

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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*For further details, contact Don Hill: 01480 218805*

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**Programme for  
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<http://stneotshs.org.uk>

**St Neots Local History Society**

## St Neots Local History Society – Programme for 2017

<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Prisoner of War Camps in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire by Kenneth Lewis (Keen 2<sup>nd</sup> World War researcher)</b> With the capture in North Africa of 35,000 Italians in 1941, five hundred Prisoners of War were sent to Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire to work. Hear the story of a number of escape attempts by both Germans and Italians which the British Government covered up.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Followed by: Postcards from St Neots, Part 2 by Rodney Todman (SNLHS Archivist)</b> It's hard to believe, but it's been 3 years since Rodney presented Part 1 of this talk to the Society. But it seems Rodney has found some more postcards! Expect an evening of fascinating history delivered with in-depth knowledge and humour.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Lady Margaret Beaufort - Saint or Schemer? by Margaret Badley (Former Senior Lecturer in War and History at De Montfort University)</b> Margaret Beaufort was born at Bletsoe Castle, just north of Bedford, in 1443. She was a key figure in the Wars of the Roses and an influential matriarch of the House of Tudor (she was mother of Henry VII). She is also credited with the establishment of two prominent Cambridge colleges. Margaret Badley will give us a real insight into her life.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>The Gallipoli campaign by Keith Edmonds (Membership Secretary for The Gallipoli Association)</b> Hear how the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign changed the Great War into a World War. Planned to break the stalemate on the Western Front, over 500,000 Allied troops fought in appalling conditions as the Gallipoli peninsula became a scene of close-quarter combat. Death and disease seemed inevitable - as did the final outcome.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>One of the Few - The Memoirs of Wing Commander Ted 'Shippy' Shipman by John Shipman (Author of the book of the same title)</b> John will tell us about his father, a farmer's boy who learnt to fly in his own time and flew Spitfires to defend his country. Based on the copious notes that 'Shippy' wrote in the 1970s the talk brings a first-hand insight into the life of an RAF Spitfire pilot during the early war years and his remaining wartime and post-war service until 1959.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>The Kimbolton Hoard by Liz Davies (Curator of St Neots Museum)</b> In advance of the exhibition in St Neots Museum during July to September, Liz will tell us about this exciting discovery of 68 gold Iron Age coins found at Kimbolton in 2010. These coins were in circulation 50 to 60 years before the Roman invasion of Britain and as such are amongst the earliest examples of money to be circulated in our island. Amongst other things, Liz will explore the reasons for their burial 2000 year ago.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>- pre-booking required</i>	<b>Guided tour: Visit to Castor Led by Jackie Cook (Member of the St. Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust)</b> The church of St Kyneburgha at Castor is one of the finest Norman churches in England, packed with architectural, archaeological and historical interest. Not only that, but it stand on the site of a huge and important Roman building. Small sections of masonry from this Roman building are still preserved in a garden wall.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>- pre-booking required</i>	<b>Guided tour: Guided walk around St Neots Parish Church Led by David Rudd (Life-long St Neots Historian)</b> It's been many years since this Society had a guided tour of our own parish church. So this is a chance for new members to get to know the oldest building in town and for longer serving members to reacquaint themselves and perhaps learn something new.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Industrial Archaeology by Alan Denney (Former Chairman of Cambridge Museum of Technology for 8 years)</b> This is the story of the former Cheddars Lane Pumping Station (now Cambridge Museum of Technology) and the innovative way in which the city dealt with its waste through the Victorian period.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>The changing face of shops in St Neots by Sue Jarrett (Member of St Neots Community Archive Group)</b> You might think that you know the shops in St Neots but they are always changing - come along and try to identify past and present shops in our fast changing town. See the shops from a whole new angle!
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>Update on Little End excavations by Jonathan House (Senior Supervisor, Pre-Construct Archaeology)</b> Now that the dust has settled and Lidl's Eaton Socon store has opened its doors, this is a chance to hear more about the excavations and the latest research on the finds. 8000 years of history in a one hour talk!
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b> 	<b>A Tudor Christmas, in Costume and Character by Katy Salmon (Regular Tudor re-enactor at Kentwell Hall, Suffolk)</b> Hear about the food our ancestors ate 500 years ago ... and a chance to taste some of the recipes as prepared by our speaker. If you've never tried common pottage or pease pudding before, this is your chance!