

Finedon Local History Society



*Friends' Meeting House, built 1690.
On the occasion of the official opening of the building by the late
Mr Jim Gibbard to the Finedon Local History Society.*

13th October 2001

Newsletter
January 2019

Chairman's Report for 2018

It was with some degree of trepidation that I took on the role of Chairman last year following Malcolm's 11 years in the post. He has done so much for the Society from its earliest days, he remained on the committee for the last year but has now, at his own request, decided not to put himself up for re-election as he will be moving to Lincolnshire in the new year to be closer to one of his two daughters. Malcolm will, however, continue to be a member. He has had a bad year with health problems but appears to be much improved now thankfully.

We have had a good year for speakers. Two were unable to attend due to personal circumstances. However, the two substitutes, Derek Blunt and Malcolm Deacon very ably stepped in to replace them. The speakers programme for 2019 is fully booked, all thanks to Carolyn. (*see back page*)

In May we visited the Harrington Aircraft Museum. Around 20 members attended and found it most interesting – the two guides had an encyclopaedic knowledge of their subject! In the same month we had a visit to the Meeting House by a group of Northamptonshire Quakers, they were very impressed with the historical significance of the building. The Society held its annual exhibition presenting photographs of "Finedon Shops, Past and Present" which attracted a lot of interest generating many nostalgic comments from the visitors!

In October, over two weekends, the Royal British Legion (Finedon and Irthlingborough Branch) held an exhibition of their history and the work it undertakes today supporting ex-servicemen and their families. This proved to be a very successful exhibition and it was standing room only on the first day of opening!

The Society book "Farming in Finedon" written by Richard Buckby and Malcolm Peet proved to be a success with all copies now sold out. An excellent piece of research and work carried out by Richard and Malcolm.

Unfortunately, this year has been marred by the prospect of the Society losing the Meeting House as a base. The Gibbard family concerned by the potential heavy cost of repairs and upkeep of the

building wish to sell it. At first, we were offered a lease, but that was withdrawn. We were then offered the opportunity to buy the building for £50,000, which we could not afford, particularly when you add running costs and the cost of some major work that needs to be done in the not too distant future. The group of Quakers who used the building in May were very keen to buy the building, but their financial body declined the request. The Parish Church were also interested at one stage but there was insufficient support for such a commitment. The building (at the time of writing - late November) is currently up for sale and despite our best efforts we have nowhere to go and have not been able to secure a suitable alternative location. If anyone can help, we would be very grateful. We can, of course continue to use the Mission Room for our monthly meetings, which is some consideration.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their help throughout the year. I would also like to thank Mick and Carolyn for their research work and producing the Society newsletter. Finally, a special word of thanks to Sheila who does so much "behind the scenes" to physically prepare items for our exhibitions, laminating photographs, sorting and filing Finedon related newspaper articles – and that is just a few of her tasks she willingly undertakes. Sheila makes a very good cup of tea/coffee too! Thank you.

David Bailey

FLHS 2019 Membership Reminder

Thank you to all our members who have already renewed their subscriptions.

If you have not yet renewed, we hope that you will do so before 31st March 2019, so that you will continue to receive the next edition of the newsletter, which will be available in May.

Your subscription (£5 for the year) may be sent to Mrs Rachel Terry, Mill Cottage, Finedon Road, Finedon, NN9 5NQ. Alternatively, it can be dropped off at the Meeting House (whilst we are still using the building) on a Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon or given to a committee member during one of our monthly meetings.

2019 FLHS Committee

The officers and committee members elected at the AGM on 26th November 2018 are:

President	Jacqui Minchinton
Chairman	David Bailey
Vice Chairman	Michael Shipton
Secretary	Mick Britton
Treasurer	Rachel Terry
Minute Secretary	Brenda Beck
Committee Members	Karen Eames Jeremy Millington James Sheehan
Researcher	Carolyn Smith.

It is with much pleasure that during the meeting it was proposed that Malcolm Peet and our President Jacqui Minchinton, another founder member, be made Life Members of the Society. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Finedon Quakers and their Meeting House

Carolyn Smith

George Fox (1624-1691) was the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers. He was born in Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, the son of a weaver, and was apprenticed as a shoemaker. He had a deep interest in religious affairs, quitting his apprenticeship he travelled the countryside looking for spiritual enlightenment by attending different religious meetings and studying the Bible. He eventually concluded that all sects were wrong in their form of worship.

