

Outreach

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

Vol 7: No 1, February 2020

Incorporation – we are one step closer and an important date for the diary

In the December edition of *Outreach* I announced that the Charity Commission had promptly approved our application as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and that the Friends of The National Archives CIO was now registered as a charity, no. 1185971.

The Friends' Council have carefully considered the timing of the next stage in the process – the dissolution of the current charity and the transfer of assets and liabilities. There is a considerable amount of work involved and we decided to get the bulk of annual renewals resolved beforehand.

We have arranged for a Special General Meeting to be held in the Events Space at The National Archives on Tuesday 31 March. The meeting will be held in the afternoon at 3pm with refreshments provided. There will also be a guest speaker – see details shown separately.

Full details and the formal notice for the meeting and agenda will be circulated to all members by the end of February / beginning of March. Instructions will also be included regarding the ballot for voting on whether or not to dissolve the charity.

This is an important process and we

need as many members as possible to participate, both in voting but also in attending the SGM. For the resolution to pass it must be supported by two-thirds of the votes cast. For the process to be legal we must have a quorum at the SGM, so attendance is vital to ensure that we comply with the constitution and for the outcome to be binding.

I anticipate that the meeting itself will be relatively short, depending on any last minute queries, and should last no more than 20 minutes. I cannot stress too strongly how important it is to have a good attendance to ensure the legality of the process. If all goes according to plan then we propose to formally close the charity at the AGM on 16 June and enact the transfers on or soon after that date.

When the papers are distributed if there are any queries please contact either Tony Reed secretary@ftna.org.uk or myself. There is a list of FAQs in the members' area of the website that may be helpful. Please note the 31 March for the SGM and I look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Tony Wakeford
chairman@ftna.org.uk

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@ftna.org.uk



MEMBERSHIP COUNTER

1127

2020 Visits programme – The first two visit days have been confirmed

Friday 3rd April

Morning and afternoon visits near Parliament Square

Duration about 4 hours

11am Guided tour of The Supreme Court lasting about an hour

We will be shown around the beautiful courtrooms as well as the magnificent Justices' Library, which is not normally open to the public, by an experienced member of staff. The guide will give us an introduction to the Court's role in the UK justice system, explain about the history and artwork of the building, give interesting examples of cases heard by the Court and answer any questions which we may have.

After the tour there will be free time to visit the exhibition area and/or have lunch in the basement café (at own cost).

2pm guided tour of St Margaret's Church lasting 30-45 minutes

St Margaret's is the parish church of the House of Commons and it was here that Winston Churchill, Samuel Pepys and John Milton were married. St Margaret's was probably originally built in the latter part of the 11th century, and it has always had a close relationship with Westminster Abbey next door.

Members £16.50, Guests £19.50



Tuesday 12th May – 2pm

Visit to the Bank of England Museum

Duration about 2-2.5 hours



We will start with a 60 minute presentation in the Museum's cinema entitled *Bank of England, Past and Present* which provides a brief history of the Bank since 1694 and explains its main role and function today.

We will then be able to see two special exhibitions in the museum.

The first is *325 Years, 325 Objects*

which presents 325 objects from the archives spanning the 325 year history of the Bank and includes Roman relics and a nuclear fall-out calculator from the Cold War.

The second special exhibition, *Painting a Fortune: JMW Turner and the Bank of England* coincides with the introduction of the new £20 note

featuring JMW Turner, and includes papers from the archives which shed light on Turner's career and investments.

Audio guides will be available for the museum visit so you can view the exhibitions at your own pace. It will take about an hour to look around the museum.

Members £16.50, Guests £19.50

The talk following the special general meeting

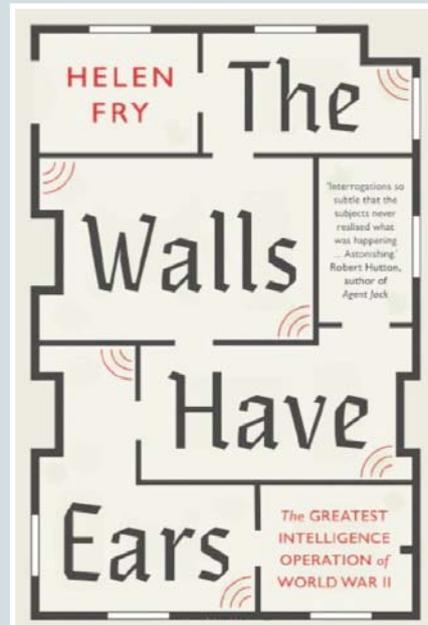
We are pleased to welcome author and historian Dr Helen Fry who will give a talk after the SGM on her book *The Walls Have Ears*.

