

Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

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2019 and Beyond

Tony Wakeford, our chairman, looks ahead to setting priorities for 2019.

By now you should have had the chance to digest the recent email, or letter, that was circulated about the recommendation to seek incorporation of the Friends' Charity. Thank you to those who have been in touch to voice their support and agreement. Feedback is always welcomed and I would encourage everyone to get in touch and express a view or concern about our intentions.

We have set up the online forum (accessed in the members' area of the website) and also announced some dates when the trustees will be available in the lounge at TNA to answer questions:

- Thursday 25 October at 2.00pm
- Wednesday 31 October at 12.30pm
- Saturday 10 November at 11.30am
- Thursday 15 November at 1.30pm
- Tuesday 20 November at 12.30pm

We are currently involved in a consultation process with the Charity

Commission looking at current draft guidance about charities and their relationship with linked non-charitable organisations. It is very pertinent to our relationship with TNA. However, reading this and the considerable extent of other guidance set down by the Charity Commission, you quickly realise the scale of complexity in managing a charity today, particularly so on a voluntary basis. Incorporation will help us considerably as we grow and develop to effectively and efficiently manage the Charity, and for trustees to be protected as they tackle the many requirements placed upon them.

Members will make the formal decision on whether or not to dissolve the current charity and transfer assets and liabilities to The Friends of The National Archives CIO on 19 March 2019 (see page 3). Ballot papers will be sent out in the New Year, but before then do have your say – let us know what you think about what is being proposed.

Aside from matters of incorporation next year, I am keen to extend and develop our activities for the members and TNA. I hope we can arrange more talks for members and Gordon Corera, who is joining us on the 5 March, will hopefully be the beginning of a more regular programme for members' interest and enjoyment.

I hope that next year will see the start of a fundraising programme to enable us to deliver more and help to unlock the historical record. We are constrained by what we currently raise through subscriptions, and that needs to change. We must also be mindful that subscriptions have not changed since 2014 and we may have to consider an increase that is reasonable and proportionate. Clearly, there is a discussion to be had before we make any recommendations, and I would welcome any thoughts on this important topic.

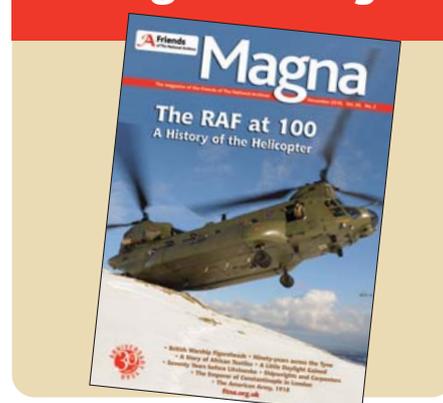
Research Fellowship

We are pleased to welcome Francesca McKenzie who has recently started work at TNA, following her successful application earlier in the year. Francesca will be researching aspects of digital transcription of handwritten texts, using PROB 11 as the basis for her research. This is a six-month project and we look forward to updates in due course.

Francesca (right) is pictured with Tony Wakeford (chairman) and Cathy Quinn (left), our membership secretary.



Coming soon Magna



MEMBERSHIP COUNTER

1 1 2 7

The Big Ideas Seminar Series

Eileen Wicks, vice chairman, highlights the next presentation of this series.

The Friends are proud to be once again sponsoring the successful Big Ideas Seminar Series. These lectures introduce TNA staff to research projects, new theories and innovative methods in archive management.

The first lecture in the 2018/19 series is by Dr Gregory Rolan who will explore *'Participatory record keeping and the rights in records project'*. He will discuss his research on the various conceptual models that inform a new design of participatory record keeping system. He will highlight that these concepts will assist in the design of systems to support the record keeping rights of people who experience childhood, out-of-home care. These systems would enable children and young people in care to have a greater say in their records, and care-leavers to have greater control over the ongoing management, access and use of their records.

Members of are welcome to attend free of charge.
Thursday 1 November, 1300 – 1400 in the Events Space.

Coming next - Thursday 6 December, 1300 – 1400
Emily Pringle (Tate, UK), *Supporting Practitioner Research in the Museum*

Podcasts of previous lectures can be found at:
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/our-research-and-academic-collaboration/events-and-training/big-ideas-seminar-series/>

Signed and Sealed



A Friends
of The National Archives

We are pleased to announce a joint event with the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives. 'Signed and Sealed' is the outcome of negotiations and planning by Simon Gregor, the Friends' outreach co-ordinator, with our colleagues in the Nottingham Archive and their Friends.

Ruth Imeson, Heritage Services Manager for Nottinghamshire will deliver a session discussing 'Signed', drawing on the holdings in the local Archives, whilst Dr Paul Dryburgh, Principal Records Specialist here at TNA, will discuss the role and importance of wax seals.

The talks will be followed by a chaired discussion and accompanied by a display of original documents/artefacts. Light refreshments will be available.