Fox first preached publicly in 1647, and from then onwards he travelled the countryside proclaiming what he saw as the pure and genuine principles of Christianity in their original simplicity. There is no date for the formation of the Society of Friends, but the movement grew out of meetings held around the country where Fox preached his sermons. By 1652 he had gathered a talented team of preachers who travelled the countryside and spread their

type of worship that took the form of silent waiting punctuated by individuals speaking as the Spirit moved them. Fox and his followers clashed with both the Anglican Church and, during the Commonwealth period, the Puritan sects. Consequently, many of them spent periods in gaol resulting from their conflict with the religious authorities and the laws of the times.

Quakerism came early to Finedon. Although there is no evidence of George Fox preaching here, he, or one of his early followers must have preached locally and have been heard by one or more Finedon residents. The first evidence of Quakers in Finedon appears in Joseph Besse's "*A collection of the Sufferings of the people called Quakers*", which detailed various punishments meted out to early Quakers in the 17th century. On the 13th September 1657 William Ireland of Wellingborough went into the Finedon church and addressed the congregation after the service. For this offence he was committed to the House of Correction for 6 months.

The following decades had a number of different Finedon Quakers being imprisoned, fined and committed to the ecclesiastical courts, for, amongst other things, non-attendance at communion and non-payment of tithes. Prominent amongst these "wrongdoers" were the Mackerness, Garratt, Day and Whitlark families. These same families were those who quickly built a Meeting House in Finedon, after the passing of the 1689 Toleration Act that granted freedom of worship to non-conformists.

An early Quaker minute book states "*The Friends Meeting House now a building in Findon in ye said County is soe far from Gilbt Dolbins nose, as he complains of, that it could not be set further from him unless in the Fields. And that it is further off from him and the steeple house than the old Meeting House was by 7 or 8 doors, and that Meetings have been kept there upwards of 30 years.*" This time scale tallies with when Finedon Quakers began to appear in the court records, and 7 or 8 doors nearer to the church indicates the earlier meetings were held at the house of Nicholas Day, that stood on the site now occupied by Plackett's House.

The first deed of the Meeting House, has not survived but the second deed, dated 1720, has the following, "*Nich. Day, Edmund Mackerness, Robert Wallis, Wm. Garrett, Francis Ellington, John*

Whitlark, Jeremiah Whitlark, Ab. Whitlark and Sml. Harlock did formerly (in 1690) purchase of one Joseph Whitlark of Thingdon a small piece of ground 42 feet by 39 feet, formerly part of a close called or known by the name of Townsend Close, on which said piece of ground a small edifice or building is now erected to be used as a meeting place for the people called Quakers and for no other purpose what so ever."

The Meeting House and burial ground still remain within this "small piece of ground". Other than the thatched roof being replaced by slate, externally the building remains very much as it was in 1690. Internally the arrangements are probably very similar, with a raised seating area to the east, and the gallery, now enclosed, to the west. The 1851 Religious Census recorded the square footage as 575. With the gallery, used by female members, being 150 square feet. The House was able to accommodate a congregation of 200 seated.

The burial ground is surrounded by a ten-foot high stone wall, and iron gates, originally erected to ward off attacks from fellow villagers, who insulted the Quakers when they were on their way to their meeting and tried to disrupt them whilst they were at worship. It was first used for the burial of Edward White son of Robert of Raunds, who was buried on 17th December 1704. The most recent headstone is that of Sarah Ann Harlock, who died 18th October 1942.



The gravestones of Joseph, Mary & Margaret Harlock

The Meeting House remained in the ownership of the local Society of Friends from its establishment until 1963, sometime after Quaker meetings there had ended. The numbers that could be accommodated in the Meeting House indicate that originally there was a thriving congregation, by 1851 the Religious census recorded that only 14 were attending meetings and by 1904 the Meetings had closed. Although it re-opened for Allowed Meetings in 1907, this only continued for 5 years, when the Meeting House finally closed.

The Harlock family continued to care for the Meeting House, and Meetings were held once a year in the summer, when the members' children enjoyed playing in the gardens of Harlock House. Whilst under the stewardship of the Harlocks the Meeting House was also used to house Finedon Adult School. The Religious Society of Friends finally sold the Meeting House in 1963, for £474, and it was used by John Drage as a funeral chapel until about 2000, when it was sold to James Gibbard. Mr Gibbard kindly allowed Finedon History Society to use it as a heritage centre. The Society has been able to hold meetings and exhibitions there since then. Unfortunately, things change and now the future of the Meeting House is uncertain as the current owners wish to sell.

