

FTNA Newsletter

The newsletter of the Friends of The National Archives

Vol 1: No 1, April 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the online FTNA Newsletter. This bi-monthly publication has been introduced so that the members can be kept regularly updated and informed about what is happening within the charity. It is also hoped that it will be somewhere that the members will get in touch, send their news, or make their own contributions.

The Newsletter will only be available online. By keeping production costs to a minimum, the aim is that more of the charity's funds can be made available to support TNA projects. A copy of the newsletter will be emailed directly to each member and it will also be found on the ftna website.

The appeal for volunteers

Following the December 2022 appeal to the membership for volunteers to assist with the charity's administration the Trustees would like to thank everyone who took the time to get in touch with us. We received numerous emails in support of those already carrying out the voluntary tasks necessary to keep the Friends charity running, which was very much appreciated. Importantly we also received quite a number of responses from members offering their skills, experience and knowledge, and enquiring about the various vacant positions. In consequence of the appeal we are really pleased to say that

in the last three months we have so far appointed a new Treasurer and three new Trustees. We have managed to put together new editorial teams for the FTNA *Magna* magazine and the FTNA Newsletter, and we are currently in the process of inducting a new Membership Secretary and a new Social Media Coordinator. On top of this the Trustees are also delighted to announce the appointment of Historian Dr Clare Jackson who has agreed to become the new FTNA President.

In this first edition of the newsletter we are introducing some of the newly appointed members of voluntary staff to you, and you will also find details for the upcoming 2023 AGM. As with last year, the AGM will again be held live in the TNA Event Space at Kew and for those of you who are able, we do hope you will attend. It will be a great opportunity for members to be able to meet their new FTNA President in person, as well as catch up with the Trustees and the rest of the team.

We are still working on filling various other essential administrative roles, including that of FTNA Chairperson, Fundraiser, Meetings Administrator and Outreach Coordinator. If you are at all interested in joining the FTNA team and in helping to run the charity using your skills, knowledge and experience then please do get in touch.

Eileen Wicks, Vice Chair
vicechairman@ftna.org.uk

2023 FTNA CIO

4pm – 7pm ~ Tuesday 20 June 2023

All members of the Friends are invited to attend the FTNA CIO Annual General Meeting being held in the Event Space, TNA Kew

Proceedings will commence at 4pm with a report on the governance and operational aspects of the charity, the election and re-election of the trustees, and a financial report from the FTNA Treasurer

There will then be a short introduction from the new FTNA President and Historian Dr Clare Jackson.

The meeting will close at 7pm

Refreshments will be available from the TNA Café until 5pm. TNA Bookshop will be open until 5pm

AGM TALK

This will be followed by this years AGM talk given by Dr Amanda Bevan, TNA Head of the Legal Records Team and specialist in the records of the courts of Chancery and the Star Chamber in the early modern period.

Advancing on All Fronts - Reinforcements Needed": an overview of the 20 year Prize Papers Project.

This ambitious project aims to sort, catalogue and digitize the thousands of letters and papers taken from ships delivering mail alongside cargo, and captured between 1652 and 1815.

In this last year the Project has started to deliver online content and to engage public interest. What challenges have been met, what remain, and what fascinating things have been discovered so far?

FTNA President - Dr Clare Jackson

I'm delighted and honoured to have been invited to become President of the Friends of The National Archives; I look forward to meeting many Friends, Volunteers and Trustees over the coming months. Possessing the insatiable curiosity of all historians, I'm keen to learn more about the valuable ways in which FTNA, through its fundraising activity, one-off events and volunteering commitments both supports The National Archives in preserving, digitising and acquiring additional equipment to preserve its collections, while also bringing its rich resources and institutional expertise to new and diverse audiences. Ever since my undergraduate degree, and throughout my professional career, I've derived a thrill from working with archives. As a PhD student in the 1990s, I recall the trepidation with which I first submitted document requests in the darkly, atmospheric reading rooms of the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane. I also remember the sheer excitement of opening a leather-covered treaty box when I interviewed Dr Katy Mair at Kew for a BBC2 television series on The Stuarts in 2014. The box contained PRO 30/49: one of three vellum copies



of an abortive Treaty of Union negotiated between England and Scotland in 1604 that still bears sixty-three red wax English and Scots seals on silk and gold laces. Although the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh went on to pass an 'Act anent the Union of Scotland and England' in August 1607, its Westminster counterpart failed to do likewise – at least not for another one hundred years, and in very

different circumstances under Queen Anne in 1707. In my new capacity as FTNA President, I'm looking forward to multiple return visits to Kew to admire more archival treasures and explore new and different ways in which the Friends can continue to support The National Archives in preserving our past records, while also documenting the present in order to inform all our futures.

New Newsletter editor - Jackie Worrall

Jackie Worrall is a retired IT professional with a lifelong interest in history. When she retired, she chose to study for a degree in history and was introduced to The National Archives and their vast collections of records. Having an interest in the Huguenot refugees of the sixteenth century she used the extensive records, held in The National Archives to prepare her dissertations for both her BA and MA. She has been active in local politics and various community projects from protection of the local Common to reuse of a Railway Signal Box. This has given Jackie extensive experience of working with committees, preparing reports and liaising with members of the public, however, she has never before been involved in editing a newsletter. Communication is extremely important and Jackie wants to ensure that members understand what the Friends are planning; how successful these plans have been; and give them the opportunity to send feedback.

