

The St. Neots Local History Society, founded in 1981, exists to promote interest in the rich and varied history of the town of St. Neots and the surrounding area through monthly meetings, research and summer outings. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the history of this town, or in local history generally.

During the summer we organise excursions to places of historical interest within the locality and sometimes further afield, led by members of the Society or by local experts. Historical information is collected and our archives are held in the St Neots Library. There is also an on-going programme to erect plaques to local celebrities throughout the town.

The Society publishes a regular newsletter which contains interesting articles on local history.

Our annual membership subscription is just £12 and is always available at our meetings. Alternatively send a cheque for £12 made payable to 'St Neots Local History Society' to:

Mr Dave Jarrett
St Neots Local History Society
3 Collingwood Road
Eaton Socon
St Neots
Cambs.
PE19 8JQ

Telephone: 01480 216065

All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of the Month in Lynesbury Junior School (unless stated otherwise).

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Visitors are welcome for a small fee of £2.50.

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Beating the Bounds:
Every year, on Rogation Sunday, a small group of enthusiasts 'Beat the Bounds' of the parish. This comprises a 14 mile walk following, as far as possible, the parish boundary of St Neots. This year the walk will be on:

Sunday 1st May 2016

For further details, contact Don Hill: 01480 218805

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**Programme for
2016**

<http://stneotshs.org.uk>

St Neots Local History Society

St Neots Local History Society – Programme for 2016

8th January	<p>Walden House, Huntingdon by Andrew Bish (Current resident of Walden House)</p> <p>The fascinating story of this late C17th house, tucked in behind the church, which the notable architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, considered to be the best house on Market Hill. Used as a Red Cross hospital during WW1, this historic gem was restored in 2007.</p>
5th February	<p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Followed by: 'It pays to Advertise' by David Bushby (Our President)</p> <p>A new talk from David looking at what advertisements can tell us about our area a hundred or more years ago.</p>
4th March	<p>Flitwick Manor Park by Stephen Coleman (Historic Environment Information Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council)</p> <p>The history of the 19th century development by John Thomas Brooks of Flitwick Manor Park (Mid Bedfordshire). An intriguing story tracing the development of a garden and arboretum of national significance, but which is not well known today.</p>
1st April	<p>A New Look at Victorian Kimbolton by Nora Butler (Chairman, Kimbolton Local History Society)</p> <p>A talk based on a set of glass plate negatives which Nora bought a couple of years ago. It seems a few of them were used to produce local postcards, but most are photographs which have not been seen before.</p>
6th May	<p>The Godmanchester Stirling Bomber by Roger Leivers (Godmanchester's specialist on all things aeronautical)</p> <p>The amazing story of a bomber crew and their lives before, during and after the war, including the raids they took part in and the crashes and close calls they experienced.</p>
3rd June	<p>Pubs past and present of Eaton Socon Parish by Sue Jarrett (SNLHS Member and Chair of Eatons Community Association)</p> <p>Find out about the past and present Public Houses and Coaching Inns in Eaton Ford, Eaton Socon and the rest of the parish - where they were, their names, size, special visitors and their publicans. Find out which pub had stabling for 100 horses, which never had mains electricity or mains water and which one was visited by Cambridge graduates.</p>
1st July - <i>pre-booking required</i>	<p>Guided tour: Cracking Tales and Dark Deeds of Old Biggleswade Led by Jane Dale (Biggleswade History Society Newsletter Editor)</p> <p>The story of Shortmead Street, one of the oldest and formerly most infamous streets in Biggleswade. Hear tales of the waggon that crashed into the River Ivel in 1787, of old coaching inns and lost ale houses, the wharves for the canal goods, the horse thieves who were hanged and see where the wealthy lived and the poor struggled and much more! Jane brings the old street back to life!</p>
5th August - <i>pre-booking required</i>	<p>Guided tour: Willington Dovecote & Stables Led by Judy Endersby (Custodian of the Buildings)</p> <p>A chance to see these outstanding 16th-century stone-built dovecote and stable buildings set in tranquil surroundings alongside Willington church.</p>
2nd September	<p>St Neots and the Great War by Liz Davies (Curator of St Neots Museum)</p> <p>A talk looking at both those who went to fight and the lives of those who stayed at home and coped with the fall-out from the 'war to end all wars'.</p>
7th October	<p>Stourbridge Fair by Honor Ridout (Chairman of Cambridgeshire Association for Local History)</p> <p>For hundreds of years the area known as Stourbridge Common on the eastern edge of Cambridge was home to possibly the largest fair of medieval Europe; now all that remains is a scattering of street names; Garlic row, Mercers Row and Oyster Row. Digging into archives, charters, proclamations and other ancient documents, Honor recreates a vivid picture of the Fair.</p>
4th November	<p>Life & Times of an Eynesbury Market Gardener - Images from a family photo album by Rodney Todman (SNLHS Archivist)</p> <p>A brand new talk from Rodney with another set of early photographs, not previously seen by any other history group. Be among the first to hear the story.</p>
 2nd December	<p>The History of Christmas Customs in Cambs & Hunts by Maureen James (Historian, Writer, Folklorist and Storyteller)</p> <p>An exploration of the history behind the varied customs connected to the festive season. Commencing with Advent Calendars and concluding with Plough Monday, and covering many aspects including Christmas food, decorations, carol singing and Father Christmas.</p>