This article has been written based on the original research of Ruth Whitehouse, author of "Quaker Meeting Houses of Northamptonshire (1997) and the late John Bailey, author of Finedon Otherwise Thingdon (1975)

Ruth, after living in Northampton for 43 years has moved to the Cotswolds where she now attends the delightful Meeting House in Broad Campden, built in 1663.

I must take the opportunity to thank Ruth for allowing me permission to quote from her book as well as her support with this article.

The Log Book of Finedon Infants Endowed School 1913 – 1918

Mick Britton

In the September issue of the newsletter we looked at the school log book of the then named Finedon Infant National School from 1902 to 1908. This article covers the period leading up to and including the First World War; looking at the impact of the war on the school, its staff and the children.

A foretaste of the events to come is recorded in the log book on 13th June 1913 “...military manoeuvres which has reduced attendance”

On 1st August 1913, “Miss Alice Eugenie Boddington (born 9th August 1892 – who lived at 8 Allen Road) commenced duties as an uncertified teacher” the same day as the school closed for the Summer holiday.

Dr Burland, the Medical Officer visited the school on 8th October 1913 for his “annual inspection which lasted one and a half days – Mabel Platt has been excluded for the winter owing to be slightly delicate”.

Yet again, as in previous years, ill health was a major cause for concern in the school. During the first week of May 1914 mumps and scarlet fever is being reported with “23 cases of mumps” being recorded on 4th May and ten days later, “only 63 present out of 138”. On the 18th the log book records, “The Medical Officer Health has closed the school for three weeks owing to the epidemic of mumps”.

During the 1914 school summer holiday, on 4th August, Britain declared war on Germany; school life would change significantly over the next four years. The school re-opened on the 31st of the same month. The main topic in the log book during the second half of September 1914 is the effects of an outbreak of diphtheria which eventually led the school Medical Officer to close the school for one month from 29th September. Upon the school re-opening on 28th October “attendance is very poor although only one case of diphtheria has been reported”.

The everyday events of school life continue to be reported including, regular statements of, *“The usual work has been done this week”* and *“The Attendance Officer called at school today”*. Interestingly, on 26th June 1914, *“the babies went out to have a chat on trees”* and two weeks later, *“A boy swallowed a button when in the playground”*.

The first actual reference to the First World War is recorded in the log book on 19th February 1915, *“Miss Boddington absent in the afternoon to say farewell to her brother who is going to the front”*. Subsequent research of local census records has revealed her brother to be Edwin Boddington. It is known that Edwin, a 35-year old married man with children and employed as an ironstone quarry worker, volunteered to serve and joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The Northampton Mercury records him twice being *“wounded in action”*.

The 29th October 1915 edition reports, *“BODDINGTON, E. Pte, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Mrs Boddington of Finedon has received a letter from her husband in which he says, “They blew us all into the air and nearly all of us are hurt...but am going on all right in hospital”*. Whilst the 23rd August 1918 edition reports, *“Finedon...husband of Mrs Boddington of Prospect Place, severely wounded in the foot, and is now in Cardiff Hospital”*.

On 28th April 1915 *“Holiday was given this afternoon as the Recruiting Army is coming to Finedon”*. The Northampton Mercury of 30th April reports, *“RECRUITING ARMY – Steelbacks’ Successful Tramp. The recruiting march of 141 men of the 2/4th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment from Peterborough to Northampton has produced good results. From all places the men have visited on their journey, recruits were reported”*. The article describes how the march on the 28th began at Rushden, taking in Irthlingborough and Finedon before ending the day at Wellingborough.

The Royal Flying Corps became the centre of attention on 14th December when *“An aeroplane having dropped into a field close by, the elder children were taken by their teachers to see it”*.

A lack of staff was now becoming an issue for the school. One cause would have been that male teachers were volunteering to

From Our Archives



*Mulso Schools, Wellingborough Road, Finedon c1917
Donated by Syd Miller, Finedon.*



*Onwards to Burton Latimer! Approaching the Crossroads!
From the collection of the late Derek Richardson*



Finedon Fire Brigade "A" Team. Winners of the 4-man Hand Cart Competition, Irthlingborough Hospital Fete, 1932.