New Trustee - Toby Ewin

Toby Ewin OBE is a retired civil servant who read History at Cambridge and then worked at the Ministry of Defence, Cabinet Office and Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre. In 2009–10 he was a visiting scholar at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism & Political Violence at the University of St Andrews, and since 2014 has been a visiting senior research fellow at King's College London. His principal research interests are First World War naval history (in particular the Black Sea conflict and the development of wargames in the navies of that era), chemical and biological terrorism, and the local history of the Maldens and Coombe in SW London. He is also a library volunteer and a member of maritime history, ordnance and local history societies. He has published articles in various journals (including *Magna*), and several more articles and some books are in preparation. In the future, he hopes to be able to assist with *Magna*.

LGBTQ Project and premiere

An update on one of the projects supported by the Friends

Over the last seven years The National Archives Education and Outreach Department have run an annual young peoples' project. Each year a different theme is picked and in 2022 the diverse historical theme of LGBTQ history was focused upon. This tied in with the 50th anniversary of the first Pride March in London in 1972, and followed just after the Pride month of June.

Participants were selected following a callout to schools and colleges asking for young people to apply to attend. The project included a one week workshop which took place onsite at Kew in the July/August 2022 summer holidays. Each applicant was first asked to produce 150 words on why they would like to take part in the project before a final fifteen students were chosen. The young people's attendance on this project goes on to become part of their education. As well as promoting The National Archives it also shows how creative you can be with the records using the many fascinating stories and themes contained within the vast collections.

Working with the Film Maker Nigel Kellaway, the students were asked to engage with the documents through filmmaking. Consultation was also given by the TNA Principal Records Specialist Vicky Iglkowski-Broad as she has an extensive knowledge of the records which was essential to the success of the project.

The young people had to consider such things as how people described their gender identity, where people would meet to socialise, communication, and defiance and resistance in the face of criminalisation. The LGBTQ records at the Archives tend to be more male dominated due to the nature of the law pre-1967. Female lesbian relationships were never criminalised in the same way that homosexuality was with men, therefore there was a need to consider how people communicated, how their



Line-up in photograph left to right:- Steven Gould (FTNA Trustee), Hannah Carter (TNA Onsite Education Manager), Emily Morris (TNA Family and Young People's Programme Officer), Rachel Hillman (TNA Education Department Deputy), Brian Smith (FTNA Trustee), Clare Horrie (TNA Education Website Manager)

actions were monitored by the state, and what changed after the 1967 Sexual Offences Act.

Not all aspects of the project subject were overly serious though. The students were also allowed to reflect on progress and positivity with more 'light hearted' records such as Freddie Mercury's naturalisation certificate and Elton John's deed poll to change his name.

On Wednesday 15 February the young people's final work was premiered at an evening showcase event held in the Event Space at TNA. Two of the FTNA Trustees Brian Smith and Steven Gould, accepted an invitation to attend and meet some of the students, and to watch the finished film. Brian expressed his thanks to The National Archives members of staff and in particular for the work undertaken by the students themselves.

The Friends are proud to

have been able to provide essential and much needed funding towards this project. It was an opportunity for the charity to be involved with and supportive of the TNA, with their creative and topical programmes, and importantly in their work of opening up the nations documents to the younger audience.

The link to see the finished films is: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/students/archive-experiences/2022-lgbtq-history-in-the-archives/>



Film making in progress

From the Newsletter Editor

I have been appointed as editor of the FTNA Newsletter. Its purpose is to keep the members of the Friends of The National Archives informed of what is happening and what plans the Friends have for the future.



Jackie Worrall

As Editor, I would encourage members to send me feedback on topics or events that they have enjoyed, whether organised by the Friends or the Archives, and detailing why it was successful. While undertaking your research have you found any interesting documents that you believe other members would find interesting? Is your research limited to the documents you can search online or have you been able to use any of the special collections that are not available online, for example those of the Huguenot Society?

I would also welcome feedback on how frequently members are able to visit Kew and whether more local events and projects would be beneficial. This newsletter is not intended to be solely an extension of the administration process. It is intended that members will be able to communicate interesting information about their research and experiences with other members.

Any feedback should be sent to newsletter@ftna.org.uk

Magna magazine update

Due to the hard work and contributions of so many over the years the FTNA *Magna* magazine has always been viewed by anyone who has read a copy as a really successful asset for the Friends charity. It is a publication produced by a relatively moderately sized charitable organisation however its high quality of content and the printing standards used have always taken it to another level. The majority of this success can be attributed to the legacy left behind by the previous FTNA Chairman, Dr Tony Wakeford. He developed *Magna* into what it is today and this legacy is something that the current trustees will strive to do all they can to protect and maintain. Recently though a couple of important decisions had to be taken with regards to *Magna*.

Firstly, a new editorial team has had to be put together. Dr Joan Harvey has now been appointed as the Editor of *Magna* and she has been joined by Howard Greenwood, as Assistant Editor. Both have been working really hard over the last few weeks and have already managed to make significant inroad into finding material for the next issue.

Secondly, it is unfortunate that the timeline is rather tight between the new editorial staff being appointed and the usual publication deadline of May for the next edition of *Magna*. Therefore, the decision has been made to publish and print just one bumper issue of *Magna* magazine for July 2023.

We are hoping that the members will understand that this single 2023 edition will allow us a little extra time to ensure that *Magna's* quality and standards can be maintained. Should anyone like to contribute an article or perhaps some other content to the next edition of the magazine then please do not hesitate to contact Joan at editor@ftna.org.uk

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Friends of The National Archives with easyfundraising?

The Friends have currently received an amazing £3,493.96 from members using easyfundraising.

There are over 7,000 brands on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

If you are interested all you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/national-archives/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the brand will make a donation to Friends of The National Archives at no extra cost to you whatsoever!
4. There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of The National Archives will be really grateful for your donations.

FTNA thank you for your support.

