film project, *Holding History*. A five-day workshop, which ran from 30 July to 3 August 2018, involved selected young people working with the professional film-maker Nigel Kellaway to create an animated film by using documents spanning the past 1000 years from TNA's collection. The aim was to work towards highlighting key events from the nation's history but in particular try to look at drawing on lesser known stories or even maybe

to reveal hidden histories.

Some of the Friends' trustees were given the opportunity to drop in to catch-up on the progress of the students towards the end of their week-long workshop and were fascinated to observe what had been achieved so far. Using their active imaginations, a stack of cardboard boxes, pots of glue and paint, along with some rather high-tech IT equipment we were able to see that some rather impressive scenes had been created. We look forward with anticipation to the finished result later on in the year.



## Multi-spectral imaging

After the successful purchase of the 3-D Printer for TNA's Collection Care Department in 2017 the Friends' attention is now turning to looking into the possibility of raising funds towards the purchase of a multi-spectral imager.

Up until now any TNA documents which have needed to be looked at in particular detail with the use of an imager have had to be sent off site to other institutions who have such equipment available. The purchase of such an advanced system would allow TNA to conduct their own state-of-the-art-technology spectral imaging of the valuable collections they hold here at Kew.

A 100-megapixel medium format



camera takes a series of high quality digital images, each illuminated by a specific wavelength of light. The resulting image cube is then digitally processed and combined with integrated open source software to reveal artefacts and features in a document that are not

visible to the eye in natural light.

An imager would be able to reveal to the curator, scholar, or conservation specialist important information and new insights regarding evaluation, study, storage and preservation of documents, books, drawings, maps, photographs, textiles and paintings.

The Friends' trustees have now attended two presentations in Collection Care given by companies to demonstrate how their particular systems work and how effective they are to meet the exacting requirements of Jacquie Moon, Senior Conservation Manager, and her colleagues. We will keep you updated on progress in the near future.

## Armistice & Legacy

The November 2017 cover of the Friends' magazine *Magna* featured a piece of artwork that was drawn by a young student who attended *Chronicles of the Dissolution* workshop. The trustees felt that the work presented by all of the students who attended was of such a calibre that it deserved to be shown to a wider audience. It is for this reason that the Friends' trustees were again happy to help fund a similar project this year, called *Armistice and Legacy*. Commemorating WW1 and the centenary of Armistice that takes place in November, it will depict some of the major events and battles and interpreted



through lesser known stories which have been discovered in TNA's collections.

Young students were chosen to attend a workshop led by the artist Carol Adlam and during the week 13-18 August 2018, they had the opportunity to create pieces of artwork in their own

style. Using a broad story guide drawn up by Carol, they covered a diverse range of subjects such as the soldiers' experience, disability, conscientious objectors, Commonwealth soldiers and women at war.

Anyone near the Learning Space on the first floor would have seen them conscientiously working and what looked like some rather impressive pieces of work were emerging. So just as last year, the Friends' trustees are now looking forward to seeing the finished results and being able to showcase them to the members.

## Windsor Archives

On one of the recent hot sunny days in August I had the rare opportunity to attend St George's Chapel Archives and Library for a talk on its history, to meet the archivists and to hear how the place is run. A number of years back the Friends adopted one of their volumes (pictured), which over time has had restoration on its cover and which was put out on display to view whilst I was there.

*An impartial collection of the great affairs of state, from the beginning of the Scotch rebellion in...MDCXXXIX. To the murder of...Charles I...* is the major work of John Nalson (c.1638-1686), an English clergyman, historian and political pamphleteer. The complete work

consists of two volumes that were published in 1682/3, undertaken under the special patronage of Charles II and with the amazing illustrative frontispiece in the first volume.

It shows a thunderous sky with a ship being tossed in a wild ocean, along with a man wearing a fur-lined robe and crown being held over the side of the ship and who is presumably about to be thrown into the waves below. In case the imagery employed by the engraver is not clear enough, the facing page has a poem entitled 'The Meaning of the Frontispiece' explaining that the ship caught up in the terrible storm is named the *Royal Sovereign*.



A very interesting and informative visit and for those members interested, the Friends' Visits Coordinator will be adding St George's Chapel Archives and Library to next year's itinerary. The Friends have previously had two successful behind the scenes tours.

## NEW DATES FOR 2019

The last tour for this year is on 27 September and there are still places available.

## A Friends of The National Archives

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](mailto:FriendsCo-ordinator@nationalarchives.gov.uk) or call +44 (0) 20 8876 3444 ext. 2405

Tours start at 11am and last for approximately two hours. They are run twice a year on:

- the first Wednesday in May
- the last Friday in September

The maximum group size is 10, and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



## GIFT MEMBERSHIP

We have revised the Gift Membership forms and copies are now available from the recruiting team. The gift membership comes with a £5 discount

off the normal rates. We are currently revising the online version and hope to have that available again before too long.

## 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](mailto: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 £2045 with grateful thanks to the 60 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](http://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).