L to R. Henry Sharman, Syd Richardson, Reg Willis, Arthur Neville & George Osbourne



Finedon Fire Brigade. Laws Lane/Dolben Square. Coronation of King George V Parade, 22nd June 1911. From the collection of the late Freda Drage (nee Neville), daughter of Arthur Neville (top photograph)

join up leaving gaps in the teaching profession. Compulsory conscription for single men was introduced on 24th January 1916, being extended to married men on 25th May of the same year. On 10th January 1916, *"Miss Cottingham went to teach in the Boys School as there is shortage of teachers"*. Later, on 12th May, the log book records, *"Owing to staff being reduced it has been necessary to alter the time table..."*

The first quarter of 1916 reports very poor weather contributing to low levels of children attending the school. On 19th March it is reported that *"Owing to a blizzard only 19 children came to school. These were sent home for the day"*. Only 19 came in the following day and a total of 31 in the afternoon, *"the registers were not marked"*. This was not the only occasion that weather had a serious bearing on attendance, due to a snowstorm only *"four children presented themselves at school"* on the morning on 17th January 1918,

One of other the rare references to "war" in the log book is recorded on 25th May 1917. *"Empire Day celebrated by a simple conversational lesson on the war and the need for saving food. Drawings done by the children showing how little pieces of wasted bread amount to large quantities. Singing, dancing and saluting the flag"*.

On 20th September 1917 *"In accordance with the Food Controllers Plan, the school was closed this afternoon to enable the elder children to collect blackberries"*. In January 1918 the Ministry of Food introduced rationing. The idea of rationing was to guarantee supplies and not to restrict consumption. Sugar was first rationed followed by butchers' meat. However, during the latter period of the war staple food items such as potatoes and bread were also in short supply. On 27th March 1918 the *"School was closed to enable the teachers to fill in the Ration Forms"*. The school was also closed on 8th and 9th July 1918 for the same reason.

"Miss Cottingham absent during the afternoon to attend as deputation at Northampton on the increase of salaries", records the log book of 11th June 1918. Editions of the Northampton Mercury during May and June 1918 include various Education Finance sub-committee reports on increasing teachers' salaries. From these reports there is a degree of empathy by committee

members for the plight of teachers; no doubt as prices have increased during wartime whilst their salaries remained the same. The main recommendations included: *“Certified men teachers an increase from £150 p.a. to a maximum of £210 p.a., Certified women teachers an increase from £110 p.a. to a maximum of £170 p.a. Uncertified men teachers an increase from £88 p.a. to £110 p.a. and uncertified women teachers and increase from £75 p.a. to £90 p.a.”*. There was a qualification that increases would be in £10 p.a. increments!

As the First World War was ending, a threat emerged that was even more lethal than the fighting that had brutally cut down so many lives. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19 claimed the lives of between 20 and 40 million people around the world, at least three times the number killed in the war. From early October the school log book features the first signs of the impact of influenza on the staff with both Miss Poppleton and Miss Cottingham affected and absent from school.

On the 11th November 1918 the Armistice was signed at 5.00am and came into effect six hours later at 11.00am. *“The school closed at noon today till the 13th for the Proclamation of Peace”, declares the school log book*

Of the 133 men listed on the Finedon War Memorial who died during the First World War I believe, from the excellent research undertaken by Society member, the late Peter Inns, for his book *“Those That Didn’t”* – the biographies of all the men and women of Finedon killed in both world wars, that none of the children in the school lost a father in action. – Sadly, and regrettably, the same cannot be said for several children from the Mulso Infants School.

This article and the previous article, “The Early Years” in the September 2018 newsletter were written using the original school log books of the period. The support of Mrs Joanne Lloyd-Williams, Head of Finedon Infant School is very much appreciated.

From Kiburn, via Long Buckby, to Finedon The Memories of a Young Evacuee

John Douglas



In September 1939 aged 9, with my sisters Mary (13), Joyce (11) and Margaret (8), we were evacuated from Kilburn, north London, at the start of the Second World War. With a small case each containing a few items of our clothing, a packed lunch and our gas masks we joined the train with our teachers and other children from our school. We did not know where we were going but I was too excited to be scared. I had never been on a train before – this was just like a big adventure!

Later in the day we arrived at Long Buckby; my sisters went to a hostel and I was allocated to a couple who had no children. They owned a fruit shop and a car; I felt like a Lord! I remember on one occasion my mother visited and found me sitting outside the shop eating a banana. My mother asked, "How did you get that banana? We cannot even get them in London!".