The event will take place at Nottingham Archives, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1AG, on Saturday 23 February 2019, 2pm - 6pm

Tickets are £10 (+ booking fee) each and will be available shortly through Eventbrite.

Forgotten Wrecks

The Maritime Archaeology Trust's project Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War has recently reached its conclusion. The work of the project was outlined in the November 2017 edition of *Magna*. Much of the research for the basis of guiding the practical archaeological work was carried out at TNA.

The project volunteers working on the records at TNA joined the Friends as a research group.

The conclusion of the project was marked by an event at Solent University in Southampton where the success of the project was highlighted in a series of displays and a presentation,

which representatives from the Friends attended. Copies of various publications by the Forgotten Wrecks team will be available in our lounge at Kew.



The Postal Museum

Maggie Deighton, Visits Co-ordinator, reports on a recent group visit.

On Wednesday 5 September a group of 16 members visited the Post Office Museum and Archive in central London. We started with a talk by Gavin McGuffie, Senior Archivist, about the Great Train Robbery and a look at the relevant police reports and other documents held in the Post Office Archive.

We then had a guided tour of the museum that traced the history of the postal service. (Now we know how the Queen's head on stamps came to have a scarf/shawl over her shoulders rather than being 'cut off' just below the neck!) Exhibits included a striking airmail blue post box pillar and a special delivery five-wheeled bicycle.



Then we had a ride on the 'Mail Rail' train through narrow underground tunnels dug by hand. As well as enjoying the train ride, we were also very amused by having to sort 'mail' on a moving train carriage.

Overall it was a very successful visit and we would like to thank everyone involved for making our morning so interesting.

Dates to note

13 December at 5pm

This is our end-of-year event to thank volunteers and staff for their support. The event will be held in the Events Space on the first floor at The National Archives. A buffet will be followed by a talk: *Thunder and Lightning: The Blitz on Berlin in World War II at Ground Zero and in the Ionosphere*, by Patrick Major, Professor of Modern History at the University of Reading.

He is a specialist in the history of modern Germany, the World Wars, the Cold War, film history and popular cultural history. Drawing on the collections held at TNA he will discuss the Air Battle of Berlin and *Operation Thunderclap*, the plan to hit the government district of Berlin to precipitate a political collapse in the wake of D-Day. He will conclude by highlighting the collaborative research project examining the affect of bombing on the ionosphere. Before the talk there will be an opportunity to ask the trustees any



AIR 20/3357: Operation Thunderclap.

questions about the proposed incorporation of the Friends' charity.

Please book to reserve a place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-friends-end-of-year-event-tickets-51646618426>

Alternatively use a booking form available from our recruiting team, or in the lounge at Kew. Please leave in the red box in the lounge or hand to the recruiting team.

5 March 2019 at 6pm

We are pleased to welcome Gordon Corera, BBC Security Correspondent, who will give a talk (topic to be confirmed) in the Events Space on the first floor at The National Archives. Booking details to follow in due course.

19 March 2019 at 5pm Special General Meeting

The Special General Meeting is called for members only. The meeting will make the formal decision about dissolving the Friends Charity, and transferring the assets and liabilities to the newly formed Friends of The National Archives CIO.

The meeting will be followed at 6pm by a talk by Paddy Ashdown, Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, our president. The event will be held in the Events Space on the first floor at The National Archives. Booking details to follow in due course.

Members may bring a guest to each event (for the talk only at the SGM) at £5 each that is refundable (but not the Eventbrite booking fee) if the guest applies for membership at the event.

Archie Goes to Lewisham

Hannah Carter, Education Team, highlights Archie's latest ambassadorial adventure.

Recently, Kathryn Collins and Hannah Carter delivered an offsite Education workshop for the Rainbow Club. The club is run by AFRIL (Action for Refugees in Lewisham) and provides additional academic support for children from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. This includes newly arrived Syrian children, who have never attended formal school. Rainbow Club highly values creativity, with children taking part in music and art lessons. In our workshop we wanted children, regardless of their level of English, to be able to engage with our documents. We took Archie, who was kindly made for us by The Friends of the National Archives. The children really enjoyed hearing that Archie was 'the only bug allowed in the archives'.

Children began by piecing together a jigsaw of Henry VIII's Great Seal, then got to handle a copy. They had to be 'history detectives', investigating mystery figures from the past. We used colour-coded 'clues' that matched to facsimiles inside old document boxes. For example children examined Walter Tull's census record to find out his name. Although there were also a few football related props thrown in (which children fully embraced).

As a final reflection activity children decorated a wooden picture frame with 'clues' about them. Students were very enthusiastic and it was fantastic to see their creative responses. Children also thoroughly enjoyed receiving an Archie the Archives bug sticker! It was a real privilege for us to meet these children and see the wonderful work that the volunteers and teachers do at the Rainbow Club.



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 £2072 with grateful thanks to the 61 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).

Design and artwork: Ian Winter Design. www.ianwinterdesign.co.uk

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.