

Outreach

A Friends
of The National Archives



The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

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A message from the Chairman

May be it is a sign of increasing age (and wisdom, or course) but the end of each year seems to come around ever more quickly. As the year draws to a close we can reflect upon further progress on a number of fronts.

Behind the scenes we have worked hard to develop our policies and procedures, have taken the new GDPR responsibilities in our stride and developed our risk register. There is still more to do and 2019 should see the task completed. We have also been involved in the Charity Commission consultation process to help with formulating new guidance.

During the year we disbursed approximately £20,000 for a variety of TNA projects and activities. These included the family Tudor Take Over Day; providing funds to enable the long running Gascon Rolls project to be completed; the Holding History film-making project; supporting the Suffrage joint event between TNA and The National Trust; purchasing AV display equipment for the Keeper's Gallery; the art-based project on the Armistice; the Big Ideas Talks series and the Summer Lecture Series. We also funded the screening of *Historic Britain* films, a series released by the Independent Cinema Office. Although funding was approved in 2017, we were very pleased to see our research fellowship scheme inaugurated this year.

The big event of the year was our 30th anniversary, which also coincided with 40 years at Kew. We have come along way in thirty years and the next step will be incorporation. This will help to consolidate the governance and enable us to more effectively meet all the complex demands of running a charity today.



Members of the Friends' management team (l-r: Eileen, John, Tony, Cathy and Sara) with the donated Christmas tree.



Other changes next year will include Dave Darby, Simon Gregor and Sara Hill standing down from their trustee roles. We will be welcoming new members to the team including Tony Willenbruch as a trustee and also Alexandra Ralphs, who has already joined us and will takeover the outreach role as a non-trustee

position when Simon steps down. We have two events with other Friends organisations – one at Nottingham in February (details elsewhere in this publication), and at Chichester in May. Details for this will follow in due course.

We have achieved a lot over the years but none of this would have been possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of our volunteers who have helped in so many different ways. I greatly value and appreciate the time dedicated to support the Friends – a big thank you from me. To all our members, and on behalf of the Friends' Council, I send my best wishes **for the season and the New Year.**

Tony Wakeford
chairman@ftna.org.uk

ftna.org.uk

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MEMBERSHIP COUNTER
1131

News about our visits programme and book reviews

Maggie Deighton updates us on two members' activities

Report on visit to Benjamin Franklin House



The last Friends' visit of 2018 was to Benjamin Franklin's House in central London. Twelve people attended and at the end of the visit we got to see a replica of Franklin's glass armonica and were even invited to play it.

Visits Programme for 2019

Work is now underway on finalising the visits programme for 2019. Do you have a favourite place we should visit? Would you like to help by organising a visit yourself? If you are interested please email Maggie Deighton, Visits Co-ordinator, on visits_events@ftna.org.uk

Book Review Team

Would you like to join our Book Review Team and help the National Archives bookshop? Publishers sometimes give the Friends review copies of books that will be stocked in the National Archives bookshop. They may be advance uncorrected proofs, not for sale, or normal published editions. These review copies are offered to members of the book review team who write a book review to go up on the bookshop webpages with the aim of increasing sales for TNA.

We are currently awaiting a volunteer to review the following books:

- *Female Railway Workers of World War II* by Susan Major
- *Nevertheless She Persisted* by Jon Walter
- *The Book of the Poppy* by Chris McNab

If you are interested in joining the Book Review Team please email the Team Co-ordinator, Maggie Deighton, on brt@ftna.org.uk who will provide you with a copy of the book review guidelines and send you the book of your choice if it is still available. Once the review is completed, the reviewer is able to keep the book or more often, reviewers return the book so that it can be added to the Friends' library.

Obituary – Baroness Trumpington

We would like to express our condolences at the sad loss of one of our patrons, Jean Alys Barker, Baroness Trumpington, DCVO, PC, who recently passed away at the age of 96.

Her working life began as a WW2 land-girl on the farm owned by former PM David Lloyd George and then moving on as an 18 year old fluent in German and French to become a cypher clerk transcribing messages from

German submarines for code breakers at Bletchley Park.

Created a life peer in 1980, her parliamentary career blossomed and she became a formidable figure in British politics whilst serving under Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Described by some of her peers as a remarkable woman, trailblazer and heroine she went on to serve in the House of Lords up until one day after her 95th birthday.



Signed and Sealed

A joint event hosted by Nottinghamshire Archives, the Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives and the Friends of The National Archives. The event will examine local and nationally held records to reveal the roles of signatures and seals in identifying the ownership of documents.

Ruth Imeson, Heritage Services Manager for Nottinghamshire will explore the signatures held in Nottinghamshire Archives, the reasons for their existence, and the different styles of signature used by some of the county's most and least famous residents.

Dr Paul Dryburgh, Principal Record Specialist at The National Archives will explore the practices and rituals of sealing, the materials used, their iconography and heraldry, the different types of seal used by institutions and individuals and how sealing changed over time.

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 takes place at Nottinghamshire Archives on **Saturday 23 February 2019, 1.30 - 5.30pm.**
General admission £11.67 (including £1.67 fee).
 Tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/signed-and-sealed-tickets-52443888081>.

Thunder and Lightning: The Blitz on Berlin in World War II at Ground Zero and in the Ionosphere



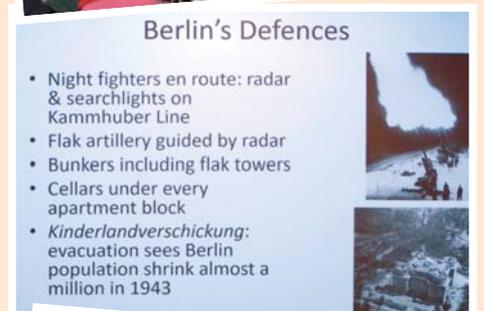
Patrick Major

Our end of year event to thank staff and volunteers for supporting the Friends took place in the event space on 13 December. After the buffet over 50 members and staff enjoyed a fascinating talk 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.

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Drawing on the collections held at TNA he discussed the political tensions over bombing civilian targets and the American's intent on focusing on military and commercial targets. He outlined 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 concluded by highlighting the collaborative research project with Professor Scott at the Meteorology Department at the University of Reading examining the affect of bombing on the ionosphere. The RAF kept precise records of the bombing raids so it has been possible to track the changes in radio propagation and link changes in the ionosphere with bombing raids, and the use of high explosive bombs in particular. The talk was followed by a question and answer session.



Pictures courtesy of Joao Santos.

NEW DATES FOR 2019

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
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.



CAR PARKING

After many months of delay this is a reminder that parking charges will now be introduced from 3 January.

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 £2,142 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).