Quoting from her website (www.helen-fry.com):

'A few days before the start of World War Two, Secret Intelligence Service spymaster Thomas Kendrick arrived at the Tower of London to trial a top secret operation: German prisoners' cells were to be bugged and listeners installed behind the walls to record and transcribe their private conversations.

This intelligence gathering mission proved so effective that it would go on to be set up at a further three sites – and provide the Allies with crucial insight into new technology and deadly V-weapons being developed by the Nazis.'

'Dr Helen Fry has written numerous books on the Second World War with particular reference to the 10,000 Germans and



Austrians who fought for Britain.

With a portfolio of experience as a WWII historian, Helen undertakes

consultancy work for documentary companies and as a consultant historian for location filming of WWII scenes for several TV channels including BBC, ITV and Channel 4.

She has also been engaged in a range of wider historical projects, including for schools curriculum and adult education, relating to WW1, WWII and The Cold War.

Helen is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Dept of Hebrew & Jewish Studies at UCL, a member of The Biographers' Club and Honorary Member of The Association of Jewish Refugees. She is an Associate Editor for 'Eye Spy Magazine' and is a trustee and Deputy Chair of the Trent Park Museum Trust.'

There will be a book signing after the talk and Q&As.

The Gascon Rolls: TNA, C61

For much of the later Middle Ages, South-Western France (Aquitaine) was under English Rule and every year between 1273-1467 a Gascon Roll was drawn up by the English royal administrators. This was even though the area was lost to the English in 1453. The Gascon Rolls recorded a wide range of business and mentioned many people and places, and they have survived as a rich and valuable source for research on late Medieval England and France.

On Friday 10 January the Friends Chairman, Dr Tony Wakeford and Vice Chairman, Eileen Wicks accepted an invitation from Professor Anne Curry to attend the Institute of Historical Research for a conference and the final launch of the completed online calendars. A day programme consisting of nine lectures that not only underlined the considerable value the



Professor Anne Curry, University of Southampton and FTNA Chairman

Dr Tony Wakeford

documents bring for research but also, how the information contained within the Gascon Rolls can be used in conjunction with that of other digital projects.

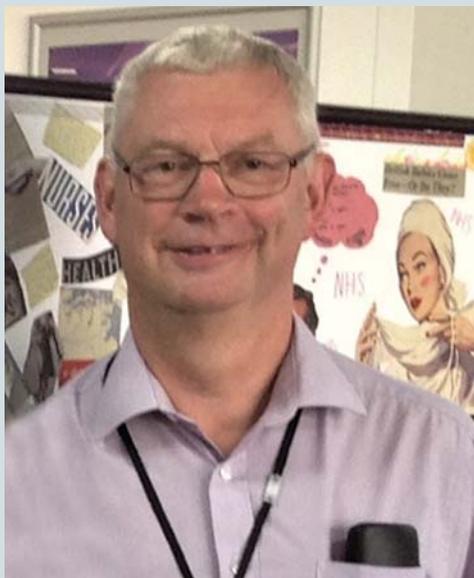
The Friends are proud to say they were one of the organizations who

contributed towards the considerable funding which allowed numerous eminent historians to work on the project, which had taken over 11 years to complete at the Universities of Oxford, Liverpool, Kings College London, Bordeaux, Southampton and Keele.

New Appointment

We are pleased to welcome Tony Reed who has joined the Friends' Council as a trustee and taken up the vacant secretary role.

Tony has been working with the Council for sometime as the meetings administrator – looking after agendas and minutes of meetings. His decision to step up to the new role is very much appreciated as we prepare for the next stage in the incorporation process as outlined on page 1.



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 £2505 with grateful thanks to the 66 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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ftna.org.uk

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