Another sister Ann (5) and my brother Frank (4) were also evacuated, but they went to Olney in Buckinghamshire. My younger brother Dennis (2) and sister Barbara (1) remained with my mother in Kilburn - yes, there were eight of us! With her children evacuated to Long Buckby and Olney it made visiting difficult (and costly) for my mother so the authorities eventually moved all us evacuated siblings to Finedon during 1941.

When we arrived in Finedon Frank, Ann and Margaret went to live with Mrs Cheaney in Allen Road. I lived with Mrs Skelham and her three children in Church Street and spent a Christmas there - I had never seen so many Christmas decorations in my young life before! I was very happy there, but Mrs Skelham was in poor health, so I was moved to Mrs Melton in Parkers Terrace. I was not to stay long as her son Philip and I did not get along. Despite us not "getting on" we would often climb trees in the Holly Walks;

being a London boy I had never climbed a tree before I came to Finedon!

My next move was to become the start of a very special bond of friendship for life. I was placed with Hilda and Syd Richardson (see page 11) and their two children Derek and Marion. They too lived in Parkers Terrace. Syd was a builder and a part-time fireman. The house was a “two up-two down” with a long garden where I first found my love of gardening. Syd would also take me to his allotment at Affleck Bridge where Jack Freeman further developed my interest in gardening, which I still have today.

Home life with the Richardson family was both a joy and interesting for a young boy from London. I shared a room at their home with a fellow evacuee Johnny Newton. The family reared chickens in the front room! Syd brought home some day-old chickens which he kept under a fire guard. Johnny trod on one and killed it – Syd was not too pleased!

Johnny could not settle in Finedon and he made his own way back to London. Shortly afterwards Syd followed Johnny to London with the intention of bringing him back to Finedon, but it was too late as Johnny had sadly been killed in an air raid.



John Douglas, 4th right back row.
Derek Richardson 3rd right back
row. Marion Richardson, centre
Finedon c1941

As a family we ate basic wartime food which was home cooked and wholesome. I remember being served a meat pudding, I had never seen a meat pudding before and I told Hilda that I did not like it. She replied, “Have you ever had it? - you’ll like it!”

I joined the Finedon Scouts run by Mrs Titmus and I also joined the Parish Church choir. One Christmas I remember going out carol singing with Derek Richardson; he rattled the money box whilst I sang - alone!

Derek had a reputation for money-making schemes even from a very young age. A report of the proceedings of the Finedon Hospital Gala Carnival in the Northampton Mercury of 14th July 1939 (thanks to Carolyn for this find) records, *“An amusing incident when the parade halted in Dolben Square. Accompanying the marshal and the parade secretaries were 3 police officers. Undeterred by the police uniforms, three-and-a-half years old Derek Richardson, in Auxiliary Fireman’s uniform, complete with belt and axe, with his father’s fireman hat, demanded toll from the officers on behalf of the funds”*.

Together Derek and I would play Cowboys and Indians on the arms of the sofa playing the parts of the Lone Ranger and Tonto. During the warmer weather I would join the family on leisurely walks “down the meadows” of Harrowden Lane with a bottle of Dandelion and Burdock for a lovely treat! Syd and Hilda treated me as a second son, Hilda often told my mother that they would keep me if anything happened to my family living under the threat of bombings in war-torn London.

I went to the Boys School in Station Road. Initially, the local children did not like us evacuee’s and called us “scruffy Londoner’s” and there was often fights between us. As time progressed, we all became good friends. My classmates included George York, Derek (Kidder) Stanley, Keith Foster, Cyril Strong, Alfie Ball, Jeff Booze and Jeffrey Cunnington I also became friends with Keith Hallam. One day he lent me his bike which I crashed and damaged when riding, perhaps too fast, down Laws Lane.

To earn some much-needed pocket money I began a paper round for Mrs Moisey in Orchard Road when I was around 12 years old. My round was a “bulk delivery” to the army camp near what is now Tann Road. If I had not delivered the newspapers by 8.00am everyone one would have left for their duties and I would then have to take the newspapers back and feel the wrath of Mrs Moisey. Extra pocket money came from working at Albert Shelton’s butchers’ shop on Affleck



Shelton's Butchers Shop
Affleck Bridge

Bridge, working after school and on Saturday mornings delivering meat and cleaning the shop. Sometimes I would also look after Derek and Marion when Hilda used to visit Syd's mother after he had been conscripted into the Army.

I used to enjoy going to the Watts Cinema in Regent Street with Derek. Jack Haddon was the projectionist, but later Syd's brother Reg took over from him. There was a good choice of films as Watts had two other cinemas (Irthlingborough and Burton Latimer) and the films were moved around. Tickets for the uncomfortable wooden seats were 2d (old pence – the equivalent of 1 penny today). If we could not afford to pay, then we would club together with a group of friends and send two people in who paid, and they would then open a back door by the toilets and let the rest of us in!

I lived with the Richardson family for nearly 5 years, I was close to 15 years old as the war came to an end. My mother and father, along with my brother Dennis and sister Barbara had by now moved to Finedon, although my father died in 1944. My mother rented a run-down house in Affleck Bridge. I moved in with her as this would improve the chances of us all being rehoused. We were certainly overcrowded, and I remember the rats that came into the house from the Town Brook that ran beneath us. Eventually, we were moved as whole family to Ewenfield Road.

Much later in life I was so pleased and proud to have attended an Evacuees Association celebration hosted by Michael Aspel, also a former evacuee. This was followed by a parade, a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey and a Spitfire flypast.

I was so very fortunate to have lived a small but a memorable part of my life with Hilda, Syd, Derek and Marion Richardson; I was welcomed into their home with open arms and I shall always remember them.

John remained in Finedon after the war. His first (and only) job was with E Ward of Wellingborough where he was employed as a motor mechanic, for 52 years apart from two years National Service (1949 – 1950) with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers serving in the Suez Canal Zone. Married to Margaret for over 60 years John lives in Wellingborough.

Donations to the Society

Since the September edition of the newsletter the Society has received several welcome donations. These include:

A painting of the Volta Tower from society member Janet Schmelzer of New Berlin, USA. The painting was done by Janet's aunt, Phyllis Dunkley. As well as donating the painting Janet also sponsored the cost of framing the painting which was carried out locally.

Allen Road Working Men's Club, half yearly accounts for the period January – June 1927. Donated by Philip Tomzak.

Photograph of a pre-enclosure map covering the area of Finedon Hall and surrounding area. Donated by Michael Sumner of Harrowden books.

A metal child's shoe last. Donated by Helen Morgan.

A bible presented to the Finedon Methodist Church in July 1961 by Mr & Mrs L Amey. Donated by society member Barry Ellson.

Photograph of the Finedon Swifts Football Team, 1910/11 season by Mr Bellamy of Geddington.

A copy of the St Mary's Sunday School Cookery Book, 1932. Donated by Burton Latimer Heritage Society.

Photographs relating to Finedon Infants School (1952 - 1954) and Finedon Methodist Church in the early 1960s donated by society member Ruth Nickerson of Huntingdon.

Photographs relating to Finedon Fire Brigade and a range of local photographs from the period c1910 – 1930. Donated by Lesley Hunter, daughter of the late Freda Drage.

The society very much welcomes these donations and your support for the society is very much appreciated.



Volta Tower, donated by Janet Schmelzer



*Finedon Methodist Church Sunday School, 1962
From a collection of photographs donated by Ruth Nickerson.*

Finedon Local History Society, 2019 Programme

28th January Pete Austin
History and Founding of The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust
(with some archive film footage from their collection)

25th February Michael Brown
Death in the Garden - Murder, Magic and Myth of Poisonous Plants

25th March Tom Watts
"Watts it all about!" – The History of Finedon Cinemas and the
Watts Family

15th April Douglas Goddard
The History of the British Postcard

20th May
A Visit to Desborough Heritage Centre. Details to follow

24th June James Sheehan
Aspects of Church Architecture

22nd July Stephen Radley
Finedon Hall, Humphry Repton and late 18th century landscapes

19th August Chris Rowe
Tales from the Tudor Table

23rd September Ron Whittaker
The Rise and Fall of Footwear Manufacture in the UK

28th October Neil Busby, Thrapston District Historical Society
What was learnt from the recent archaeological digs in Thrapston

25th November
Annual General Meeting

All talks commence at 7.30pm at the Mission Hall, Well Street.
Members £2.50 and non-members £3.50

*Please note that speakers and the subject topics may change at short notice due
to circumstances beyond our control*